

# KRISTY A. WATKINS

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## EDUCATION

Ph.D., Sociology (expected May 2011)  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst

*Dissertation Title:* “Defining Parenthood: The Intersection of Gender and Sexual Orientation in U.S. Child Custody Decisions, 2003-2009”

B.A., Sociology, 1997  
Vassar College, Thesis with Distinction

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Family	Gender and Society	Sexuality and Society
Law and Society	Inequality	Qualitative and Mixed Methods
Criminology	Introductory Sociology	GLBTQ Studies

## HONORS AND AWARDS

2009	Sage/Pine Forge Press Professional Development Award in Teaching for Attendance at 2009 American Sociological Association Section on Teaching and Learning Preconference Workshop: “Teachers are Made, Not Born.” San Francisco, CA. August 7, 2009.
2009	Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant. “Child Custody and Judicial Constructions of Parenthood.” National Science Foundation.
2009 & 2002	Travel Grant. Sociology Department, University of Massachusetts.
2003	Travel Grant. Office of the Dean, University of Massachusetts.
1993-1997	Merit Scholarship. James Gordon Bennett Fund, Vassar College.
1993-1997	Merit Scholarship. Guild-Times Scholarship Fund, Vassar College.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2003-Present      *Instructor*  
 Department of Sociology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- Sexuality & Society (40 students)  
 The Family (25 students)  
 Social Problems (40 students)  
 Writing in Sociology (20 students)
- 2000-2006      *Teaching Assistant*  
 Department of Sociology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- |                     |                                    |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| The Family          | Race, Class, Gender, Ethnicity     |
| Gender and Society  | Social Psychology                  |
| Criminology         | Drugs and Society                  |
| Sociological Theory | Advanced Theories and Perspectives |
- 2003      *Visiting Instructor*  
 Department of Sociology, Arapahoe Community College, Littleton, CO
- Introduction to Sociology (2 sections, 25 students)

## COURSES PREPARED TO TEACH

Family and Society	Gender and Society	Sexuality and Society
Social Problems	Introductory Sociology	Law and Society
Research Methods	Sociological Theory	Social Inequality
Criminology	Deviance	GLBTQ Studies

## PUBLICATIONS

- Watkins, Kristy A. "Defining the Legal Parent: How Massachusetts Courts Construct Lesbian Families." Preparing for Submission at *Gender & Society*.
- Thomas, Kristy A. and Richard C. Tessler. 2007. "Bicultural Socialization Among Adoptive Families: Where There Is a Will, There Is a Way." *Journal of Family Issues* 28 (9): 1180-1219.

## PRESENTATIONS

- Watkins, Kristy A. "Gay Fathers & Lesbian Mothers: Contradictions in Child Custody Decisions." Paper accepted at **American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting**. Atlanta, GA. August 15, 2010.

Thomas, Kristy A. "Child Custody for Same-Sex Parents: Differences between Lesbian Mothers and Gay Fathers." **Eastern Sociological Society (ESS) Annual Meeting**. Boston, MA. March 19, 2010.

Thomas, Kristy A. "Judicial Constructions of Parenthood: Gender and Sexual Orientation in Child Custody Decisions." **Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) Annual Meeting**. San Francisco, CA. August 8, 2009.

Thomas, Kristy A. "Defining the 'Good Parent': Gender and Sexual Orientation in U.S. Child Custody Decisions, 1996- 2008." **Law & Society Association (LSA) Annual Meeting**. Denver, CO. May 30, 2009.

Thomas, Kristy A. "The Politics of Parenthood: Gay and Lesbian Adoption in Massachusetts and Florida." **Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) Annual Meeting**. Atlanta, GA. August 17, 2003.

Thomas, Kristy A. "Queer Citizenship: Gay and Lesbian Adoption in Massachusetts and Florida." **Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Studies Conference**. University of North Carolina, Asheville. March 21, 2003.

## INVITED TALKS

Watkins, Kristy A. "Gender and Sexuality in Pop Culture." Faculty Chat Series: Dinner with First Year Students. University of Massachusetts, Amherst. April 20, 2010.

Thomas, Kristy A. "Sexuality and Shame." Faculty Chat Series: Dinner with First Year Students. University of Massachusetts, Amherst. March 4, 2010.

Thomas, Kristy A. "Contested Parenthood: A Legal Examination of Same-Sex Parenting." Graduate Student Colloquium. University of Massachusetts, Amherst. April 4, 2006.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2002                      *Research Assistant*  
Social and Demographic Research Institute, University of Massachusetts,  
Professor Richard C. Tessler. "Bicultural Socialization of Children  
Adopted from China."

## PROFESSIONAL AND OTHER SERVICE

2009-Present              Reviewer for *Humanity & Society*

2008-Present              Reviewer for *Journal of Family Issues*

- 2005-2006            Legal Information Hotline Volunteer. Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD). Boston, MA.
- 2001-2002            Elected Student Representative. Sociology Graduate Policy Committee. University of Massachusetts. Amherst, MA.

### **ADDITIONAL RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

- 1997                    Organizing Intern. AFL-CIO Union Summer. Mount Holly, NJ.
- 1995-1996            News Editor. *The Miscellany News*. Vassar College. Poughkeepsie, NY.
- 1995                    Editorial Intern. Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR) and *Extra!* Magazine. New York, NY.
- 1994                    Intern. Congressman Robert G. Torricelli. Ninth Congressional District of New Jersey. Hackensack, NJ.

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Sociological Association  
 Eastern Sociological Society  
 Law and Society Association  
 Society for the Study of Social Problems  
 Sociologists for Women in Society

### **REFERENCES**

Joya Misra  
 Professor, Sociology and Public Policy  
 University of Massachusetts  
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Naomi Gerstel  
 Professor, Sociology  
 University of Massachusetts  
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Miliann Kang  
 Assistant Professor, Women's Studies  
 University of Massachusetts  
 413.545.1922  
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