

**Amanda Levitt**  
Amanda.Levitt@wayne.edu

## **EDUCATION**

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- 2016-Present **WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY** Detroit, MI  
*Doctor of Philosophy, Sociology*  
*Concentration – Social Inequality / Gender & Sexuality*  
(Advisor: H. Dillaway)
- 2013-2016 **WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY** Detroit, MI  
*Master of Arts, Sociology*  
(Advisor: H. Dillaway)
- 2009 - 2013 **WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY** Detroit, MI  
*Bachelor of Arts, Co-majors in Sociology and Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies*

## **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

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Bodies & Embodiment	Gender & Sexuality
Social Inequality	Fat Studies
Feminist Theory	Intersectionality

## **ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

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- 2018 – Present **WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY** – *Graduate Student Assistant* Detroit, Mi  
  - Help with labor relations, graduate employee support and solve workplace issues.
- 2017 - Present **UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN** – *Lecturer I* Dearborn, Mi  
  - Instructor for undergraduate 400 level Medical Sociology course.
  - Taught Winter and Fall 2017
- 2014 – 2018 **WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY** – *Graduate Teaching Assistant* Detroit, Mi  
  - Instructor for undergraduate classes within the Department of Sociology.
  - Work with faculty members to create new research and knowledge.
- 2006 – Present **FAT BODY POLITICS** – *Writer, Community Builder and Activist* Detroit, MI  
  - Content focuses on how systemic and institutional forms of weight based stigma impact the lives of fat people.
  - Use of social media as a tool to build a larger online fat positive community through writing, networking and the creation of fat positive spaces.
  - Create supportive spaces for people working through eating disorders, body based stigma and other traumatic experiences.
- 2013 **KARMANOS CANCER INSTITUTE** – *Video Coder* Detroit, Mi

- Temp position coding videos for a qualitative research project.
- 2013      **WAYNE STATE GENDER, SEXUALITY AND WOMEN’S STUDIES DEPARTMENT**      Detroit, MI  
*Peer mentor for Winter 2013 semester*
- Add experience and understanding of main GSW concepts to intro courses
  - Given the ability to lecture within specific topic
- 2010-2013      **LOVE YOUR BODY DETROIT – Founder / Community Organizer**      Detroit, MI
- Organized multiple events within the Detroit Metro area from creation to completion. Event management, including venue selection, public relations, marketing and the distribution of promotional materials.
  - Collaboration with fat activists like Marilyn Wann for social media campaigns including the “I Stand” campaign to challenge Georgia’s Strong4Life billboards.
  - Networking through social media, events and other small gatherings to create a local fat positive community.
  - Connected online body positive communities to offline activism.

## **CONFERENCE PAPERS**

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- Levitt, Amanda. “Operationalizing Fatness – An analysis of body size and weight in sociological literature.” *Sociology for Women in Society*, San Diego, CA. Roundtable. January 30- February 4, 2020.
- Levitt, Amanda. “Crossing the Troll Bridge: The framing of fat bodies on social media.” *Sociology for Women in Society*, San Diego, CA. Roundtable. February 7 - 10, 2019.
- Levitt, Amanda. “The Stigmatized Body – Exploring embodied perceptions of race, gender and weight.” *Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting*, Philadelphia, PA. Oral Presentation. August 10-12, 2018.
- Levitt, Amanda. “Fatness and the Good Laboring Body.” *Sociology for Women in Society*, Atlanta, GA. Roundtable. January 25-28, 2018.
- Levitt, Amanda. “Constructing Fatness Through Online Discourse.” *Michigan Sociological Association*, Sault Ste Marie, MI. Oral Presentation. October 21-22, 2016.
- Levitt, Amanda. “Redefining Gender: A contextual analysis of fat femininity, visibility and shame.” *Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting*, Chicago, IL. Oral Presentation. August 21-23, 2015.
- Levitt, Amanda. “Trolled in the Digital Age – The framing of fat bodies on social media.” *Wayne State Graduate School Master’s Student Showcase*, Detroit, MI. Oral Presentation. April 8, 2015.
- Levitt, Amanda & Zachary Brewster, PhD. “At the Intersection of Food and Fat: Exploring the Link Between Obesity and Customers’ Experiences in Full-service Restaurants.” *Michigan Sociological Association*, Muskegon, MI. Oral Presentation. October 24-25, 2014.

Levitt, Amanda. "Trolled in the Digital Age – The framing of fat bodies on social media." Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA. Oral Presentation. August 15-17, 2014.

Levitt, Amanda. "The Deconstruction of Health in Fat Positive Spaces." National Women's Studies Association Annual Conference, Cincinnati, OH. Oral Presentation. November 7-10, 2013.

Levitt, Amanda. "Women and Health: Does Gender Affect Self-reported Health Status?" Wayne State University, Detroit, MI. Sociology Department Research and Award Day. Poster Presentation. April 10, 2013.

Levitt, Amanda. "Self-Mutilation for None: Reflection on Fat Hatred and Family." Doing Autoethnography: Here and Now, Graduate Conference, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI. Oral Presentation. November 4-5, 2011.

## **INVITED LECTURES**

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| Dec. 2017    | <b>BODY POLITICS, BODY IMAGE AND DESIRABILITY</b><br><i>Peer Training at Washtenaw Country Planned Parenthood</i>   | Ann Arbor, MI        |
| July 2016    | <b>BODY IMAGE AND RESISTING BODY NEGATIVITY</b><br><i>Girls Rock Detroit</i>  | Detroit, MI          |
| October 2015 | <b>HEALTH, THE FAT BODY AND CREATING ACCESSIBLE CARE FOR ALL BODIES</b><br><i>Café Conversation at Mid and South Michigan Planned Parenthood</i>  | Detroit, MI          |
| March 2014   | <b>DISSENTING BODIES – VISIBILITY, FAT POLITICS AND CHALLENGING NORMAL</b>  | Rochester Hills, MI  |
| 2013 - 2014  | <b>BODY IMAGE: EXPANDING INTO PERSONAL AUTONOMY, FAT EMBODIMENT AND DECONSTRUCTING HEALTH</b><br><i>Standing Guest Lecturer at Wayne State University, Department of Gender Sexuality and Women's Studies</i> | Detroit, MI          |
| January 2012 | <b>BODY LOVE REVOLUTIONARIES TELESUMMIT</b><br><i>Topic Fat Activism with Marilyn Wann and Peggy Howell</i>   |                      |
| October 2011 | <b>BODY IMAGE AND FAT POLITICS</b><br><i>Lecture at Oakland University, Department of Gender and Women's Studies. Dr. Jennifer Martin</i>   | Rochester Hills, MI  |
| October 2011 | <b>LOVE YOUR BODY DAY</b><br><i>Speaker for Oakland County National Organization for Women</i>  | Bloomfield Hills, MI |

## **MEDIA APPEARANCES / INTERVIEWS**

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*Youth Radio*. "How to Use Social Media for Justice IRL." Interview. November 29, 2016.

*New York Times*. "Millennials and the Age of Tumblr Activism." Interview. December 19, 2014.

*Ravishly - Ladies We Love.* "Amanda Levitt – Fat Activist, Researcher." Featured Interview. December 3, 2014

*WJR 760. The Paul W. Smith Show.* Featured Interview. January 3, 2014.

*CNN - New Day.* "Defending against fat prejudice." Featured Interview. December 30, 2013.

*Detroit Free Press / USA Today / Syndicated.* "Battling body hate: Wayne State grad student takes on 'fat-bashing'." Featured Interview. December 29, 2013.

*Michigan Radio – ArtPod.* "ArtPod talks fashion, fat, and freaky art." Previous interview. October 23, 2013.

*Michigan Radio – Stateside with Cynthia Canty.* "What's the 'fat bias,' and do we see it in Michigan?" Featured Interview. October 22, 2013.

*HuffPost Live.* "Fat prejudice begins at age four." Round table discussion. May 20, 2013.

*KPFA 94.1 – Pushing Limits.* "Fat is a political issue." Featured Interview. April 5, 2013.

*Daily Venus Diva.* "Amanda Levitt: Activist on the rise." Featured Interview. April 21, 2011.

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

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Honorable Gerald E. Rosen Scholarship for Community Commitment 2019-2020. (\$1,680.)

King Chaves Parks Future Faculty Fellowship. 2019-2020. (\$11,500.)

King Chaves Parks Future Faculty Fellowship. 2018-2019. (\$11,500.)

Women of Wayne Incentive Scholarship. 2017-2018. (\$2,000.)

Women of Wayne Incentive Scholarship. 2016-2017. (\$3,000.)

Second Place Oral Presentation, Graduate School Master's Student Showcase 2015. Wayne State University, Detroit, MI. Poster title: "Trolled in the Digital Age – The framing of fat bodies on social media."

Best Graduate Poster Award, Sociology Department Research and Awards Day 2014. Wayne State University, Detroit, MI. Poster title: "Trolled in the Digital Age – The framing of fat bodies on social media."

Best Overall Poster Award, Sociology Department Research and Awards Day 2013. Wayne State University, Detroit, MI. Poster title: "Women and Health: Does Gender Affect Self-reported Health Status?"

## **OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

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Track Coordinator, Abundant Bodies Media Track – Allied Media Conference 2014 - Present

Moderator, Panel session on “Fashioning Fat Fashion”. National Women’s Studies Association. Cincinnati, OH. November 7-10, 2013.

Organizer, Website Resources on Teaching Gender, Gender & Society in the Classroom – Creation of Bodies / Embodiment cluster.

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS)

National Women’s Studies Association

Society for the Study of Social Problems

Michigan Sociological Association

Popular Cultural Association

International Sociological Association

## **REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

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