

MICHELE MARTHA EASTER

Post-doctoral Associate, IGSP Center for Genome Ethics, Law & Policy, Duke University
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Sociology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH) (2010)
Dissertation: *"Some sort of larger force at work": Meanings and implications of genetics for women with eating disorders.* (Co-chairs: Peggy Thoits and Andrew Perrin)
Comprehensive exams: Culture, Social Psychology

M.A. Sociology, UNC-CH (2006)
Thesis: *Freedom in Speech: Freedom and Liberty in American Presidential Campaign Discourse 1952-2004.* (Chair: Andrew Perrin)

M.A. Religious Studies, UNC-CH (1995)
Thesis: *The Emancipation of Eaters: Grahamites and Anti-Grahamites in the Antebellum Northeast.* (Chair: Laurie Maffly-Kipp)

B.A. Religious Studies, Oberlin College (1989)

HONORS, AWARDS & GRANTS

Howard W. Odum Award for Excellence, UNC-CH Department of Sociology (2009)
Finalist, Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship (2009)
National Science Foundation Travel Grant (2009)
Department of Sociology Travel Grant, UNC-CH (2009)
Dissertation Research Award, Center for Genomics and Society, UNC-CH (2008)
F. Ivy Carroll Interdisciplinary Research Scholars Fellowship, UNC-CH (2008)
Smith Graduate Research Grant, UNC-CH (2008)
Scholarship to NeuroSchool, European Neuroscience and Society Network (2008)
Merit Fellowship, UNC-CH (1993)

RESEARCH-RELATED EMPLOYMENT

2010- *Post-doctoral Associate*
IGSP Center for Genome Ethics, Law & Policy, Duke University
Research planned on public understanding of psychiatric/behavioral genetics and implications.

2000-2010 *Social Research Associate* (full-time and part-time)
Dept. of Social Medicine & Ctr. for Genomics and Society, UNC-CH
Bioethics research on implications of genetics and genetic research.

- 1999-2002 *Consultant for Research on Latina Immigrants* (part-time)
Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, UNC-CH
Research on health behaviors and Spanish-speaking immigrant women.
- 1994-2000 *Research Assistant* (part-time)
- North Carolina Occupational Safety and Health, Durham, NC:
Interviewed Latino construction workers about workplace safety.
 - Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program, UNC-CH:
Conducted focus groups in Spanish with domestic violence survivors.
 - Dispute Settlement Center/ Southern Oral History Program, UNC-CH:
Collected oral history interviews with African-American environmental
activists about land history and zoning disputes.
 - Department of Religious Studies, UNC-CH:
Carried out archival research on African-American religious history.
- 1992-1993 *Editorial Assistant*
Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

AREAS OF RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTEREST

Sociology of Culture, Medical Sociology, Sociology of Mental Health, Genetics and Society,
Social Psychology

MANUSCRIPTS

Michele M. Easter. “‘Legitimized as an Actual Disease’: How Genetic Explanations
Heighten the Medicalization of Eating Disorders.” (Submitted)

Michele M. Easter. “‘Not all my fault’: Genetics, stigma, and moral responsibility in eating
disorders.” (In preparation)

PUBLICATIONS (*REFEREED*)

R. Jean Cadigan, **Michele M. Easter**, Allison W. Dobson, Arlene M. Davis, Barbra B.
Rothschild, Cathy Zimmer, Rene Sterling, Gail E. Henderson. “‘That’s a good question’:
University researchers’ views on ownership and retention of human genetic specimens.”
Genetics in Medicine (forthcoming).

Michele M. Easter. “Freedom in Speech: Freedom and Liberty in U.S. Presidential
Campaign Discourse, 1952-2004.” *Poetics*, vol. 36, no. 4 (August 2008): 265-286.

Gail E. Henderson, Larry R. Churchill, Arlene M. Davis, **Michele M. Easter**, Christine
Grady, Steven Joffe, Nancy Kass, Nancy M.P. King, Charles W. Lidz, Franklin G. Miller,
Daniel K. Nelson, Jeffrey Peppercorn, Barbra Bluestone Rothschild, Pamela Sankar,

Benjamin S. Wilfond, Catherine R. Zimmer. "Clinical Trials and Medical Care: Defining the Therapeutic Misconception." *PLoS Medicine*, vol. 4, no. 11 (November 27, 2007): 1735-1738 (e324).

Michele M. Easter, Laura A. Linnan, Margaret E. Bentley, Brenda M. DeVellis, Andrea Meier, Pamela Y. Frasier, Kristine S. Kelsey, Marci K. Campbell. "*Una Mujer Trabaja Doble Aquí*: Stress and Work for Latina Blue-Collar Women in Eastern North Carolina." *Health Promotion Practice*, vol. 8, no. 1 (January 2007): 41-9. Epub 2006 Aug. 2.

Michele M. Easter, Gail E. Henderson, Arlene M. Davis, Larry R. Churchill, Nancy M. P. King. "The Many Meanings of Care in Clinical Research." *Sociology of Health and Illness*, vol. 28, no. 6 (September 2006): 695-712. (Also included in *Sociology of Health and Illness* monograph *The View From Here*.)

Henderson, Gail E., **Michele M. Easter**, Catherine R. Zimmer, Nancy M. P. King, Arlene M. Davis, Barbra Bluestone Rothschild, Larry R. Churchill, Benjamin S. Wilfond, Daniel K. Nelson, "Therapeutic Misconception in Early Phase Gene Transfer Trials." *Social Science & Medicine*, vol. 62, no. 1 (January 2006): 239-53. Epub 2005 July 5.

King, Nancy M. P., Gail E. Henderson, Larry R. Churchill, Arlene M. Davis, Sara Chandros Hull, Daniel K. Nelson, P. Christy Parham-Vetter, Barbra Bluestone Rothschild, **Michele M. Easter**, Benjamin S. Wilfond, "Consent Forms and the Therapeutic Misconception: The Example of Gene Transfer Research." *IRB: Ethics and Human Research* vol. 27, no. 1 (2005): 1-8.

Henderson, Gail E., Arlene M. Davis, Nancy M. P. King, **Michele M. Easter**, Catherine R. Zimmer, Barbra Bluestone Rothschild, Benjamin S. Wilfond, Daniel K. Nelson, Larry R. Churchill, "Uncertain Benefit: Investigators' Views and Communications in Early Phase Gene Transfer Trials." *Molecular Therapy*, vol. 10, no. 2 (August, 2004): 225-231.

Michele M. Easter, Arlene Davis, Gail Henderson. "Confidentiality: More than a Linkage File and Locked Drawer." *IRB: Ethics & Human Research*, vol. 26, no. 2 (2004): 13-17.

PUBLICATIONS (NON-REFEREED)

Michele M. Easter. "Recent dissertations." *ASA-SKAT Newsletter* (ASA Science, Knowledge and Technology section), Fall-Winter 2010-11: 6.

Michele M. Easter. "Graduate student spotlight." *ASA Mental Health Newsletter*, No. 16. Fall 2009: 5.

Michele M. Easter. "Eating Disorders as "Genetic": Meanings and Implications for Women with Eating Disorders" Sex and Gender Graduate Student Showcase, *Sex and Gender News*. June 2009: 6.

Tom O'Connor, Paula Gildner, **Michele M. Easter**. "Immigrant Workers at Risk: A Qualitative Study of Hazards Faced by Latino Immigrant Construction Workers in the Triangle Area of North Carolina." *Center to Protect Workers' Rights*. 2000.

Michele M. Easter. "One Woman's Voice" (Report on an oral history interview). *Women's Center Newsletter* (Chapel Hill, NC), November/December 1997.

PRESENTATIONS

"Gene by environment interaction in the context of behavioral genetics." Presentation, 2011 ELSI Congress. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC. (Planned for April 14, 2011).

"Public understanding of genetic basis for complex behaviors." Presentation, Duke Institute for Brain Sciences – Addiction Research Group, Duke University, Durham, NC. (Planned for May 17, 2011).

"Studies in language and medicalization: The case of anorexia nervosa as a 'brain disease.'" Roundtable presentation, Problems and Potential in Sociological Study of Language, Language & Culture Research Network, Sociology of Culture section, Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. Atlanta, GA. August 16, 2010.

"Can't help it': Perceived implications of genetic explanations for eating disorders." Presentation, Mental Health Policy, Law and Stigma thematic session, Annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems. Atlanta, GA. August 13, 2010.

"Genes for *what*: Integrating genetics into self-understanding of eating disorder behavior." Poster session, The Foundation for Psychocultural Research-UCLA Fourth Interdisciplinary Conference: Cultural and Biological Contexts of Psychiatric Disorder: Implications for Diagnosis and Treatment, Los Angeles, CA. January 22, 2010.

"Can't help it': Perceptions of eating disorders and genetics." Presentation for Fellows' Meeting, Center for Society and Genetics, University of California, Los Angeles, CA. January 21, 2010.

"Legitimized as an actual disease': How genes make eating disorders more real." Annual meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science (4S). Co-organizer of panel, "Understanding Behavior Genetics." Washington, DC. October 31, 2009.

"Legitimized as an actual disease': Perceptions of genetics in eating disorders." Odum Award Lecture, Sociology Department Colloquium, UNC-Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC. October 14, 2009.

"Medicalization in Two Dimensions: A Conceptual Map." Presentation, Mental Health Refereed Roundtable. Annual meeting of American Sociological Association, San Francisco, CA. August 10, 2009.

“Dissertation Overview and Early Findings.” Presentation for the Eating Disorders Program Research Team, UNC-CH Department of Psychiatry, Chapel Hill, NC. May 20, 2009.

“Drawing a Line between Choice and Disease: Early Findings from Dissertation Research.” Presentation for the Cultural and Political Sociology Workshop, UNC-CH Department of Sociology, Chapel Hill, NC. April 3, 2009.

“Eating Disorders as ‘Genetic’: A Qualitative Interview Study.” Presentation for the First Interdisciplinary NeuroSchool, European Neuroscience and Society Network, Rome, Italy. October 1, 2008.

“Accounting for Eating Disorders.” Presentation to the Center for the Integration of Research on Genetics and Ethics, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA. May 8, 2008.

“Freedom in Speech: Freedom and Liberty in American Presidential Campaign Discourse 1952-2004.” Presentation, Stanford University Summer Institute for Political Psychology, Palo Alto, CA. July 22, 2006.

"La Salud Trabaja Para La Mujer: Adapting an Existing Program for Latinas." Presentation, Building Connections for Community Health Conference, Chapel Hill, NC. March 28, 2003.

“Adapting the Health Works for Women Intervention for Latina Immigrant Women.” Symposium presentation, American Psychological Association: Enhancing Outcomes in Women’s Health: Translating Psychosocial and Behavioral Research into Primary Care, Community Interventions, and Health Policy, Washington, DC. February 12, 2000.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor (full course responsibility) UNC-CH

- *Social Interaction* 06/10-07/10 (Social psychology, symbolic interactionism)

Teaching Assistant or Grader UNC-CH

- *Social Stratification* 01/09-05/09
- *Statistics for Sociologists* 08/08-12/08 (graduate students)
- *Soc. Perspectives, Soc. of Race and Ethnic Relations, Family & Society* 08/07-12/07
- *Sociological Perspectives* 01/06-05/06
- *Religion in America* 08/96-12/96
- *European Religious History* 01/95-05/95

Guest Presenter

- *Ethics and Mental Illness (Philosophy)* 2/11 (Duke, graduate students)
- *Sociology of Health and Mental Illness* 10/10 (UNC-CH, undergraduates)
- *Biomedical Research Ethics* 02/10 (UNC-CH, medical students)
- *Medicine and Society* 03/09 (UNC-CH, undergraduates)

Teacher of English as a Second Language

- *AmeriCorps*, Fuquay-Varina NC 09/97-05/98 (Farmworkers, women)
- *Telamon Corporation*, Durham, NC 05/98-09/98 (Farmworkers)
- *Village of Buen Hombre*, Dominican Republic 02/93-06/93 (Village residents)
- *Gold Summit Monastery*, Seattle, WA 02/91-03/91 (Buddhist convent)

OTHER TRAINING

UNC-CH: Center for Genomics and Society at UNC-Chapel Hill

Traineeship in ethical, legal, and social implications of genetics. 09/06-05/10.

University of Michigan: Michigan Center for Genomics and Public Health, Ann Arbor, MI

Certificate in basic genetic science: "Six Weeks to Genomic Awareness." 07/07.

Stanford University: Summer Institute in Political Psychology, Palo Alto, CA

Coursework in political psychology (online and at Stanford). 07/06.

UNC-CH: Howard W. Odum Institute for Research in Social Science

Certificate in Survey Methodology. 05/06.

University of North Carolina at Greensboro: Department of Social Work

Credential in Cross-Cultural Human Services. 05/98.

Interpreter Task Force, NC Bilingual Resource Group/Wake AHEC, Raleigh, NC.

Interpreter Training for English-Spanish Interpreters in Health and Human Services (Levels 1 and 2). 98, 99.

SERVICE

Manuscript reviewer (occasional) for *Social Science & Medicine; Sociological Quarterly; Medical Anthropology Quarterly; Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy; Journal of African-American Studies*; and *IRB: Ethics & Human Research*.

Organizer and facilitator, multidisciplinary discussion group "Neuroscience, Social Science, and Society," UNC-CH. (11/08-04/09)

Organizer of two-day Methods Workshop, "Introduction to Fuzzy Set and Qualitative Comparative Analysis," UNC-CH. (05/08). **Co-organizer** (05/09)

Delegate, STITCH Guatemala Delegation "Maquilas and Migration: Between a Rock and a Hard Place," Guatemala City, Guatemala. (05/01)

Coordinator of outreach to Spanish-speaking immigrants (*AmeriCorps* volunteer)

- Inter-Faith Council for Social Service, Chapel Hill, NC. (09/98-08/99)
- St. Bernadette Catholic Church, Fuquay-Varina, NC. (09/97-08/98)

Resident Volunteer, Camphill Village, Kimberton Hills, PA. (09/91-05/92)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Sociological Association
Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)
Society for the Study of Social Problems
Sociologists for Women in Society