

Chris F. Biga

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ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

2006 Ph.D. Washington State University, Sociology
1999 M.A. University of New Orleans, Sociology
1996 B.A. University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Sociology & Psychology

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

10/2016 – present	Associate Teaching Professor, University of Alabama at Birmingham
8/2013 – present	Director of Undergraduate Sociology Program, UAB
1/2021 – present	Equity Advisor, College of Arts and Sciences, UAB
8/2013 – 9/2016	Assistant Teaching Professor, University of Alabama at Birmingham
8/2012 – 7/2013	Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor, University of Alabama at Birmingham
8/2011 – 5/2012	Lecturer, Department of Sociology, University of North Texas Director of Undergraduate Sociology Program (Spring 2012)
8/2007 – 5/2011	Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, North Dakota State University
10/2006 – 8/2007	Post-Doctoral Researcher, Office of Applied Gerontology in the Helen Bader School of Social Welfare, UW-Milwaukee
9/2006 – 8/2007	Lecturer, Department of Sociology, UW-Milwaukee
6/2006 – 12/2007	Part-Time Instructor, Waukesha County Technical College
1/2005 – 9/2006	Associate Researcher, Office of Applied Gerontology in the Helen Bader School of Social Welfare, UW-Milwaukee
8/2004 – 5/2006	Associate Lecturer, Department of Sociology, UW-Milwaukee

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Alabama at Birmingham

SOC 100: Introduction to Sociology
SOC 120: Introduction to Social Psychology
SOC 235: Sociology of Religion
SOC 245: Social Problems
SOC 310: Sociological Literacy
SOC 315: Sociology of Terrorism
SOC 316: Popular Culture
SOC 405: Mind, Self and Society
SOC 410: Social Statistics
SOC 431: Environmental Sociology
SOC 484: Quantitative Research Methods
SOC 489: The Research Experience (capstone)
SOC 498/499: Sociology Honors Seminar/Honors Thesis
SOC 713: Introduction to Applied Social Research Methods (online MA)

Classes taught (not at UAB)

Sociology of Aging, Graduate Research Methods (MA), and Social Statistics for Social Work (MA)

RESEARCH INTEREST

Environmental and Consumer Identities
Community Perception of Wind Energy
Socialization of Environmentalism Identities and Social Structure

GRANTS and CONTRACTS

- 2019 Affordable Instructional Materials Grant** – funds provided for professional development and reducing costs for student instructional material - \$1,000
- 2009 Environment and Conservation Science Grant** – pilot project support for collaborative research on wind energy in North Dakota. Co-PI (w/ Dr. Erin Gilliam) -\$7,000
- 2009 Alzheimer’s Association Network of Wisconsin** – *Contract Evaluation/Community Service*, “Quality Assurance and the Dementia Specialist Program” – PI \$8,000.
- 2007 Alzheimer’s Association Network of Wisconsin** – *Contract Evaluation/Community Service*, “Evaluating Dementia Specialist Program” – PI \$11,000.
- 2007 UW Medical School Community-Academic Partnership Fund** – *The Wisconsin Partnership Fund for a Healthy Future* – “Improving Access to Quality Dementia Services in Underserved Rural Wisconsin Communities, Proposal 2005I-035, Wisconsin Chapters of the Alzheimer’s Association.” Co-PI \$960,000.
- 2006 Administration on Aging – Non-Competitive Grant Awards** – “Development of the Training Research Institute.” Research Scientist/Project Director. \$293,731.

Submitted (not funded):

- 2013 Alzheimer’s and Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin** - *Contract Evaluation/Community Service*, “Evaluation of the Dementia Specialist Training Program” - \$12,000
- 2009 Department of Defense: Legacy Resource Management Program.** -*A cooperative conservation approach to recovery of a federally listed species, the Mohave tui chub (Siphateles bicolor mohavensis).* Co-PI (Stockwell, C., CF Biga, M. Clark, R. Hearne, B. Saini-Eidukat.) (\$164,723)
- 2008 Department of Defense: Legacy Resource Management Program.** -*A cooperative conservation approach to recovery of a federally listed species, the Mohave tui chub (Siphateles bicolor mohavensis).* Co-PI (Stockwell, C., CF Biga, M. Clark, R. Hearne, B. Saini-Eidukat.) (\$187,263)
- 2007 ND EPSCoR RII program** -*Global Change the effects of climate change will have on Upper Great Plains to the ND.* Co-PI (M Otte, W Lin, P Oduor, L Cihacek, D Hopkins, CF Biga and B Rundquist).

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles:

Stets, JE. and CF Biga. 2003. “Bringing Identity Theory into Environmental Sociology.” *Sociological Theory*. 21(4): 398-423.

Reports:

- Biga, CF. 2007. “Evaluation of the Dementia Specialist Program: Offered by the Wisconsin Chapters of the Alzheimer’s Association”. *Report to the Wisconsin Chapters of the Alzheimer’s Association*. Consultant for the Center on Age and Community, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.
- Biga, CF. 2011. “Evaluation of the Dementia Specialist Program II: Offered by the Alzheimer’s and Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin.” *Report to the Wisconsin Chapters of the Alzheimer’s Association*.

Encyclopedia Articles:

Coward, RT, CW Peek, and CF Biga. 2008. "Elders." Pp. 309-312 in *Encyclopedia of Rural America: The Land and People*. Grey House Publishing: Millerton, NY.

Instructional Literature:

- Biga, CF and JJ Schlichtman. 2012. "Urban and Environmental Sociology." in *Introduction to Sociology: A Collaborative Approach, Third Edition* edited by B. Roncace. Ashbury Publishing. San Francisco, CA.
- Biga, CF and M Shelly. 2010. "Urban and Environmental Sociology." in *Introduction to Sociology: A Collaborative Approach, Second Edition* edited by B. Roncace. Ashbury Publishing. San Francisco, CA
- Biga, CF. 2010. *PowerPoint Presentation for Social Research Methods: Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches, 7/E*. New York: Pearson Education, Inc.
- Biga, CF and M Shelly. 2009. "Urban and Environmental Sociology." Pp. 361-391 in *Introduction to Sociology: A Collaborative Approach*, edited by B. Roncace. Ashbury Publishing. San Francisco, CA
- Biga, CF. 2008. *PowerPoint Presentation for Basics of Social Research: Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches, 2/E*. New York: Pearson Education, Inc.
- Biga, CF. 2008. *PowerPoint Presentation for Social Research Methods: Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches, 6/E*. New York: Pearson Education, Inc.
- Biga, CF and WL Neuman. 2006. *Instructor's Manual and Test Bank for Social Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches, 6/E*. New York: Pearson Education, Inc.
- Biga, CF and WL Neuman. 2006. *TestGen EQ: Computerized Test Bank for Social Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches, 6/E*. New York: Pearson Education, Inc.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Biga, CF. 2014. "Explaining Environmentally Significant Individual Behavior: Shared Meanings of Multiple Identities." Identity Conference, University of California, Riverside.
- Biga, CF. 2009. "Explaining Environmentally Significant Individual Behavior: Shared Meanings of Multiple Identities." *Midwest Sociological Society*. Des Moines, IA (canceled presentation due to blizzard).
- Taylor, C and CF Biga. 2009. "Community Perceptions of the Kinnickinnic River." *Rural Sociological Society*, Madison, WI.
- Biga, CF. 2007. "Measuring Caregiver Identity and its Association with Caregiver Burden." *Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting*, San Francisco, CA.
- Rowe, JM, CF Biga, and MY Savundranayagam. 2006. "Linking Research and Practice: The League of Experienced Family Caregivers and the Training Research Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee." National Association of Social Workers, Wisconsin Chapter 32nd Annual State Conference, Wisconsin Dells, WI.
- Biga, CF. 2002. "Environment and Gender Identities." *Social Science Association*: New Orleans, LA.
- Biga, CF and JE Stets. 2002. "Bringing Identity Theory into Environmental Sociology." *Pacific Sociological Association*: Vancouver, BC.
- Biga, CF. 2000. "Attitudes towards Authority on Environmental Attitudes." *Pacific Sociological Association*: San Diego, CA.

MENTORSHIP

MS committee chair

Courtney Taylor (NRM - NDSU) completed her MS in the Spring 2009. Ms. Taylor's thesis investigated the community perceptions of two diverse communities surrounding the Kinnickinnic River in Milwaukee, WI. Five focus groups, conducted in 2005 by Chris Biga, were transcribed and analyzed.

Boubacar Hassane (NRM - NDSU) completed his MS in the Spring 2010. Mr. Hassane's thesis investigated the influence ecotourism has had on the community of Ely, MN from a community capital framework.

Carl Petersen (NRM - NDSU) completed his MS in the Fall 2010. Mr. Peterson thesis is investigating the Energy Efficiency Practices in North Dakota. Funded by the ND Department of Commerce, Mr. Peters

evaluated the current building practices in ND. He will also be investigating the social dynamics of these practices, investigating perceived power and responsibilities of homeowners, real estate agents, builders and state agencies in the area of energy efficiency practices.

Lucas (Swanholm) Bicknell (ECS - NDSU) completed his MS Summer 2011. Mr. Bicknell's thesis is multidisciplinary, integrating the dimensions of ecology and sociology. Mr. Bicknell investigated the effects wind energy has on bat migration, as well as, how animal valuation influences perceptions of wind energy potential. I co-chair Mr. Bicknell's thesis committee with Dr. Erin Gillam of the Department of Biological Sciences.

MS committee member

Brian Fier (NRM - NDSU) – Spring 2010
Kendra Erickson (SOC - NDSU) – Fall 2010
Stephanie Paavola (NRM - NDSU) – Spring 2011

PhD committee member

Josh Forakis (Chemistry - UAB) – est. 2021
Sio-Wa Ho - (GERO - UWM) – 2009
Shelly Stowman (COMM - NDSU) – Fall 2010

SERVICE

University of Alabama at Birmingham

Director of the Undergraduate Program (2012-present): As director of the undergraduate sociology program, my primary responsibility is to direct, develop and manage the undergraduate sociology program. Specifically, I assist the department chair in producing report for the college on the dynamics and growth of the undergraduate program. I schedule all undergraduate classes, develop/manage the undergraduate programs, promote the undergraduate program at university function (Honor's Day, etc), and meet and advise sociology majors/minor.

Job Search Chair/Committees (ad hoc 2013 – present): I have served of faculty searches (Sociology and African American Studies), as well as search chair, focusing on making sure the interests of the undergraduate program are voiced. In addition, I have chaired visiting teaching faculty searches.

Faculty Senate (2018 – present): As one of the College of Arts and Sciences' representatives, my responsibilities are to speak/vote on behalf of CAS faculty; my particular focus is to also represent teaching faculty.

Curriculum Committee of the Faculty Senate (2018-2020): As member of the Curriculum Committee of the Faculty Senate, our responsibilities is to shepherd, direct, and manage undergraduate curriculum concerns.

Faculty Policy and Procedures Committee (2020): As a member of the FPPC our responsibility is to manage, update, critique the faculty handbook (policies and procedures).

Election Committee of the Faculty Senate (ad hoc Spring 2019 and Spring 2020): As a member of the Election Committee, we managed the 2019 Faculty Senate elections for the 2019-2020 academic year.

College of Arts and Sciences Caucus of the Faculty Senate (2018 – present; Chair 2019-20): As a member of the CAS Caucus, we meet to discuss College concerns that need to be brought to the attention of the Faculty Senate.

Faculty Development Grant Program (co-Chair 2019-20, Director 2020-21): As the Director of the FDGP, I help facilitate and implement the Faculty Development Grant Program. Specifically, we manage the distribution of grant funds provided by the Provost (and matched by colleges) for assistant professors.

Admissions Appeals Committee (2019 – present): As member of the Appeals Committee, we review/vote on prospective student's appeals for admissions into UAB.

Area IV: History and Social Science Academic Subcommittee of the Alabama Articulation and General Studies Committee (2019 – present): As a member of this statewide committee, I represent UAB (of the 14 state universities), reviewing/recommending courses to be included in the General Education Requirement (Area IV: History and Social Sciences).

College of Arts and Sciences' Curriculum and Polices Committee (2015-present; Committee Chair 2017-2020): As one of the Social Science Representatives, my primary responsibility is to review, critique, and advise departments on submitting degree programs to the college, university, and Board of Trustees.

College of Arts and Sciences' Scholarship Committees (2013 – present): I have served on various different scholarship committees for the College of Arts and Sciences. Specifically, I read scholarship application, meet with applicants, rank candidates, and provide input to create an inclusive/diverse scholarship distribution.

Pre-Health Advisory Committee (2017 – present): The College of Arts and Sciences writes every CAS student applying for a professional training in a health related field a cumulative letter of support. The Pre-Health Advisory Committee guides this letter. Specifically, we read all the cumulative letters of support. My focus on this committee is to critically assess the diversity and inclusivity of these letters.

Gay/Straight Student Alliance (GSSA): Faculty sponsor for the UAB GSSA. This is a student run organization meeting the needs of the LGBTQ student community. Specifically, I serve as a resource for the students of GSSA, and mediate any concerns/issues that may arise in the group.

Sustainability Major Workgroup: Working with other faculty and staff to develop (and feasibility of) an undergraduate program in sustainability.

LGBT Issues Working Group: Working with the Provost, faculty, staff, and students on identifying and addressing issues and concerns of the LGBTQ community at UAB.

University of North Texas

Director of the Undergraduate Program (2011-2012): As director of the undergraduate program, my primary responsibility was to direct, develop and manage the undergraduate sociology program. Specifically, I assisted the department chair in producing report for the college on the dynamics and growth of the undergraduate program. I schedule all undergraduate classes, promote the undergraduate program at university function (Honor's Day, etc), and meet and advise sociology majors/minor.

North Dakota State University

Environmental and Conservation Science Steering Committee (2008 – 2011): I represent the social sciences that have a stake in the ECS program, review graduate applicants, champion social dimensions of environmental problems, and encourage monies to support social science students in the ECS program.

National Teach-In (2008 – 2011): National Teach-In is a nationwide yearly event, held in February to increase awareness of global warming as a social problem and discussion of possible solutions from many disciplines. I cosponsored the National Teach-In at NDSU with Dr. Wei Lin during the 2008 and 2009 Teach-in. For the 2010 event, I was lead faculty sponsor, organizing 12 speakers from NDSU, MSUM and public professionals.

First-Year Experience (2008 – 2009): is a faculty-mentoring program for freshmen living in on-campus housing. I mentored a freshman floor (Johnson Hall 3rd Floor) for 18 months (Jan 08-Aug 09).

NDSU Cycling Club (2009 – 2011): Faculty sponsor of the NDSU cycling club. This is a student run organization and we provide advice and direction to increasing membership and sponsorship.

Sustainability Task Force (2008, 2010 -2011): University committee delegated with the responsibility of advancing sustainability at NDSU.

REFERENCES

Dr. Verna M. Keith

Professor and Chair
Department of Sociology
University of Alabama at Birmingham
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Dr. Catherine F. Danielou

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Dr. William Cockerham

Distinguished Professor and Chair Emeritus
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Dr. Peter Burke

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