

MELANIE HEATH

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Academic Positions

2013-present Associate Professor, McMaster University, Department of Sociology
2008-2013 Assistant Professor, McMaster University, Department of Sociology
2006-2008 Postdoctoral Fellow, Rice University, Department of Sociology

Education

1999-2006 University of Southern California, Ph.D., Department of Sociology.
Graduate Certificate, Gender Studies.

1997-1999 California State University, Sacramento, M.A. Department of Sociology.

1985-1989 University of California, Berkeley B.A. with honors, Department of Philosophy.

Areas of Specialization

Sociology Gender, Sociology of Sexualities, Family and Politics, Global and Transnational Sociology

Publications

Books

2016 Janice D. Aurini, Melanie Heath, and Stephanie Howells. *The How To of Qualitative Research*. London: Sage.

2012 Melanie Heath. *One Marriage Under God: The Campaign to Promote Marriage in America*. New York: New York University Press.

Reviews:

Priscilla Yamin, 2014. *Contemporary Sociology: A Journal of Reviews* 43: 215-16.

Abigail Ocobock. 2014. *Social Forces*, doi:10.1093/sf/sou025.

Virginia Rutter. 2013. *American Journal of Sociology* 118:1429-1431.

Gail E. Murphy-Geiss. 2013. *Gender & Society* 27: 430-432.

Amy L. Stone. 2013. *Mobilization* 18: 114-115.

Justin A. Lavner. 2013. *Sex Roles: A Journal of Research* 68: 517-519.

Jaye Cee Whitehead. 2013. *Sociology of Religion* 74: 138-140.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2016 Melanie Heath, Jessica Braimoh, and Julie Goulewoos. "Judging Women's Sexual Agency: Contemporary Sex Wars in the Legal Terrain of Prostitution and Polygamy." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 42(1): 199–225.
- 2016 Tina Fetner and Melanie Heath. 2015. "Do Same-Sex and Straight Weddings Aspire to the Fairytale? Women's Conformity and Resistance to Traditional Weddings." *Sociological Perspectives* 59(4):721-742.
- 2013 Melanie Heath. "Sexual Misgivings: Producing Un/Marked Knowledge in Neoliberal Marriage Promotion Policies." *The Sociological Quarterly* 54(4): 561–583.
- 2012 Melanie Heath. "Making Marriage Promotion into Public Policy: The Epistemic Culture of a Statewide Initiative Promotion." *Qualitative Sociology* 35(4): 385-406.
- 2012 Orit Avishai, Melanie Heath, and Jennifer Randles. "For Better and Worse: The Consequences of Marriage Promotion and Relationship Education Policies in the United States." *Contexts* 11(3): 34-38.
- 2009 Melanie Heath. "State of Our Unions: Marriage Promotion and the Contested Power of Heterosexuality." *Gender & Society* 23: 27-48.
- 2003 Melanie Heath. "Soft-Boiled Masculinity: Renegotiating Gender and Racial Ideologies in the Promise Keepers Movement." *Gender & Society* 17: 423-44.

Book Chapters and Review Essays

- 2016 Melanie Heath. "Whither LGBT Rights After Marriage Equality?: Looking Forward, Looking Backward." *Sociological Forum* 31(4): 1145-1150.
- 2016 Melanie Heath. "Testing the Limits of Religious Freedom: The Case of Polygamy's Criminalization in Canada." Pp. 157-179 in *Polygamy: The New Marriage Rights Frontier*, edited by Janet Bennion and Lisa Fishbayn Joffe. Boulder, CO: University Press of Colorado.
- 2015 Melanie Heath. "Manhood Over Easy: Reflections on Hegemonic, Soft-Boiled, and Multiple Masculinities." Pp. 155-165 in *Exploring Masculinities: Identity, Inequality, Continuity and Change*, edited by C.J. Pascoe and Tristan Bridges. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 2014 Melanie Heath. "Intimacy, Commitment, and Family Formation." Pp. 45-64 in *Canadian Families Today: New Perspectives*, edited by David Cheal and Patrizia Albanese. Oxford University Press.
- 2013 Melanie Heath. "Same-Sex Marriage and Resistance: Complicating the Relationship of Agency and Structure." Pp. 263-289 in *(Not) the Marrying Kind?*, edited by Verta Taylor and Mary Bernstein. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

- 2012 Melanie Heath. "Saving Marriage: A Comparison of Religion and Marriage Promotion in the United States and Britain." Pp. 98-122 in *The Sixties and Beyond: Dechristianization in North America and Western Europe, 1945-2000*, edited by Michael Gauvreau and Nancy Christie. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
- 2008 Melanie Heath. "The Marriage Promotion Movement." Pp. 543-553 in *Feminist Frontiers*, eighth edition, edited by Verta Taylor, Nancy Whittier, and Leila Rupp. Boston: McGraw-Hill.
- 2005 Melanie Heath. "Matrimony, American-Style: Losing Sight of Shifts in Kinship and Family." *Feminist Theory* 6:355-65.
- 2004 Melanie Heath. "What Promises Can Men Keep?" Pp. 484- 494 in *Feminist Frontiers*, sixth edition, edited by Laurel Richardson, Verta Taylor and Nancy Whittier. Boston: McGraw-Hill
- 2002 Melanie Heath and Judith Stacey. "Review Essay: Transatlantic Family Travail." *American Journal of Sociology* 108: 658-68.

Work In Progress

- Heath, Melanie. "Does 'Place' Count? Marrying Outside the Heartland to Mobilize for Lesbian and Gay Rights."
- Heath, Melanie. "The Sticky Wicket of Regulating Violence Against Women in Polygamy: Feminist Perspective on the Constitutional Challenge in Canada."

Reviews and Other Publications

- 2014 Melanie Heath. Review of Jaye Cee Whitehead. *The Nuptial Deal: Same-Sex Marriage and Neo-Liberal Governance* (University of Chicago Press 2011) *Gender & Society* 28:159-161.
- 2013 Melanie Heath. Review of Marian Duggan. *Queering Conflict: Examining Lesbian and Gay Experiences of Homophobia in Northern Ireland*. (Ashgate 2012) *Contemporary Sociology* 42(5): 742-743.
- 2013 Melanie Heath. Review of Amy L. Stone. *Gay Rights at the Ballot Box* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2012) in *Mobilization* 18(1): 111-112.
- 2012 Melanie Heath. Review of Nancy Whittier. *The Politics of Child Sexual Abuse* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009) in *American Journal of Sociology* 118(2): 508-510.
- 2008 Melanie Heath. Review of Craig A. Rimmerman and Clyde Wilcox, (eds.). *The Politics of Same-sex Marriage* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007) in *Mobilization* 13:247-248.
2008. Melanie Heath. Invited essay, "Promoting Marriage and Christianity in America," as part of web forum on "Immanent Frame," *Social Science Research Council*, Winter 2008.

- 2005 Melanie Heath. Review of Dawne Moon. *God, Sex, and Politics: Homosexuality and Everyday Theologies* (Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2004) in *Contemporary Sociology* 34:517-18.

Grants and Honors

- 2012-2017 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Insight Grant. , "Harm or Right? Polygamy's Contested Terrain Within and Across Borders." Principal investigator (\$287,779)
- 2013-15 McMaster Faculty of Social Sciences Collaborative Initiative Grant. "McMaster Institute for Empirical Social Science Research," (\$94,850). Co-Investigator. (Tina Fetner and Jerry Hurley (co-PIs).
- 2011-2012 McMaster University Incentive Grant. "Harm or Right? Polygamy's Contested Terrain Within and Across Borders." Principal investigator (\$5,000).
- 2009-2010 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Standard Research Grant. "Transnational Transfers' of Polygamous Practice." Principal investigator. (\$25,802).
- 2008-2009 McMaster University Arts Research Board. "Legal and Cultural Influences of Same-Sex Marriage and Polygamy in Canada and the United States." (\$6,947).
- 2005-2006 Fichter Research Award, Association for the Sociology of Religion.
- 2005-2006 Graduate Student Dissertation Research Award, Department of Sociology, University of Southern California.
- 2004-2005 Letters of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Fellowship, University of Southern California.
- 2004-2005 Finalist, Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation.
- 2003-2004 Center for Religion and Civic Culture Dissertation Grant, University of Southern California.
- 2002-2003 College Graduate Merit Fellowship Award, University of Southern California.
- 1999-2000 College Graduate Merit Fellowship Award, University of Southern California.

Presentations

Invited Talks

- 2015 Melanie Heath. Author Meets Critic Session, *One Marriage Under God: The Campaign to Promote Marriage in America*. Social Science and History Association Annual Meeting, Baltimore.
- Melanie Heath. "Regulating Multiple Relationships: Future Directions for Sexuality Movements." Thematic Session of Sexuality Movements, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting in Chicago.

- 2014 "Coming Up Short: Competing Rights, the Law, and Polygamy's Criminalization." Presented to the Department of Sociology, Sociology Colloquium Series, 2013-2014. Western University.
- Panelist on Keynote Session: "Should Political Sociology be Political?" Annual meeting of the Canadian Sociological Association, St. Catharines, ON.
- "Promoting Marriage as Public Policy: The Social Consequences of a Statewide Marriage Initiative." Presented to the Department of Sociology, Brigham Young University.
- "Competing Rights and Polygamy's Criminalization in Canada and France." Presented to the Department of Sociology, Weber State University.
- 2013 "Competing Rights and Social Control: A Comparison of Polygamy's Regulation in Canada and France." Presented to the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, Central European University, Hungary.
- "Testing the Limits of Religious Freedom: The Case of Polygamy's Criminalization in Canada." Presented at the Oxford Roundtable of Religion, Oxford, England.
- 2011 "Sexual Tyranny or Constitutional Right? Framing the Polygamy Debate in Canada." Presented to the Department of Sociology and Legal Studies, University of Waterloo.
- 2009 "Saving Marriage: A Comparison of Religion and Marriage Promotion in the United States and Britain." Presented at SSHRC workshop titled, "The Sixties and Beyond: Dechristianization as History in Britain, Canada, the United States, and Western Europe."
- 2005 "Thinking about Gender and Marriage Promotion." Department of Sociology, California State University, Northridge.

Conference Presentations

- 2016 "How Does Polygamy Challenge Islamic Feminism? Gender Equality and Group Rights in Mayotte." Presented at the Session on *Muslim Women's Struggles for Better World through Promoting Gender Equality* at the International Sociological Association meeting in Vienna, Austria.
2015. "Skirting the Law? The Cultural Politics of Plural Marriage in the United States." Paper session of *Sovereigns Beyond the Law? Contemporary Battles Over Legality and Rights Around the World*, Law and Society Association Annual Meeting in Seattle.
- 2014 "Unjust Sexual Boundaries? Prostitution, Polygamy, and the Legal Construction of Agency." Co-presented with Jessica Braimoh and Julie Gouweloos. in the section of *Sexualities on Sex and Justice* at the 2014 American Sociological Association meeting in San Francisco, CA.

- 2014 "Forbidden Yet Practiced: Comparing Polygamy's Prohibition in Canada and France." Presented in the section of States and Society on States, Family, Gender and Sexuality at the 2014 Social Sciences History Association, Toronto, ON.
- 2013 "Slippery Slopes to Non-Monogamies: Regulating the Undesirable Outcome of Polygamy," with Allyson Stokes. Presented at the annual meeting of the Sexualities Studies Association, University of Victoria, Victoria, BC.
- 2012 "The Sticky Wicket of Regulating Violence against Women in Polygamy: Feminist Perspective on the Constitutional Challenge in Canada." Presented at the section of Women in Society on Violence, Liberty and Constitutionalism: Feminist Perspectives at the International Sociological Association meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- 2012 "Does 'Place' Count? Marrying Outside the Heartland to Mobilize for Lesbian and Gay Rights." Presented at the co-sponsored section of Collective Behavior and Social Movements and the section of Sexualities on Sexualities, Social Movements, and Institutions at the American Sociological Association meeting in Denver, CO.
- 2011 "The Marriage Promotion Movement, Epistemic Culture, and Sexualities." Presented at Section on the Sociology of Knowledge at the American Sociological Association meeting in Las Vegas, NV.
- 2010 "Polygamy's Challenge to the Language of Rights and Sexual Citizenship." Presented at the joint session on Gender and Sexuality and Discourses on Citizenship at the World Congress of the International Sociological Association in Gothenburg, Sweden.
- 2010 "Making Marriage Count: Comparing Religion, Law, and Marriage Promotion in the United States and Britain." Presented at Section on the Sociology of Law: Law and Religion, American Sociological Association meeting in Atlanta, GA.
- 2010 "Universal Harm or Religious Freedom: Representing Polygamous Identities in Canadian Law and Policy." Presented at the regular session of the Sociology of Religion at the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Canadian Sociological Association in Montreal, Quebec.
- 2009 "Victory—A Double-Edged Sword? Ephemeral Success for the Religious Right in their Campaigns Against Same-Sex Marriage." Presented at the invited Regional Spotlight Session: Same Sex Marriage in California, American Sociological Association meeting in San Francisco, CA.
- 2008 "'Universally Harmful or Benign': Double Jeopardy in Representing Polygamous Women's Subjectivities in Canadian Law and Policy." Presented at the Section of Language and Society: Making Sexuality & Gender Meaningful, International Sociological Association meeting in Barcelona, Spain.

- 2007 "Making Marriage Count in Law and Public Policy: Symbolic Boundaries and Gendered Anxieties." Presented at the Section on Sex and Gender: Gendered Questions in Law and Public Policy, American Sociological Association meeting in New York, NY.
- 2006 "Contrasting Moral Worlds: Gender, Sexuality, and Race in Two Marriage Movements." Presented at the Section on Political Sociology Invited Session: Moral and Family Politics, American Sociological Association meeting in Montreal, Quebec.
- 2005 "Panic Over Marriage: Sex and Morality in the 'Bible Belt.'" Presented at the Section on Sociology of Sexualities: Sex Panics, American Sociological Association meeting in Philadelphia, PA.
- 2005 "Fighting for Marriage: Gender, Sexuality, and Marriage in the 'Bible Belt.'" Presented at the Thematic Session: Why Marriage? Is Marriage Worth Fighting For? Society for the Study of Social Problems meeting in Philadelphia, PA.
- "Is Marriage Heterosexual? Embattled Sexual Identities in Oklahoma." Presented at session: Political and Religious Context of Marriage in the New Century at the 2005 Annual Meeting of Pacific Sociological Association in Portland, OR.
- 2003 "Segregated Tongues or Segregated Faiths?: The Problem of Incorporation for Immigrants in Mainline Congregations." Presented at the Regular Session of Immigrant Communities, American Sociological Association meeting in Atlanta, GA.
- 2001 "Addressing Immigrant Responses to Sept. 11 in Los Angeles." Presented at the Regular Session of Immigration and Religion, Social Scientific Study of Religion meeting in Columbus, OH.
- "'Not Here': Policing Whiteness in Media Representations of School Shootings." Presented at the Regular Session on Race and Ethnicity, American Sociological Association meeting in Anaheim, CA.
- 2000 "Hegemonic and Marginalized Masculinities in the Promise Keepers." Co-presented with Michael A. Messner at the Regular Session on Social Movements, American Sociological Association meeting in Washington, DC.
- "Rethinking the Sociological 'Canon:' an Examination of Difference in the Epistemological Perspectives of Gilman and Durkheim." Presented at the Regular Session on Social Theory, American Sociological Association meeting in Washington, DC.
- 1999 "Moral Unity in the Promise Keepers Movement: Ritual and Legitimation of Patriarchy." Presented at the Sociology of Religion Roundtable, American Sociological Association meeting in Chicago, IL.
- "Promise Keepers in the Promise Land: Feminism, Foucault, and Rituals of Power." Presented at the Regular Session of Social Movements, Pacific Sociological Association meeting in Portland, OR.

Professional and Methodological Training

- 2006 *The Professoriate: Preparing for the Future*, University of Southern California. One of 12 selected for a year-long interdisciplinary professional class to prepare doctoral students for academic careers, including professional instruction on writing a vitae, research, and teaching statement, grant writing, creating an academic career plan, and teaching goals and evaluation.
- 2000-2001 *Qualitative Interviewing Methods Workshop*, Center for Religion and Civic Culture, University of Southern California. Intensive series of workshops offered to all incoming research assistants to provide in-depth qualitative interviewing and data analysis expertise. Also included training in Atlas.ti, a qualitative software program.

Teaching Experience

Undergraduate:

Qualitative Methods
Sociology of Sexualities
Global Politics of Family and Sexuality
Women, Sexuality and the Welfare State
Perspectives on Social Inequality

Graduate:

Sociology of Gender

Professional Experience

- 2016-2018 Secretary and Treasurer. International Sociological Association RC33 section on Women in Society
- 2015-2017. Elected Member. Sociologists for Women in Society Nominations Committee,
- 2014-2017 Member of Editorial Board, *Canadian Sociological Review*
- 2013-2016. Elected Council Member, Sexualities Section of the American Sociological Association.
- 2013-2015. Elected Chair of Feminist Activism Award, Sociologists for Women in Society.
- 2013-2014. Council member, Sex and Gender section. American Sociological Association.
- 2009 - 2012. Member of Editorial Board, *Gender & Society*.
- 2008- 2014. Treasurer, International Sociological Association RC25 section on Language and Society.
- 2008-Present. Member, Institute on Globalization and the Human Condition, McMaster University.

Journal Reviewer:

American Sociological Review
Canadian Review of Sociology
Gender & Society
Journal of Marriage and Family
Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion
Masculinities
Mobilization
Signs
Social Problems
Sociological Forum
Social Perspectives
The Sociological Quarterly

Grant Reviewer:

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council; Israeli Science Foundation

Book Manuscript Reviewer:

Chicago Press, New York University Press, Oxford University Press, Temple University Press, University of California Press,

Member:

American Sociological Association
Sociologists for Women in Society
International Sociological Association
Canadian Sociological Association
Council on Contemporary Families

University Service**McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario**

Graduate Chair, Department of Sociology, 2016- (Committee member, 2010-2016)

Member, Social Sciences Tenure and Promotion Committee (Elected) 2015-

Admissions Committee Chair, Department of Sociology, 2012-2014, 2015-2016

Member, Graduate Council, the Faculty of Social Sciences (Elected), 2012-2015