**Rachel Ellis**

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# Academic Appointments

2020 – *present* Assistant Professor, Criminology and Criminal Justice

University of Maryland

2017 – 2020 Assistant Professor, Criminology and Criminal Justice

University of Missouri-St. Louis

# Education

2017Ph.D. Sociology, University of Pennsylvania

*Committee*: Randall Collins, Annette Lareau, Melissa J. Wilde (chair)

2012 M.A. Sociology, University of Pennsylvania

2010 B.A. Sociology and French, Georgetown University

M*agna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa*

# Areas of Specialization

Prisons, Punishment/Corrections, Reentry, Gender, Religion, Sexuality, Qualitative Methods

# Publications

## Book Manuscript

*In This Place Called Prison: Religion and the Social World of Incarcerated Women*

Under Contract with the University of California Press

## Peer-Reviewed Articles

**Ellis, Rachel**. 2020. “Redemption and Reproach: Religion and Carceral Control in Action among Women in Prison.” *Criminology* 58(4):747-772.

**Ellis, Rachel**. 2018. “‘It’s Not Equality’: How Race, Class, and Gender Define the Normative Religious Self among Female Prisoners.” *Social Inclusion* 6(2):181-191. (Special Issue)

**Ellis, Rachel**. 2017. “Silent Disagreement: Microinteractional Solutions to Moral Dissent among Catholic Converts.” *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 56(2):383-397.

**Ellis, Rachel**. 2015. “Outreach and Exclusion: Jewish Denominational Marketing in the Early 20th Century.” *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 54(1):38-56.

\* **Student Paper Award,** 2012, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion

## Other Publications

**Ellis, Rachel**. May 2020. “In Prison in a Pandemic: Gender Behind Bars.” *The Gender Policy Report*. <https://genderpolicyreport.umn.edu/in-prison-in-a-pandemic-gender-behind-bars/>

**Ellis, Rachel**. April 2020. “Underpaid and Unprotected: Prison Labor in the Age of Coronavirus.” *Contexts Magazine*. <https://contexts.org/blog/welfare-policy-prisons-and-families-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/#ellis>

# Grants and Awards

## National

2016 – 2017 Dissertation Completion Fellowship

Mellon / American Council of Learned Societies

2016 – 2017 *Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship* (declined)

Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation

2016 – 2017 *Dissertation Fellowship* (declined)

Louisville Institute

2012 – 2015 *Graduate Research Fellowship*

National Science Foundation

2014 *Constant H. Jacquet Research Award*

Religious Research Association

2014 *Joseph H. Fichter Research Grant*

Association for the Sociology of Religion

## University

2018 – 2019 *Research Board Grant*

University of Missouri System

2016 – 2017 *Dissertation Completion Fellowship* (declined)

University of Pennsylvania

2014 *Gertrude and Otto Pollak Summer Research Fellowship*

University of Pennsylvania

2013 *Gertrude and Otto Pollak Summer Research Fellowship*

University of Pennsylvania

2011 *Philip E. Goldfein Research Award*

Jewish Studies Program at the University of Pennsylvania

2010 – 2011 *Pew Presidential Prize Fellowship*

University of Pennsylvania

2010 *Hoggson Award for Excellence in Sociology*

Georgetown University

# Invited Talks

2020 London School of Economics

*Department of Methodology Seminar Series*

“What do We Mean by a ‘Hard to Reach’ Population?” (virtual talk)

2018 Washington University in St. Louis

*John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics Colloquium Series*

“Obedience is a Sure Favor: How Prison Religion Leads to Material and Social Inequality”

Loyola University Chicago

*Chicago Area for the Study of Religious Communities Working Group*

“Obedience is a Sure Favor: How Prison Religion Leads to Material and Social Inequality”

2016 University of Pennsylvania

*Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies Interdisciplinary Colloquium*

“Daughters of Christ in the D.O.C.: Religion Inside a State Women’s Prison”

2015 University of Pennsylvania

*Culture and Interaction Workshop*

“Breaking Every Chain: Religion, Faith, and Identity of Incarcerated Women”

2014 University of Pennsylvania

*Alice Paul Center for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality, 40th Anniversary Conference*

“Incarceration and Intersectionality: Race/Class/Gender in a Women's Prison”

2013 University of Pennsylvania

*Urban Ethnography Workshop*

“Rejecting the Teachings, Joining the Religion? Ethnography of a Catholic Conversion Class”

# Conference Presentations

2020 “Teaching Religion in the Social Sciences: Sociology and Criminology”

* Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, *Invited Panel*, Pittsburgh, PA

\*canceled due to COVID-19\*

“Motherhood, Addiction, and Prisoner Reentry”

* American Society of Criminology, *Thematic Panel*,Washington, DC

\*canceled due to COVID-19\*

2019 “Author Meets Critics: *Jesus Saved an Ex-Con* (2018, NYU Press) by Edward Orozco Flores”

* Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, St. Louis, MO

“Obedience is a Sure Favor: How Religion Leads to Material Inequality in a Women’s Prison”

* American Society of Criminology, *Thematic Panel*,San Francisco, CA
* Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, St. Louis, MO
* American Sociology Association, Criminology Session, New York, NY

2018 “How Religion Structures the Social World of Incarcerated Women”

* American Society of Criminology, *Thematic Panel*,Atlanta, GA

“‘It’s Not Equality’: How Race, Class, and Gender Define the Normative Religious Self among Female Prisoners”

* American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA

2017 “Sanctioning the Sacred: Religion and Homosexuality among Female Inmates”

* American Society of Criminology, *Thematic Panel*, Philadelphia, PA
* Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Washington, DC

2016 “Daughters of Christ in the D.O.C.: Religion Inside a State Women’s Prison”

* American Society of Criminology, New Orleans, LA
* American Sociology Association, Sociology of Religion Section Session, Seattle, WA
* Association for the Sociology of Religion, Seattle, WA
* Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Atlanta, GA

2015 “Breaking Every Chain: Religion, Faith, and Identity of Incarcerated Women”

* American Society of Criminology, Washington, DC
* American Sociological Association, Chicago, IL
* Association for the Sociology of Religion, Chicago, IL
* Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Newport Beach, CA

2014 “Maintaining Order in the Face of Conflict: A Microinteractional Approach to

Catholic Conversion”

* American Sociological Association, San Francisco, CA
* Association for the Sociology of Religion, San Francisco, CA
* Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Indianapolis, IN

“The Social Mobility of American Jews,” with Melissa J. Wilde and Stephen Viscelli (equal authorship).

* American Sociological Association, San Francisco, CA

2013 “Rejecting the Teachings, Joining the Religion? Ethnography of a Catholic Conversion Class”

* American Sociological Association, New York, NY

“The Social Mobility of American Jews,” with Melissa J. Wilde, Kristin Geraty, and Stephen Viscelli (equal authorship).

* Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Boston, MA
* Association for the Sociology of Religion, New York, NY

“Marketing to Whom? Nativity, Ethnicity, and Social Class of Jewish Denominations' Desired Members in the Early 20th Century”

* Institute for Religion, Economics, and Society, Chapman University, Orange, CA

“Social Networks and Denominational Identity: Immigrants and Jewish Denominations in the Early 20th Century”

* Jewish Studies Program Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

2012 “Marketing to Whom? Desired Members and Jewish Denominational Niches, 1913-1920”

* American Sociological Association, Denver, CO
* Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Phoenix, AZ

2011 “Why High EE Churches are Stronger: Interaction Ritual Chains and Denominational Strength”

* American Sociological Association, Las Vegas, NV
* Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Milwaukee, WI

# Teaching

## University of Maryland

2020 – Corrections (undergraduate-level)

Women and Crime (undergraduate-level)

## University of Missouri-St. Louis

2017-2020 Corrections (MA & PhD-level)

Senior Capstone Seminar: “Perspectives of the Punished” (undergraduate-level)

Corrections (undergraduate-level)

## Johns Hopkins University

2017 Locked Up: Sociology of the Prison Experience (Winter Session, *Visiting Instructor*)

## University of Pennsylvania

2012 Certificate in College and University Teaching Sociology of Media and Popular Culture *(Teaching Assistant /* *Recitation Instructor)*

2011 Social Problems *(Teaching Assistant)*

## Georgetown University

2010 Social Statistics *(Teaching Assistant)*

# National-Level Professional Service

Reviewer *American Journal of Sociology, American Sociological Review, Criminology, Feminist Criminology, Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, Social Problems, Social Science History, Sociological Inquiry, Sociological Quarterly, Sociology of Race and Ethnicity, Qualitative Sociology*

2020-2023 Council Member

*ASA Section on Religion*

2020-2021 Member, Gene Carte Student Paper Award Competition

*American Society of Criminology*

Member, Nominating Committee

*Society for the Scientific Study of Religion*

2019-2021 Chair, Ad-Hoc Membership Committee

*ASA Section on Religion*

2018 Sally Hacker Graduate Student Paper Award Committee

*ASA Section on Sex and Gender*

Chair, Philadelphia Liaison Committee

*ASA Section on Sex and Gender*

2015 Committee on Postdoctoral Support for Research on Religion

*Society for the Scientific Study of Religion*

2013 Interdisciplinary Conference Planning Committee

“Warring Words: Rethinking Polemic in the Study of Jews and Judaism”

*University of Pennsylvania*

# Departmental and University-Level Service

2020-2021 Member, Anti-Black Racism Subcommittee on Policy and Community Engagement

*University of Maryland*

Member, Graduate Awards Committee

*University of Maryland, Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice*

Member, General Comprehensive Exam Committee (Fall 2020 only)

*University of Maryland, Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice*

Member, Departmental Teaching and Undergraduate Curriculum Review Committee

*University of Maryland, Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice*

2019-2020 Member, Undergraduate Committee

*University of Missouri-St. Louis*

Faculty Coordinator, Graduate Student Book Club

*University of Missouri-St. Louis*

2012 Graduate Student Liaison to Social Committee

*University of Pennsylvania*

2011 Graduate Student Mentor

*University of Pennsylvania*

# Graduate Student Advising

PhD Dissertation Committee member: Claire Greene, UMSL (2019 – present)

PhD Advisory Committee chair: Victoria Inzana, UMSL (2019 – 2020)

Amanda Miller, UMSL (2017 – 2020)

PhD Advisory Committee member: Alessandra Early, UMSL (2019 – 2020)

Ashley Cox, UMSL (2019 – 2020)

Claire Greene, UMSL (2017 – 2019)

MA Thesis Committee member: Cassidy Mitchell, UMSL (2018 – 2019)

# Professional Memberships

American Sociological Association

American Society of Criminology

Society for the Scientific Study of Religion