

# KATHERINE A. PHELPS

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3733 Hillcrest Dr.  
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## EDUCATION

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- PhD** University of Massachusetts-Boston, Sociology December 2019  
Dissertation: “Digital Vanguard: Female Adolescent Online Performances and the Construction of Modern American Girlhoods”  
Committee: Dr. Andrea Leverentz (chair), Dr. Leslie Wang, Dr. Chris Bobel
- MA** Simmons College, Gender and Cultural Studies May 2013  
Thesis: “Constructing the ‘Good’ American Woman: Celebrity, Faith, and the Pursuit of Freedom in the Commercial and Christian Diet Industry”  
Advisor: Dr. Suzanne Leonard
- BA** Beloit College, Women’s and Gender Studies May 2009  
Graduated Magna Cum Laude  
Double major in English, minor in History

## HONORS, AWARDS, AND FUNDING

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- 4W Innovation Research Grant** 2020  
Research support for key initiatives related to gender and well-being.  
Grant awarded for research project entitled “Mapping Embodiment at UW-Madison.”
- Honored Instructor Award** 2018  
University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant** 2016  
University of Massachusetts-Boston
- Hazel Dick Leonard Fellowship** 2012 – 2013  
Selective interdisciplinary seminar for graduate research on gender
- Women’s and Gender Studies Leadership Award** 2009  
Beloit College

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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- PI, Mapping Embodiment at UW-Madison** 2020 - Present  
4W Initiative, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI  
Supervisor: Lori Diprete-Brown, Director of 4W Initiative (Women and Wellbeing in Wisconsin and the World)

- Developed a successful grant proposal and implemented ongoing research project to lead and facilitate body mapping workshops with UW-Madison students
- Implemented qualitative methodologies including arts-based therapy, focus group facilitation, and in-depth interviews with workshop participants
- Data collection
- Critical thought and analysis of data from different sources

**Body Advocacy Movement, Embark Lab** 2020 – Present  
 Collaboration with Dr. Katherine Schaumberg, Principal Investigator, Embark Lab  
 University of Wisconsin, Madison

- Grant under review with Wisconsin Partnership Program: “Development of a Peer-led Intervention to Challenge Anti-fat Bias among Health Professional Students”

**Dissertation**, “Digital Vanguard: Female Adolescent Online Performances and the Construction of Modern American Girlhoods” 2016 - 2019  
 University of Massachusetts-Boston, Boston, MA  
 Advisor: Dr. Andrea Leverentz

- Designed and carried out a qualitative, multi-method research project including content analysis and in-depth interviews
- Data collection
- Coded data using NVivo coding software
- Successfully wrote and defended dissertation in September 2019

**University of Massachusetts-Boston, Boston, MA** 2015 to 2016  
**Research Assistant**

- Facilitated focus groups on perceptions of crime by race, gender, and education
- Coded data using NVivo coding software

**University of Massachusetts-Boston, Boston, MA** 2014 to 2015  
**Research Assistant**

- Qualitative content analysis of films on sex work and human trafficking
- Coded data using NVivo coding software

**Simmons College, Boston, MA** 2011 to 2013  
**Dean’s Fellow for the College of Arts and Sciences**

- Handled the professional affairs of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences
- Wrote memos and briefs used in multi-departmental contexts
- Acted as research assistant for the Dean’s research project on reproductive justice

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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**University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI** January 2017 to Present  
**Lecturer**, Gender and Women’s Studies  
 Courses taught:

- Gender, Women, and Society in Global Perspective (Intro level, 240 students)

- The Female Body in the World: Body Politics in Cross Cultural Perspective (Upper level, 40 students)
- Framing Fatness: Gender, Size, Constructing Health (Upper level, 40 students)
- From Past Feminisms to Postfeminism: Feminism for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (Upper level, 40 students)
- Food for Thought: An Intersectional Approach (Upper level, 40 students)

For all courses:

- Developed and assessed assignments, quizzes, other assessments
- Designed curriculum and implemented syllabi
- Managed teaching assistant teams in intro level large course

**Madison College, Madison, WI**

August 2018 to Present

**Instructor, Sociology**

Courses taught:

- Introduction to Sociology (Intro level, 25 students)
- International Perspectives on Gender and Women (Intro level, 25 students)
- Introduction to Diversity Studies (Intro level, 25 students)
- Contemporary American Society (Intro level, 25 students)
- Introduction to LGBTQ+ Studies (Intro level, 25 students)

For all courses:

- Developed and assessed assignments, quizzes, other assessments
- Designed curriculum and implemented syllabi

**University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI**

Summer 2018

**Instructor, PEOPLE Program**

Courses taught:

- Social Sciences, Human Development, and Gender Studies Seminar
- Developed and assessed assignments, quizzes, other assessments
- Designed curriculum and implemented syllabus

**Tufts University, Boston, MA**

January 2016 – May 2016

**Instructor, Sociology**

Courses taught:

- Approaching Fatness: Body Politics in Modern America (Upper level, 10 students)
- Developed and assessed assignments, quizzes, other assessments
- Designed curriculum and implemented syllabus

**University of Massachusetts-Boston, Boston, MA**

January 2014 – May 2016

**Instructor, Sociology**

Courses taught:

- Introduction to Sociology (Intro level, 40 students)
- Sociology of Gender (Intro level, 40 students)
- Social Problems (Intro level, 40 students)
- Race and Ethnic Relations (Intro level, 40 students)

For all courses:

- Developed and assessed assignments, quizzes, other assessments
- Designed curriculum and implemented syllabi

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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Phelps, K.A. 2019. "Am I Pretty Enough for You Yet?: Resistance through Parody in the Pretty or Ugly YouTube Trend." In *Body Battlegrounds: Transgressions, Tensions, and Transformations*, edited by C. Bobel and S. Kwan. Nashville, TN: Vanderbilt University Press.

**Phelps, K.A.** and Narby, C. 2013. "As Big as a House: Representations of the Extremely Fat Woman and the Home." *Fat Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Body Weight and Society* 2(2):147-159.

## **WORKS IN PROGRESS**

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Phelps, K.A. 2021. *Digital Girlhoods*. (Book manuscript in revision with Temple University Press)

Phelps, K.A. 2022. "Body Mapping on the College Campus: Reflections on a Radical Method."

## **PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP**

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Phelps, K.A. 2016. "Taking Up Digital Space: Power and Potentialities of Fatness on Social Media." Article for American Sociological Association, section on Body and Embodiment.

## **CONFERENCE PAPERS/PRESENTATIONS**

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Phelps, K.A. "Body Mapping on the College Campus: Reflections on a Radical Method." National Women's Studies Association annual meeting, Minneapolis, MN, November 2022.

Phelps, K.A. "Fat from Below, Fat From Above: Fat Abjection and Fat Vanity." UW Women's and Gender Studies Consortium annual conference, virtual, April 2022.

Phelps, K.A. "Can the Abject be Subject? Conceptualizing Epistemologies for Fat Identities." National Women's Studies Association annual meeting, virtual, November 2021.

Phelps, K.A. "Lil' Gangstas and Good Girls: Tween Girls' Racial Performances Online." American Sociological Association annual meeting, New York, NY, August 2019.

Phelps, K.A. "Embodiment, Vulnerability, and Transformative Display in the Gender Studies Classroom." 4W Summit on Gender, Women, and Well Being and Women's and Gender Studies Consortium annual meeting, Madison, WI, April 2019.

Phelps, K.A. "Girlhood Reimagined: Compulsory Visibility and New Girlhood Subjectivities through Tween Girls' Social Media Participation." Eastern Sociological Society annual meeting, Boston, MA, March 2019.

Phelps, K.A. "Black and Free: Radical Visibility of Black Girls through Digital Participation and Creation." National Women's Studies Association annual meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 2018.

Phelps, K.A. "Taking Up (Digital) Space: Power and Potentialities of Fatness." Eastern Sociological Society annual meeting, Boston, MA, March 2016.

Phelps, K.A. "The Fat Woman at Work: Empowerment and Agency in the Labor of Performance." National Women's Studies Association annual meeting, Milwaukee, WI, November 2015.

Phelps, K.A. "Becoming Visible: A Semiotic Analysis of the 'Am I Pretty or Ugly?' YouTube Trend." American Sociological Association annual meeting, Chicago, IL, August 2015.

Phelps, K.A. "Amen to Fatness? Understanding Intersections of Christianity and Fat Positive Feminism." National Women's Studies Association annual meeting, Cincinnati, OH, November 2013.

Phelps, K.A. "Shattering the Fantasy: Examining the Relationship of the American Woman to the Celebrity Weight Loss Guru in a Cultural Diagnosis of the American Diet Industry." Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association annual meeting, Washington D.C., March 2013.

## **INVITED TALKS**

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### **Body Politics and Body Advocacy, Badger Volunteers Workshop**

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, November 2021, April 2022

### **Anti-fat Bias in Clinical Settings and Medical Education, Pre-Health Honor Society**

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, December 2021

### **Body Politics Seminar, Mind Body Badger**

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, every semester since Fall 2018

### **Love Your Body Day seminar, UW Chapter of National Organization for Women**

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021

**Corporate Feminism seminar, Lean In UW-Madison Campus Chapter**  
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, October 2020

**Trap-italism: Body Politics, Big Business, and the High Stakes of Health, University Recreation and Well Being**  
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, March 2020

**Social Media Use and Teen Mental Health, UW-Madison Odyssey Project**  
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, November 2018

**Teenage Life and Social Media Use, Canopy Center: Child Abuse Treatment and Prevention**  
Madison, WI, August 2017

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#### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

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**The Discussion Project**, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Summer 2022

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#### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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**Women and Wellbeing in Wisconsin and the World (4W) Leadership Circle**, member  
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, 2020 - present

**Accessibility, Climate, and Diversity Committee**, member  
Gender and Women's Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, 2021

**Department Naming Committee**, member  
Gender and Women's Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, 2021

**Grant Reviewer**  
4W Initiative, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, Spring 2021 and Spring 2022

**Chair of Fat Studies Interest Group**  
National Women's Studies Association, 2018 – 2020

**Faculty Hiring Committee**, member  
University of Massachusetts-Boston, Boston, MA, 2015

**Panel Organizer**  
“Fat Bodies Becoming: Feeling Fatness in Literary and Visual Creation.” National Women's Studies Association annual meeting, San Francisco, CA, November 2019.

**Panel Organizer**  
“Fat Politics and Violences: Conceptualizing Resistance to Sexual, Medical, and State Violences.” National Women's Studies Association annual meeting, San Francisco, CA,

November 2019.

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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National Women's Studies Association, 2013 - Present

American Sociological Association, 2015 – Present

Eastern Sociological Society, 2013 - 2019

**COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ENGAGEMENT**

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**James Madison Memorial High School**

Speech and Debate Coach, Madison, WI, 2017 - Present

**SERRV Fair Trade**

Volunteer, Madison, WI, 2010 and 2018

**Massachusetts State Delegate, Vision Forward: National Gender Equity Initiative**

Boston, MA, 2013 – 2014

**YWCA Dress for Success Program**

Volunteer, Madison, WI, 2009 – 2010