

Amy L. Best
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
George Mason University
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Education

Syracuse University, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs
Ph.D., Sociology, 1998
M.A., Sociology, 1995
Certificate in Women's Studies, 1995

Dissertation: "Schooling and the Production of Popular Culture: Negotiating Subjectivities at the High School Prom." (Awarded with distinction.)

Ithaca College
B.A., Sociology, 1992, Cum Laude

Current Position

2014- Chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, George Mason University
2013- Professor of Sociology, George Mason University
2005- Affiliate Faculty, Cultural Studies Program, George Mason University
2004- Affiliate Faculty, Women and Gender Studies Program, George Mason University
2004- Affiliate Faculty, Center for Social Science Research, George Mason University

Previous Positions

2004-2013 Associate Professor of Sociology, George Mason University
2008-2012 Founding Graduate Director, Sociology PhD Program, George Mason University
2006-2012 Graduate Director, Sociology MA program, George Mason University
1999-2004 Assistant Professor of Sociology, San Jose State University
1998-1999 Assistant Professor of Sociology, Syracuse University
1994-1996 Instructor, Department of Sociology, Syracuse University
1993-1994 Teaching Assistant, Department of Sociology, Syracuse University

Research Interests

Youth Identity Formation and Youth Cultures; Gender, Class, and Race; Micro sociology, Qualitative and Feminist Approaches to Social Research; Commodity Culture and Consumption; Education; Social Inequalities; Children's Health

Courses Taught

Qualitative Research Methods; Critical Ethnography; Micro Sociology: Everyday Life and Social Inequalities; Feminist Approaches to Social Research; Writing for the Social Sciences; Youth, Schooling, and Popular Culture; Globally Networked Youth Culture; Youth Cultures and Society; Sociology of Culture; Introduction to Sociology; Contemporary Social Theory; Person and Society TV & Society; Socialization; Sociology of Sex and Gender

Academic Awards and Honors

- 2018 Morris Rosenberg Book Award, DC Sociological Society
- 2014 Teacher of Distinction, Center for Teaching and Faculty Excellence, George Mason University
- 2010 Who's Who in America
- 2007 Emerging Scholars Award, George Mason University, Finalist
- 2007 Who's Who of American Women
- 2006 Who's Who in American Education
- 2004 Who's Who of American Women
- 2000 San Jose State University President's Award in recognition of excellence in teaching and scholarship.
- 1998 Dissertation awarded with distinction, Syracuse University
- 1998 Who's Who among America's Teachers
- 1994 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, Syracuse University

Books

Best, Amy L. 2017. Fast Food Kids: French Fries, Lunch Lines and Social Ties in Critical Perspectives on Youth Book Series, New York: NYU Press.

Author Meets Critic, Eastern Sociological Society, 2018

*Awarded the 2018 Morris Rosenberg Book Award, DC Sociological Society

Best, Amy L. Editor. 2007. Representing Youth: Methodological Issues in Critical Youth Studies. New York: NYU Press.

Best, Amy L. 2006. Fast Cars, Cool Rides: The Accelerating World of Youth and Their Cars. New York: NYU Press.

“Racing Men: Boys, Risk and the Politics of Race” reprinted in The Urban Ethnography Reader. (2014) Eds. Mitchell Duneier and Philip Kasnitz, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

“The Road to Nowhere: Consumer Culture and the Price of Freedom” (Chapter 5) reprinted in Intersections: Reading in Sociology, fourth edition. (2007) Pearson Custom Publishing .

Best, Amy L. 2000. Prom Night: Youth, Schools and Popular Culture. New York: Routledge.

*Awarded 2002 American Educational Studies Association Critics' Choice Award

Best, Amy L. 2008. Rules and Ruling: Proms As Sites of Social Control.” Reprinted in The Social Issues Collection: University Readers. New York: Routledge. (<http://www.socialissuescollection.com/>)

Best, Amy L. 2002. “Fashioning the Feminine.” Reprinted in Self, Society, and Social Interaction. Eds., Jaber F. Gubrium and James A. Holstein. Pp. 405-419. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Articles and Book Chapters

Spalter-Roth, Roberta, Patricia White and Amy L. Best. 2018. “Bringing Sociology into the Public Policy Process: a Relational Network Approach” American Sociologist 49:3 (434-447).

Best, Amy L. and Randy Lynn. 2017 “Youth and Consumer Markets” Handbook on Youth and Young Adulthood: New Perspectives and Agendas. Second edition Ed. Andrew Furlong. New York: Routledge.

Best, Amy and J.L. Johnson. 2016. “Alternate Food Markets, NGOs, and Health Policy: Improving Food Access and Food Security, Trust Bonds, and Social Network Ties” World Medical and Health Policy. 8:2 (157-178).

Best, Amy L. 2014. “Youth consumers and the fast-food market: The emotional landscape of micro-encounters, Situations as guide for action.” Food, Culture and Society: An International Journal of Interdisciplinary Research 18:2 (283-300).

Best, Amy L. 2013. “Racing Men: Cars, Identity and Performativity” Blackwell’s A Companion to Sport. David Andrews and Ben Carrington (eds.) New York: Blackwell-Wiley.

Johnson, J.L. and Amy Best. 2012. “Radical Normals: The Moral Career of Straight Parents as Public Advocates for their Gay Children.” Symbolic Interaction 35:3 (321-339).

Best, Amy L. 2011. “Youth Identity Formation: Contemporary Identity Work.” Sociology Compass 5:10 (908-922).

Best, Amy L. 2009 “Young people and consumption” Handbook on Youth and Young Adulthood: New Perspectives and Agendas. Ed. Andrew Furlong. New York: Routledge.

Best, Amy L. 2008. “Teen Driving as Public Drama: Statistics, Risk, and The Social Construction of Youth as a Public Problem.” Journal of Youth Studies. 11: 6 (651-671).

Best, Amy L. 2006. “Freedom, Constraint, and Family Responsibility: Teens and Parents Collaboratively Negotiate around The Car, Class, Gender, and Culture.” Journal of Family Issues 27:1 (55-84).

Best, Amy L. 2005. “Kids, Cars, and Family Life.” Couples, Kids, and Family Life. Eds., Jaber F. Gubrium and James A. Holstein. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Best, Amy L. 2005. "The Production of Hetero-romantic Ideologies and the High School Prom." Thinking Straight: The Promise, the Power, and the Paradox of Heterosexuality. Ed., Chrys Ingraham. New York: Routledge.

Best, Amy L. 2004. "Girls, Schooling and the Discourse of Self Change: Negotiating Meanings of the High School Prom." All About the Girl: Culture, Power, and Identity. Ed., Anita Harris. New York: Routledge. (195-205).

Best, Amy L. 2003. "Doing Race in the Context of Feminist Interviewing: Constructing Whiteness through Talk." Qualitative Inquiry, 9:6 (895-914).

Heckert, Druann and Amy Best. 1997. "Ugly Duckling to Swan: Labeling Theory and The Negative Stigmatization of Red Hair." Symbolic Interaction, 20:4 (365-384).

Reprinted in Constructions of Deviance (2000) Third edition. Eds., Peter Adler and Patti Adler. Pp. 226-24. New York: Wadsworth.

Reprinted in Deviance: Interactionist Perspectives (2004) Ninth edition. Eds., Martin S. Weinberg and Earl Rubington. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Book Reviews

Amy L. Best 2018 (forthcoming). Eating to Learn, Learning to Eat: The Origins of the School Lunch in the United States by A. R. Ruis Journal of the History of Childhood and Youth.

Amy L. Best 2015. Playing to Win: Raising Children in a Competitive Culture by Hilary Levey Friedman, American Journal of Sociology 121, no. 2 (September 2015)

Best, Amy L. 2015. Consuming Work: Youth Labor in America. By Yasemin Besen-Cassino. Gender and Society. 29 (1):158-160.

Best, Amy L. 2013. The Hip-Hop Generation Fights Back: Youth, Activism, and Post-Civil Rights Politics. By Andrea Clay. American Journal of Sociology. 119 (5).

Best, Amy L. 2011. Debutante: Rites and Regalia of American Debdom. By Karal Ann Marling. Journal of the History of Children and Youth 4(3) 509-511

Best, Amy L. 2011. In Skate Life: Re-imagining White Masculinity. By Emily Chivers Yochim Gender and Society. 25 (5): 676-77.

Best, Amy L. 2010. On The Make: The Hustle of Urban Nightlife. By David Grazian Social Forces. 89 (1): 350-351.

Best, Amy L. 2010. Youth Culture in Modern Britain, c1920-c.1970. By David Fowler. Journal of Social History. 44 (1): 282-283.

Best, Amy L. 2010. Risky Lessons: Sex Education and Social Inequality. By Jessica Fields. American Journal of Sociology 115 (4): 1332-1334.

Best Amy L. 2009. Designing Modern Childhoods: History, Space, and the Material Culture of Children, Edited by Marta Gutman and Ning de Coninck-Smith. American Journal of Sociology 114 (6):1890-1892.

Best, Amy L. 2008. Teenage Witches: Magical Youth and the Search for Self. By Helen Berger and Douglas Ezzy. Contemporary Sociology 37(3).

Best, Amy L. 2008. Wannabes, Goths, and Christians; The Boundaries of Sex, Style, and Status By Amy C. Wilkins. Gender and Society 22 (2): 261-262.

Best, Amy L. 2007. The Empty Cradle of Democracy: Sex, Abortion, and Nationalism in Modern Greece. By Alexandra Halkias. Social Forces 85 (2): 1039(2).

Best, Amy L. 2007. The Games Black Girls Play: Learning the Ropes from Double-Dutch to Hip-Hop. By Kyra D. Gaunt. Gender and Society 21 (3): 447-449.

Best, Amy L. 2006. Babes in Tomorrowland: Walt Disney and the Making of the American Child, 1930-1960. By Nicholas Sammond. American Journal of Sociology. 112 (1).

Best, Amy L. 2004. Real Bodies: A Sociological Introduction. Eds., Mary Evans, and Ellie Lee. Contemporary Sociology 33(1): 62-63.

Best, Amy L. 2003. Rockin' Out of the Box: Gender Maneuvering in Alternative Hard Rock by Mimi Schippers. Gender and Society 17(3):491-92.

Best, Amy L. 2001. Daughters of Suburbia: Growing Up White, Middle Class and Female by Lorraine Delia Kenny. American Journal of Sociology 107 (1): 246-247.

Scholarly Research Reports

Best, Amy L. and Alex Lahr. FARMFRESH FoodPrints Program Evaluation. FARMFRESH FoodPrints Program, December 2016 (1-66)

Patricia White, Roberta Spalter-Roth, Amy Best and Kelly Joyce. NSF Report: A Relational Model for Understanding the Use of Research in the Policy Process. August 2016. (1-148 pages)

Best, Amy L. Arcadia Farm to School Program Evaluation, Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture, August 16, 2012. (1-56 pages)

Best, Amy and J.L. Johnson Arcadia Mobile Market Program Evaluation, Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture. Funded by Kaiser Permanente 2011-2012 Healthy Eating/Active Living (HEAL) grant. January 31, 2013. (1-55 pages)

Encyclopedia Entries and Other Professional Writing

Best, Amy and Brianna Pocratsky (under review) Youth and Representation. SAGE Encyclopedia of Children and Childhood Studies. (Eds.) Daniel Thomas Cook and Erica Burman

Best, Amy. "Consume This! School Lunch Politics" American Sociological Association, Consumer and Consumption Section, posted July 6, 2017.

Best, Amy L and Randy Lynn. (2016). "Girls' Culture and Consumption." Blackwell's Encyclopedia of Sociology. Ed., George Ritzer. New York: Blackwell.

White, Patricia, Roberta Spalter-Roth, Amy Best and Kelly Joyce 2015. "Social Science Research and Public Policy: Context, Networks, and Strategies" American Sociological Association Footnotes 43: 3 (March/April).

Best, Amy and J.L. Johnson. 2015. "Farmer's Market on Wheels: Reducing Hunger and Promoting Community Well-being" Cornerstone Magazine: George Mason University, College of Humanities and Social Sciences. <http://cornerstone.gmu.edu/articles/8565>

Best, Amy L. 2009. "Youth Culture" in Encyclopedia of the Life Course and Human Development, edited by Deborah Carr, Robert Crosnoe, Mary Elizabeth Hughes, Amy Pienta. New York: Macmillan

Best, Amy L. 2008. "Cruising." In Dictionary of American History, Dynamic Reference, edited by Gary Cross, William Pencak, and Robert Maddox. Detroit: Charles Scribner's Sons.

Best, Amy L. 2008. "Standpoint Theory." Encyclopedia of Social Problems. Ed. Vincent Parillo. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Best, Amy L. 2007. "Transportation." American High School: An Encyclopedia. Eds., Kathryn Borman, Spencer Cahill, and Bridget Cotner. Greenwood Publishing

Best, Amy L. 2007. "Prom." American High School: An Encyclopedia. Eds., Kathryn Borman, Spencer Cahill, and Bridget Cotner. Greenwood Publishing.

Best, Amy L. 2006. "Girls and Consumption." Blackwell's Encyclopedia of Sociology. Ed., George Ritzer. New York: Blackwell.

Best, Amy L. "The Time to Shine in a Young Woman's Life Comes Fraught with the Best and Worst Intentions." Newsday (June 5, 2005) A51.

Best, Amy L. 2003. "Proms." History of Childhood: An Encyclopedia. Ed., Paula S. Fass. New York: Macmillan.

Best, Amy L. 2001. "American Girlhood and the High School Prom." Girlhood in America: An Encyclopedia. Pp. 514-520. Los Angeles: ABC:CLIO.

External Research Awards and Grants

2015 National Service and Community Engagement Research Award, Corporation for National and Community Service. "Civic Engagement in Seven Cities." PI: James Witte, Co-PIs: Amy Best, Shannon Davis, and John Dale. Award amount: \$300,000 (2015-2018)

- 2014 National Science Foundation: Early Concept Grant for Exploratory Research (Eager): A Relational Model for Understanding The Use of Research in the Policy Process. PI: Roberta Spalter-Roth, Co-PIs: Amy Best, Kelly Joyce. (2014-2016) Award amount: 94,163
- 2010 U.S Department of Education, Fund for Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE). "US- Russia Collaboration: Reading Networked Societies". PI: Amy Best, Co-PIs: Priscilla Regan, James Witte, Eric McGlinchey. (2010-2013) Award amount: \$382,581.00

Internal Research Awards and Grants

- 2017 George Mason University Multi-disciplinary Research Award "DIVES: Discovering Indicators for Interactions in Finance and Government Sector," Co- PIs: Janine Wedel, Nektaria Tryfona, Julia Pfaff, Deiter Pfoser, Mattias Renz, and Amy Best. Award amount \$37,000
- 2015 George Mason University Multi-disciplinary Research Award "The Mason Undergraduate Nutrition for Campus Health (MUNCH) Research Project" Co- PIs: Margaret Slavin and Amy Best. Award amount \$24,885
- 2012 George Mason University Faculty Study Leave "Fast Food Kids in the Changing Landscape of Family, School, and Everyday Life."
- 2011 College of Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty Research Development Award, George Mason University "Fast Food Kids in the Changing Landscape of Family, School, and Everyday Life." \$1,560.
- 2003 College of Social Sciences Summer Research Grant, San Jose State University, "Immigrant Experiences and Identities in the Silicon Valley: A Qualitative Research Inquiry." (with Rona Halualani) \$5,000.
- 2003 California State University Summer Research Fellowship, "Kids and Cars: Explorations of Identity, Culture and Control." \$4,600
- 2002 College of Social Sciences Foundation Research Grant, San Jose State University, "Youth Identity and Car Culture: Constructing Self, Constructing Culture." \$1,050.
- 2001 Junior Faculty Career Development Grant, San Jose State University, "Youth Identity and Car Culture: Constructing Self, Constructing Culture." \$4,000.
- 2000 College of Social Sciences Foundation Research Grant, San Jose State University, "Youth Identity and Car Culture: Constructing Self, Constructing Culture." \$1,500.
- 1999 College of Social Sciences Foundation Research Grant, San Jose State University, "Prom Night: Youth, Schools and Popular Culture." \$900.
- 1998 Roscoe Martin Award, Maxwell School, Syracuse University, "Schooling and The Production of Popular Culture: Negotiating Subjectivities at the High School Prom." \$400.
- 1996 Summer Research and Writing Grant, Syracuse University, "Dancing, Dressing, Dating: the High School Prom." \$ 1,500.

- 1994 Maxwell School Dean's Summer Research Grant, Research Assistant, Syracuse University, "Prevalence and Forms of Sexual Harassment among Syracuse University Graduate Students." \$2,000.

Conference Papers and Presentations

Wedel, Nektaria Tryfona, Julia Pfaff, Deiter Pfoser, Mattias Renz, and Amy Best "From Power Elites to Influence Elites: Mapping the Networks of Retired Generals Moving from Active Duty to Flexian" Polnet: Political Network Conference, June 2018.

Dale, John, Amy Best, Katie Kerstetter, Abdullah Alnassar. "Intentional Public Engagement and Transnational Networks: Re-conceptualizing Immigrant Civic Engagement," Southern Sociological Society, April 2018.

Best, Amy L. John Dale, Katie Kerstetter, Abdullah Alnassar. "Linking Civic Engagement and Immigrant Professional Success" Eastern Sociological Society, February 2018.

Best, Amy L. "Farm to School: Understanding Children's Investment in Health and Symbolic Attachment to Nutritious Food in Schools" Society for the History of Children and Youth, June 2017.

Best, Amy, Margaret Slavin, Katelyn Brennan. "12 Stages of Fried: University Food Provisioning, Markets and Student Choice in an Era of Personalized Food Consumption." Eastern Sociological Society, February 2017.

Patricia White, Bobbie Spalter-Roth, Amy Best and Kelly Joyce "Discovering How to Get Research Used in the Policy Process: The Role of Networks" Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management's "The Golden Age of Evidence-Based Policy", November, 2015.

Best, Amy and J.L. Johnson. "Alternate Food Markets and Health Policy: Mediating Urban Food Access and Food Insecurity". Second Annual Summit on Global Food Security and Health: School of Policy, Government and International Affairs, George Mason University, October 15, 2015.

Patricia White, Bobbie Spalter-Roth, Amy Best and Kelly Joyce "Discovering How to Get Research Used in the Policy Process: The Role of Networks" American Sociological Association, August, 2015.

"Farm to School: Children's Health and Food Literacy in School." Poster Session, Multi-disciplinary Symposium on Health, George Mason University, April 2015.

"Farm to School: Children's Culture and Food Justice" Eastern Sociological Society annual meeting, NY, 2015.

"The Geography of Food: School Cafeterias and Youth Cultural Worlds." Eastern Sociological Society annual meeting, NYC, 2015.

Best, Amy and J.L. Johnson. "Mobile Food Markets as Food Justice: Consumer Degradation and Dignity Work in Food Provisioning and Consumption in Low-income Communities,"

American Sociological Association Consumers and Consumption Mini-conference “Farm to Table”, Berkeley, CA, 2014.

“Confronting Inequalities, Constructing Healthy: School Food, Commercial Markets and Moral Meaning.” Eastern Sociological Society annual meeting, Baltimore, MD, 2014.

“Youth consumers and the fast-food market: The emotional landscape of micro-encounters, Situations as guide for action.” American Sociological Association meetings, August, 2013.

“Fast Food Kids in a Changing Food Landscape: Social Inequalities, Youth and Schooling” Eastern Sociological Society meetings, February 2012.

“Feminist excavation and institutional ethnography: Interviewing as socially organized research practice.” Eastern Sociological Society meetings, February 2012.

“When Family and Market Collide: Sentiment, Memory and Ritual around Food Consumption in U.S. Families.” Eastern Sociological Society meetings, March 2011.

“Fast Food Kids: Identity, Culture, and Place” Paper presented at Eastern Sociological Society meetings. March 2009.

“Teen Driving as Public Drama: Statistics, Risk, and The Social Construction of Youth as a Public Problem.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. August 2007.

“Race-ing Men: Boys, Cars, Risk, and the Politics of Race.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. August 2005.

“Cruising Slow and Low: Young Chicanos/as, Identity Work, and A Changing Streetscape.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems. August 2005.

“Cruisers, Tuners, and Hood-Rats: Youth, Cars and Identity Work in Post-traditional Contexts.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction. August 2005.

“Consuming Cars: Youth, Place, and Dreams of Tomorrow.” Paper presented at the annual meetings of the Eastern Sociological Society. March 2005.

“Girls, Cruising, and the Politics of Power.” Paper presented at the annual meetings of the Eastern Sociological Society. March 2005.

“Kids, Cars and Family: Contested Terrains in Contemporary American Life.” Paper presented at the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association. August 2003.

“Gender and Car Cultures: Negotiating Meanings of Masculinity and Femininity within Youth Culture.” Paper presented at the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association. August 2002.

“Reading Harry Potter: Race Meanings and Children’s Commercial Culture.” Roundtable Presentation at the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association. August 2002.

“Youth Identity and Car Culture: Constructing Self, Constructing Culture.” Roundtable Presentation at the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association. August 2001.

“Constructing ‘Adolescence’: Popular Cultural Representations of Youth and High School Proms.” Paper presented at the Pacific Sociological Association Meetings. March 2000.

“Narrative of Romance, Narratives of Compromise: Becoming Masculine, Becoming Feminine. Dating and the High School Prom.” Paper presented at the Eastern Sociological Society Meetings. March 1999.

“To Be Young and In School: High School Proms As Sites of Cultural Struggle.” Paper presented at the Eastern Sociological Society Meetings. March 1998.

“Schooling and The Production of Popular Culture: Negotiating Subjectivities at the High School Prom.” Paper presented at the American Sociological Association. August 1997.

“Dancing, Dressing, Dating: High School Proms As Sites For Achieving Race, Class and Gender.” Re-titled as, “Narratives of Pleasure and Resistance: High School Proms and Feminine Practices of Consumption.” Paper presented at the Eastern Sociological Society Meetings. April 1997.

“Constructing Motherhood: Representations of Mothers and Motherwork in Daughters’ Stories: A Preliminary Analysis of Race, Class, and Gender.” Paper presented at the Eastern Sociological Society Meetings. March 1997.

“Toward A Sentiment of Empowerment For A Radical Democracy: Civic Education and The Use of Personal Narrative.” Paper presented at the Eastern Sociological Society Meetings. March 1996.

“Masculine Embodiments: Examining the Connection among Hair, Bodies and the Construction of Masculinities.” (with Druann Heckert) Paper presented at the New York State Sociological Meetings, Hobart William Smith College. October 1995.

“(Re) presenting Sexual Assault in The University: Empowerment and Education Through Personal Narrative.” Paper presented at the Eastern Sociological Society Meetings. March 1995.

“Labeling Theory and Hair: The Negative Stigmatization of Redheads.” (with Druann Heckert) Paper presented at the Eastern Sociological Society Meetings. March 1994.

“Gender Differentiation as Shaping The Marginalization of Redheads.” (with Druann Heckert) Paper presented at the Eastern Sociological Society Meetings. March 1993.

“Women Strippers in the Sex Work Industry.” Paper presented at the New York Sociological Meetings, Syracuse University. October 1992.

“Gender Bias and Gender Role Reinforcement in Elementary Education.” Paper presented at the New York State Sociological Meetings, LeMoyne College. October 1990.

Invited Scholarly Presentations

Best, Amy. "FastFood Kids: Lunch Lines, French Fries and School Ties" Childhood Studies Program, Rutgers University. April 2018.

Best, Amy. "FastFood Kids: Lunch Lines, French Fries and School Ties" Tisch Center for Food, Education and Policy, Teacher's College, Columbia University. October 27, 2017.

Best, Amy, John Dale, Katie Kerstetter, Samantha Retrosi. "Linking Civic Engagement and Immigrant Professional Success: Opportunities, Barriers, and Contexts." Corporation for National Community Service Webinar Series, Washington DC. June 7, 2017.

"Fast Food Kids: Food, Health and Unequal Schooling" Equity and Justice Seminar, Center for Education Policy and Evaluation, College of Education and Human Development, George Mason University, January 2017.

Panelist, Policy and Research Workshop: "Navigating IRB approval for studies of vulnerable populations: the case of children and youth." ASA annual meeting, 2015.

"Sociological Perspectives on Behavioral Change" Making Changes: Learning from the Social Sciences Symposium. American Association for the Advancement of Science, Washington D.C. June 18, 2015

Patricia White, Bobbie Spalter-Roth, Amy Best and Kelly Joyce. "Bringing Social Science Research into the Policy Process" D.C. Sociological Society Annual Banquet, May 2015.

"Fast Food Kids: The Changing Food Landscape of Home and School." Research Symposium: Learning from the Lives of Children and Youth: Ethnographies of Childhood and Parenting. Syracuse University, March 2015.

"Fast Food Kids and the Changing American Landscape," Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY, April 2014.

"Invisibilizing Work or Flaunting It: Midwifery, cooking and pedagogy" Eastern Sociological Society annual meeting, Baltimore, MD, 2014

"Conversations with Joel Best" Eastern Sociological Society annual meeting, Baltimore, MD, 2014.

"Fast-Food Kids: Youth and The Changing Food landscape of Family, School and Everyday life" George Mason 2012-2013 Vision Series, April 22, 2013.

"Fast Food Kids in a Changing Food Landscape: Social Inequalities, Youth and Schooling" Center for Social Science Research, March 2012.

"Culture, Schooling and Social Inequalities: Food, Bodies and Space." Cultural Studies Program, George Mason University, April 2011.

"Fast Food Kids, Troubling Inequalities: Bodies, Space and Food Consumption in the lives of Young People." Sociology Department, American University, March 2011.

“Fast Food Kids, Symbolizing Youth: Food Talk, Body Work, and Consumption in Everyday Life.” Women and Gender Studies Annual Scholarly Lecture. George Mason University, November 2009.

“Fast Food Kids: Identity, Culture, and Place” Denver University, Visiting Scholars Program, February 2009.

“Studying Youth through Ethnography” Denver University, Visiting Scholars Program, February 2009.

“Proms, Cars and Food: Understanding American Youth Culture.” Denver University, Visiting Scholars Program, February 2009.

“Dilemmas in Qualitative Research Practice.” Denver University, Visiting Scholars Program, February 2009.

“Fast Cars, Cool Rides: The Accelerating World of Youth and Their Cars.” Brooklyn Public Library, Brooklyn, New York. January 2006.

“Sex’ in the Car: Girls’ Identity Work and the Car Cruising Scene.” Culture, Theory, and Methods Workshop, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, George Mason University. October 2005.

“Fast Cars, Cool Rides: The Accelerating World of Youth and Their Cars.” Department of Sociology and Department of Psychology, Montclair State University. October 2005..

“Fast Cars and Youth.” New Popular Culture Studies, Cultural Studies Faculty/Student Colloquium. September 2005.

“Cars, Cruising and Youth Politics.” Women’s History Month, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Mary Washington University. March 2005.

“Cars and Youth: Cultural and Aesthetic Productions.” Paper presented at the annual conference in Art Education, “Gathering and Trespassing: Interdisciplinary and Critical Investigations of Visual Culture.” Department of Art Education, Ohio State University. November 2004.

“Youth Identity Formation and Cultural Objects: The Cultural Context of Development.” Developmental Psychology Colloquium, University of California at Santa Cruz. December 2003.

“Reading Popular Culture through the High School Prom: Identity, Schooling and other Terrains of Struggle.” 2000-2001 Women’s Studies Brown Bag Lunch Series, San Jose State University. November 2002.

“Reading Popular Culture through the High School Prom.” Anthropology and Behavioral Science Club, San Jose State University. December 2001.

“Studying Youth Culture and Schooling: An Ethnography of High School Proms.” Department of Social Science, Syracuse University. June 1999.

“Feminist Qualitative Approaches to Studying Girls’ Culture: High School Proms and Girls’ Bodywork.” Women’s Studies Program, Syracuse University. April 1999.

“Why Study Proms? Youth, Schooling, and Popular Culture.” Cultural Foundations of Education, Syracuse University, April 1999.

“Why Teach the Prom? Critical Pedagogy and Youth Culture.” Paper presented at the *Project Advance* Conference, Syracuse, NY. *Project Advance*, a program sponsored by Syracuse University, is designed to instruct high school teachers to teach sociology to high school students. April 1998.

“Critical Pedagogy and Youth Culture: Negotiating Forms of Authority at High School Proms.” Paper presented at the *Project Advance* Conference, New York, NY. October 1997.

“(Re)presenting Sexual Assault in the University: Empowerment and Education Through Personal Narrative.” Keynote speaker for The Women’s Studies Seminar Group’s Conference on Sexual Assault, Bates College. October 1995.

“Women’s Life Stories: Rewriting Housework.” The Celebration of Women in the Social Sciences, Syracuse University. March 1995.

Other Invited Professional Presentations

Author Meets Critics: Calling the Shots: Why Parents Reject Vaccines by Jennifer Reich. Society for the Study of Social Problems, August 2017.

Best, Amy, Margaret Slavin, and Katie Brennan. “University Food Provisioning, Health and Student Choice in an Era of Personalized Food Consumption.” Poster, George Mason University 2017 Biotech and Health Research Symposium. April 2017.

Slavin, Margaret, Amy Best, Alexandra Hauver, Katie Brennan, Lois Durant, Cara Frankenfeld. “Validation of a self-administered electronic exit survey for single meal dietary assessment in undergraduates in an all-you-care-to-eat dining hall.” Poster, George Mason University 2017 Biotech and Health Research Symposium, April 2017.

Author Meets Critics: Music/City: American Festivals and Placemaking in Austin, Nashville and Newport by Jonathan R. Wynn. Eastern Sociological Society, February 2017.

Best, Amy L. “The Place of Honor: Class in Church and Society.” Panel with Sathi Clark and Rev. Mark Jefferson. Virginia Theological Seminary, January 2017.

Witte James, Alysia Blake, Shannon N. Davis, Amy Best, and John Dale. “Civic Engagement in Seven Cities: A Project Overview.” Poster. Corporation for National Community Service Research Summit, December 2016, Washington DC.

Invited Discussant, Roboprocesses Worskhop, Organized by High Gusterson and Catherine Besteman, George Washington University, September 2015.

Author Meets Critics: The Stick Up Kids: Race, Drugs, Violence, and The American Dream by Randol Contreras. American Sociological Association, August, 2014.

Author Meets Critics: Not My Kid: What Parents Believe About the Sex Lives of Their Teenagers by Sinikka Elliot. Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction meetings, August, 2013.

“Fast Food Kids in the Changing Landscape of Family, School, and Everyday Life” Media and Public Relations Office, George Mason University, February 2012.

“Teaching Public Sociology.” Eastern Sociological Society meetings, March 2009.

“Teaching Public Sociology.” Association of Humanist Sociologists meetings, November 2008.

“Youth and Drinking through a Problems Frame” to advisory board members “Understanding Teen Drinking Cultures in America,” co- PIs” Hugh Gusterson and David Anderson. Funded by Century Council. May 2008.

“Publishing.” Professional Workshop held at the annual meetings of the American Sociological Associations. August 2008.

“In-depth and Focus Group Interviewing.” Center for Social Science Research, George Mason University. May 2006.

“Preparing for an Academic Job Market.” Cultural Studies Program Student/Faculty Colloquium, September 2005.

“Strategies for Succeeding in Graduate School.” McNairs Scholars Program, San Jose State University, November 2003.

“Preparing Your Dissertation for Publication as a Book.” Professional Workshop held at the annual meetings of the American Sociological Associations. August 2001.

“Graduate Pedagogy” Pedagogical Workshop held at annual meetings of the Eastern Sociological Society, March 1999.

Professional Editorial and Review Activities

- 2015- Co-editor, Book Series: Critical Perspectives on Youth, NYU Press.
- 2006-2010 Editor, Sociology Compass a Blackwell on-line journal, Section: Culture
- 2009-2011 Editorial board member, Social Psychology Quarterly
- 2016-2017 Editorial board member, Social Science
- 2016- present Editorial board member, Studies in Educational Ethnography, Emerald Press

Reviewer: World Medical and Health Policy, Gender and Society, American Sociological Review, Social Psychology Quarterly, Field Methods, Symbolic Interaction, Young Consumers, Californian Journal of Health Promotion, Pediatrics, Journal of Youth Studies, Sociological Quarterly, Social Psychology Quarterly, Journal of Sex Roles, Journal of Contemporary Ethnography, Childhood: A Global Journal of Child Research, Social Problems, Qualitative

Sociology, American Journal of Sociology, Qualitative Sociology, Qualitative Inquiry, Cultural Studies -Critical Methodology, Journal of Family Issues, Cambridge Journal of Education

Reviewer: grant proposals, National Science Foundation, Standard Research Grants, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Reviewer: manuscripts: NYU Press, Oxford University Press, Rutgers University press, University of California Press, Rowman Littlefield, SUNY Press, Pine Forge Press, Lynne Rienner Publishing, Routledge (Taylor & Francis Inc.), Emerald Press, Mayfield Publishing.

Service to the Discipline and Profession

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|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2017- | Nominations Committee, American Sociological Association, Montreal, Canada. |
| 2016 | Paper session organizer, Children and Youth Troubling Sex and Gender, American Sociological Association, Seattle, WA |
| 2015 | American Sociological Association Task Force Engaging Sociology |
| 2015 | External Reviewer, Lehigh University, Sociology MA program |
| 2013 | Paper Session presider /discussant, "Minority Fellowship Program Research Program: Issues in Youth experience, community and education," American Sociological Association. |
| 2011 | Paper Session discussant, "Youth, Schools and Violence" American Sociological Association |
| 2010 | Paper Session Organizer/ discussant: "Consumers and Consumption," Culture section, American Sociological Association. |
| 2009 | Paper Session discussant, "Dance, Bodies" annual meetings of the American Studies Association. |
| 2009-2011 | Jessie Bernard Award Selection Committee, American Sociological Association (Chair, 2011) |
| 2008-2010 | Secretary and Treasurer, Sex and Gender section, American Sociological Association. |
| 2009 | Roundtable session, presider, "Consumers and Consumption, annual meetings of the American Sociological Association. |
| 2007 | Paper session discussant, "Consumers and Consumption," annual meetings of the American Sociological Association. |
| 2006 | Graduate Student Paper Prize Committee, Institutional Ethnography division, Society for the Study of Social Problems. |

2006	Distinguished Contribution Early in a Career of Research and Teaching Award Committee, American Sociological Association, Children and Youth section.
2005	Paper session presider, "Consumption, Morality and Politics," annual meetings of the American Sociological Association.
2005	Paper session presider, "Gender and Youth," annual meetings of the Eastern Sociological Society.
2005	Chairperson, Nominations Committee, Children and Youth section, American Sociological Association.
2004	Paper Session Organizer: "Youth In Public Contexts," Children and Youth section, American Sociological Association.
2004-2005	Council Member, Children and Youth section, American Sociological Association.
2004	Graduate Student Paper Prize Committee, Children and Youth section, American Sociological Association.
1997-98	Committee on the Status of Women in Sociology, Eastern Sociological Society

Synergistic Activities and Community/Outreach Activities (selected)

Program Evaluator: FARMFRESH MARKET's FoodPrints 2015-present

Created and implementing a program evaluation for FARMFRESH MARKET's FoodPrints school programs, a DCPS partner. Program goals aim to improve the health and well-being of schoolchildren in the nation's capital, support local food economy by increasing the consumption, knowledge, and appreciation of healthy, locally-grown foods in schools and support academic learning of Common Core in science and math.

Program Evaluator: Farm to School Network and Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food & Agriculture 2012-2013

Created and implemented a program evaluation for Arcadia's Farm to School Programs, including farm educational field trips, Mobile Market school visits, the Farm-Fresh Feature initiative, D.C. Farm to School Week and Strawberries & Salad Greens event. Arcadia's Farm-to-School programs aim to improve the health and well-being of schoolchildren in the nation's capital and support local food economy by increasing the consumption, knowledge, and appreciation of healthy, locally-grown foods in schools.

Program Evaluator: Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food & Agriculture Mobile Market 2012 -present

Created and implementing a program evaluation for Arcadia's Mobile Market program (a farmer's market on wheels), which aims to improve the health and well-being of communities in the nation's capital where access to healthy and fresh fruits and vegetables is severely constrained and support local food economy by increasing the consumption, knowledge, and

appreciation of healthy, locally-grown foods in the nation's capital. Target group: low income residents eligible for SNAP, WIC and senior vouchers.

Gender Research Project 2007-2010

Directed The Gender Research Project, a 3-year multi-method, student-led assessment study of gender issues on the Mason campus, coordinated through the Women and Gender Studies Center. The project is set up as a two-semester sequence of courses. The first, *Feminist Approaches to Social Research*, is a seminar in feminist research methods and design; in the second, *Gender Research Project*, students conduct field research on campus. Students who participate in the project learn strategies for collecting and analyzing empirical materials, are introduced to and critically engage the now expansive body of literature on methods and methodology by feminist scholars across the disciplines, and study gender on campus systematically. Following a participatory model of research, students generate the research questions that guide the empirical inquiry. 60 students participated in the project which culminated in an Annual Gender Research Conference for three years and a publication of 10 best student papers which I edited. <http://gazette.gmu.edu/articles/13648>

Best, Amy L. (Editor) 2010. The Mason Gender Project: A Collection of Student Research Papers. A Women and Gender Studies Publication

Charter School Planning Team 2000-2001

MACSA (Mexican American Community Service Agency) Planning Team and Curriculum and Assessment Action Planning Team member for development of two charter high schools: Academia Calmecac, San Jose, California and El Portal Leadership Academy, Gilroy, California to serve low income under-served Mexican American youth. Focus of activities were developing strategies to infuse progressive, culturally sensitive approaches to curriculum, organization, and culture of schools that would successfully involve parents and community members and provide transformative learning experience and prepare them to move onto college post graduation. 350 students currently attend the two schools from 2001-2009.

Expert witness report 2004

"The High School Prom" a three page expert witness report explaining the social significance of the high school prom for a legal case in Ontario, Canada centering on the rights of gay and lesbian students to attend their high school proms in Ontario's Catholic School District, which government funding. Report submitted 7/15/04 to Barrister Andrew Pinto.

Professional Memberships

1998-present	American Sociological Association ASA section memberships: Sex and Gender, Children and Youth, Sociology of Culture, Social Psychology
2010-present	DC Sociological Society
1993-present	Eastern Sociological Society
2010	American Studies Association
2005	Society for the Study of Social Problems SSSP section membership: Institutional Ethnography
2005	Alpha Beta Kappa, Sociology Honors Society
1999-2000	Pacific Sociological Association
1998-2000	Popular Culture and Education Institute, Syracuse University
1990-1995	New York State Sociological Association

Popular Media Interviews (selected)

Magazine and Newspaper

Financial Times, London (January 2018), Quartz, (May 2017), Chicago Tribune (June 2016) Men's Journal, (2015), MIC (May 2016), Washington Post (2014), Time Daily, (March 2014), Washington Post (September 2014), Philadelphia Inquirer (May 2012), New York Times (June 2009), Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (May 2009), MSNBC.com (May 2009), Chicago Tribune (April 2009), Wall Street Journal (June 2008), Associated Press (May 2008), The Des Moines Register (April 2008), The Columbus Dispatch (April, 2008), USA Today (April 2008), Houston Chronicle (May 2007), Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (April 2007), Fairfax County Times- Fairfax GO (April 2007), Sun Gazette (April 2007), Palm Beach Post (April 2007), St. Louis Post-Dispatch (April 2006), San Jose Mercury News (April, 2006), Pittsburgh Post Gazette (April 2006), Pittsburgh Tribune-Review (March 2006), Teen People (March 2006), Associated Press (October 2005), The Guardian (October 2005), Long Island Press (October, 2005), Atlanta Constitution Monthly (August 2005), New York Times (June 2005), Los Angeles Times (May 2005), Cincinnati Enquirer (May 2005), Baltimore Sun Times (May 2005), Lexington Herald-Leader (May 2005), The Dallas Morning News (April 2005), The Roanoke Times (April 2005), Orlando Sentinel (April 2005), the Star Ledger (March 2005), New York Times (June 2004), San Francisco Chronicle sfgate.com (June 2004), San Jose Mercury News (May 2004), Richmond Times Dispatch (May 2004), Washingtonian Magazine (April 2004), iparentingmedia.com (May 2004), Boston Globe (May 2002), Boston Globe (May 2003), Washington Times (May 2003), Seventeen Magazine (April 2003), Family Circle Magazine (March 2003), Contra Costa Sun (May 2003), Tuscaloosa News (May 2003).

Television and Radio

NPR's On Point with Ray Suarez The Evolution of the Prom, 5/25/18
Radio IQ, WVTF, Virginia Public Radio, 4/13/17
Al Jazeera TV, 3/2016
Blunt Youth Radio, 5/5/08
NBC's Today Show, 3/16/06
XM Satellite Radio's women's channel, "Take Five," 11/9/05
CNN: Evening news hour, Washington DC, 6/3/05
WUSA: Channel 9 Morning news hour, Washington, DC, 5/16/05
KQED: Public Radio 88.5 AM, San Francisco, CA 6/11/04
WAER: Women's Voices Radio, NPR affiliate, Syracuse, NY 10/31/02
WLAC: News radio 1510 AM, Nashville, TN, 5/24/01
WICH: Personality radio 1310 AM, Norwich, CT, 5/25/01
WJOB/WIMF: 1230 AM, South Bend, Indiana, 5/30/01
KXEL: News talk radio 1540 AM, Waterloo, Iowa, 6/1/01