

# Laura Nichols

## *Curriculum Vita*

### Office Address:

Department of Anthropology/Sociology  
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### EDUCATION

Ph.D. August 1995-August 2000. *Sociology*. The University of Akron, Akron, OH.  
M.A. January 1994-August 1995. *Sociology*. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI.  
B.S. June 1990. *Sociology Major, Communication Minor*. Santa Clara University, CA.

### TEACHING INTERESTS

Applied Sociology  
Program Evaluation & Policy Research  
Quantitative & Qualitative Methodology

Social Stratification  
Sociology of Families  
Principles of Sociology

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

Welfare Reform  
Community Resource Mapping  
First Generation College Students

Housing Instability & Homelessness  
Program Development and Evaluation  
Race, Class, and Gender

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

*Associate Professor* (2006-Present), *Assistant Professor* (2000-2006), Santa Clara University.  
Courses taught: Social Stratification, Applied Sociology, Principles of Sociology, Sociology Internship, Group Dynamics, Qualitative Sociology.

*Teaching Assistant* (1996-2000). The University of Akron. Courses taught: Social Inequalities and Introduction to Sociology.

PUBLICATIONS (\*published with an undergraduate student)

- Nichols, Laura, Cheryl Elman, and Kathryn M. Feltey. 2006. "The Economic Resource Receipt of New Mothers." *Journal of Family Issues* 27(8).
- Nichols, Laura, \*Joshua Berry, and \*Demetra Kalogrides. 2004. "Hop on the Bus: Driving Stratification Concepts Home." *Teaching Sociology* 32(2): 213-221.
- Nichols, Laura, \*Shannon Gleeson, and \*Sandra Figueroa. 2004. "Moving Beyond the Client Role: Helping Human Service Organizations Identify Program Participant's Assets." *Social Insight* 8: 34-36.
- Nichols, Laura. 2004. "Giving Students a Voice: Learning Through Autobiography." *Thought & Action* 19(2): 37-50.
- Nichols, Laura and Kathryn Feltey. 2003. "The Woman is Not Always the Bad Guy': Resistance in the Discourse of Battered Women." *Violence Against Women* 9(7): 784-806.
- Nichols, Laura and Barbara Gault. 2003. "Implications of Welfare Reform on Housing and School Instability." *Journal of Negro Education* 72(1): 104-116. (Invited Article.)
- Fernandez, Marilyn and Laura Nichols. 2002. "Bridging and Bonding Capital: Pluralist Ethnic Relations in Silicon Valley." *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy* 22(11/12): 104-122. (Invited Article.)
- Nichols, Laura. 2002. "Participatory Program Planning: Including Program Participants and Evaluators." *Journal of Evaluation and Program Planning* 25(1): 1-14.
- Erickson, Rebecca J., Laura Nichols, and Christian Ritter. 2000. "Family Influences on Absenteeism: Testing an Expanded Process Model." *Journal of Vocational Behavior* 57: 246-272.
- Feltey, Kathryn and Laura Nichols. 1999. "The Only Thing You Really Got is this Minute': Homeless Women Re-visioning the Future." In *Reclaiming the Future: Women's Strategies for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, S. Brodribb (Ed.). Canada: Gynergy Books.
- Nichols, Laura and Linda Lumley. 1999. "Involving Students in the Development of a Peer Education Program for College Women." *Journal of College Student Development* 40(4): 422-427.
- Fernandez, Marilyn and Laura Nichols. 1996. "Ecological Approach in Practice: A Study of the Ounce of Prevention Fund." *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare* 23:121-141.

Nichols, Laura. 1996. [Review of the Book Hear My Testimony: Maria Teresa Tula, Human Rights Activist of El Salvador]. *Humanity and Society* 20:106-107.

### **RECENT REPORTS**

Fernandez, Marilyn, **Laura Nichols**, and Charles Powers. "Diversity and Multicultural Education at Santa Clara University: An Institutional Overview of Trends, Challenges, and Prospects." Submitted to the James Irvine Foundation, June 4, 2002.

**Nichols, Laura**. Editor. "Entering the Ivory Tower: The Life Histories and Experiences of First Generation College Students at Santa Clara University. May, 2002.

Powers, Charles H., Marilyn Fernandez, and **Laura Nichols**. 2001. "Assessing Outcomes of an Education in Sociology: A Report on Preliminary Efforts at Santa Clara University. Washington, DC: American Sociological Association.

### **Works in Progress**

Ramos-Sánchez, Lucila and Laura Nichols. "Self-Efficacy of First-Generation College Students and the Relationship to Academic Performance and College Adjustment"

Nichols, Laura and Lucila Ramos-Sánchez. "Capital and College Adjustment"

Nichols, Laura. "Parental Boundary Crossing and the College Attendance Expectations of High School Students."

Nichols, Laura. "Forming Research Partnerships with Community Organizations to Address Housing Instability and Homelessness at the County Level."

### **PRESENTATIONS**

Nichols, Laura. 2006. "Entering the Ivory Tower: Exploring the Differences and Similarities Between First and Continuing Generation College Students." Keynote address at the Foundation Generation Project: First Generation Conference. St. Mary's College of California, April.

Fernandez, Marilyn and Laura Nichols. 2005. "Getting a Head Start in College: An Assessment of a University Bridge Program." Presented at the annual meeting of the Pacific Sociological Association, Portland, OR, April.

Nichols, Laura with students: Christina Kennedy, Sandy Plascencia, Crystal Tapiador. 2003. "Student Outcomes of an Applied Sociology Curriculum." Presented at the annual meeting of the California Sociological Association, Berkeley, CA, November.

- Feltey, Kathryn and Laura Nichols. 2003. "Teaching Introduction to Sociology for the First Time." Workshop leaders at the American Sociological Association, Atlanta, GA, August.
- \*Nichols, Laura. 2002. "Bringing Applied Sociology into the Undergraduate Curriculum." Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Applied Sociology, Sacramento, CA, October.
- \*Fernandez, Marilyn and Laura Nichols. 2002. "Bridging and Bonding Capital: Pluralist Ethnic Relations in Silicon Valley." Presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Chicago, IL, August.
- Nichols, Laura. 2001. "Then Comes the Baby in the Baby Carriage: Capital and the Use of Economic Resources by New Mothers in the U.S." Presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Anaheim, CA, August.
- Nichols, Laura and Christine Wernet-Beyer. 2000. "Using Community Based Learning in the Classroom: Prospects and Pitfalls." Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, Washington, D.C., August.
- Nichols, Laura and Barbara Gault. 1999. "Is Welfare Reform Causing Homelessness Among Families?: Research and Policy Issues." Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, Chicago, IL, August.
- Nichols, Laura, Kathryn M. Feltey, Susan C. Warner, Lynn Metzger, and Nancy Miller. 1998. "Why Welfare Reform Won't Work and What Could: Voices from a Community Program." Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, San Francisco, CA, August.
- London, Andrew and Laura Nichols. 1998. "Family Integration, Conflict, and the Emotional well being of Non-Kin HIV/AIDS Caregivers." Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, San Francisco, CA, August.
- Feltey, Kathryn M., Laura Nichols, Susan C. Warner, and Lynn Metzger. 1997. "Evaluating Transitional Programming for Homeless Families: A Presentation in Four Voices." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Council of Family Relations, Crystal City, VA, November.
- Nichols, Laura, Rebecca J. Erickson, Christian Ritter, Lorna Dilley, and Mark Tausig. 1997. "The Effects of Family Life on Job Outcomes." Roundtable paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Toronto, ON, August.
- Nichols, Laura. 1997. "Talkin' Trash in the Classroom: Using Television Talk Shows to Talk

Sociology.” Paper presented at the annual meetings of the Midwest Sociological Society, Des Moines, Iowa, April.

Nichols, Laura and Gay C. Kitson. 1996. “Lost in the Shadows: Orphans of the AIDS Epidemic.” Paper presented at the National Council of Family Relations Theory/Methods Pre-Conference, Kansas City, MO, November.

Nichols, Laura. 1996. “Preliminary and Prospective Evaluation of a Transitional Housing Program for Homeless Women and Children.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Applied Sociology, Atlanta, GA, October.

### **INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

Nichols, Laura. 2006. “Entering the Ivory Tower: Exploring the Differences and Similarities Between First and Continuing Generation College Students.” Keynote address at the Foundation Generation Project: First Generation Conference. St. Mary’s College of California, April.

Nichols, Laura. 2006. Introduction of Dr. Kathryn Feltey for the Presidential Address at the North Central Sociological Association meetings, Indianapolis, IN, March.

### **APPLIED RESEARCH & POLICY EXPERIENCE**

Evaluator, Center for Multicultural Education, “Building Partnerships for Diversity” Irvine Diversity Project. (2001-2005). With Marilyn Fernandez.

Research Fellow, Institute for Women’s Policy Research, Washington, DC. (1998-99). Wrote research and policy briefs, grant proposals, and conducted data analysis.

Institutional & Family Interviewer, Cleveland Urban Change Project. Kent State University and Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation (1998-Present) and the Transitional Housing Project Evaluation, Akron, OH (1996).

Research Assistant, Center for Substance Abuse and Treatment SSI National Study, The University of Akron (1997-98). Responsibilities included codebook and instrument development, site contact, data cleaning and analysis.

Research Assistant/Evaluator. Kercher Center for Social Research, Western Michigan University (1994-95). Assisted on the outcome and process evaluations of three non-profit organizations, wrote research grants and final reports.

### **PROFESSIONAL & DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE**

Chair, Publications Committee. Pacific Sociological Association (2004-05).

Presider, "Teaching Applied Sociology Through Community Partnerships" (2003). California Sociological Association, Berkeley, CA.

Organizer and Presider, "Overcoming Barriers to Full Employment for Women Losing TANF" (1999) at the annual meetings of the DC Sociological Society, Washington, DC.

Session Organizer. "Sociological Practice: Getting Prepared for a Career in Applied and Clinical Sociology," (1998) at the annual meetings of the Midwest Sociological Society, Kansas City, MO.

Session Panelist at the annual meetings of the Society for Applied Sociology (1998) and the North Central Sociological Association (1998).

Member of the Social Action Committee, Sociologists for Women in Society (1997-98).

Guest Lecturer, Department of Sociology and the Women's Studies Program, The University of Akron.

### **PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION EXPERIENCE**

Welfare Reform Research Coordination Project, Institute for Women's Policy Research (1998-99). Administered an electronic listserv, managed a database of researchers, and supervised interns.

Program Director, Lions Center for the Blind, San Jose, California (1991-93). Responsible for program development, administration, and monitoring. Secured county and city funding and supervised paid and volunteer staff.

Jesuit Volunteer & Homeless Services Coordinator, Community Emergency Resources and Volunteer Services, Medford, Oregon (1990-91). Coordinated an emergency voucher and services program for homeless individuals. Secured funding from local foundations and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

### **HONORS and AWARDS**

Support of University Mission Award. 2004. Santa Clara University. For work on the summer Bridge program and research with first generation college students.

Community Partner Award. From Grail Community Development Resource Center. For evaluation work did for their after-school literacy program. Fall 2003.

2001 Rosabeth Moss Kanter Award for Excellence in Work-Family Research: One of the top six articles published in 2000 for the paper: "Family Influences on Absenteeism: Testing an Expanded Process Model."

Department of Sociology, Graduate Student of the Year (awarded by the faculty) and Pat Conley Award (awarded by graduate students) (2000), The University of Akron.

Department of Sociology, Rogler Merit Fellowship 1999-2000, The University of Akron.

Institute for Women's Policy Research, Research Fellowship (1998-99). Washington, DC.

Society for Applied Sociology, Graduate Student Paper Award (1996). Atlanta, GA.

Alpha Kappa Delta, Mu Chapter, Student Paper Winner (1996). Akron, OH.

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Sociological Association: Sections: Applied Sociology; Race, Gender, & Class; Teaching Sociology

Pacific Sociological Association

Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology