

# Laura Backstrom

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## *Curriculum Vitae*

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## FACULTY ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2016-Present **Assistant Professor**  
Florida Atlantic University, Department of Sociology

2015-2016 **Visiting Assistant Professor**  
Macalester College, Department of Sociology

## EDUCATION

2014 **Ph.D. in Sociology**  
Minor: Gender Studies  
Indiana University, Bloomington  
Thesis: "Constructing the Problem Child: Body Projects and Embodied Inequality in Anti-Obesity Discourse"

2008 **M.A. in Sociology**  
Indiana University, Bloomington  
Thesis: "Putting Stigma to Bed? The Sexual Consequences of Obesity in Young Adulthood"

2006 **B.A. in Sociology**  
Fordham University  
Honors: *Summa Cum Laude*

## AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Childhood/Youth	Family	Culture	Qualitative Methods
Gender and the Body	Microsociology	Social Problems	Inequality

## PUBLICATIONS

### Book

**Backstrom, Laura.** 2019. *Weighty Problems: Embodied Inequality at a Children's Weight Loss Camp.* New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.

## Articles

\*Indicates graduate student co-author

Fraidenburg, Kelly\* and **Laura Backstrom**. Forthcoming. "Separate and Unequal? Representations of Sportswomen on espnW's and ESPN's Instagram Accounts." *International Journal of Sport Communication*.

**Backstrom, Laura**. 2020. "Shifting the Blame Frame: Agency and the Parent-Child Relationship in an Anti-Obesity Campaign." *Childhood* 27(2): 203-219.

**Backstrom, Laura**. 2018. "Accomplishing Empathy at a Children's Weight Loss Camp." *SAGE Research Methods Cases* 2: 1-12.

**Backstrom, Laura**. 2016. "Embodied Resocialization at a Children's Weight Loss Camp." *Ethnography* 17(4): 539-558.

**Backstrom, Laura**. 2012. "From the Freak Show to the Living Room: Cultural Representations of Dwarfism and Obesity." *Sociological Forum* 27(3): 682-707.

**Backstrom, Laura**, Elizabeth A. Armstrong, and Jennifer Puentes. 2012. "Women's Negotiation of Cunnilingus in College Hookups and Relationships." *Journal of Sex Research* 49(1): 1-12.

## **OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

Moynihan, Patrick, James A. Wilson, and **Laura Backstrom**. 2006. "Assessing Undergraduate Program Efficacy and Outcomes: Learning from ASA's Research on What Sociology Graduates Learn and Take to the Job Market." *Footnotes* 34(1): 6,8.

Moynihan, Patrick J., and **Laura Backstrom**. 2004. "Little Margin for Error." *NYAAPOR Newsletter* December (Winter): 1,3.

## **GRANTS**

Backstrom, Laura (PI) and Morgan Cooley (co-PI) "In the Child's Best Interest: The Contribution of Volunteer Child Advocates to the Outcomes of Children in Foster Care." \$250,000, W.T. Grant Foundation. *Invited for Full Proposal*.

## **AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

**2020** FAU College of Arts and Letters Scholarly and Creative Achievement Fellowship (SCAF)

**2019** FAU Division of Research, Junior Faculty Mentoring Award

**2013** Graduate Student Paper Competition Award (Second Place), Midwest Sociological Society for "Resocialization at a Children's Weight Loss Camp."

- 2012 Glen D. and Dorothy E. Stewart Family Scholarship, Indiana University Department of Sociology; in recognition of excellence in both teaching and research
- 2011 Edwin H. Sutherland Award for Excellence in and Commitment to Teaching, Indiana University Department of Sociology
- 2011 Advanced Departmental Fellowship, Indiana University Department of Sociology
- 2008 Summer Research Fellowship, Indiana University Department of Sociology

### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2020 Cooley, Morgan E., **Backstrom, Laura**, Thompson, Heather M., & Colvin, Mariana. *Child advocates perspectives of working with foster parents*. Annual conference of the National Council on Family Relations, online conference.
- 2020 **Backstrom, Laura**. "Not Just as First Lady but as a Mother": The Constraints and Strategic Opportunities of Hegemonic Femininity in Michelle Obama's Let's Move! Campaign" Annual Meeting, Southern Sociological Society (SSS), [Paper Accepted; Conference Canceled due to COVID-19]
- 2019 Cooley, Morgan, Thompson, Heather. M., **Backstrom, Laura**, & Colvin, Mariana L. *The experiences of child advocates for youth in the foster care system*. Annual conference of the National Council on Family Relations, Ft. Worth, TX.
- 2018 Backstrom, Laura. "Gender Differences and Variation in Weight-Based Peer Victimization among Overweight Youth." Annual Meeting, American Sociological Association (ASA), Philadelphia, PA.
- 2018 Backstrom, Laura. "Negotiating Stigma at a Children's Weight Loss Camp." Annual Meeting, Southern Sociological Society (SSS), New Orleans, LA.
- 2018 Backstrom, Laura. "They Were Born Lucky: Children's Body Size Attributions at a Weight Loss Camp." Annual Meeting, Eastern Sociological Society (ESS), Baltimore, MD.
- 2016 Backstrom, Laura. "Embodied Inequality at a Children's Weight Loss Camp" Annual Meeting, Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), Seattle, WA
- 2013 Backstrom, Laura. "Resocialization at a Children's Weight Loss Camp" Annual Meeting, American Sociological Association, New York, NY
- 2013 Backstrom, Laura. "Anti-Obesity Programs Construct the Embodied Child" Annual Meeting, North Central Sociological Association, Indianapolis, IN

- 2013 Backstrom, Laura. “Embodied Resocialization of Eating Habits at a Children’s Weight Loss Camp”  
Annual Meeting, Midwestern Sociological Association, Chicago, IL
- 2011 Backstrom, Laura. “From the Freak Show to the Living Room: Cultural Representations of Dwarfism and Obesity”  
Annual Meeting, American Sociological Association, Las Vegas, NV
- 2011 Backstrom, Laura. “Student Opinion on Faculty Misconduct”  
Annual Meeting, North Central Sociological Association, Cleveland, OH
- 2009 Backstrom, Laura. “Teaching Sexuality: Creating an Open Classroom Climate.”  
Annual Meeting, North Central Sociological Association, Dearborn, MI
- 2009 Backstrom, Laura. “To Give Is Better Than To Receive? Body Comfort and Young Women’s Ambivalence Toward Oral Sex.”  
Bringing the Body Back In: Towards a Corporeal Social Science, Tucson, AZ
- 2008 Backstrom, Laura. “Weighting for Love? The Romantic and Sexual Consequences of Obesity in Young Adulthood.”  
Annual Meeting, North Central Sociological Association, Cincinnati, OH

### **INVITED TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS**

- 2020 “Weighty Problems.” Matthew Gougherty’s Social Psychology class. Virtual visit. Whitman College. November 16.
- 2016 Invited Speaker, Panel Discussion: Planned Parenthood National Day of Electoral Action
- 2016 Invited Speaker, Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs “Real Talk” on Sexual Assault
- 2011 Panelist, “Demystifying Qualitative Research” (with Tim Hallett and Emily Meanwell), Indiana Intensive Didactic Seminars (IIDS), Department of Sociology, Indiana University

### **TEACHING CERTIFICATIONS**

- 2017 FAU Center for E-Learning (CEL) eCertification Workshop
- 2015 Urban Faculty Colloquium, Macalester College
- 2010 Preparing Future Faculty Certificate  
Three-Course Sequence in Higher Education and Scholarship of Teaching and Learning,  
Indiana University, Bloomington
- 2009 NCSA Future Faculty Certificate

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Florida Atlantic University**

*Assistant Professor (2016-Present)*

#### Graduate Courses

Sociology of Family

Research Methods and Design

Sociology of Childhood

Gender, Sexuality, and the Body

#### Undergraduate Courses

Self and Society

Social Construction of Sexuality

Sociological Perspectives

Sociology of Youth

Gender and the Body

Human Sexuality and Social Change

## **ADVISING**

### MA Thesis

Member, Thesis Committee, Ashley Ostroot (2018)

Chair, Thesis Committee, Akilah Somersall (2018)

### BA Honors Thesis

Chair, Thesis Committee, Sydney Riggs (2020)

Member, Thesis Committee, Alaina Tillman (2020)

## **SERVICE**

### *FAU Sociology Department*

2017-Present Member, Graduate Evaluation Committee

2018-Present Director, Honors Program for the Sociology BA

2020 Chair, Department Review of Promotion to Instructor Committee

2020 Member, Tenure and Promotion Guidelines Committee

2019-2020 Chair, Hiring Committee for Open/Quantitative Assistant Professor Search

2018-2019 Interim Director of Graduate Studies, Sociology Department

2018-2019 Member, Graduate Program Committee,

2017-2018 Coordinator, Proseminar for Sociology Graduate Program

2017-2018 Member, Hiring Committee for Healthy Aging Assistant Professor Search

### *College/University*

2018-Present Member, Comparative Studies PhD Committee

2018-2019 Member, Graduate Program Committee

*Service to the Profession*

- 2012-Present      Reviewer, *American Journal of Sociology*, *Sociological Perspectives*,  
*Sociological Forum*, *Sociological Inquiry*, *Journal of Contemporary*  
*Ethnography*, *Journal of Gender Based Violence*, *Fat Studies Journal*, *Childhood*  
*Obesity*
- 2018-2019      Member, ASA Children and Youth Section's Nominations Committee