

The teaching and research interests of faculty members in the Department of Sociology includes diverse areas such as immigration, crime and criminal justice, gender, inequality, religion, and others. To help you get more acquainted with our faculty, each member of the department has provided a brief biographical sketch. Our faculty would be happy to discuss with you the many careers open to sociology graduates. The bulletin board on the second floor of Fernald Hall often has announcements of job opportunities and graduate school information.

Amy Blackstone, Professor and Chair

B.A. (1994) Luther College
Ph.D. (2003) University of Minnesota

Dr. Blackstone's teaching and research interests include the sociology of gender, work, food, and families. She has served as a consultant on workplace sexual harassment cases, and her research on this topic has been cited in the New York Times, USA Today, BuzzFeed, TIME, NBC News, and other outlets. Her book *Childfree by Choice* (Dutton, 2019) explores the history and growing movement of adults choosing to forgo parenthood. Dr. Blackstone has shared her research on the childfree choice in *The Atlantic*, *Washington Post*, *Huffington Post*, on the *Katie* show, and other venues. She is passionate about food and has taught the Sociology of Food at UMaine and in Italy.

Michael Haedicke, Associate Professor

B.A. (1999) Kalamazoo College
M.A. (2003) University of California, San Diego
Ph.D. (2008) University of California, San Diego

Dr. Haedicke's primary research stream examines how concerns about sustainability become institutionalized in or excluded from markets and public policy arenas. He is the author of *Organizing Organic*, a book-length study of the organic foods industry published by Stanford University Press. His research has also appeared in the journals *The Sociological Quarterly*, *Sociological Focus*, and *Case Studies in the Environment*, as well as in various edited volumes. A committed teacher, Dr. Haedicke is also passionate about sharing sociological perspectives with publics beyond the classroom. He has written for *The Conversation*, a news website, and for *Contexts*, the general interest journal of the American Sociological Association, and regularly participates in community meetings and interviews with the media.

Sarah Walton, Assistant Professor

B.A. (2014) Wheaton College
M.S. (2018) Ohio State University
Ph.D. (2022) Ohio State University

Sarah Walton received her M.S. and Ph.D. from The Ohio State University in Rural Sociology. Sarah's main research interests are in the intersection of mass incarceration, spatial inequality, and local governments and institutions. Sarah's research is focused on understanding ways in which mass incarceration and other social issues affect communities, with particular attention to spatial and rural-urban differences. Her most recent work focuses on the relationships between jail incarceration and county-level economic and political conditions, rurality, and local government capacity and policy.

Karyn Sporer, Assistant Professor

B.A. (2005) St. Michael's College
M.S. (2008) Northeastern University
Ph.D. (2016) University of Nebraska, Omaha

Dr. Sporer's main research interests are in the areas of violent extremism and terrorism, family violence and victimization, and mental illness and violence. She is a member of NCITE at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, which is the newest university-based research center funded by the Department of Homeland Security and committed to the scientific study of the causes and consequences of terrorism in the United States and around the world. Aside from this, Dr. Sporer's secondary research agenda addresses family violence and victimization among persons with severe mental illness. She was the recipient of both the 2018 Rose B. Johnson Southern Communication Journal Article of the Year Award and the 2016 Graduate Student Paper of the Year Award from Division of Victimology of the American Society of Criminology for her extensive research on family members of violent persons with mental illness.

We also have some wonderful part-time faculty: Glenn Eichel, Adjunct Lecturer; Mary Okin, Adjunct Associate Professor; Peter Pressman, Adjunct Associate Professor

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