

MICHAEL L. STEPHENS
Curriculum Vitae

Binghamton University
Department of Sociology
Binghamton, New York 13902

Email: mlstephe@binghamton.edu

CURRENT PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Lecturer, Department of Sociology, Harpur College, Binghamton University,
Binghamton, New York
August 2025 - Present

EDUCATION

Binghamton University, Binghamton, New York

Ph.D., Sociology, August 2023.

M.A., Sociology, December 2016.

Dissertation Project: *The Contradictions of Gay Tourism: The Neoliberal Politics of LGBTQ+ Rights in Cartagena de Indias*

Research Interests: Historical Sociology, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Political Economy and Development, the Caribbean and Atlantic World, Cultural Studies.

Dissertation Committee Chairs: Leslie Gates, Mahua Sarkar (University of Toronto)

Committee Members: Kelvin Santiago-Valles, Gladys Jiménez-Muñoz

External Reader: Nancy Appelbaum (Department of History, Binghamton University)

Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University (Virginia Tech), Blacksburg, Virginia

Master, Public and International Affairs, May 2014.

Graduate Certificate in International Research and Development, May 2014.

Major Paper: "Leadership, Ideology, Framing, Political Opportunities, and Emotion Work in the Liberian Women's Peace Movement, 2003."

Chair: Wilma Dunaway

Committee Members: Timothy Luke, Patricia Nickel

James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia

B.A., International Affairs, *Concentration*: International Relations, *magna cum laude*, May 2012.

Minors: Africana Studies, Humanitarian Affairs.

Senior Capstone Paper: "Gender and Political Participation in Western Province, Kenya; Case Study: Warembo Ni Yes."

Advisor: Besi Brilliant Muhonja

LANGUAGE SKILLS

English, *Native*
Spanish, *Advanced/Fluent*
Brazilian Portuguese, *Intermediate*
KiSwahili, *Elementary*
KiLuhya, *Elementary*

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Dissertation Fieldwork, Supported by Fulbright Colombia, Cartagena, Colombia, Fall 2019-Spring 2020

Pre-Dissertation Research, Cartagena, Colombia, Summer 2019, Summer 2018

Ethnographic Research on Care Work of Early Childhood Educators, King George, Virginia, 2016

Rural Kenyan's Women's Perceptions of 2010 Constitutional Referendum, Kakamega, Western Province, Kenya, 2010

This research culminated in a study of a contemporary women's social movement that operated during this period.

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Albert Szymanski – T.R. Young Marxist Sociology Graduate Student Paper Award: "Sexuality and the Second Slavery: Figuring Sexuality in Racialized Labor Formations." Marxist Sociology Section of the American Sociology Association, 2023.

Dissertation Writing Fellowship, Academic Year 2022-2023, Department of Sociology, Binghamton University

Binghamton University Graduate Student Excellence Award in Teaching, 2021-2022 Academic Year

Binghamton University Department of Sociology Winter Research Fellowship, Winter 2022
Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (IASH) Doctoral Fellowship, Binghamton University, Spring 2021

Fulbright US Student Program, 2019-2020 Academic Year

Binghamton University Department of Sociology Summer Fellowship, 2018, 2019, 2020

Binghamton University Department of Sociology, *Travel Grant*, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019

Binghamton University Graduate Student Organization (GSO), *Travel Grant*, 2016, 2017, 2018

New York State and Graduate Student Employees Union Professional Development Award, 2016, 2018

AmeriCorps Service Award, 2015

Virginia Tech Robert Stuart Award for Outstanding Graduate Student in the Master of Public and International Affairs, 2014

PUBLICATIONS

- Stephens, Michael L. 2025. "For Love, Pleasure, or Survival?: Queer Cartageneros' Affective Labors amidst the Development of 'Gay Tourism'." Manuscript in preparation.
- Stephens, Michael L. 2025. "Harnessing *el nuevo petróleo: la economía naranja* and Tourism in the Colombian Context." Under review.
- Stephens, Michael L. 2023. *The Neoliberal Politics of LGBTQ+ Rights and Tourism in Cartagena de Indias*. Dissertation.
- Stephens, Michael L. 2022. "Sexuality and the Second Slavery: Figuring Sexuality in Racialized Labor Formations." *Journal of Historical Sociology* vol. 35, no. 4: 462-487.

CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS & ENGAGEMENTS

- "Harnessing *el nuevo petróleo: La economía naranja* and Urban Displacement in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia." Hartwick College Regional Sociology Symposium: "The (up)Roaring 2020's: Sociology's Responsibility in Addressing Social Problems," Hartwick College, Oneonta, New York, April 2023.
- "Spaces of Exclusion in Cartagena de Indias" Spatial Humanities Working Group, Binghamton University, September 2021.
- "*La Economía Naranja*, Spaces of Exclusion, and the Experiences of LGBTQ Workers in Cartagena de India," Collaborative Research Centre 1199: "Processes of Spatialization under the Global Condition," Leipzig University, Leipzig, Germany. June 2021.
- "Tourism and LGBTQ Rights in Cartagena de Indias," Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (IASH), Binghamton University, Binghamton, New York. May 2021.
- "The Neoliberal Politics of LGBT Tourism in Cartagena de Indias," International Summer Academy: "Unfree Labour Old and New," Work and Human Lifecycle in Global History (re:work) International Research Center, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and Addis Ababa University. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. November 2019.
- "The 'Gully' as Exile and Refuge: LGBTQ Youth Escape in Jamaica," Special LGBT Studies Section, American Sociological Society Annual Conference. Philadelphia, PA. 2018.
- "The 'Gully' as Exile and Refuge: LGBTQ Youth Escape in Jamaica," Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Baltimore, MD. 2018.
- "Run to the Gully: Structural Escape of Jamaican Queer Communities," 41st Annual Conference on the Political Economy of the World-System: Migration in the World-System. Texas A&M University, College Station, TX. 2017.
- "Run to the Gully: Structural Escape of Jamaican Queer Communities," Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA. 2017.
- "Run to the Gully: Structure Escape of Jamaican Queer Communities," Latin American, Caribbean and US Latino Studies Graduate Conference: Creative Revolution(s): Combatting Hatred with Justice Across the Americas. State University of New York (SUNY) at Albany, Albany, NY. 2017
- "The 'Gully' as Exile and Refuge: Jamaican LGBTQ Youth and the Neoliberal Turn," QGRAD LGBTQ Studies Conference: (Re)mapping Queer Mobilities. University of California - Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA. 2016

- "The Homonormative Victory: Capitalism, Marriage Equality, and the Gay Nuclear Family,"
Fifth Biennial SUNY Graduate Conference on World-Historical Social Science.
Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY. 2016.
- "The Maternal Aspects of Early Childhood Education," 18th Chicago Ethnography Conference:
Beyond the Case Study - Connecting Theory and Generalizability. DePaul University,
Chicago, IL. 2016.
- "Whose Civil Society?: Revisiting Shigi's 'Civil Society' in a Reconstructed Ujamaa," *Debating
Development Conference*. Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA. 2014.
- "Gender and Political Participation, Case Study: *Waremba Ni Yes*," James Madison University
Africana Studies Conference. James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA. 2011.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor, Sociology Program, College of Humanities and Social Sciences,
Lenoir-Rhyne University

Introduction to Sociology, Fall 2024, Summer 2024, Spring 2024, Fall 2023

Global Inequalities and Development, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

Sociology of Tourism, Fall 2024

Social Stratification, Spring 2024

Sociology of Health & Illness: Pandemics Edition, Spring 2024

Instructor, Department of Sociology, Binghamton University

Capitalism in Comics, Winter 2022

Tourism: Consuming the Exotic, Summer 2023, Summer 2021, Winter 2021, Summer 2020,
Summer 2019

Lecturer, Department of Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Binghamton
University

Sex Tourism and the Caribbean, Winter 2023, Summer 2022

Latin American Sexualities, Fall 2021

Instructor, Educational Opportunity Program (EOP): Binghamton Enrichment Program,
Binghamton University

Sociology for Everyone, Summer 2021

Instructor, Writing Initiative, Binghamton University

Inquiry and Academic Writing, Fall 2020, Spring 2019, Fall 2018

Teaching Assistant, Department of Sociology, Binghamton University

Social Science Research Methods, Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Spring 2018, Fall 2017, Fall 2016

With Dr. Leslie C. Gates

Foundations of Social Theory, Spring 2022

With Dr. Kelvin Santiago-Valles

Introduction to Sociology, Spring 2017

With Dr. Gladys Jiménez-Muñoz, as Head Teaching Assistant (of six)

Introduction to Sociology, Spring 2016

With Dr. Ravi Palat

Foundations of Social Theory, Fall 2015

With Dr. Denis O'Hearn

Teaching Assistant, Department of Political Science, Virginia Tech

American Political Thought, Spring 2014, Spring 2013

With Dr. Chad Lavin

Introduction to United States Government and Politics, Spring 2014

With Dr. D. Xavier Medina Vidal

Comparative Government and Politics, Fall 2013

With Dr. Jong Ra

Voting and Elections, Fall 2013

With Dr. Jong Ra

STUDENTS ADVISED

Monishka Jhaveri, 2023, "Industrialization and Integration of Sex Work into Global Capitalism; Why We Must Decriminalize Sex Work." Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Department of Sociology, Binghamton University. **Thesis Co-Advisor** with Gladys Jiménez-Muñoz.

Adebola Abbey-Peter, 2022, "Homophobia in the Black Diaspora: A Post-Colonial Bond to Pain," Conference Presentation: Reading Sexual and Racial Identity Against Colonialism Panel of the Fifth Biennial Latin American and Caribbean Studies Undergraduate Conference: "Breaking Down Walls: Research, Resistance, and Power," Binghamton University. **Conference Paper Advisor.**

Amanda Levix, 2022, "'Gay' and 'Martinican': Politics of Sex and National Belonging in Martinique," Conference Presentation: Reading Sexual and Racial Identity Against Colonialism Panel of the Fifth Biennial Latin American and Caribbean Studies Undergraduate Conference: "Breaking Down Walls: Research, Resistance, and Power," Binghamton University. **Conference Paper Advisor.**

Marina Mengual de Souza, 2022, "Travestis in the Context of Brazilian National Identity," Conference Presentation: Desire, Pleasure, and Gendered Violence Panel of the Fifth Biennial Latin American and Caribbean Studies Undergraduate Conference: "Breaking Down Walls: Research, Resistance, and Power," Binghamton University. **Conference Paper Advisor.**

SERVICE

Faculty Advisor, Lenoir-Rhyne University Pride Club, 2023-2025.
Nominated for 'Student Life Award', Spring 2024.

Award Committee Member, Albert Szymanski – T.R. Young Marxist Sociology Graduate Student Paper Award. Marxist Sociology Section of the American Sociology Association, 2024.

Panelist. Trauma and Vocation Discernment, Lenoir-Rhyne University, Spring 2024.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

Summer Institute on Teaching Social Action, Teaching Social Action – The Bonner Foundation, June 2024.

Southern Tier AIDS Program, Inc., Hepatitis C Navigation Coordinator, Ithaca, NY
May 2022 – August 2023.

Provided navigation and linkage services to substance users for Hepatitis C treatment throughout the Southern Tier region of New York State utilizing a harm reduction philosophy and praxis.

Alpenglow: Binghamton University Undergraduate Journal of Research and Creative Activity, Reviewer, Binghamton, NY

Academic Years 2022-2023, 2021-2022, 2020-2021, 2017-2018

Reviewer in Sociology for *Alpenglow*, Binghamton University's undergraduate research and creative arts journal.

Fulbright US Student Program - Fulbright Colombia, Research Fellow
Cartagena, Colombia

Academic Year 2019-2020

Binghamton Writes, Associate Editor, Binghamton, NY

December 2018 - May 2019

Editorial board for *Binghamton Writes*, the course textbook Binghamton University's First-Year Writing Course.

Binghamton University Graduate Student Organization (GSO), Sociology Graduate Student Senator, Binghamton, NY

August 2016 - May 2017

Represented the graduate students of the Department of Sociology in policy decisions for the graduate student body at Binghamton University.

Beans and Rice, Inc., Community Outreach and Fundraising Organizer, Radford, VA
October 2014 - August 2015

Worked on a number of initiatives in the Radford community, including weekly food banks, teaching in the daily after-school programs at McHarg Primary and Belle Heth Elementary Schools, as well as leading a multiplicity of grant-writing and fundraising projects for the non-profit organization.

Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Docent, Williamsburg, VA
June 2011 - August 2011

Docent and interpreter for gallery at Jamestown Settlement.

JMU Gandhi Center for Global Nonviolence, Counselor, Harrisonburg, VA
August 2010

Led groups of elementary school-aged children in the lessons and teaching of Mohandas K. Gandhi and other nonviolent leaders.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association (ASA)
ASA Political Economy of the World-System (PEWS)
Marxist Section of the American Sociological Association (ASA)
Eastern Sociological Society (ESS)
Middle Atlantic Council of Latin American Studies (MACLAS)
Phi Beta Kappa
United States Fulbright Commission, Fulbright Colombia