

Alanna Gillis

Curriculum Vitae

CONTACT

Department of Sociology
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
155 Hamilton Hall, CB 3210
Chapel Hill, NC 27599

Email: alannag@live.unc.edu
Website: alannagillisphd.com

EDUCATION

- 2020 (expected) Ph.D. Sociology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Dissertation: "Major Questions: Reproducing Inequality through College Major Decisions."
Committee: Andrew Perrin (Chair), Sherryl Kleinman, Katherine Weisshaar, Lisa Pearce, Thurston Domina
Comprehensive Exams: Social Stratification and Family
- 2017 M.A. Sociology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- 2013 B.A. Sociology, Furman University
Minors: Poverty Studies, Latin American Studies
Summa cum laude

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Education, stratification, race/class/gender, social justice, family, civic engagement/volunteering, social psychology, teaching and learning, mixed methods (qualitative and statistics)

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

*indicates graduate student co-author

- Gillis, Alanna.** 2019. "Identity Exploration or Labor Market Reaction: Social Class Differences in College Student Participation in Peace Corps, Teach for America, and Other Service Programs." *Qualitative Sociology* 42(4): 615-638.
- Gillis, Alanna,** and Laura M. Krull*. 2019. "'I was there for the free food': Accidental Religious and Cultural Conversions in College." *Sociological Forum* 34(4).
- Perrin, Andrew J. and **Alanna Gillis.** 2019. "How College Makes Citizens: Independent Effects of Higher Education on Political Engagement." *Socius* 5: 1-16.
- Gillis, Alanna.** 2019. "Reconceptualizing Participation Grading as Skill Building." *Teaching Sociology* 47(1): 10-21.
- 2019 Graduate Contributions to the Sociological Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award, ASA Section for Teaching and Learning
- Gillis, Alanna,** and Brionca Taylor*. 2019. "Social Networks and Labor Market Inequality: A Role-Playing Activity to Teach Difficult Concepts." *Teaching Sociology* 47(2): 148-156.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

- Gillis, Alanna,** and Renee Ryberg. "Is Choosing a Major Choosing a Career or Interesting Courses?: Stability and Change in Orientations to College Majors."

Nilsen, Ryan, **Alanna Gillis**, Bryant Hutson, and Lynn Blanchard. "From Reflection to Resumes: Alumni Perceptions of a Multi-Term Public Service Program's Connection to Career."

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Gillis, Alanna. "Choosing a Major is Not a Rational Choice: How Institutions, Interactions, and Identity Processes Shape College Major Decisions."

Gillis, Alanna. *Major Questions: How Students Should Choose Their Colleges Majors.* (Book proposal; revising and resubmitting proposal for University of Chicago Press)

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2020 Tanner Teaching Assistants Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, UNC-CH

2019 SAGE Publishing Keith Roberts Teaching Innovations Award

2019 Penny and Howard Aldrich Summer Research Fellowship, \$5,000

2019 GPSF Travel Award, UNC-CH

2018 UNC Sociology Department Pilot Study Grant

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Department of Sociology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Instructor of Record

Sociological Perspectives (101): Summer 2017, Spring 2018, Summer 2018

Sociology of Education (upper-level course): Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019

Teaching Assistant

Sociological Perspectives (101): Fall 2016

Racial and Ethnic Relations: Spring 2016

Family and Society: Fall 2014

Social and Economic Justice: Spring 2015, Spring 2017

Statistics for Sociologists (graduate course): Fall 2015

Published Peer-Reviewed Teaching Resources

Gillis, Alanna. 2018. "School Choice and Inequality: Choosing Schools Activity." Class Activity published in TRAILS: Teaching Resources and Innovations Library for Sociology. Washington DC: American Sociological Association.

<http://trails.asanet.org/Pages/Resource.aspx?ResourceID=13554>.

*8th most downloaded resource in TRAILS in 2018

Gillis, Alanna. 2018. "Class School Board Debate Activity: Should Tracking Be Reformed?" Class Activity published in TRAILS: Teaching Resources and Innovations Library for Sociology. Washington DC: American Sociological Association.

<http://trails.asanet.org/Pages/Resource.aspx?ResourceID=13573>.

Teaching Trainings

2019 Teaching and Learning Preconference: Inclusive Pedagogy for a More Just World

2017 SAFE ZONE: Training Seminar by the UNC-CH LGBTQ Center

2017 Sociology 980: Seminar on the Teaching of Sociology, UNC-CH

2015 Carolina Firsts, Advocate for first-generation college students, UNC-CH

ADVISING/MENTORING STUDENTS

- 2019-present Pre-Graduate School Advisor
- 2019-present Mentor for research assistants Sara McCauley, Myklynn Lapoint, Grace Hildebrand, and Elena Eddington for my dissertation research
- 2018-2019 Mentor for research assistants Rosa Hannah, Sarah Cheeley, Kelsey Sutton, and Sara McCauley for my dissertation research
- 2018 Mentored undergraduate co-teacher at UNC Splash
- 2017-2018 Faculty Advisor for Cheeley, Sarah. 2018. "The AP United States History Curriculum: A Battle Between Historical Perspectives." *UNC JOURney* 2: 7-13.
- 2016-present Assistant Director of Social and Economic Justice Minor at UNC-CH

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2019 Alanna Gillis. "Provisional Major Identities, Self-Concept, and Social Ties: The Social Process of Choosing a College Major." American Sociological Association. New York, NY.
- 2019 Alanna Gillis and Renee Ryberg. "Is Choosing a Major Choosing a Career?: Gender, Social Class, and Racial Diversity in Orientations to College Majors." Southern Sociological Society. Atlanta, GA.
- 2019 Ryan Nilsen and Alanna Gillis. "What Do Alumni Say? The Impact of Undergraduate Service Programming." Pathways to Achieving Civic Engagement Conference. Greensboro, NC.
- 2018 Alanna Gillis and Laura Krull. "'I was there for the free food': Accidental Religious and Cultural Conversions in College." American Sociological Association. Philadelphia, PA.
- 2018 Alanna Gillis. "Inequality in Classroom Comfort: Reconceptualizing Participation Grading as Skill Building." Southern Sociological Society. New Orleans, LA.
- 2017 Alanna Gillis. "Enthusiasts, Backup Planners, and Professionals: How College Students Approach Participation in Service Programs after Graduation." American Sociological Association. Montreal, Canada.
- 2017 Andrew Perrin and Alanna Gillis. "How College Makes Citizens: Independent Effects of Higher Education on Political Engagement." American Sociological Association. Montreal, Canada.
- 2017 Alanna Gillis. "The Enthusiasts, Backup Planners, and Professionals: How College Students Approach Participation in Service Programs after Graduation." Southern Sociological Society. Greenville, SC.
- 2016 Andrew Perrin and Alanna Gillis. "Humanities Education and Public Conversation." Invited Session. American Sociological Association. Seattle, WA.

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

- 2019-present Newsletter co-editor for Sociology of Education section
- 2019 Presider, Referred Roundtable on Sociology of Education. American Sociological Association. New York, NY.
- 2017 Presider, Referred Roundtable on Sociology of Education. American Sociological

Association. Montreal, Canada.
2015-2016 Assistant Editor, *Mobilization*
2015 Presider, Referred Roundtable on Race/Ethnicity. American Sociological
Association. Chicago, IL.
Reviewer: *Mobilization*

SERVICE TO DEPARTMENT/UNIVERSITY

2018-present Qualitative Analyst for Carolina Center for Public Service at UNC-CH
2015-2016 Co-coordinator of UNC-CH Sociology Department's Recruitment
Weekend

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Sociological Association
Sections: Education; Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility; Race, Gender, and
Class; Teaching and Learning; Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity
Southern Sociological Society
Phi Beta Kappa
Alpha Kappa Delta

COMMUNITY/VOLUNTEER SERVICE

2018 UNC Splash, co-teacher for course for high school students learning about
college
2012-present Annunciation House, case manager at shelter for migrants and refugees