

Tracy L. Vargas
Department of Sociology
Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs
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EDUCATION

- 2010- Present Ph.D., Sociology, Syracuse University
Committee: Gretchen Purser (Co-Chair), Jackie Orr (Co-Chair), Cecilia Green, Peter Ikeler, Don Mitchell
Dissertation: Dollar Store Economy: Reproducing Inequality within the Organization of Retail Service Work
- 2009 M.A., Sociology, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Committee: Kay Snyder (Chair), Valerie Gunter, Melanie Hildebrandt
Thesis: Strong Yet Susceptible, Powerful but Passive: The Spectacle of Female Professional Wrestlers and The Paradox of Wrestling with Femininity
- 2007 B.A., Sociology, University of Pittsburgh
Distinctions: Magna Cum Laude, Alpha Kappa Delta, Humanities Writing Award

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Work, Organizations, and Labor; Inequality; Poverty; Criminology; Ethnography

PUBLICATIONS

- 2017 “Employees or Suspects? Surveillance and Scrutinization of Low-wage Service Workers in U.S. Dollar Stores.” *Journal of Labor and Society* 20 (June): 207-30.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

“‘I just give back to the customers what they deserve.’: Intra-class Disparagement, Disintegration, and Punitive Inflictions within U.S. Dollar Stores”

This article closely examines tensions on the service floor that erupt between poor retail workers and customers. These interactions, I argue, are catalyzed by the organization of work at dollar stores and their practice of ‘consumer redlining.’ Rather than improving the lives of employees and customers in impoverished neighbors, particularly those of color, my findings reveal that dollar stores reinforce the entrenchment of poverty and degradation, which plays out through everyday service encounters.

“Power, Precarity, and the Suffocating Perpetuity of Workplace Sexual Harassment,” coauthored with Gretchen Purser

Drawing from Purser’s fieldwork as a day laborer and mine as a dollar store clerk, we demonstrate how the collection and construction of sociological knowledge on work and poverty present a serious added challenge for female ethnographers, navigating ongoing sexual harassment.

Op-ed Series on Low-wage Employment at Dollar Stores

These short, informative, policy-oriented briefs will provide readers a “window” into the plight of low-wage service workers and be circulated to media outlets, worker centers, and policy makers.

RESEARCH GRANTS

- 2017 Lee Student Support Fund Award, Society for the Study of Social Problems
- 2016 Tenth Decade Project: Work, Labor and Citizenship Research Grant, Maxwell School’s Labor Studies Working Group, Syracuse University

CONFERENCES

- 2018 Thematic Session Organizer of “The Working Poor,” 68th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- 2017 “Employees or Suspects? Surveillance and Scrutinization of Low-wage Service Workers in U.S. Dollar Stores” 112th Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association; Montreal, Quebec, Canada
- “Employees or Suspects? Surveillance and Scrutinization of Low-wage Service Workers in U.S. Dollar Stores,” 67th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, Montreal, Quebec, Canada
- “Dollar Store Economy: Employee Criminalization and the Liability Model of Work,” Tenth Decade Project: Work, Labor, and Citizenship Symposium, Maxwell School, Syracuse University, NY
- 2016 “Dollar Daze: Exploitative Labor Extraction in Discount Retail,” Working Class Studies Association Conference, SUNY Stony Brook, NY.
- 2014 “Dollar Store Daze: Individual Responsibility, Self-fulfillment, and the Precarity of Low-wage Labor in Retail Sales”, Eastern Sociological Society 84th Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD
- 2012 “Strong Yet Susceptible, Powerful but Passive: The Spectacle Of Female Professional Wrestlers And The Paradox Of Wrestling With Femininity”, Eastern Sociological Society 82nd Annual Meeting, New York, NY

2010 Wrestling with Femininity: Exploring Female Characters Within World Wrestling Entertainment Programs, 57th Annual NYSSA Conference, St. John Fisher College, Rochester, NY

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2016 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, The Graduate School, Syracuse University

INSTRUCTOR

2017-present Introduction to Sociology, Department of Sociology, Conemaugh School of Nursing

2013-14 Social Problems, Department of Sociology, Syracuse University

2010 Social Problems, Department of Sociology, Nazareth College

TEACHING ASSISTANT

2014 Executive Leadership, Department of Public Administration and International Affairs, Professors Catherine Bertini and Vice Admiral Robert Murrett, Syracuse University

2013 Criminal Justice, Department of Sociology, Professor Gretchen Purser, Syracuse University

2013 Sociological Theory, Department of Sociology, Professor Gretchen Purser, Syracuse University

2012 Urban Poverty, Department of Sociology, Professor Gretchen Purser, Syracuse University

2012 Ethnic Inequality and Intergroup Relations, Department of Sociology, Professor Cecilia Green, Syracuse University

2011 Race, Class, and Gender, Department of Sociology, Professor Cecilia Green, Syracuse University

2010-11 Social Problems, Department of Sociology, Professor Arthur Paris, Syracuse University

2009 Social and Cultural Change, Department of Sociology, Professor Harvey Holtz, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

2008 Principles of Sociology, Department of Sociology, Professor Harvey Holtz, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

2008 Foundations of Sociological Practice, Department of Sociology, Professor Rosalyn Darling, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

- 2007 Disability in Society, Department of Sociology, Professor Rosalyn Darling, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- 2007 Contemporary Social Problems, Department of Sociology, Professor Rosalyn Darling, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

RESEARCH AND METHODOLOGICAL TRAINING

- 2014 Strategic Corporate Research, Professor Kate Bronfenbrenner, School of International and Labor Relations, Cornell University
- 2013 Research Assistant to Professor Marjorie DeVault, Syracuse University
- 2008 Teaching Sociology Seminar, Professor Kay Snyder, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- 2008 Research Assistant to Professor Tom Nowak, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

ANALYSIS TOOLS

HyperResearch Qualitative Coding Software
 Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
 Statistical Analysis Software (SAS)
 Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS)

SERVICE & AFFILIATIONS

- 2016-present Reviewer, *Journal of Labor and Society* (formally *Working USA*)
- 2014-present Labor Studies Working Group, Syracuse University
- 2017-18 Elections Committee, Society for the Study of Social Problems
- 2013-14 Sociology Graduate Student Representative, Syracuse University
- 2013 Assistant to President Marjorie DeVault, Eastern Sociological Society
 President, Sociology Graduate Student Assemblage, Syracuse University
- 2012 Vice President, Sociology Graduate Student Assemblage, Syracuse University

ADDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT

- 2009-10 Residential Counselor, Alternatives for Battered Women, Rochester, NY
- 2007-08 Office Assistant, Indiana University of Pennsylvania Research Institute, Indiana, PA
- 2005-07 Writing Tutor, University of Pittsburgh, Academic Success Center, Pittsburgh, PA

REFERENCES

Professor Jackie Orr
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