

JoAnna Boudreaux, Ph.D.
Department of Sociology
The University of Memphis
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Communication Studies, The University of Memphis, 2022

- Dissertation: *Under Her Feet: A Case Study on Motherhood Discourse in a U.S. American Muslim Community*
- Committee: Katherine Grace Hendrix (Chair), David Gray Matthews, Craig Stewart, Michael Vicente Perez

Graduate Certificate, Women's & Gender Studies, The University of Memphis, 2020

M.A., Sociology, The University of Memphis, 2017

- Thesis: *The Fear Factor: Developing a Framework of Emotional Cognition for Understanding Muslim Americans' Voting Behavior in 2016*
- Committee: Junmin Wang (Chair), Wesley James, Seth Abrutyn

B.A., Sociology, The University of Memphis, 2015

- *Summa Cum Laude*
- Minors: African American Studies; Women's Studies; English
- Helen Hardin Honors Program

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor of Teaching and Internship Coordinator, Department of Sociology, The University of Memphis, 2023–Present

Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, The University of Memphis, 2022–2023

Adjunct Professor, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Southwest Tennessee Community College, Memphis, TN, 2021–2022

Graduate Thesis and Dissertation Analyst, Graduate Programs, The University of Memphis, 2020–2022

Graduate Instructor, Department of Communication and Film, The University of Memphis, 2018–2022

Adjunct Instructor, Department of Sociology, The University of Memphis, 2017–2018

Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Sociology, The University of Memphis, 2015–2017

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

- Race and Ethnic Minorities
- Sociology of the South
- Sociological Theory
- Medical Sociology
- Motherhood and Women’s Issues
- Qualitative Research Methods

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Boudreaux, JoAnna. Manuscript in preparation. *Doing Sociology in the South: An Experiential Journey Through Race, Place, and Memory*

Boudreaux, JoAnna. 2026. *Borders and Belonging: Sociological Perspectives on Race, Ethnicity, and the Making of America*. Kendall Hunt Publishing.

Boudreaux, JoAnna. 2024. *Islam, Motherhood, and Discourses of Faith*. Peter Lang.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles (Selected)

Boudreaux, JoAnna. Manuscript in preparation. “Left Out by Design: Structural Inequality and the Non-Enrollment of College-Aspirational Adults.”

Boudreaux, JoAnna. Under review. "From Cross-Campus Collaboration to Peer-Based Analysis: Adapting a Sociology Assignment after Disruption." *Teaching Sociology*.

Boudreaux, JoAnna. Under review. "Teaching Critical AI Literacy: An AI-Assisted Research Practicum in Medical Sociology." *Teaching and Learning Inquiry*.

Agyei, Maame Diana, and JoAnna Boudreaux. 2026. "Mental Health, Stigma, and Student Narratives: A Photovoice Study of International Students." *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*. Accepted for publication.

Boudreaux, JoAnna. 2026. "The Role of Culture and Religion in Shaping Emotional Experience: An Exploration of *Khushū`* in Islamic Prayer." *Journal of Communication and Religion*. Accepted for Publication .

Boudreaux, JoAnna. 2026. "Photovoice in a Medical Sociology Classroom: A Case Study on Experiential and Ethical Engagement." *Transformative Social Impact: A Journal of Community-Based Teaching and Research* 2(1). <https://doi.org/10.70175/socialimpactjournal.2025.2.1.7>

Boudreaux, JoAnna, Carolina M. Valdebenito, and Lionel C. Pichon. 2025. "Identifying Access Barriers to PrEP Among Cisgender Black/African American Women in the United States: A Systematic Review of the Literature." *Healthcare* 13(1):86. <https://doi.org/10.3390/healthcare13010086>

Boudreaux, JoAnna. 2022. "Deadening Lives and Identities Held Captive: An Autoethnographic Reflection on My Father's Death." *Journal of Autoethnography* 3(3):304–312.

Boudreaux, JoAnna. 2020. "The Radical Spiritual Motherhood of Amina Wadud: Black Woman Scholar Speaking Truth to Patriarchy." *Listening: Journal of Communication Ethics, Religion, and Culture* 55(3):207–219.

Boudreaux, JoAnna. 2019. "Naming Obstetric Violence: Coercion, Bullying, and Intimidation in Non-Evidence-Based Childbirth Interventions." *Journal of Mother Studies* 4.

Book Chapters

Boudreaux, JoAnna. 2026. "Emotion Work and Identity in Scripted Classrooms: A Sociological Lens on Teacher Adaptation." In *Best Teacher Practices for Scripted Curricula*, edited by O. Gould. IGI Global.

Boudreaux, JoAnna. 2025. "A Reflective Case Study on Course Creation: AI, Power, and the Social Construction of Knowledge." In *Empowering Educational Development and Faculty Growth with AI*, edited by N. Pritts. IGI Global.

Boudreaux, JoAnna. 2021. "The Case of Dina Tokio: Using Symbolic Convergence Theory to Understand the Backlash." Pp. 167–180 in *Research Perspectives on Social Media Influencers and Their Followers*, edited by B. Watkins. Lexington Books.

Book Reviews

Boudreaux, JoAnna. 2026. Review of *Searching for Solidarity: Revolutionary Dreams and Radical Social Movements*, by Noor Ghazal Aswad. *Communication and Race* 3(1):61–63. <https://doi.org/10.1080/28346955.2026.2632582>

Boudreaux, JoAnna. 2025. Review of *The Social Origins of Thought: Durkheim, Mauss, and the Category Project*, edited by J. F. M. Schick, M. Schmidt, and M. Zillinger. *Anthropos* 120(1):155–158.

Boudreaux, JoAnna. 2020. Review of *Veiled Superheroes: Islam, Feminism, and Popular Culture*, by Sophia Rose Arjana. *Departures in Critical Qualitative Research* 8(4):118–121.

Public Sociology / Public Scholarship

Boudreaux, JoAnna. 2025. "Can We Still Come to Class If We Want To?" *First Publics*, The Society Pages, April 29. <https://thesocietypages.org/firstpublics/2025/04/29/can-we-still-come-to-class-if-we-want-to/>

Boudreaux, JoAnna. 2024. "Teaching Sociology in 2025: Navigating the Chaos with Empathy." *Uplift Memphis, Uplift the Nation: Voices & Perspectives for Progress*, Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change. <https://blogs.memphis.edu/benhooksinstitute>

Boudreaux, JoAnna, and Kendra Murphy. 2024. "AI in the Classroom." *First Publics*, The Society Pages, January 6. <https://thesocietypages.org/firstpublics/2025/01/06/embracing-ai-in-the-sociological-classroom/>

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

I have taught courses at both the graduate and undergraduate levels in in-person, online, and hybrid formats.

Graduate-Level Courses

- Social and Behavioral Scientific Principles
- Public Health Communication

Undergraduate-Level Courses

- Sociology of the South
- AI, Power, and the Sociology of Knowledge

- Racial and Ethnic Minorities
- Medical Sociology
- Gender and Society
- Marriage and Family
- Sociological Theory
- Writing in Sociology
- Introduction to Sociology
- Health Behavior and Theory
- Intercultural Communication
- Communication and Conflict
- Research Methods
- Communication Inquiry
- Oral Communication

Courses Designed

- AI, Power, and the Sociology of Knowledge (undergraduate)
- Sociology of the South (undergraduate)

COMMUNITY-ENGAGED RESEARCH AND PROGRAM LEADERSHIP

Faculty Liaison and Research Supervisor, Assisi Foundation Fellowship – Habitat for Humanity of Greater Memphis partnership (2026–Present)

- Coordinate collaboration between Assisi Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, and graduate research fellows
- Supervise student-led research on housing, health, and aging-in-place outcomes
- Oversee IRB development, data collection, and community-engaged research design

AWARDED GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD) Chapter Activity Grant, \$750, 2026

College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Travel Grant, The University of Memphis, \$500, 2026

Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD) Initiation Speaker Grant, \$500, 2025

OTHER GRANT ACTIVITY

Boudreaux, JoAnna, Principal Investigator & Jeni Loftus Co-Co-Principal Investigator: “Left Out of Higher Education: Understanding Why College-Aspirational Adults Do Not Enroll.” Spencer Foundation Small Research Grant on Education. Requested amount: \$49,984. Submitted December 2025. Proposal reviewed but not funded.

AWARDS & DISTINCTIONS

Graduate Assistant Meritorious Teaching Award, The University of Memphis, 2022 (\$500)

Graduate Student Research Award, The University of Memphis, 2021 (\$500)

Osborne Fellowship Recipient, Department of Communication and Film, The University of Memphis, 2021 (\$3,000)

University of Memphis Alumni and Retirees (UMAR) Scholarship, 2021 (\$1,500)

Top Student Paper, Ethnography Division, Southern States Communication Association, 2021

Top Student Paper, Spirituality Division, National Communication Association, 2021

Top Student Paper, Women and Gender Studies Division, Southern States Communication Association, 2019

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Invited Talks and Colloquia

“Under Her Feet: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Motherhood Rhetoric in an American Muslim Community.” Colloquium, Department of Sociology, The University of Memphis (September 2024)

Conference Presentations and Leadership (Recent)

Organizer and Presider. Thematic Session: “Collaborative Learning Strategies in Race and Ethnic Studies.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY (August 2026)

Presenter. “From Chatbot to Critical Inquiry: An AI-Assisted Research Practicum in Medical Sociology.” The Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Jacksonville, FL (April 2026)

Presenter. “Teaching with and Against AI: Classroom Assignments that Empower Students & Cultivate Sociological Expertise.” The Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Jacksonville, FL (April 2026)

Panelist. Author meets Critics. “Hubert Harrison and the Radical Tradition.” Association for Black Sociologists Annual Meeting, Memphis, TN (October 2025)

Presenter. “The Role of Culture and Religion in Shaping Emotional Experience: An Exploration of *Khushū‘* in Islamic Prayer.” Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL (August 2025)

Presider and Presenter. “Evaluating AI-Generated Writing and Disciplinary Expertise in the Sociology Classroom.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL (August 2025)

Co-Chair and Presenter. “Navigating the Future of AI in the Classroom: ChatGPT as a Tool for Critical Thinking.” AAC&U Conference on Learning and Student Success, San Juan, PR (April 2025)

Presenter. Teaching and Learning Symposium. “Evaluation of ChatGPT by Students: A Strategy for Stimulating Critical Thinking.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada (August 2024).

Additional conference presentations (2016–2023) available upon request.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

University Service

- Committee Member, Mellon Grant Scholarship Internship Coordination Committee, The University of Memphis (2025–Present)
- Committee Member, Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Experiential Learning Committee, The University of Memphis (2025–Present)

Departmental Service

- Internship Coordinator, Department of Sociology, The University of Memphis (2023–Present)
- Alpha Kappa Delta Chapter Representative, Department of Sociology, The University of Memphis (2024–Present)
- Committee Chair, Jerry Michel Award Committee, Department of Sociology, the University of Memphis (2025-present)

- Committee Member, Jerry Michel Award Committee, Department of Sociology, The University of Memphis (2024–2025)
- Committee Member, Undergraduate Committee, Department of Sociology, The University of Memphis (2024–Present)
- Committee Member, Curriculum Redesign Committee, Department of Communication, The University of Memphis (2020-2021)

Editorial Service

- Editorial Board Member, *Best Teaching Practices for Scripted Curriculum*, (2026)
- Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Religious Communication* (2024–Present)
- Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Mother Studies* (2021)

Ad Hoc Reviewer:

- *Feminist Media Studies* (2018, 2024, 2025)
- *Journal of Autoethnography* (2020, 2022, 2024)
- *Culture, Health & Sexuality* (2025)
- *HIV/AIDS and Social Services* (2022)
- *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* (2022)
- *Gender, Place & Culture* (2022)

Service to the Discipline (Publishing)

- Textbook Reviewer, Rowman & Littlefield (2022)
- Textbook Reviewer, Macmillan Publishers (2022)
- Textbook Reviewer, Cognella Academic Publishing (2022)

Service to Conferences

- Reviewer, Spiritual Communication Division, National Communication Association (2021)
- Reviewer, Critical Division, National Communication Association (2021)
- Reviewer, Feminist and Gender Studies Division, National Communication Association (2020)
- Chair and Respondent, Gender Studies Division, Southern States Communication Association (2020)

- Reviewer, Gender Studies Division, Southern States Communication Association (2019)
- Co-Organizer and Chair, “Colloquium of Collaboration,” Communication Graduate Student Association, The University of Memphis (2019)
- Co-Organizer, Chair, and Respondent, “Balancing the Mix: Popular Music and Social Justice,” The University of Memphis (2019)
- Co-Organizer, “Sickle Cell Day,” Sickle Cell Foundation and The University of Memphis (2018)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Institute of Intelligent Systems Grant Writing Workshop, The University of Memphis, Memphis, TN. (Summer 2026)
- Institute on Teaching Social Action, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN (Spring 2024)
Completed a three-day national faculty institute focused on social action pedagogy and course development.
- Summer Faculty Development and Teaching Institute (Mastery Track), The University of Memphis (Summer 2020)
Completed a three-week intensive program on online pedagogy, instructional design, and course delivery; earned certificate and digital badges.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- American Sociological Association
- Association for Black Sociologists
- Southern Sociological Society
- Association for the Sociology of Religion
- Alpha Kappa Delta
- Diversity Scholars Network