

Curriculum Vitae

DAMIEN CONTESSA

dcontessa@ut.edu

EDUCATION

- Ph.D.** Sociology
University of South Florida 2016
Dissertation “*Unraveling the Wild: The Cultural Logic of Animal Stories in Contemporary Social Life*”
- M.A.** Applied Sociology
Northern Arizona University 2008
Graduated with Honorable Distinction
Thesis: “*A Wolf in the Shadow of the Mountain: Revealing the Wolf as a Metaphor for Environmental Consciousness*”
- B.A.** Sociology
State University of New York at New Paltz 2003

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- Center For Teaching and Learning
Learning Enrichment Grant**
University of Tampa 2023
- J. Richard Piper Outstanding Advisor of the Year
Spartans Against Homelessness**
Leadership Awards Night
University of Tampa 2022
- AACS Student Client-Problem Competition Winner**
First Place in Conference (as Advisor)
Association of Applied and Clinical Sociology 2022
2021
- Provost’s Award for Outstanding Teaching
by a Graduate Teaching Assistant
Certificate of Recognition**
Academy for Teaching and Learning Excellence
University of South Florida 2015
- Distinguished Teaching Award**
Department of Sociology
University of South Florida 2014
2015

POSITIONS HELD

Fall 2019 - Present

Assistant Teaching Professor of Sociology

Department of History, Sociology, Geography, and Legal Studies
University of Tampa

2016-2019

Visiting Instructor of Sociology

Department of Sociology
University of South Florida

AREAS OF RESEARCH & TEACHING INTEREST

Environmental Sociology
Introduction to Sociology
Sociology of Childhood

Social Psychology
Qualitative Methodology
Racial and Ethnic Relations

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

As Instructor

Racial and Ethnic Relations

Fall 2022
May Term 2022
Fall 2021
Spring 2022
May Term 2022

Qualitative Research Methods

Spring 2023
Spring 2022
Spring 2021

Sociology of Childhood

Summer 2023 (online)
Spring 2023
Spring 2021
Spring 2020

Research Methods in Sociology

Fall 2019

Social Psychology

Fall 2022
Fall 2021
Fall 2020
Fall 2018
Spring 2018

Social Psychology (Online)

Spring 2017
Fall 2016

Introduction to Sociology

Spring 2023
Fall 2022
Spring 2022
Fall 2021
Summer 2021 (Remote)
Spring 2021
Fall 2020
Summer 2020 (online)
Spring 2020
Fall 2019
Spring 2019
Spring 2017
Fall 2016

Introduction to the Interdisciplinary Social Sciences

Spring 2019
Fall 2018
Spring 2018
Fall 2017

Introduction to Interdisciplinary Social Sciences (Online)

Spring 2019
Summer 2018
Fall 2018
Spring 2018
Fall 2017
Summer 2017
Spring 2017
Fall 2016
Summer 2016

As Teaching Associate (Instructor of Record)

Self and Society

Interdisciplinary Social Sciences
University of South Florida, St. Petersburg

Spring 2019

Introduction to Sociology

Department of Sociology
University of South Florida

Spring 2016
Fall 2015
Spring 2015

Nature and Society

Honors College
University of South Florida

Fall 2015

Introduction to Sociology

Department of Sociology

New College of Florida	<i>Fall 2014</i>
Environment & Society Department of Sociology University of South Florida	<i>Fall 2013</i> <i>Spring 2014</i> <i>Summer 2014</i>
Classical Social Theory Department of Sociology University of South Florida	<i>Spring 2013</i> <i>Summer 2013</i>
Environment & Society <i>Online Course</i> Department of Sociology Northern Arizona University	<i>Fall 2012</i> <i>Spring 2013</i>
Self & Society Department of Sociology University of South Florida	<i>Summer 2012</i> <i>Fall 2012</i>
Environmental Sociology Department of Sociology University of South Florida	<i>Spring 2012</i>
Contemporary Social Problems Department of Sociology University of South Florida	<i>Fall 2011</i>
Interdisciplinary Social Sciences Department of Interdisciplinary Social Sciences University of South Florida	<i>Summer 2011</i>
Consciousness & Social Change Department of Sociology University of South Florida	<i>Spring 2011</i>
Development of Sociological Thought (Theory) Department of Sociology and Social Work Northern Arizona University	<i>Spring 2010</i>
Introduction to Sociology Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences Coconino Community College	<i>Summer 2008</i>
<i>As Teaching Assistant</i>	
Introduction to Sociology Department of Sociology University of South Florida	<i>Summer 2015</i>

Population & Environment

Department of Sociology and Social Work
Northern Arizona University

Spring 2008

Development of Sociological Thought (Theory)

Department of Sociology and Social Work
Northern Arizona University

Fall 2007
Spring 2008

As Guest Lecturer

Environmental Science

University of Tampa
Department of Environmental Studies

Fall 2022

Consciousness and Social Change, Graduate Seminar

Northern Arizona University
Department of Sociology and Social Work

Spring 2010

Sociological Theory, Graduate Seminar

Northern Arizona University
Department of Sociology and Social Work

Fall 2008

PUBLICATIONS

Contessa, D. & Dustin Hiles. 2018. "The Vulnerable Revolution: Towards a Politics of Wonder." *Humanity & Society*. 42: 258-261

Contessa, D. 2013. "Book Review: Animals Erased: Discourse, Ecology, and Reconnection with the Natural World." *Humanity & Society*. 37: 354-357

Contessa, D. 2013. Book Review "Swamplife: People, Gators, and Mangroves Entangled in the Everglades." *Journal of Ecological Anthropology*. 16: 104-107

Contessa, D. 2012. "127 Hours: A Cinematic Narrative of Ecological Identity." *Humanity & Society*. 36: 89

PRESENTATIONS FOR PROFESSIONAL AUDIENCES

*Invited Presentations

*2022

Rediscovering Inner Peace: Change and Renewal in a Changing World

Keynote Address
Pasco Hernando State College Peace Week
Online Presentation

2022

Applying Compassionate Leadership in Teaching Undergraduate Sociology

Panel: Teaching Strategies

Association of Applied and Clinical Sociology Annual Conference

Louisville, Kentucky

2022

Spaces for Contribution: Encouraging Student Rapport and Engagement in the Classroom

Center for Teaching and Learning Professional Development Series

University of Tampa

*2022

Faith in Action Panel Discussion

#It Takes Us Social Justice Series – Black History Month

Pasco Hernando State College

*2021

Compassionate Leadership in an Age of Uncertainty

Keynote Address. Pasco Hernando State College Peace Week.

Online Presentation

*2021

Tools for Compassionate Leadership

With Gayla Miller and Dean Kohrs.

Pasco Hernando College Peace Week.

Online Presentation

*2020

Tools for Effective Student Leaders

Association of Florida Colleges, Executive Board Training and Student Life Retreat. Online Presentation

*2020

Developing Student Leadership Skills Series (Futon Fridays, Four Part Series)

Pasco Hernando State College.

Student Leadership Workshop Roundtable.

*2020

Narrative Inquiry and The Mystery Monkey of Tampa Bay.

Rhodes College. Undergraduate Research Methods Course

Online Presentation

*2020

Mindfulness on College Campus: A Theoretical and Practical Approach

Florida College System Activities Association Year-End Conference. Orlando, FL. (with Dean Kohrs) **Conference cancelled due to COVID-19**

*2019

An Invitation to Mindfulness and the Heart of Compassionate Leadership

Pasco Hernando State College Student Life Retreat Leadership Conference

Wesley Chapel, Florida

2014

From Pestilence to Folk Hero: Narratives of Transformation in the Life of the Mystery Monkey of Tampa Bay

Panel: Media, Pop Culture, and Gaming

Association for Humanist Sociology Annual Conference
Cleveland, Ohio

On the Lam: The Shifting Identities of the Mystery Monkey of Tampa Bay.

Panel: Guns, Race, Teen Pregnancy, & a Monkey: Analyzing Media Conversations for Sociological Insights

Pacific Sociological Association Annual Conference
Portland, Oregon

2012

Unraveling Monstrous Stories: The Cultural Logic of Nature/Culture Boundaries

Panel: Environmental Communication

National Communication Association Conference
Orlando, Florida

2012

They Came from Ohio: Animals, Monsters, and Narratives of Nature/Culture Boundaries

Panel: Importance of Looking at Animals in Sociology

American Sociological Association Conference
Denver, Colorado

2012

The Environment From Below: Nonhuman Nature in Social Interaction

Panel: Environmental Sociology – Nature and Society

Pacific Sociological Association Conference
San Diego, California

2012

Writing Lives: Mindful Inquiry in Everyday Life

Panel: Consciousness and Social Change

Pacific Sociological Association Conference

2012

Experiential Ecology: Bringing Together Ecology and Spirituality Through Artistic Expression

Student Research Showcase

Marc Dion: Troubleshooting Exhibition

Contemporary Art Museum at the University of South Florida
Tampa, Florida

2011

Conversations With The Earth: Nonhuman Nature and the Emergence of Self and Society

Panel: Theorizing Oppression, Promoting Social and Ecological Justice

Association for Humanist Sociology Annual Conference
Chicago-Evanston, Illinois

2011

Towards an Environmental Humanism: Social and Environmental Crises in an Age of Uncertainty

Panel: Population, Consumption, and Environment – Sustainability Issues
Pacific Sociological Association Conference
Seattle, Washington

2010

Reactionaries, Pantomimes and Moral Soldiers: Narratives in Conflict Surrounding the Recovery of the Mexican Gray Wolf

Panel: Environment & Society
Association for Humanist Sociology Annual Conference
Santa Fe, New Mexico

*2010

An Unlikely Narrative: The Sociological Imagination and the Reinvention of the Self in an Age of Uncertainty

Panel: The Sociological Imagination in a Turbulent World
Pacific Sociological Association Conference
Oakland, California

*2008

The Wolf of Our Mind: Shifting Perceptions of the Mexican Gray Wolf

Panel: Consciousness and Social Change
Pacific Sociological Association Conference
Portland, Oregon

EDITORIAL SERVICE

2023

Journal Reviewer

The Journal for Applied Social Science

2017

Manuscript Reviewer

Teaching with Compassion

Roman & Littlefield

Invited by authors Peter Kaufman and Janine Schipper

2013-2014

Review Board Member

AHS 2014 Book Award Committee
Association for Humanist Sociology

2012-2013

Journal Reviewer

Humanity & Society

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

to the general scholarly community

2023

Association of Applied and Clinical Sociology Conference Planning Committee

The Association of Applied and Clinical Sociology

2017-2018

Advisory Committee Member

Global Citizen's Project Steering Committee

University of South Florida

2014

Co-Chair and Discussant

AHS 2014 Book Award Committee

Association for Humanist Sociology Annual Conference

Cleveland, Ohio

2012-2013

Advisory Committee Member

Center for Victim Advocacy & Violence Prevention

University of South Florida

2012

Chair & Lead Discussant

Panel: Consciousness and Social Change

Pacific Sociological Association Conference

San Diego, California

2011 – 2012

Co-President and Organizer

Innovative Inquiry Salon

University of South Florida

2011

Chair & Lead Discussant

Panel: Struggles for Social Justice, Past and Present

Humanity and Society Annual Conference

Chicago-Evanston, Illinois

2011

Lead Discussant & Facilitator

Panel: Consciousness and Social Change

Pacific Sociological Association Conference

Seattle, Washington

to the University of Tampa

2023

Development and Completion of Online Sociology of Childhood Course

2023

Leadership Awards Night Selection Committee

2023

Active Learning Classroom Design Committee

2023

Student Activities Evaluation Committee

Group Interview with External Reviewer

2022 - 2023

Ad Hoc Committee on Non-Tenure Track Faculty

2022 – Present

Advising Committee

2021-2022

Sustainability Committee

2021

Co-chair of Search Committee

Department of Sociology

2021 – present

Spartans Against Homelessness Faculty Advisor

to the Sociology Department of the University of Tampa

2020 - Present

Sociology Club Faculty Advisor

Faculty Advisor for CAPACS Student Client-Problem Competition

Sociology Department Evaluation Survey Co-Editor

Fall Convocation Meet & Greet Coordinator

to the Sociology Department of the University of South Florida

2018-2019

Interdisciplinary Social Science Internship Advisor

2016-2019

Graduate Teaching Assistant Mentor

2016-2019

Faculty Member on Interdisciplinary Social Science Curriculum Planning Committee

2017-2019

Faculty Member on Events and Colloquium Committee

2014

Graduate Teaching Assistant Mentor

2013-2014

Co-Founder and Treasurer of Sociology Graduate Student Union

2013

Panel Discussant for Senior Seminar on Graduate Students in Sociology

2012-2013

Undergraduate Thesis Mentor

Matthew Toney, Thesis entitled: "Role Playing the Waiter: The Social Performance of Restaurant Work." *Completed 2013*

Kenna Valdovinos, Thesis entitled: "The Social Construction of Injury in Dance." *Completed 2013*

2012 -2013

Elected Student Representative for Graduate Program Committee

2012

Panel Discussant for Senior Seminar on Graduate Students in Sociology

2011

Elected Student Representative For Graduate Student Body

2011

Panel Discussant for Senior Seminar on Graduate Students in Sociology

2010

Panel Discussant for Senior Seminar on Graduate Students in Sociology

to the Sociology and Social Work Department of Northern Arizona University

Spring 2008

Elected Student Representative on Faculty Recruitment Committee