

MELENCIA M. JOHNSON, PH.D.

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2012-present **University of South Carolina Aiken** - Aiken, South Carolina
Department of Sociology
Assistant Professor

2010-2012 **Paine College** - Augusta, Georgia
Department of Sociology
Assistant Professor

EDUCATION

Ph.D. **Southern Illinois University Carbondale** - Carbondale, Illinois
– August 2010 Department of Sociology

Graduate Certificate Southern Illinois University Carbondale
– August 2008 Department of Women’s Studies

M.A. **Southern Illinois University Carbondale**
–December 2006 Department of Sociology

B.A. **Norfolk State University** - Norfolk, Virginia
– May 2005 Department of Sociology
Emphasis in Criminal Justice

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Intersectionalities and crime, Intimate Partner Violence, Girls’ delinquency, Feminist Pedagogy, African American International Travel, Racial Inequality in Sport

TEACHING INTERESTS

Juvenile Delinquency, Criminology, Criminological Theory, Deviant Behavior, Social Problems, Feminist Criminology, Girls’ Delinquency, Sociology of Gender, Race and Ethnic Relations, Sociology of the Black Experience, Race, Class, Gender and Crime

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

2017 **Johnson, Melencia**, and Philip Mason. 2017. “Just Talking about Life: Using Oral Histories of the Civil Rights Movement to Encourage Classroom Dialog on Race.” *Teaching Sociology*. 45(3): 279-289.

2014 **Johnson, Melencia**, Shelly A. McGrath, and Michelle Hughes Miller. 2014. “Effective Advocacy in Rural Domains: Applying an Ecological Model to Understanding Advocates’ Relationships.” *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. 29(12):2192-2217.

- 2012 McGrath, Shelly A., **Melencia Johnson**, and Michelle Hughes Miller. "Social Ecological Challenges of Rural Victim Advocacy: An Exploratory Study." *Journal of Community Psychology*. 40(5):588-606.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- 2017 "Domestic Violence Shouldn't Be Tolerated" in *Aiken Standard*. Printed January 9, 2017.
2011 **Johnson, Melencia**. "Elizabeth Van Lew." In *Women Criminals: An Encyclopedia of People and Issues* Volume 2, Ed. Vicky Jensen, ABC-CLIO, LLC: Santa Barbara, CA.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

With Michelle Petrie "Exquisite or Explosive? Race and NCAA Gymnastics Commentary"
The present study examines commentary of the 2012 and 2013 NCAA Women's Gymnastics Championships. While numerous studies have explored sport commentary and have documented racial differences there have been no studies to date that have explored how women's gymnastics is depicted. This study investigates thematic content in broadcast commentary with further analysis of racial differences. Qualitative and quantitative analyses illuminate commonalities with prior research on broadcast commentary of other sports but unique differences also emerge. Findings further reveal significant racial differences in thematic content.

With Ayesha Jihad "Exploring Southern College Students' Attitudes toward Spanking: A Qualitative Study" Spanking is a common disciplinary strategy used by parents across the United States of America. This study sought to examine Southern college students' attitudes toward physical punishment as a disciplinary strategy. College students completed an open-ended online survey to assess attitudes toward spanking. Results revealed college students' definitions of spanking differ despite being grouped into the same generational cohort. Definitions ranged from simplistic based only on the disciplinary action to complex, examining the role of the punisher and the caution of overuse. Results also indicated that students' perspectives on the gender and age of the child, role of the law, and the relationship between spanking and future disciplinary problems varied. These results enrich our understanding of social class and race as determinants of diverging attitudes toward spanking based on the normativeness of the behavior within the family unit. (Under review)

"This Class is Depressing: Three Reasons to Teach Deviance with Fun" This commentary discusses the use of fun and humor to maintain student interest in often emotionally draining material, reduce student tension when approaching sensitive topics, and make deeper connections with those who have deviant identities.

"Young Black Woman, PhD: Overcoming Student Resistance of Feminist Pedagogical Techniques"
This article is autoethnographic work details the challenges faced as a young, Black woman professor using a teaching style that is unfamiliar to many students.

CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

- 2016 "Teaching BLM to Predominantly White Students" American Society of Criminology, New Orleans, LA.

“Teaching Sensitive Topics with Technology in Mind” American Society of Criminology, New Orleans, LA.

“Women in the Criminal Justice System” FYRE CI Lecture, Aiken, SC.

“This Class is Depressing: Teaching Deviance with Humor” Mid South Sociological Society, Charleston, SC.

“Perpetual Strangers: Toward a Sociology of African American Travel” Southern Sociological Society, Atlanta, GA.

2015 “Classroom Conversations about Police (Excessive) Use of Force” American Society of Criminology, Washington, DC.

“Sociology of the Black Experience: Let’s talk About Race” Conference on the Black Experience, Paine College, Augusta, GA.

“Recruiting and Retaining Faculty of Color” Southern Sociological Society, New Orleans, LA.

2014 “Using Personal Research to Teach/Using the Classroom for Research” American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, CA.

“*The Other Wes Moore*—A Sociological Perspective” USC Aiken, Aiken, SC.

“Using Interviews about the Civil Rights Movement to Discuss Race and Ethnicity” Southern Sociological Society, Charlotte, NC.

2013 “Young Black Woman, PhD: Overcoming Barriers to Using Feminist Pedagogical Techniques” American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA.

“Race, Class, and Gender in Criminology and Criminal Justice: Engaging Students in the Examination of Visible and Invisible Difference” American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA.

2012 “Mentoring Undergraduates in Research and Scholarship” American Society of Criminology, Chicago, IL.

2011 “Feminist Pedagogy in Sociology: Utilizations in a Majority Minority Classroom” National Women’s Studies Association, Atlanta, GA.

“Impact of Racially Disaggregated Economic Marginalization and Gender Inequality on Female Property Crime” American Society of Criminology, Washington, DC.

“Female Property Crime Offending Across Cities: A Racially and Ethnically Disaggregated Analysis” Southern Sociological Association, Jacksonville, FL.

2010 “Family Friendly Work-Life Policies: An Introduction” Faculty Symposium Series. Paine College, Augusta, GA.

“Family Friendly Work-Life Policies at Georgia’s Private HBCUs” Georgia Sociological Society, Decatur, GA.

INVITED INTERVIEWS

2014 “Aiken Standard Examines Local Arrest Rates” *Aiken Standard*

“Social Media’s Influence on the Criminal Justice System” *Aiken Standard*

2013 “Study: Blacks Arrested at Higher Rates” *Aiken Standard*

2012 “Member Profiles” section of the *SARAH* newsletter for the Division on Women and Crime of the American Society of Criminology

2010 “Jail Report” *NBC 26*. Augusta, Georgia.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

2017 “College Preparation Workshop” sponsored by MACH Academy, Augusta, GA

“Black Sociologists Matter” sponsored by Paine College Chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society, Augusta, GA

2016 “Level Up: Career Talk” sponsored by Aiken Youth Empowerment, Aiken, SC

“Community Forum” panel sponsored by the SGA in response to campus climate following a racist incident

“Women of Color in Leadership Roles in Academia” panel sponsored by the Sociologists for Women in Society at the Southern Sociological Society Meetings, Atlanta, GA

“Black Lives Matter Vigil” sponsored by the USCA Chapter NAACP, C.U.R.L.S., AASA, Unity and Amnesty International, Aiken, SC

“THOT Talk” sponsored by the Office of Global Studies & Multicultural Engagement, USCA

“The Importance of Black Sociologists” sponsored by Paine College Chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society, Augusta, GA

“College Preparation Workshop” sponsored by MACH Academy, Augusta, GA

2015 “Mayoral Candidates Forum” sponsored by the Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce, Aiken, SC

“Youth Leadership Program” Helping Hands, Aiken, SC

“Intro to College” workshop. MACH Academy, Augusta, GA

“I Need to Know: A Youth Relation Forum” panel discussion. RCCG Family Praise Chapel. Atlanta, GA

2014 “Sexualization in Pop Culture” panel discussion sponsored by Phi Pi Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc., USCA

2013 “Kwanzaa Celebration” sponsored by African American Student Alliance, USCA

“Boyz II Men” Panel sponsored by African American Student Alliance, USCA

Career Panel. Helping Hands Real Skills4Real Life Spring Break Camp. Aiken Youth Empowerment. Aiken, SC

2012 “Career Roundtable” sponsored by Paine College. Augusta, GA

2011 “Teaching the Teachers.” Professional development workshop for Richmond Co. Georgia psychology and sociology teachers. A.R. Johnson Magnet School. Augusta, GA

“Feeding the Pipeline: From High-School to College.” Mid-Year Faculty Workshop for Paine College Upward Bound Teachers. Paine College, Augusta, GA

Facilitator, Blackboard™ Training. Faculty Development Conference. Paine College, Augusta, GA

2010 “What is a Woman?” Forum produced by the Paine College Residence Hall Association. Paine College, Augusta, GA

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2017 Introductory Sociology
Girls’ Delinquency
Criminological Theory

2016 Introductory Sociology
Sociology of Delinquent Youth
Behavior
Sociology of Deviance
Sociology of the Black Experience
(online)
Sociology of Delinquent Youth
Behavior (online)
Girls’ Delinquency

2015 Introductory Sociology
Sociology of Delinquent Youth
Behavior
Sociology of Deviance
Sociology of Delinquent Youth
Behavior (online)
Race, Class, Gender: Crime and
Justice
Girls’ Delinquency

2014 Introductory Sociology
Sociology of Delinquent Youth
Behavior
Sociology of Deviance

	Sociology of Delinquent Youth Behavior (online) Criminological Theory Girls' Delinquency		Senior Field Paper Juvenile Delinquency Criminology Sociology of the Black Experience
2013	Introductory Sociology Sociology of Delinquent Youth Behavior Sociology of Deviance Sociology of Delinquent Youth Behavior (online) Girls and Delinquency Race, Class, Gender: Crime and Justice	2011	Sociology of Gender Demography Methods of Research Minority Groups Introduction to Sociology Sociology of the Black Experience Juvenile Delinquency Community and Urban Life
2012	Sociology of Delinquent and Youth Behavior Sociology of Deviance Criminological Theory	2010	Sociology of Deviance Introduction to Sociology Minority Groups Marriage and Family Social Problems

GRANTS

- 2017 USC Aiken Internal Grant from Center for Teaching Excellence to develop an experiential learning assignment and diversity topic-centered course (Funded)
- 2016 RISE grant to do qualitative research on the African American international travel experience
- 2015 USC Aiken Internal Grant from Provost of Academic Affairs to develop an online class (Funded)
- 2015 RISE grant to perform qualitative research on the African American international travel experience
- 2011 Paine College Internal Faculty-Student Research Grant (Funded)

USCA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2017 DocSoft End-User Training, offered by USC Columbia
 - High-Impact Practices for Teaching and Learning: A Symposium on Student Engagement, offered by the Center for Teaching Excellence
- 2016 Complicated Process of Communication, offered by the Center for Teaching Excellence and Dr. Charmaine Wilson
 - LimeWire Survey Training, offered by Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Ms. Jessica Hoffman
 - Support for Students with Disabilities in a Post-Secondary Setting, offered by Human Resources and Dr. Claudette Palmer

Scaffolding and Renovations: Building and Improving Writing Assignments, offered by Dr. Matthew Miller

Developing a Comprehensive Faculty Evaluation System, offered by Dr. Raoul Arreola

Carolina Intercultural Training, offered by Julie Medlin of International Student Services USC Columbia

2015 Safe Zone Training, offered by USC Office of Multicultural Affairs

Excellence in Teaching Award workshop, presented by Vicki Collins, offered by the Center for Teaching Excellence to learn lessons in becoming an excellent teacher

Writing Intensive Workshop, presented by the General Education Committee

Critical Inquiry Summer Workshop, offered by the Center for Teaching Excellence and FYRE to discuss the first year reading seminar and text

Adobe Connect Training, offered by Director of Distance Learning

Online Course Development, offered by Director of Distance Learning

2014 Critical Inquiry Summer Workshop, offered by the Center for Teaching Excellence and FYRE to discuss the first year reading seminar and text

Best Practices for Online Course Delivery workshop, offered by the Center for Teaching Excellence to learn different formats of online teaching

2013 TurnItIn Workshop offered by the Library to introduce the plagiarism notification software.

Tips for Teaching workshop, presented by Dr. Ed Callen, offered by the Center for Teaching Excellence to learn new teaching techniques

Web of Science and EndNote Web workshops offered by the Library to explore new ways of collecting data and organizing sources

2012 Advanced Blackboard Training workshop offered by the Center for Teaching Excellence to explore tools I could use to enhance student learning

Tips for Teaching workshop, presented by Dr. Michelle Vieyra, offered by the Center for Teaching Excellence to learn new teaching techniques

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2017 PACE Summit, offered by the Aiken Department of Public Safety. Aiken, SC

Sexual Assault Prevention Training, offered by The Cumbee Center to Assist Abused Persons, Inc. Edgefield, SC

2016 National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity. 14-Day Writing Challenge. Online.

2014 Journal Manuscript Reviewer Training Workshop, offered by The Division on Women and Crime of the American Society of Criminology. San Francisco, CA

Qualitative Data Analysis Training Workshop, offered by the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University, Atlanta, GA

Dead Ideas in Teaching Sociology, offered by the South Carolina Sociological Association to highlight new ways of teaching the technology generation of students. Charleston, SC

2012 Faculty Resource Network, “Women of the Atlantic” Winter Session. San Juan, Puerto Rico

2011 Blackboard™ Module Certification. Paine College, Augusta, GA

Sisters of the Academy Research Boot Camp. Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL

Faculty Resource Network, “Topics in Context: Media in the Middle East” Summer Session. New York, NY

STUDY ABROAD

2009 Traveled to Nairobi, Kenya and Nara Maru, Kenya to study the differences in urban and rural Kenyan culture within one family.

AWARDS & HONORS

2017 Young Professional 2 Follow

- Awarded for embodying the characteristics of a young professional to follow by the *Aiken Standard*.

USCA Excellence in Advising Award

- Nominated by a current student for this university wide award.

2016 USCA Excellence Community Service Award

- Awarded for excellence in community service in the Aiken community.

2015 Norfolk State University Department of Sociology Distinguished Alumni Award

- Selected by current and past faculty.

Student Athlete Faculty/Staff Appreciation Honoree

- Nominated by a senior student athlete for this university wide award.

2013 USCA Excellence in Teaching Award

- Nominated by a student for this university-wide award.

2012 Evelyn Berry Teacher of the Year Award

- Nominated by faculty and students for this university wide award.

MENTORING & STUDENT ACTIVITIES

- 2016 Whiskey Road Race to benefit Cumbee Center to Assist Abused Persons
- Coordinated three students to volunteer for the event
- South Eastern Undergraduate Sociology Symposium
- Escorted one student to present a paper at the symposium.
- Helping Hands, Inc.
- Escorted 12 students to tour Helping Hands and discuss girls' delinquency with girls group.
- 2015 South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice
- Escorted 14 students to Columbia, SC to tour the DJJ facilities.
- 2014 South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice
- Escorted 10 students to Columbia, SC to tour the DJJ facilities.

SELECTED COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Aiken Unitarian Universalist Church, Aiken, SC
- Facilitated discussion for the movie *I Am Not Your Negro*
- Democracy for America Local Activist Network, Aiken, SC
- Facilitated discussion for the movie *13th*
- Aiken Department of Public Safety-Aiken Safe Communities Approach, Aiken, SC
- Citizen group to examine, discuss and make recommendations for officer recruitment process
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Aiken, SC
- 1st Vice President
 - Active member
 - Annual Freedom Fund Banquet Committee
 - Secretary, Nominating Committee
- Helping Hands, Inc., Aiken, SC
- Board Member
 - Secretary
- Aiken Downtown Development Association, Aiken, SC
- Board Member
 - Events Committee
- Children's Place Inc., Aiken, SC
- Tutor/Mentor
- United Way of Aiken County, SC
- Fundraising activities
- MACH Academy, Augusta, GA
- College preparation seminar
 - Assistant Tennis Coach

CAMPUS SERVICE

- 2017 Discussant, *Moonlight* movie viewing and conversation
- 2016 Advisor, USCA Tennis Club
- Facilitator, Let's Talk: Campus Focus Groups about Campus Climate

2016-2017 Member, Political Science Search Committee
 2015-present Member, Diversity Dialogues Committee
 2014 Member, Search Committee, Assistant Director of Global Studies and Multicultural Engagement
 2013-present Member, Dr. MLK, Jr. Celebration Planning Committee
 2013-2015 Advisor, USCA Chapter of NAACP
 2012-present Member, Inclusion Advisory Council
 2012-present Advisor, Pi Gamma Mu Social Science Honor Society

FACULTY/AD HOC COMMITTEES

2017 Member, Campus Life Committee
 Member, New Faculty Orientation Committee
 Member, Excellence in Community Service Sub Committee
 2016-present Member, Annual Faculty Evaluation Committee
 2016 Member, Student Code of Conduct Review Task Force
 2015-2016 Member, Judicial Advisory Council
 2014-present Member, FYRE Committee
 2013 Member of the Retention, Progression, and Graduation (RPG) Advisory Committee Early Intervention Programs Workgroup
 Member, Excellence in Teaching Sub Committee
 2012-2016 Member, Faculty Assembly Nominating Committee
 2012-2013 Member, Faculty Assembly Academic Services Committee

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

2014-2015 Member, Sociology Department Criminal Justice/Criminology Workgroup
 2013 Departmental Representative, South Carolina Sociological Association
 2012 Member, Sociology Search Committee
 2012-present Coordinator, Sociology Library Book Orders

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & MEMBERSHIP

2017 Reviewer, *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*
 2016 Member, Mid-South Sociological Association
 2015 Reviewer, *Justice Quarterly*
 2014 Outside Committee Member, MA Thesis (Kimberly Williams) University of Alabama Birmingham
 Outside Committee Member, MA Thesis (Emmanuel Etim Umoh) University of Alabama Birmingham
 2014-2015 Member, South Carolina Sociological Association
 2013-present Member, Aiken Young Professionals

- Membership Committee Member, Aiken Young Professionals (2015-2016)
- Steering Committee Member, Aiken Young Professionals (2014)

 2013 Guest Reviewer, *Practical Matters*, Issue 06, Religious Experience: Ethnography and Theology
 2011-2012 Member, National Women's Studies Association
 2010-present Reviewer, *Feminist Criminology*
 2009-present Member, Southern Sociological Society

- Member, Committee on Racial and Ethnic Relations, Southern Sociological Society (2014-2017)
- 2007-present Member, American Society of Criminology
- Co-chair, Committee on Teaching and Pedagogy, Division on Women and Crime (2015-2017)
 - Member, Committee on Teaching and Pedagogy, Division on Women and Crime (2012-present)
 - Member, Division on Women and Crime
- 2003-present Member, Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society
- 2003-Present Member, Golden Key International Honor Society