

Amy B. Cooter, Ph.D.

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Position

2013-present Lecturer in Sociology, *Vanderbilt University*
• Senior Lecturer in Sociology starting 2016

Education

2013 Ph.D. Sociology, *University of Michigan*
• Dissertation: "Americanness, Masculinity, and Whiteness: How Michigan Militia Men Navigate Evolving Social Norms"
• Committee: Genevieve Zubrzycki (chair), Alford Young, Kiyoteru Tsutsui, Matthew Countryman
• Research supported by the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program 2007-2010

2005 B.A. Sociology and Psychology (summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa),
Vanderbilt University

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record at Vanderbilt University

2018-present Sociology 3002 Introduction to Research Methods

2018 Sociology 3604 American Social Movements

2017 Sociology 3001 Sociological Perspectives
Sociology 1020 Contemporary Social Issues

2016 Sociology 3703 Social Psychology of Prejudice

2015 Sociology 3201 Cultural Consumption and Audiences

2013-present Sociology 255/3702 Race and Ethnic Minorities in the U.S.

2013-present Sociology 101/1010 Introduction to Sociology
(including Maymester and remote sessions)

2013-present Sociology 256/3704 Race, Gender, and Sport
(including Maymester session)

Other Vanderbilt Teaching Service

- Ongoing Advising and supervision of Sociology Honors Students
- 2019-2020 Anarius Cathey
 - 2017-2018 Alex Wolfe (highest honors)
Mary Claire Dachille
- Advising and supervision of Independent Study Students
- Spring 2018 Sydney Silberman
 - Fall 2018 Rhett Wiseman
 - Fall 2017 Andrew Haygood
Rhett Wiseman
 - Fall 2016 Caleb Hausman
 - Fall 2013 Kent Hallman
- College Honors Enrichment
- Spring 2018 Kathryn Hanson
 - Spring 2016 Asad Pabani
 - Fall 2015 Jason Gabriel
Amanda Jurewicz
- 2018 Faculty sponsor for Mirah Alix's 2nd place winning project at the South Eastern Undergraduate Sociology Symposium, a project started in my Sport class
- Panelist for "Let's Chat: Cultural Appropriation." Presented by Hidden Doers. *Vanderbilt University*. Nashville, TN.
- 2016 Next Steps Faculty Sponsor
- 2015-2016 Mayfield Project "Behind the Lens" faculty advisor
- 2015 Faculty VUceptor for incoming freshmen
- MOSAIC Weekend invited faculty lecturer
- 2014 Posse Plus Retreat invited faculty guest
- Panelist for "Cultural Appropriation vs. Cultural Appreciation." Presented by the NAACP Vanderbilt Chapter. *Vanderbilt University*. Nashville, TN.
- Panelist for "Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority's Affirmative Action discussion." *Vanderbilt University*. Nashville, TN.
- 2013 Panelist for "On the Outside Looking in: Black and Latino Males on the Margins of Society." Presented by the NAACP Vanderbilt Chapter. *Vanderbilt University*. Nashville, TN.

Graduate Student Instructor at the University of Michigan

2011 Sociology 102 Power Politics and Religion

Sociology 368 Criminology

2010 Sociology 102 Social Inequality

2007 Sociology 101 Principles of Sociology

Other Michigan Teaching Experience

2013 Training and supervision of graduate student teaching assistants

Guest Lecturer, Sociology 101 Introduction, Clemson University

2012 Department of Sociology, Exceptional Graduate Student Instructor Award

2012 University of Michigan Graduate Teacher Certificate

Guest Lecturer, Sociology 190 American Dreams, American Nightmares: A Sociology of U.S. Conservatism, University of California Berkeley

2011 Guest Lecturer, Sociology 368 Criminology, University of Michigan

2007-2011 Training and supervision of undergraduate RAs

- 10 students through the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program working on the Michigan Prisoner Reentry Initiative
- 6 students working through the Sociology Undergraduate Research Program working on my research

2010-2012 Mentorship of 2 sociology Honors Students as a graduate student

2008-2013 Yearly mentorship of graduate students applying for NSF GRFP and other grants

Selected Publications

2011 “Neo-Nazi Nationalism.” *Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism* 11(3): 363-385.

2006 “Neo-Nazi Normalization: The Skinhead Movement and Integration into Normative Structures.” *Sociological Inquiry* 76:145-165.

- Winner, Alpha Kappa Delta (international sociology honor society) Undergraduate Paper Award Competition

Co-authored Publications

- 2008 Lishner, David A.; Cooter, Amy B.; Zald, David H. "Addressing measurement limitations in affective rating scales: Development of an empirical valence scale." *Cognition & Emotion* 22:180-192.
- Lishner, David A.; Cooter, Amy B.; Zald, David H. "Rapid Emotional Contagion and Expressive Congruence Under Strong Test Conditions." *Journal of Nonverbal Behavior* 32:225-239.
- 2007 Most, Steven B.; Smith, Stephen D.; Cooter, Amy B. "The naked truth: Positive, arousing distractors impair rapid target perception." *Cognition & Emotion* 21:964-981.

Selected Presentations

Invited Presentations

- 2020 "Memorable Interpretations: Nostalgic Groups' Collective Understanding of Socio-Political Moments." *Vanderbilt Boston Alumni Chapter*. Boston, MA.
- 2015 MOSAIC invited faculty lecturer. "Becoming 'raced:' cases of racialization." *Vanderbilt University*. Nashville, TN.
- 2014 Panelist for "Cultural Appropriation vs. Cultural Appreciation." Presented by the NAACP Vanderbilt Chapter. *Vanderbilt University*. Nashville, TN.
- Panelist for "Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority's Affirmative Action discussion." *Vanderbilt University*. Nashville, TN.
- "Militia Men and the Specter of the South." *Southern Sociological Society*, Charlotte, NC.
- 2013 Panelist for "On the Outside Looking in: Black and Latino Males on the Margins of Society." Presented by the NAACP Vanderbilt Chapter. *Vanderbilt University*. Nashville, TN.
- 2012 "A Muslim in the Militia? How Militia Members Construct National Identity with Michigan's Arab Population," *Earlham College*, Richmond, IN.
- 2011 "Methodological and Ethical Dilemmas in Researching Sensitive Populations." *Strategies for Conducting Qualitative and Ethnographic Research with Sensitive Populations*, Ann Arbor, MI.
- 2010 "Symbolic Racism, Racial Codewords and Group Contact in 2009: A Case Example." *Association of Black Sociologists*, Atlanta, GA.

“Coded Response to the USA's First Black President: The Michigan Militia as a Case Study of Lower-Middle Class White Males.” *British Association of American Studies*, Norwich, UK.

2008 Morenoff, Jeff, Harding, David & Cooter, Amy. “Research on Prisoner Re-entry.” *Michigan Department of Corrections*, Lansing, MI.

Professional Conferences

2014 "Racialized Threat: Muslim Americans and Nationalistic Exclusion." *American Sociological Association*, San Francisco, CA.

2013 “‘Don’t Tread on Me’: Defiance and Compliance as Supporting American Values.” *Society for the Study of Social Problems*, New York, NY.

"Militia Masculinity: Protectors of Country, Family, and LGBT Populations?" *American Men's Studies Association*, Ann Arbor, MI.

2012 “Militia Masculinities: Traditional Expression and Experimentation.” *American Sociological Association*, Denver, CO.

“Muslims in the Militia? How white, male Michigan Militia members construct community and national identity with Michigan’s Arab population.” *Society for the Study of Social Problems*, Denver, CO.

2011 “Social Scientists’ Online Presence and Impact on Research: Lessons from Fieldwork with the Michigan Militia.” *American Sociological Association*, Las Vegas, NV.

2010 “Media (Mis)Characterizations of Lower-Middle Class White Males and Perpetuation of Racial Animosity.” *Society for the Study of Social Problems*, Atlanta, GA.

2009 “White Supremacist Response to 911: A Discourse Analysis.” *American Sociological Association*, San Francisco, CA.

“Lower-Middle Class White Males’ Response to the USA’s First Black President: A Study of the Michigan Militia.” *Society for the Study of Social Problems Conference*, San Francisco, CA.

“Lower-Middle Class White Males’ Response to the USA’s First Black President: A Study of the Michigan Militia.” *University of Michigan, Election 2008 Conference*, Ann Arbor, MI.

“White Supremacist response to 911: A Discourse Analysis.” *University of Michigan*, Ann Arbor, MI.

- 2008 Morenoff, Jeff, Harding, David & Cooter, Amy. The Neighborhood Context of Prisoner Reentry. *Population Association of America*, Detroit, MI.
- 2005 “Neo-Nazi Normalization.” *American Sociological Association*, Philadelphia, PA.

Selected Media Presentations

- 2020 “The ‘very fine people’ at Charlottesville: Who were they?” By Glenn Kessler. *Washington Post*. (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2020/05/08/very-fine-people-charlottesville-who-were-they-2/>).
- 2019 “Militias, Patriots, and Border Vigilantes in the Age of Trump.” By Jesse Walker. *Reason.com*. (<https://reason.com/2019/11/04/militias-patriots-and-border-vigilantes-in-the-age-of-trump/>).
- “Charlottesville demonstration prompts review of state militia statutes.” By Brian Albrecht. *Cleveland.com*. (<https://www.cleveland.com/news/2019/08/charlottesville-demonstration-prompts-review-of-state-militia-statutes.html>).
- “The rise of modern militias.” By Brian Albrecht. *Cleveland.com*. (<https://www.cleveland.com/news/2019/07/the-rise-of-modern-militias.html>).
- “Militia threats just paralyzed Oregon’s legislature. The movement’s roots in Michigan run deep.” By Derek Robertson. *Michigan Advance*. (<https://www.michiganadvance.com/2019/06/28/militia-threats-just-paralyzed-oregons-legislature-the-movements-roots-in-michigan-run-deep/>).
- 2018 “Muslims, Immigrants on US Militias' New Enemies List.” By Masood Farivar. *Voice of America*. (<https://www.voanews.com/a/kansas-militia-group/4362244.html>).
- 2017 "Arkansas Bust Is Latest Example of Right-Wing Extremists Arrested for Violating Gun Laws." By Alex Yablon. *The Trace*. (<https://www.thetrace.org/rounds/arkansas-right-wing-extremists-arrested-violating-gun-laws/>).
- “Trump Réhabilite Les Racistes.” By Léa Hassoun. *Politis*. Interview. (<https://www.politis.fr/articles/2017/09/trump-rehabilite-les-racistes-37521/>).
- “Militias a ‘chilling’ presence at rallies but few signs of violence, so far.” By Chris Iorfida. *CBC News*. Interview (<http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/militias-oath-keepers-rallies-1.4246317>).

- “Right-Wing Militias Are Now Actively Supporting Some State and Local Pro-Trump Politicians.” By Alex Yablon. *The Trace*. (<https://www.thetrace.org/2017/08/right-wing-militias-actively-supporting-pro-trump-politicians/>).
- 2016 "A look at militia groups in Michigan." *Michigan Public Radio*. Radio Interview. (<http://michiganradio.org/post/look-militia-groups-michigan#stream/0>).
- 2015 "So what are “constitutionalists” and why would a deputy worry about them?" By Daniel Walters. *Inlander*. Interview. (<http://www.inlander.com/Bloglander/archives/2015/08/12/so-what-are-constitutionalists-and-why-would-a-deputy-worry-about-them>)
- "'Lady' team nicknames can be harmful, experts say." By Matt Slovin. *Tennessean*. Interview. (<http://www.tennessean.com/story/sports/college/vols/2015/06/29/lady-team-nicknames-can-harmful-experts-say/29492339/?from=global&sessionKey=&autologin=>).
- 2014 "Cliven Bundy's 'Range War'." *Radio West*. Live Radio Interview. (<http://radiowest.kuer.org/post/cliven-bundys-range-war>).
- 2013 "Militias." *National Geographic's Crazy Land*. On-camera interview. (netflix.com).
- 2012 "Militias." *Hidden in America* .On-camera interview. (<http://new.destinationamerica.com/>).
- "Sikh temple shooter's ex arrested. What role do women play in racist groups?" By Mark Guarino. *Christian Science Monitor*. Interview. (<http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/2012/0808/Sikh-temple-shooter-s-ex-arrested.-What-role-do-women-play-in-racist-groups>).
- 2010 “Researcher: What Militias Want.” *CNN Newsroom*. Live on-camera interview. (<http://www.cnn.com/video/?/video/us/2010/03/30/nr.michigan.militia.cooter.cnn>).
- “Deadline Now.” With Jack Lessenberry. *WGTE*, Toledo. Interview. (http://www.wgte.org/wgte/watch/item.asp?item_id=6314).
- “Hutaree Not an Ordinary Militia.” *Chicago Public Radio*. Radio interview. (<http://www.chicagopublicradio.org/Content.aspx?audioID=41064>).
- The Dave Ross Show*, Seattle. Live radio interview. (<http://www.mynorthwest.com/?nid=112&cmsid=90>).
- “Hutaree man: Apocalypse? Fresh socks!” By Laura Conaway. *The Rachel Maddow Blog*. Interview. (http://maddowblog.msnbc.msn.com/_news/2010/03/29/4087865-hutaree-man-apocalypse-fresh-socks).

2009 “The Resurgence of the American Militia.” *HDNet World Report #731*. On-camera interview. Available through iTunes.

Invited Blogs

2018 “Masculinities & Militias in the United States.” *Mikel Rodriguez, journalist of violence and conservatism*. (<https://mikelrodriguezperiodista.wordpress.com/2018/08/09/dr-amy-cooter-la-idea-de-masculinidad-es-uno-de-los-ejes-de-por-que-se-unen-a-una-milicia-en-estados-unidos/>).

2012 "Problems Predicting Extremist Violence." *SEN Journal: Online Exclusives*. (<http://senjournal.wordpress.com/2012/09/16/problems-predicting-extremist-violence/#more-1805>).

2011 “Fieldwork in the Era of Facebook.” *A (Budding) Sociologist’s Commonplace* (<http://asociologist.wordpress.com/2011/07/28/guest-post-fieldwork-in-the-era-of-facebook/>).

2010 “Sociologist: How to understand militias.” *The Rachel Maddow Blog*. (<http://maddowblog.msnbc.msn.com/news/2010/03/30/4090383-sociologist-how-to-understand-militias>).

Honors & Awards

2019 Nominated for the Harriet S. Gilliam Award for Excellence in Teaching

2018 Recognized as influential mentor on campus during Buchanan Fellows exhibit, “From Listeners to Leaders: A History of Women at Vanderbilt”

2013 Rackham One-term Dissertation Fellowship

2012-2013 Sociology Department Small Grants

2012 Department of Sociology, Exceptional Graduate Student Instructor Award

2010-2012 Rackham Travel Grants

2007-2010 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship

2006 LSA Regents/Departmental Fellowship

2005 Winner of Alpha Kappa Delta (International Sociology Honor Society)

Undergraduate Student Paper Competition

Vanderbilt Sociology Outstanding Undergraduate Award

Graduated Summa Cum Laude, Vanderbilt University

Phi Beta Kappa (Academic Honor Society)

Other Research Experience

- 2013-2018 *Laboratory Manager*, Dr. David Zald’s Affective Neuroscience Laboratory at Vanderbilt University
- Managed data and IRB materials for numerous studies, implemented data security and redundancy measures lab-wide, managed lab materials and ordering, assisted with data collection and analysis on the Tennessee Twin Study
- 2007-2009 *Research Assistant*, “Michigan Prisoner Reentry Initiative” with Jeff Morenoff and David Harding at the University of Michigan’s Institute for Social Research
- 2006-2007 *Research Assistant*, “State of Social-Psychology” with Jim House
- 2006-2007 *Research Assistant*, “Prison Project” with David Harding
- 2004-2006 *Research Assistant*, Dr. David Zald’s Affective Neuroscience Laboratory at Vanderbilt University
- Conducted and managed data for numerous psychology experiments (attentional blink, scale development, and MRI amygdala studies), managed lab materials and ordering, supervised undergraduate RAs, and helped write NIH grant applications

Other Service

- 2020 Review and Tie-Breaking Committees for VUSRP
- 2019 Book manuscript reviewer for Columbia University Press
- 2019-2020 Review Committee Nichols Humanitarian Fund
- Review Committee GEO Summer Scholarship Program
- 2018-2020 College of Arts & Science Immersion Coordinator
- 2018 “Vietnam and the Rise of White Power.” Book Review. *Reason*.
(<http://reason.com/archives/2018/09/06/vietnam-and-the-rise-of-white>).
- Book proposal reviewer for Columbia University Press
- Expert Consultant for *United States of America vs. Curtis Wayne Allen, Patrick Eugene Stein & Gavin Wayne Wright* (Case Number 16-M-6151-GEB)

- 2007-2017 Occasional Reviewer
- *American Journal of Sociology, Gender & Society, Mobilization, Sociological Forum, Social Problems, Social Currents, Irish Journal of Sociology*
- 2016-2018 Vanderbilt Faculty Forward Organizing Committee