

LOREN DEMERATH
CURRICULUM VITAE
2017

Professor and Chair of the Department of Sociology
Centenary College of Louisiana, Shreveport, Louisiana 71134
(318) 840-9703 ldemerat@centenary.edu

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- 1997-present Professor of Sociology at Centenary College of Louisiana,
Shreveport, Louisiana
1995-1997 Visiting Assistant Professor of Sociology at Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Indiana University (1995)
M.A. Indiana University (1992)
B.A. University of Massachusetts, Amherst (1986)

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

| | | |
|--------------------|---------|------------------------|
| Comparing Cultures | Methods | Urban Sociology |
| Race and Ethnicity | Theory | Society and Technology |

PUBLICATIONS

- 2015 with Andre Korotayev, "The Importance of Gossip Across Societies: Correlations With Institutionalization," *Cross-Cultural Research*, 49, 3: 297-314.
2012 *Explaining Culture: The Social Pursuit of Subjective Order*, Lanham NJ: Lexington Press.
2007 "Epistemological Identity Theory: Reconceptualizing Commitment as Self-Knowledge," *Sociological Spectrum*, 24:5.
2006 "The Good Social Life: Variations in Social Capital and Fulfillment," *International Scope Review*, 8:13.
2003 "The Social Benefits of Being on Foot: Pedestrian Activity, Interaction, and Sense of Community," with David Levinger, *City and Community*, 2:3: 219-239.
2002 "Epistemological Culture Theory: A Micro Account of the Origin and Maintenance of Culture," *Sociological Theory*, 20:2:208-226.
1993 "A Theory of Knowledge-Based Affect: Cognitive Origins of Good and Bad," *Social Psychology Quarterly*, 56: 136-147.

PAPER PRESENTATIONS

- 2015 with Mark Goadrich, "Emerging Patterns of Order and Differentiation: An Agent-Based Model of Social Complexity," presented at the annual meetings of the Southern Sociological Society, New Orleans, March 28th.
2015 with Angelica Adame, Kennen Cobb, Susan Zabrin, "'We're Friends Now!': Examining the Impact of Power on the Predictiveness of Similarity for Mutual Friends on Facebook," presented at the annual meetings of the Southern Sociological Society, New Orleans, March 28th.
2014 with Mark Goadrich, "Explaining the Emergence of Social Order Through a Theory of Energy Processing," presented at the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association, San Francisco, August.
2012 "Node: Digital Pedagogy, Persuasive Technology, and Social Change", Mark Goadrich, Michelle Glaros, Jessica Hawkins and Loren Demerath, SLSA Nonhuman 2012 Panel, September 30 2012, Milwaukee, WI.
2011 "Big Sociology: Sociology's Place in a Universal Theory and Secular Religion," presented at the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association, Las Vegas, August.

- 2011 "Community Organization as Energy: a Theory and Case-Study," presented at the Couch-Stone Symposium, sponsored by the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction, Las Vegas, April.
- 2009 "Careers for Undergraduates," panel presentation at the annual meetings of the Mid-South Sociological Association, Lafayette, November.
- 2008 "The Functionality of Non-Specialized Spaces: A Case Analysis of Public Pedestrian Spaces, Open Source Networks, and User Generated Content Sites," presented at the annual meetings of the Mid-South Sociological Association, Huntsville, October.
- 2008 "Communicating Sociology to the Public with Stories of Patterns and Patterns of Stories," presented at the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association, Boston, August.
- 2008 "Communicating Sociology to the Public with Stories of Patterns and Patterns of Stories," presented at the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association, Boston, August.
- 2008 "Trying to Create a Healthy, Healing City in the Case of Shreveport, Louisiana," with Jon Soul and Chantal Rivera, accepted for presentation at the 4th Annual International Conference on Technology, Knowledge and Society in Boston, January.
- 2006 "Cultural and Setting Variations in Bicycling Identity," presented at the annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association, San Jose, November.
- 2005 "Caste-ing Off? Caste, Religion, and Politics in India's Emerging Middle Class," with Jay Demerath and Jodkha Surinder, presented at the meetings of the International Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Zagreb, July.
- 2005 "Variations in Social Capital and Fulfillment Across Societies," presented at the meetings of The Social Capital Foundation, Malta, September.
- 2003 "The Meaning of the Social: A Theoretical Exploration of the Uses and Meanings of Relationships Across Societies," presented at the meetings of the Society for Cross-Cultural Research, Charleston, February.
- 2002 "Getting the Dirt: Why Gossip Increases with Institutionalization Across Societies," presented at the Second International Conference on Hierarchy and Power in the History of Civilizations, St. Petersburg, Russia, July.
- 2001 "A Posited Relationship Between Social Inequality Culture: Explaining Cultural Conservatism and Emphasis on Conformity vs. Expressiveness and Tolerance for Deviance," presented at the meetings of the Society for Cross-Cultural Research, San Diego, February.
- 2001 "Play and Humor as Emotionally Motivated Explorations in Culture" presented at the meetings of the Association for the Study of Play, San Diego, February.
- 2001 "Technology and the Experience of Community," presented at the meetings of the Southwestern Sociological Association, Fort Worth, TX, March.
- 1999 "Theorizing Community on the Internet: Collaborative Expression of Meaning in Bulletin Boards, MOOs, and Graphical Worlds," with Jeremiah Stevens. Presented at the Annual Meetings of the Mid-South Sociological Association; Jackson, Mississippi; November.
- 1998 "Articulation Theory: A New Conceptualization of Identity Maintenance and Commitment." Presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, San Francisco, August.
- 1997 "The Importance of Pedestrian Environments for Creating Culture and Community." Presented at the Annual International Meetings of the Society for the Social Studies of Science, Tucson, AZ.
- 1995 "The Emergence of Culture from Community." Presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, Washington D.C.

- 1994 "Fundamental Dimensions of Culture: Articulation, Typification, Orientation." Presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, Los Angeles, CA.
- 1991 "The Importance of the Mean to Meaning and Affect." Presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, Cincinnati, OH.

SELECTION OF INVITED PUBLICATIONS, TALKS, OTHER

- 2015 "Complexity Studies Across the Disciplines" invited talk for the Centenary College First Year Experience course, October 2nd, 2015; with Dr. David Bieler and Dr. Jeanne Hamming.
- 2014 Host of weekly talk radio show, "Time for A Better Shreveport."
- 2014 Invited presentation at Magnet High School: "What It Is To Be A Sociologist."
- 2014 Invited presentation for "The Science of Sexy" at the Science on the Rocks forum at Sci-Port Science Museum "Sexiness as Display of Cultural Mastery: from Dance, to Bullfighting, to Slow & Precise Movement and Speech," Shreveport, LA, January 6.
- 2014 Two television interviews and one newspaper interview both as the Executive Director of ABetterShreveport.
- 2013 Invited presentation on "Community Organizing and Social Activism for Quality of Life, Community Health, and Social Justice" at the Red River Rotary Club, November 6.
- 2013 Three television interviews, two newspaper interviews as the ABetterShreveport Executive Director and/or Centenary Sociology Professor.
- 2013 Invited moderated of panel on the Community Impact of Digital Media Technologies at "Digifest," September 20.
- 2012 Invited guest sermon at All Souls Unitarian Church: "The Meaning of Life and Goodness, Scientifically" (accessible online)
- 2012 Fall. Invited TEDx talk hosted at the Bossier Civic Center with Mark Goadrich, Jessica Hawkins, and Michelle Glaros to describe "Node," Centenary's living-learning community devoted to social change, technology, and design.
- 2012 Spring. Invited TEDx talk hosted at Cohabitat on January 31st: "The Importance of Self-Expression and Interaction for Growth and Energy: A Theory and Case Study of a Community Organization" (accessible online)
- 2011 ABetterShreveport.org filed as a non-profit organization
- 2010 Founded and regularly cohost weekly radio show "Time for ABetterShreveport" on KSCL; guests interviewed on city topics, improvements, events; ABS activities described and meeting discussions recounted
- 2009 Two KDAQ radio stories and interviews on ABetterSheveport
- 2009 ABetterShreveport Facebook Group reaches a membership of over 1,500 people
- 2009 "New Technology @ Work" book review for *Work and Occupations*
- 2009 Invited talk to the graduate seminar in public health at the Prevention Research Center at Tulane University: "Old Infrastructures and New Public Health: Bayous to Use in Shreveport, Louisiana"
- 2007 Founded citizen forum: ABetterShreveport
- 2007 Channel 3 television interview re: Jena Louisiana controversy
- 2007 Invited article on Jena Louisiana controversy for the Centenary Conglomerate
- 2006 Channel 12 television interview re: Flight 493 movie
- 2006 Channel 3 television interview re: gender roles
- 2003 "Social Worlds" *The Encyclopedia of Social Theory*, edited by George Ritzer, Sage Publications.
- 2003 Channel 12 interview re: violent crime
- 2002 "Sterile Lab and Fertile Field: Comparing Causal Theory and Descriptive Theory," *Perspectives: Newsletter of the Social Theory Section of the American Sociological Association*, fall

2002 Channel 12, 3, and 6 television interviews re: September 11 Attack

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- *Good Energy: A Scientific Search for Virtue and Fulfillment through the Study of Complexity.* Nearing the completion of the first draft, I expect submit it for review for publication by the fall of 2018.
- Soc 116: “First Year Seminar: Studying the Emergence of Order in the Universe, Life, Mind, and Society.” This a revised version of an upper level course I taught in 2015, which introduces students to the field of Complexity Studies. The first iteration I taught in collaboration with faculty I recruited in six different disciplines on five different campuses (see below, under Grants).
- “Informing the Discourse: A Proposal for a City Forum on Best Practices and Relevant Academic Findings.” Grant proposal submitted to the Sociological Initiatives Foundation requesting \$20,000 of support for organizing bimonthly forum on urban planning and development topics; content produced would include editorials, video and audio public service announcements, and posters, all meant to inform discussions at the Forum; research on the Forum’s outcomes in social network development and the content of the discourse would be the primary academic focus.
- “College Radio as Educational Outreach,” with Michael Laffey, Patty Roberts, and Nic Carroll: a grant proposal for redesigning and reequipping Centenary’s college radio station to better facilitate an informed public discourse and sense of community. The proposal has been submitted and is under consideration.

GRANTS

- Complexity Across Disciplines: A Blended Learning Course Among ACS Institutions: Principal Investigator, 2014 – 2015, colleagues I recruited for the grant: Steve Desjardins, Physics, Washington and Lee University; Mark Goadrich (Co-PI), Computer Science, Hendrix College; Jeanne Hamming, English, Centenary College; Scott Davis, Philosophy, University of Richmond; and Dante Suarez, Economics, Trinity University.
- Intercultural Module: “Intersections of Environment and Culture in the Galapagos, Andes, and the Amazon Basin”; an immersion course I have taught in Ecuador five times over the past ten years.
- Research methods across the disciplines colloquium (an ACS grant I was awarded that funded the preparations of faculty of presentations sharing their research methods, mostly quantitative, some qualitative).
- Internships in Community Organizing (a Louisiana Board of Regents grant I was awarded that funded internships for students with a local community development organization).

HONORS

2016 Centenary College Faculty Development Grant
2012 Centenary College Faculty Research Grant
2001 Centenary College Louisiana Board of Regents MiniChair for 2001-2003.
1997 Centenary College Broyles Inaugural Year Chair
1995 Grinnell College Research Grant Award for the academic year of 1995-1996
1996 Grinnell College Research Grant Award for the summer of 1996
1992 Pre-Doctoral Fellow, NIMH Program in Measurement and Affect, Indiana University
1987 University Graduate School Fellow, Indiana University Graduate School
1986 Commonwealth Scholar, University of Massachusetts
1986 Cum Laude, University of Massachusetts

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND DUTIES

- American Sociology Association, ASA Social Theory Section.
- Book reviewer for *Contemporary Sociology* and *Work and Occupations*.

- Reviewer for *Journal of Sociology and Anthropology*, *Sociological Forum*, *Social Psychology Quarterly*, *City and Community*, *Sociological Inquiry*, *The Quarterly Journal of Ideology*, and *American Sociologist*

REFERENCES

Michelle Wolkomir
 Dept. of Sociology
 Centenary College
 Shreveport, LA 71104
 (318) 869-5054
 mwolkomi@centenary.edu

Matt Weeks
 Dept. of Psychology
 Rhodes College
 2000 North Parkway
 Memphis, TN 38112
 (318) 771-1304
 weeksm@rhodes.edu

Steve Shelburne
 Dept. of English
 Centenary College
 Shreveport, LA 71104
 (318) 869-5255
 shelburn@centenary.edu

David Heise
 Dept. of Sociology, Emeritus
 Indiana University
 Bloomington, IN, 47405
 (812) 855-7231
 heise@indiana.edu

David Levinger
 Executive Director
 Foundation for Mobility Education
 Washington DC 20005
 (206) 390-8118
 dlevinger@gmail.com

Mark Goadrich
 Dept. of Computer Science
 Hendrix College
 1600 Washington Ave.
 Conway, AR 72032
 (318) 529-8290

Brian Powell
 Dept. of Sociology
 Indiana University
 Bloomington, IN, 47405
 (812) 855-1547
 powell@indiana.edu

Jean H. Shin
 Director of Minority Affairs
 American Sociological Association
 1430 K St., NW – Suite 600
 Washington DC 20005
 (202) 383-9005 ext. 321
 shin@asanet.org

Ken Aizawa
 Dept. of Philosophy
 Rutgers University College - Newark
 175 University Ave.
 Newark NJ 07102
 ken.aizawa@gmail.com

Dante Suarez
 Dept. of Economics
 Trinity University
 One Trinity Place
 San Antonio, TX 78212
 (210) 781-9114
 esuarez@trinity.edu

