

Bobby Jo Otto

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Academic Positions

University of Georgia (Athens, GA)

- Senior Lecturer of Sociology (2025-present)
- Lecturer of Sociology (2022-2025)

LaGrange College (LaGrange, GA)

- Associate Professor of Sociology (2020-2022)
- Assistant Professor Sociology (2014-2020)

Leadership Positions

- Undergraduate Coordinator of Sociology (August 2026 – current)

Education

Georgia State University (Atlanta, GA)

- PhD (2014) - Dissertation: “**The Effects of School and Neighborhood Characteristics on Delinquency, Drug and Alcohol Issues, Early Childbearing, and Welfare Receipt**”
 - Committee: Tomeka Davis (Chair), Deirdre Oakley, and Dan Carlson

East Tennessee State University (Johnson City, TN)

- M.A. in Applied Sociology (2006)

Eastern Illinois University (Charleston, IL)

- B.A. in Sociology (2003)
- Graduated, *summa cum laude*

Teaching Experience

University of Georgia

Senior Lecturer (2025-present)

- SOCI 1101: Introduction to Sociology (3 credits)
 - Fall 2025 (128 students)
 - Spring 2026 (84 students)
- TRLS 3001: Why Did They Do It? (1 credit)
 - Fall 2025 (17 students)
- SOCI 3800: Research Methods in Criminal Justice (3 credits)
 - Fall 2025 (22 students)
- SOCI 3810: Criminology

- Spring 2026 (46 students)
- SOCI 3860: Sociology of Alcohol and Drug Use (3 credits)
 - Fall 2025 (2 sections: 91 students)
 - Summer 2026 in Paris; (16 students)
- SOCI 5000/5510/5520: Criminal Justice Internship Supervision (5 credits)
 - Spring 2026 (16 students)
 - Summer 2026 (4 students)

Lecturer (2022-2025)

- SOCI 1101: Introduction to Sociology (3 credits)
 - Fall 2022 (84 students); Fall 2023 (116 students); Spring 2024 (59 students); Fall 2024 (139 students); Spring 2025 (141 students)
- SOCI 3070: Juvenile Delinquency (3 credits)
 - Fall 2022 (39 students); Fall 2024 (39 students)
- SOCI 3810: Criminology (3 credits)
 - Spring 2023 (45 students); Fall 2023 (44 students); Spring 2024 (42 students); Fall 2024 (41 students); Spring 2025 (42 students)
- SOCI 3800: Research Methods in Criminal Justice (3 credits)
 - Spring 2023 (23 students); Fall 2023 (19 students); Spring 2024 (21 students); Spring 2025 (16 students)
- SOCI 3860: Sociology of Alcohol and Drug Use (3 credits)
 - Fall 2022 (40 students); Fall 2023 (43 students); Fall 2024 (42 students)
- SOCI 4960R: Undergraduate Research I (3 credits)
 - Summer 2023 (1 student)
- SOCI 5000/5510/5520: Criminal Justice Internship Supervision (5 credits)
 - Fall 2022 (10 students); Spring 2023 (20 students); Summer 2023 (8 students); Spring 2024 (10 students); Summer 2024 (9 students); Spring 2025 (14 students); Summer 2025 (7 students)

Past Teaching Experience

LaGrange College

Assistant Professor (2014-2020); Associate Professor (2020 – 2022)

- SOCI 1000: Introduction to Sociology (3 credits)
- SOCI 3340: Sociology of Religion (3 credits)
- SOCI 3400: Deviance and Criminology (3 credits)
- SOCI 3307: Criminology (3 credits)
- SOCI 3500: Race, Ethnicity, and Gender (3 credits)
- SOCI 3550: Drugs and Society (3 credits)
- SOCI 3850: Corrections and Society (3 credits)
- SOCI 3600: Sociology of Education (3 credits)
- SOCI 3900: Methods I: Introduction to Methodology (3 credits)
- SOCI 3950: Methods II: Understanding Data Analysis (3 credits)
- SOCI 4000: Sociological Theory (3 credits)
- SOCI 4200: Social Inequality and Stratification (3 credits)
- SOCI 4950: Senior Seminar (3 credits)
- INTM 3491: An Analysis of Stereotypes in the Media (3 credits)

Kennesaw University

Part-time Instructor (2010; 2013-2022)

- SOCI 1101: Introduction to Sociology (3 credits)
- SOCI 2251: Social Problems (3 credits)
- SOCI 3314: Race and Ethnicity (3 credits)

Georgia State University

Graduate Instructor (2010-2013)

- SOCI 1160: Introduction to Social Problems (3 credits)
- SOCI 3212: Race and Ethnic Relations (3 credits)

Georgia State University

Writing Across the Curriculum Consultant (2010-2012)

- Consulted with students, via e-mail or in person, about papers that were to be completed throughout the semester
- Provided constructive feedback on rough drafts and final papers for at least 40 students per semester

Georgia Highlands College

Adjunct Professor (2008-2010)

- SOCI 1101: Introduction to Sociology (3 credits)

East Tennessee State University

Adjunct Professor (2006)

- SOCI 2020: Social Problems (3 credits)
- SRVL 1020: Introduction to Service Learning (3 credits)

East Tennessee State University

Graduate Instructor (2005-2006)

- SOCI 2020: Social Problems (3 credits)

East Tennessee State University

Teaching Assistant (2004-2005)

- Served as a teaching assistant in SOCI 3350: Social Statistics.
- I created and graded homework, graded tests, assisted with teaching, lectured periodically, and tutored students outside of class

Awarded Fellowships

University of Georgia

- *Teaching Academy Early Career Fellow Program (2023-2024)* – to promote excellence in classroom instruction
- *Special Collections Libraries Teaching Fellow (2023)* - archival-based approach to pedagogy

Georgia State University

- *Jacqueline Boles Graduate Teaching Fellowship* (2013) – competitive fellowship awarded annually to an advance graduate instructor considered to be an outstanding instructor

Professional Development and Teaching Awards

University of Georgia

- *Franklin College Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award Recipient* (2026)
- Adamic Affairs Faculty Symposium (2024)
- USG Teaching and Learning Conference. Connect. Renew. Create. (2023)
- Active Learning Summit (2023)

Kennesaw State University (2021)

- Enhancing Inclusion and Equity in the Online Classroom

McGraw Hill (2021)

- Strategies for Anti-Racist Pedagogy in the Classroom
- Becoming Allies: How Allyship Can Support a Culture of Inclusion in Your Classroom and Beyond
- Unity in Diversity: Embracing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Teaching and Mentoring

LaGrange College (2016)

- Netvue Conference
 - Vocation and Advising

Troup County (2016)

- Racial Trust Building Initiatives

LaGrange College (2014)

- Online Course Development through Learning House
- Workshop focused on the foundations of online learning

Kennesaw State University (2014)

- Online Course Development Workshop
- Workshop explored aspects of online pedagogy, effective practices for course design and delivery, and introduced the Quality Matters (QM) Rubric.

Georgia State University

Teaching Associate (2012)

- Competitive position awarded annually to an advanced graduate instructor considered to be an excellent teacher and mentor
- Collaborated with and assisted Dr. Mindy Stomblor on graduate level course, *Teaching Sociology*. Attended and participated in all classes, sharing my

- experiences as an advanced graduate student, and offering advice and critique to new graduate instructors
- Mentored and advised fellow instructors concerning pedagogical techniques and classroom issues
- Videotaped GTAs teaching and provided critical feedback

ASA/Sage Teaching Innovations and Professional Development Award

Participant Awardee, ASA Pre-Conference Teaching Workshop (2012)

- Attended and participated in a session entitled “The Art of the Heart of Learner-Centered Teaching”

Completed “Teaching Sociology” and “Teaching Internship” (2010)

- Completed a two-semester course on teaching mechanics and pedagogy. The summer internship included observations and critical feedback from the Director of Instruction and Teaching Associate.

Participant in Writing Across the Curriculum Workshops (2010-2012)

- Attended and participated in workshops devoted to creating course-relevant writing assignments and rubrics

Research Interests, Projects and Articles, and Conference Presentations

Research Interests

- Crime and Delinquency; Drugs and Alcohol in Society; Race Relations; Income and Poverty; Inequality in Education
- Teaching and Learning

Independent Consultant

- Conducted a Neighborhood Assessment of DASH (Dependable Affordable Sustainable Housing) in the Hillside Community
- Moderated four focus groups with a total of 33 residents
- Conducted a thematic analysis of the focus group data
- Submitted a report and presented my data to DASH in November of 2019

Grants and External Funding

- American Education Research Association (2014-2015). “An Intersectional Approach to the Black Gender Gap in College Enrollment: Academic, Social, and Ecological Determinants.” Tomeka Davis, Principal Investigator. Bobette Otto, Co-Principal Investigator. (\$18,718)
- 2012 Departmental Travel Grant, Society for the Study of Social Problems Conference (\$260)
- 2012 Departmental Travel Grant, Southern Sociological Society Conference (\$500)

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- Davis, Tomeka and **Bobette Otto**. 2016. “Juxtaposing Race and Gender Gaps in College Enrollment: Race and Gender Differentiation Among College Enrollment Predictors.” *Social Science Quarterly* 97(5): 1245-1266.
- McCallister, Leslie and **Bobette Otto**. 2008. “Exploring the Impact of E-mail and

Postcard Prenotification on Response Rates to a Mail Survey in an Academic Setting.” *Applied Social Science* 2(1): 94-103. (Research Note)

TRAILS, Newsletter, and Encyclopedia Entries

- **Otto, Bobette.** 2015. “Using a Simulation to Highlight the Struggles of Living in Poverty.” Published in *Teaching Resources and Innovations Library for Sociology*.
- **Otto, Bobette.** 2015. “Using a Simulation to Highlight the Struggles of Living in Poverty.” *The Southern Sociologist* 46(3): 1-25.
- **Otto, Bobette.** 2014. “Academic Achievement Gap.” In *Race and Racism in the United States: An Encyclopedia of the American Mosaic*, edited by Charles Gallagher and Cameron D. Lippard. Santa Barbara, California: Greenwood.
- **Otto, Bobette.** 2014. “Clark Doll Study.” In *Race and Racism in the United States: An Encyclopedia of the American Mosaic*, edited by Charles Gallagher and Cameron D. Lippard. Santa Barbara, California: Greenwood.
- **Otto, Bobette.** 2014. “Magnet and Charter Schools.” In *Race and Racism in the United States: An Encyclopedia of the American Mosaic*, edited by Charles Gallagher and Cameron Lippard. Santa Barbara, California: Greenwood.
- **Otto, Bobette.** 2014. “Oppositional Culture.” In *Race and Racism in the United States: An Encyclopedia of the American Mosaic*, edited by Charles Gallagher and Cameron D. Lippard. Santa Barbara, California: Greenwood.
- **Otto, Bobette.** 2014. “Savage Inequalities.” In *Race and Racism in the United States: An Encyclopedia of the American Mosaic*, edited by Charles Gallagher and Cameron D. Lippard. Santa Barbara, California: Greenwood.
- **Otto, Bobette.** 2014. “The Bell Curve.” In *Race and Racism in the United States: An Encyclopedia of the American Mosaic*, edited by Charles Gallagher and Cameron D. Lippard. Santa Barbara, California: Greenwood.

Conference Presentations

- Morris, Katie and **Bobette Otto** (April 2024). Southern Sociological Society. New Orleans, Louisiana.
- **Otto, Bobette** and Katie Morris (April 2022). “What’s Going On? Student Involvement (or lack thereof) in Sociology Courses.” Southern Sociological Society. Birmingham, Alabama.
- Morris, Katie and **Bobette Otto**. (April 2019). “Teaching Intersectionality in Intro Level Courses.” Southern Sociological Society. Atlanta: GA.
- Morris, Katie, **Bobette Otto** and Andrew Gunnoe. (April 2018). “Teaching Intro Level Sociology to Non-Sociology Majors in the Trump Era.” Southern Sociological Society: New Orleans: LA.
- Davis, Tomeka and **Bobette Otto** (March 2015). “Juxtaposing Race and Gender Gaps in College Enrollment: Race and Gender Differentiation Among College Enrollment Predictors.” Southern Sociological Society. New Orleans, LA.
- **Otto, Bobette.** (April 2014). “Exploring the Effects of School Racial Composition on Delinquency.” Southern Sociological Society. Charlotte, N.C.
- Gorman, Stacy, Amanda Jungels, **Bobette Otto**, and Marni Brown. (August 2012). “Whoever Reads This, Please Write: Exploring Online Communities for Survivors of Sexual Violence. Society for the Study of Social Problems. Denver, CO.
- **Otto, Bobette.** (March 2012). “Exploring the Effects of Discrimination, Race, and

- Racial Conflict in Immigrant Children's Educational Aspirations and Expectations." Southern Sociological Society. New Orleans, LA.
- Gorman, Stacy, Amanda Jungels, **Bobette Otto** and Marni Brown. (March 2012). "Narratives of Healing: Challenging Cultural Scripts of Rape." Southern Sociological Society. New Orleans, LA.
 - **Otto, Bobette.** (November 2005). "The Impact of Two Kinds of Prenotification on Mail Surveys." Society for Applied Sociology. Philadelphia, PA.

Invited Participant

- **Otto, Bobette.** (August 2016). "Critical Dialogue: In Their Voices – Considering the Need of Graduate Student Teachers." E-Panel Presentation at the Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, Preconference Workshop for Directors of Graduate Studies on "Excellence in Graduate Student Teacher Training: Practical Insights for Graduate Programs and Their Leaders." Seattle, WA.

University, Departmental, and Community Service

University of Georgia

Committee Work

- Psychology Search Committee – Lecturer Position (2026)
- Criminal Justice Studies Program Curriculum Committee (2025-present)
- Undergraduate Committee for Sociology (2025-present)
- Executive Committee (2023 - present)
- Colloquium Committee (2022 - 2024)
- Inclusive Excellence Awards Committee (2022 - 2024)

Undergraduate Research

- Supervisor - Undergraduate Research Thesis (2023)

LaGrange College

Committee Work

- Faculty Athletic Advisory Committee (2021-2022)
- Search Committee for Residential Life (2021)
- Search Committee for Psychology Professor (2021)
- Social Council (2015-2021)
- Ethos Council (2018 - 2021)
- Academic Advisor (2014-2021)
- Sociology Representative at Preview Day (2021, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2014)
- Interviewer at Presidential Scholarship Day (2021, 2016, 2015)
- Sustainability Council (2018 - 2021)
- Development and Evaluation Committee (2018-2019)
- APC Committee (2015-2018)
- Search Committee for Exercise Science Professor (2017)
- Summer Orientation Advisor (2015-2017)
- Speaker at the President's Circle Event (2015)
- Faculty Advisor of the Sociology Club (2015-2019)
- Diversity Committee (2014-2015)

Cultural Enrichment Events

- Facilitator – “The School to Prison Pipeline” (2022)
- Facilitator – “Using a Social Justice Framework Examining the American Migrant Crisis” (2018)
- Facilitator – “Volunteering for Court Appointed Special Advocates” (2018)
- Facilitator – “Get Out – A Sociological Analysis” (2017)
- Panelist – Teach-In on Poverty (2017)
- Facilitator – “Identity Politics and Sexuality” (2016)
- Facilitator – “THOT, Butterface, or Her Name? How Guys Talk Sex. (2016)
- Panelist – Banned Book Week (2016)
- Panelist - Sustainability 101 (2016)
- Facilitator – “Test into Testimony” (2015)
- Panelist – “A Girl in a Country Song” (2014)

Undergraduate Research

Citations

- Hailey Owen (sponsored) published in *Citations* (2021)
 - “An Analysis of the Interaction Between Detention Officers and Jail Inmates”
 - **Recipient of the applied research award**
- Madison Murphy (sponsored) published in *Citations* (2020)
 - “Abortion Views on a College Campus”
 - **Recipient of the applied research award**
- Michelle Pilgrim (sponsored) published in *Citations* (2019)
 - “Campus Climate on Hookup Culture Perceptions and Participation”
- Chris Smith (sponsored) and Amy Webb (sponsored) published in *Citations* (2018)
 - “The Mechanism of Racialized Tracking”
 - “College Students’ Personal Finance Understanding”
- Marnequea Jennings (sponsored) published in *Citations* (2017)
 - “Feminism: Perceptions and the Impact of Self Identification Among College Freshman”
- Breanna Bridges (sponsored) published in *Citations* (2016)
 - “Young Adults and the Effects of Christian Theology on Attitudes Towards Abortion”

Research Award Nominations

- Hailey Owen, Madison Murphy, Michelle Pilgrim, Chris Smith, Amy Webb, Marnequea Jennings, and Breanna Bridges were all nominated for the undergraduate research award in basic and/or applied research (2016-2021)

Conferences

- Took 3 students to the Southern Sociological Society Conference in New Orleans, LA (2018)
- Chris Smith presented his article “The Mechanism of Racialized Tracking” at the Southern Sociology Society Conference in New Orleans (2018)
- Took 5 undergraduate students to the Southern Sociological Society Conference in

- Greenville, SC (2017)
- Marnequea Jennings presented her article “Feminism: Perceptions and the Impact of Self Identification Among College Freshmen” at the Southern Sociology Society Conference in Greenville (2017)
 - Took 11 undergraduate students to the Southern Sociological Society Conference in Atlanta, GA (2016)

Georgia State University

- Graduate Student Representative on Faculty Recruitment Committee (2012, 2011)
- Graduate Student Representative for the Sociology Department at the Major Fair (2012)
- Teaching Committee (2010-2012)
- Graduate Student Panel; Invited Participant (2011)
- Graduate Group Coordinator (2010-2011)
- Graduate Mentor (2009-2011)

LaGrange Community

- Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer – court appointed advocate for abused and neglected children (2018 –2020)
- Our Daily Bread – provide lunch to the community on Friday afternoons (2017-2022)
- Circles of Troup County - program helps families get out of poverty (2015-2017)

Affiliations

Southern Sociological Society

