

# SARAH L. JIREK

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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2017-present Associate Professor, Sociology, Westmont College  
2014-2017 Assistant Professor, Sociology, Westmont College  
2011-2014 Assistant Professor, Sociology, University of Tampa

## EDUCATION

2011 Ph.D., Social Work and Sociology, University of Michigan

Dissertation: *Posttraumatic Growth in the Lives of Young Adult Trauma Survivors: Relationships with Cumulative Adversity, Narrative Reconstruction, and Survivor Missions*  
Committee: Daniel Saunders and Karin Martin (Co-Chairs), Beth Glover Reed and Jeffrey Morenoff  
University of Michigan

Sociology Preliminary Exam: *Sociology of Gender and Sexuality*, Passed with Honors

Social Work Preliminary Exam: *Posttraumatic Growth: An Exploration of the Positive Outcomes of Traumatic Life Events*, Passed with Honors

Jirek, Sarah L. (2015). Soul pain: The hidden toll of working with survivors of physical and sexual violence. *SAGE Open*, 5(3), 1-13. doi: 10.1177/2158244015597905

Sumerau, J., & Jirek, Sarah L. (2015). Post-apocalyptic inequalities: Race, class, gender, and sexualities in *Firefly*. In B. Gurr (Ed.), *Race, gender, and sexuality in post-apocalyptic TV and film* (Ch. 5, pp. 71-84). New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

### **OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

Jirek, Sarah L. (2018). A new narrative for psychology. [Review of the book *A new narrative for psychology*, by B. Schiff]. *Social Forces*, 97(1), e12. <https://doi.org/10.1093/sf/soy068>

### **WORKS IN PROGRESS (FOR PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATION)**

Jirek, Sarah L. (in progress). The motivations and contributions of trauma survivors with a survivor mission: An exploratory study of an unexamined form of posttraumatic growth. *Journal of Social Work*

Jirek, Sarah L. (in progress). Narrative reconstruction and therapeutic self-reflection during life story interviews: The potentially positive outcomes for trauma survivors participating in trauma-related research.

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

2020 Jirek, Sarah L. *Organizational Culture, Organizational Structure, and Secondary Traumatic Stress: A Study of Organizational Deficits and Remedies*. [Conference cancelled due to COVID-19.] Accepted for presentation at the 115<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, San Francisco, CA.

2019 Jirek, Sarah L. *Ineffective*



- 2016 Jirek, Sarah L. *Narrative Reconstruction and Posttraumatic Growth Among Trauma Survivors: The Importance of Gender and Cultural Narratives*. Gender Studies Lecture (all-campus, public lecture), Westmont College.
- 2016 Jirek, Sarah L. *What Can I Do With a Sociology Degree?* Sociology and Anthropology
- 2016 Jirek, Sarah L. (with Felicia Song and Meredith Whitnah).



Criminal Justice System Reform  
Trauma & Posttraumatic Growth

Prison Reentry  
Deviance & Crime

Social Stratification & Inequality  
Social Work/Interpersonal Practice

## COURSES TAUGHT

- 2014- Westmont College: SOC 001 *Introduction to Sociology*; SOC 050 *Special Topics: Sociology of Sport*; SOC 109 *Qualitative Research Methods*; SOC 177 *Interpersonal Violence*; SOC 180 *Human Services and Social Policy*; SOC 182 *Sociology of Deviance*; SOC 190 *Internship*; SOC 192, *Extracurricular Departmental Activities*; SOC 195, *Senior Seminar*
- 2011-2014 University of Tampa: SOC 100 *Introduction to Sociology*; SOCH 100 *Honors Introduction to Sociology*; SOC 213 *Qualitative Research Methods*; SOC 214 *Sociology of Sport*; SOC 315 *Sociology of Deviance*; SOC 325 *Clinical and Counseling Sociology*
- 2008-2010 University of Michigan: SOC 368, *Criminology*; SOC 325 *Project Community* (Organizing for Social Justice sections; service-learning course)

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2022- Principal Investigator, Westmont College  
Study: *and Prison Reentry Professionals Experiences with and Perspectives on Prison Reentry*
- Designed and implemented a mixed-methods study exploring: 1) How can we better promote the successful reintegration of formerly incarcerated individuals? 2) How do individuals successfully desist from crime? and 3) What changes in social structures, societal institutions, and social programs are needed to: a) reduce the numbers of individuals who get involved in the criminal justice system, and b) promote the successful reintegration of individuals post-release? I conducted 83 in-depth, qualitative interviews with, as well as administered 15 surveys to, research participants (75 formerly incarcerated individuals and 8 reentry professionals).
- 2008-2011 Principal Investigator, University of Michigan  
Study: *f Personal Growth After Trauma*  
Faculty Advisors: Daniel Saunders, Karin Martin, Beth Glover Reed, and Jeffrey

Conducted 29 in-depth, qualitative interviews, engaged in participant observation within the agency, and coded and analyzed data.

2006

Research Assistant, University of Michigan

Study: *Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Demonstration Initiative*

Principal Investigators: Daniel Saunders, Cris Sullivan, and Richard Tolman

Coded and analyzed qualitative interviews of formerly battered women participating in a supervised child visitation/exchange program, as part of a national evaluation funded by the U.S. Office on Violence Against Women (Grant #2003-





- 2016-2017 -Year Program  
 Review Report, Westmont College
- 2016 Panelist, a panel regarding mental health, positive coping, and recovery; hosted by the Active Minds student group), Westmont College
- 2016 Panelist, Reel Talk event (on the documentary *Prison State*), Westmont College
- 2016 Panelist, Westmont Reads Program (on the book *Just Mercy*), Westmont College
- 2015-2018 Diversity Committee Member, Westmont College
- 2015-2016 Workshop Series, Westmont College
- 2015 Panelist, Preview Day, Westmont College
- 2015-2016 Search Committee Member (Anthropology Tenure-Track Position), Westmont College
- 2014-2015 Westmont College

Section Memberships: Crime, Law, & Deviance; Sociological Practice & Public Sociology; Teaching  
& Learning in Sociology  
Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)  
Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology (AACS)  
American Society of Criminology (ASC)