

MICHELE MARTHA EASTER

Department of Sociology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
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EDUCATION: **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**
Ph.D. in Sociology, expected May 2010
Dissertation: *Eating Disorders as 'Genetic': Meanings and Implications for Women with Eating Disorders*
Co-chairs: Peggy Thoits and Andrew Perrin
Committee: Gail Henderson, Debra Skinner, Sherryl Kleinman, Cynthia Bulik

Master of Arts in Sociology, December 2006
Thesis: *Freedom in Speech: Freedom and Liberty in American Presidential Campaign Discourse 1952-2004.*
Chair: Andrew Perrin
Committee: Larry Griffin, Larry Grossberg

Master of Arts in Religious Studies, December 1995
Thesis: *The Emancipation of Eaters: Grahamites and Anti-Grahamites in the Antebellum Northeast.*
Chair: Laurie Maffly-Kipp
Committee: Judith Farquhar, Tomoko Masuzawa

Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio
Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies, May 1989

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS:

Howard W. Odum Award for Excellence (co-winner)
Given to outstanding doctoral candidate by UNC-CH Sociology faculty. 4/09.

Finalist

Chosen as one of the top 15% of over 500 applicants nation-wide for the Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship on Religion and Ethics. 3/09.

Scholarship

One of 15 students selected from a world-wide pool of applicants to participate in the First Interdisciplinary NeuroSchool of the European Neuroscience and Society Network, Monterotondo (Rome), Italy. 9/08 to 10/08.

Interdisciplinary Research Scholars Fellowship (F. Ivy Carroll)

One of 14 graduate students chosen from a university-wide pool of applicants.
University of North Carolina Graduate School, 1/08 to 5/08.

Merit Fellowship

Awarded to incoming graduate students with exceptional GRE scores.
University of North Carolina Graduate School, 9/93 to 5/94.

GRANTS:**National Science Foundation Travel Grant**

Competitive award to cover travel expenses for 2009 Annual Meeting of the Society for the Social Studies of Science (\$150). 6/09.

Dissertation Research Award

Awarded by the Center for Genomics and Society at UNC-Chapel Hill to support dissertation research (\$5000). 5/08 to 4/09.

Smith Graduate Research Grant

Awarded by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to support dissertation research (\$1000). 2/08 to 8/08.

OTHER**TRAINING:**

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: Center for Genomics and Society at UNC-Chapel Hill

Traineeship in ethical, legal, and social implications of genetics. 9/06 to present.

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

Certificate in basic genetic science: "Six Weeks to Genomic Awareness". 7/07.

Stanford University: Summer Institute in Political Psychology, Palo Alto, CA
Coursework in political psychology (online and at Stanford). 7/06.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: Howard W. Odum Institute for Research in Social Science

Certificate in Survey Methodology. 5/06.

University of North Carolina at Greensboro: Department of Social Work
Credential in Cross-Cultural Human Services. 5/98.

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.

RESEARCH**EXPERIENCE:**

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Dissertation Research 1/08 to present

- Designed interview study of the meanings and implications of genetics for people with eating disorders
- Conducted semi-structured in-person interviews with people recovered and in treatment for anorexia nervosa or bulimia nervosa (57 interviews)
- Managed qualitative and quantitative data using N6 and Stata
- Collaborated with interdisciplinary team of eating disorders researchers and clinicians (Psychology, Psychiatry, Nutrition, Social Work, Genetics)

Master's Thesis Research 1/06-8/06

- Developed archive of 88 speeches for qualitative and quantitative analysis
- Analyzed and managed qualitative and quantitative data using N6 and Stata

Social Research Associate 1/00 to present

Department of Social Medicine, UNC School of Medicine

4 Studies: Social Construction of Benefit in Gene Transfer Research, Environmental Polymorphisms Registry Interview Study, Measuring Therapeutic Misconception, Perceptions of Expanded Newborn Screening

- Analyzed and managed quantitative and qualitative data for studies of research ethics using Stata, Access, and N6.
- Developed questionnaires, paper questionnaire, and draft scale to measure therapeutic misconception
- Conducted telephone interviews with research subjects involved in clinical trials for gene transfer and in-person interviews with people considering donating blood for a genomic database
- Managed projects for interdisciplinary team of bioethics researchers (Philosophy, Law, Medicine, Sociology)
- Prepared IRB applications, assisted grant-writing; designed website
- Back-translated interview guide from Spanish to English

Consultant for Research on Latina Immigrants 10/99 to 12/02

Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

2 Studies: Health Works for Women, Health Works in the Community

- Designed focus group study of Latina blue-collar workers and stress
- Facilitated five focus groups in Spanish
- Adapted health interventions about stress, nutrition, and exercise
- Analyzed qualitative and quantitative data
- Collaborated with interdisciplinary team of public health researchers (Anthropology, Nutrition, Health Behavior & Health Education, Social Work)

Focus Group Facilitator 7/00 to 8/00

Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program

- Facilitated focus groups in Spanish with survivors of domestic violence.

North Carolina Occupational Safety and Health (NCOSH), Durham, NC

Research Assistant 9/99 to 12/99

- Recruited Latino construction workers for a qualitative study
- Conducted in-person interviews in Spanish about occupational safety

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Oral Historian 8/96-12/96

Southern Oral History Program, Women's Leadership and Grassroots Activism

- Conducted oral history interviews with African-American environmental activists about land history and zoning disputes
- Designed study to assist Dispute Settlement Center, Orange County

Research Assistant 8/94-12/94, 9/95-12/95, 1/96-5/96, 1/97-5/97

Department of Religious Studies

- Conducted archival research about African-American religious history
- Assisted editor of a journal (*Journal of the American Oriental Society*)

University of Michigan, Institute for Social Research, Ann Arbor, MI

Editorial Assistant 5/92-1/93

- Verified that survey questionnaires were correctly administered

PUBLICATIONS: *REFEREED ARTICLES:*

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.

NON-REFEREED PUBLICATIONS:

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

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

Michele M. Easter. "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.

Michele M. Easter. "Eating Disorders as 'Genetic': A Qualitative Interview Study." Presentation at the First Interdisciplinary NeuroSchool, European Neuroscience and Society Network, Rome, Italy. Oct. 1, 2008.

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

Michele M. Easter. "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.

Michele M. Easter. "*La Salud Trabaja Para La Mujer: Adapting an Existing Program for Latinas.*" Presentation, *Building Connections for Community Health*, Chapel Hill, NC. Mar. 28, 2003.

Michele M. Easter. "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. Feb. 12, 2000.

FORTHCOMING:

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

Michele M. Easter. Odum Award Lecture, Sociology Department Colloquium, UNC-Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC. October 14, 2009.

**TEACHING
EXPERIENCE:**

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY (UNC-CH):

Guest Lecturer 3/09 *Medicine and Society* (undergraduate)

Teaching Assistant 1/09 to 5/09 *Social Stratification* (undergraduate)

- Graded semester projects, short essays, student-created quizzes.
- Led class session, including short lecture and in-class group project.

Teaching Assistant 8/08-12/08 *Statistics for Sociologists* (graduate)

- Clarified statistical concepts and corrected homework
- Provided oral and written instruction on Stata, a statistical program
- Provided Stata code for Professor to incorporate into lecture notes.
- Led class session.

Grader 8/07-12/07 (three large undergraduate courses)

- Graded short essays for *Sociological Perspectives*, *Sociology of Race and Ethnic Relations*, and *Family and Society*.

Teaching Assistant 1/06-5/06 *Sociological Perspectives* (undergraduate)

- Graded papers
- Led class sessions.

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES (UNC-CH)

Teaching Assistant 8/96-12/96

- Assisted course preparation for *Religion in America*
- Led discussion section and lectured occasionally
- Published course notes for student use

Teaching Assistant 1/95-5/95

- Led two discussion sections for *European Religious History*

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE:

Teacher

- *AmeriCorps*, Fuquay-Varina NC 9/97-5/98 (Farmworkers, women)
- *Telamon Corporation*, Durham, NC 5/98-9/98 (Farmworkers)
- *Village of Buen Hombre*, Dominican Republic 2/93-6/93 (Village residents)
- *Gold Summit Monastery*, Seattle, WA 2/91-3/91 (Buddhist convent)

SERVICE: **Manuscript reviewer** (occasional) for *Social Science & Medicine*; *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*; *Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy*; and *IRB: Ethics & Human Research*.

Organizer and leader of multidisciplinary discussion group, “Neuroscience, Social Science, and Society,” for graduate students and post-doctoral fellows in departments of Sociology, Anthropology, Political Science, Psychology and the Center for Developmental Science, UNC-CH. (November 2008-April 2009).

Organizer of two-day Methods Workshop, “Introduction to Fuzzy Set and Qualitative Comparative Analysis,” for Departments of Sociology and Political Science, UNC-CH. April 30 - May 1, 2008.

Co-organizer of two-day Methods Workshop, “Introduction to Fuzzy Set and Qualitative Comparative Analysis,” for Department of Sociology, UNC-CH. May 5-6 2009.

Delegate, STITCH Guatemala Delegation “Maquilas and Migration: ‘Between a Rock and a Hard Place’”, Guatemala City, Guatemala. May 19-26, 2001.

Coordinator of Hispanic/Latino Outreach Initiative, Inter-Faith Council for Social Service/ AmeriCorps, Chapel Hill, NC. 9/98-8/99

- Developed program to facilitate access to social services by Spanish-speakers
- Provided services and interpretation for low-income or homeless Latinos
- Coordinated and expanded two coalitions of advocates for Latino immigrants (Orange County Task Force on Hispanic Issues and Organizing Committee for what became the Centro Latino in Carrboro).

Coordinator, Latino Program, St. Bernadette Catholic Church/ AmeriCorps, Fuquay-Varina, NC. 9/97-8/98.

- Coordinated and provided services for farmworkers and other Latino immigrants. (Also see above on teaching English as a Second Language)

Resident Volunteer, Camphill Village, Kimberton Hills, PA. 9/91-5/92

- Lived and worked with developmentally disabled adults in an intentional community in rural Pennsylvania, supervising workshops.

OTHER SKILLS: **Languages:** Advanced Spanish and French, Beginning German and Latin

Research computing: Stata, N6/NVivo, Atlas-ti, Access. Familiar with SAS, Sudaan, Blaise.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:

American Sociological Association (2003-present)

Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) (2009-present)

Sociologists for Women in Society (2009-present)

REFERENCES:

Peggy A. Thoits, Ph.D.
(Formerly at UNC-Chapel Hill)
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