

## ALEXIS SWENDENER, PHD

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### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2022-present Postdoctoral Associate, Rural Health Equity Program. University of Minnesota, School of Public Health
- 2018-2022 Adjunct Assistant Professor. Old Dominion University, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice
- 2018-2022 Adjunct Assistant Professor. University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Department of Sociology
- 2007-2009 Quality Assurance Analyst. Corporate Employee Engagement Survey Unit. Kenexa (now owned by IBM). Lincoln, Nebraska

### EDUCATION

- Ph.D. University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Sociology. 2018.  
Dissertation Title: "How Work and Family Roles Influence Health, Mental Health, and Relationships within Farm Families: A Quantitative and Qualitative Approach." Committee: Jolene Smyth (chair), Julia McQuillan, Emily Kazyak, Wayne Babchuk.
- M.A. University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Sociology. 2012.
- B.A. Doane University, Crete, Nebraska. Sociology. 2007.

### AREAS OF INTEREST

Health, Social Inequality, Rural Populations, Families, Marginalized Groups

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Refereed Journal Articles

- Swendener, Alexis.** 2021. "Misery Loves Company? Linkages Between Actual vs. Desired Couple Work Arrangements and Women's Mental Health." *Community, Work, & Family* 24(2):173-192.
- Smyth, Jolene, **Alexis Swendener**, and Emily Kazyak. 2018. "Women's Work? The Relationship between Farm Work and Gender Self-Perception." *Rural Sociology* 83(3):654-676.
- Jochman, Joseph, **Alexis Swendener**, Julia McQuillan, and Luke Novack. 2018. "Are Biological Science Knowledge, Interests, and Science Identity Framed by Religious and Political Perspectives in the United States?" *The Sociological Quarterly* 59(4):584-602.
- Swendener, Alexis** and Brandi Woodell. 2017. "Predictors of Family Support and Well-Being Among Black and Latina/o Sexual Minorities." *Journal of GLBT Family Studies* 13(4):357-379.
- Swendener, Alexis.** 2017. "Examining Inequalities in Health Science Literacy by Religious

Affiliation among Adults.” *The Nebraska Educator* 4:47-63.

Tyler, Kimberly A., Lisa A. Kort-Butler, and **Alexis Swendener**. 2014. “The Effect of Victimization, Mental Health, and Protective Factors on Crime and Illicit Drug Use among Homeless Young Adults.” *Violence and Victims* 29(2):348-362.

### **Manuscripts in Preparation**

**Swendener, Alexis**. “What Counts as Work? Gendered Interpretations of Work and Family Roles among Couples: A Dyadic Qualitative Analysis.”

**Swendener, Alexis**. “Objective and Subjective Experiences in Couple Work and Family Roles and Implications For Farm Women’s Health And Happiness.”

**Swendener, Alexis** and Brandi Woodell. “Family Support, Relationships, and Health among Rural Sexual Minorities of Color.”

**Swendener, Alexis**. “Farm Women’s Early and Cumulative Life Experiences and Differing Work Motivations.”

### **AWARDS AND HONORS**

Work and Family Researchers Network Early Career Work and Family Fellowship. 2020-2021.

Culturally Competent Content Development Program. Teaching Enhancement grant awardee. Office of Faculty Diversity and Retention, Old Dominion University. 2021.

Digital Scholarship Incubator Fellowship. University Libraries, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. “Engaging in Public Sociology and Digital Scholarship: Sharing Research on Women Farmers and Health.” Summer 2017.

SAGE Teaching Innovations and Professional Development Award. American Sociological Association Section on Teaching and Learning in Sociology. 2016.

LGBTQ Research Symposium Outstanding Student Paper Award, “Family Support, Health and Happiness among Black and Latino/a Sexual Minorities.” University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. May 2016.

Karen Dunning Scholarly Paper Award, “Predictors of Family Support and Well-Being Among Black and Latina/o Sexual Minorities.” Women’s and Gender Studies Program, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. 2016.

Graduate Student Course Research Paper Award, “Predictors of Family Support and Well-Being Among Black and Latina/o Sexual Minorities.” Sociology Department, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. 2016.

Center for Great Plains Studies Graduate Fellowship, UNL. 2014-2016.

J.J. and Eleanor S. Ogle Summer Research Fellowship. Department of Sociology, UNL. 2011, 2014, 2015.

Nicholas Babchuk Graduate Student Research Award. Department of Sociology, UNL. 2014.

Alice Frost Howard Graduate Student Fellowship. Department of Sociology, UNL. 2013.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2020 “Religious Impacts on Health among Black Sexual and Gender Minorities” with Brandi Woodell. Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Jacksonville, FL. Paper presentation. (Conference cancelled due to COVID-19).
- 2019 “What Counts as “Work”? Farm Women and Men's Gendered Interpretations of Work and Family Roles.” Southern Sociological Society annual meeting, Atlanta, GA. April 10-13.
- 2017 “Do Science Knowledge, Science Identity, and Science Interests Differ by Political and Religious Affiliation and Practice in the US?” with Joseph Jochman, Julia McQuillan, and Luke Novack. Society for the Study of Social Problems annual meeting. Montreal, Canada, August 11-13.
- 2016 “Beyond the Double Burden: Work and Family Roles among Farm Women.” American Sociological Association annual meeting, Seattle, WA. Roundtable presentation, Family section. August 20-23.
- 2016 “Family Support, Health and Happiness among Black and Latino/a Sexual Minorities” with Brandi Woodell. Fourth Annual LGBTQ Research Symposium: An Interdisciplinary Symposium on LGBTQ Research in the Social Sciences, Champaign, IL, May 19-20.
- 2016 “Predictors and Consequences of Family Support Among Racial and Sexual Minorities” with Brandi Woodell. Sociologists for Women in Society Winter Meeting. Memphis, TN, February 4-7.
- 2016 “How Actual vs. Ideal Coupled Work Arrangements Effect Health and Mental Health in a Changing Farming Industry.” Sociologists for Women in Society Winter Meeting. Memphis, TN, February 4-7.
- 2015 “Predictors and Consequences of Turnover in the Social Networks of Homeless Adolescents” with Dan Hoyt. Southern Sociological Society annual meeting, New Orleans, LA. March 25-28.
- 2014 “Rural Variation in Adolescent Alcohol Use and Abuse” with Courtney Thrash and Dan Hoyt. Society for the Study of Social Problems annual meeting. San Francisco, CA, August 15-17.
- 2013 “Inequalities in Adult Science Literacy.” Midwest Sociological Society annual meeting. Chicago, IL, March 27-30.
- 2012 “The Effect of Self-Efficacy on Internalizing and Externalizing Behaviors among Homeless Youth and Young Adults” with Kimberly Tyler and Lisa Kort-Butler. Midwest Sociological Society annual meeting. Minneapolis, MN, March 29-April 1.
- 2012 “Differing Experiences of Farm/Ranch Women: Participation in Off-farm Employment by Farming Background.” Midwest Sociological Society annual meeting. Minneapolis, MN, March 29-April 1.

- 2012 “A Comparison of Recitation Section Delivery Methods: Classroom vs. Online” with Patrick Habecker, Rachel Schmitz, and Sarah Malone. Midwest Sociological Society annual meeting, Minneapolis, MN, March 29-April 1.
- 2012 “Transforming Introductory Sociology Discussion Sections to a Mixed Mode Electronic Format” with Dan Hoyt, Patrick Habecker, Rachel Schmitz, and Sarah Malone. Southern Sociological Society annual meeting. New Orleans, LA, March 21-24.

### **ADDITIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

- 2019-present Consultant for ongoing project using The National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health (Add Health), a nationally representative longitudinal data set.
- 2017 Research Assistant for Kristen Olson and Jolene Smyth, Department of Sociology, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Behavioral Coding lab supervisor for “Reducing Error in Computer Survey Data Collection” NSF grant (SES-1132015, PI K.O.).
- 2014-2015 Research Assistant for Dan Hoyt, Associate Dean for Faculty, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Project Title: “Rural Variation in Adolescent Alcohol Use and Abuse.”
- Summer 2013 Research Assistant for Emily Kazyak, Department of Sociology, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Qualitative data coding for “Making Laws Matter: How Families Navigate Legal Uncertainty” project.
- Spring 2013 Research Assistant for Jolene Smyth, Department of Sociology, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Coded survey data from the 2011 Nebraska Annual Social Indicators Survey.
- Summer 2012 Research Assistant for Julia McQuillan, Department of Sociology, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Project title: “Understanding Science Identity Development and the Role of Peer Social Networks-Biology of Human.”

### **TEACHING, TRAINING, and PRODUCT DELIVERY EXPERIENCE**

**Adjunct Assistant Professor, UNL & ODU**  
**Graduate Teaching Assistant and Instructor, UNL**

Independently taught 2,500+ undergraduate learners of all ages and backgrounds over 10+ years

Courses independently prepared and taught: Introduction to Sociology, Social Problems, Families and Society, Gender in Contemporary Society

Developed skills to teach in various contexts:

- At both a predominately white institution in a rural state and minority-serving institution in a metro area
- Small class-sizes to mass classes of up to 250 students
- In-person, online, and hybrid courses

Trained and led 10 graduate students to be future instructors over last 4 years

Collaborated with peers on teaching, student-centered pedagogy, and training students to use sociological perspective (how structural forces impact individual outcomes and experiences)

Taught a wide variety of topics covering the expansive discipline of sociology:

- Reality of structural constraints and inequality, value of perspective-taking/empathy/cultural competence, anti-racism and roots of racism, gender inequality, sexism, cissexism/transphobia, sexual minority identities and experiences, homophobia, social class, wealth inequality, poverty, and intersectional frameworks centering and acknowledging axes of privilege and oppression
- How all of the above converge to impact social institutions and outcomes: health/healthcare systems, work/economy, families/relationships, education, crime/carceral systems

Provided expertise and consultation in building the learning materials for a new course focusing on diversity in U.S. society

### **Quality Assurance Analyst. Corporate Employee Engagement Survey Unit. Kenexa (now IBM)**

Responsible for reviewing accuracy of client deliverables including web and paper surveys, reports, software tools, executive presentations, and training materials on rigid timelines simultaneously for 40+ domestic and global clients, including Caterpillar, Macy's, CVS Pharmacy, United Airlines

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & SERVICE**

- 2022-present Health Equity Leadership and Mentoring Program, Medical School at the University of Minnesota, Program in Health Disparities Research.
- 2016-present Ad hoc manuscript reviewer: *Journal of Family Studies*, *Journal of Homosexuality*, *Journal of GLBT Family Studies*, *Journal of Lesbian Studies*
- 2016-2018 Student Caucus Member, Sociologists for Women in Society
- Summer 2017 Research mentor for Undergraduate Sociology Teaching and Research (USTAR) program, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- 2011-2017 Nebraska Association of Sociology Graduate Students service positions: President, University Graduate student representative, Teaching committee and Online Teaching resource coordinator, Research Working Group committee

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Sociological Association  
Work and Family Researchers Network  
Sociologists for Women in Society  
Rural Sociological Society  
Southern Sociological Society