

Curriculum Vitae

DAMIEN CONTESSA

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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

**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

Professor of Instruction I, Sociology

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

2016-2019

Visiting Instructor

Department of Sociology
University of South Florida

AREAS OF RESEARCH & TEACHING INTEREST

Environmental Sociology
Animals & Society
Contemplative Pedagogy

Social Psychology
Introduction to Sociology

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

As Instructor

Research Methods in Sociology

Fall 2019

Social Psychology

*Fall 2018
Spring 2018*

Social Psychology Online Course

*Spring 2017
Fall 2016*

Introduction to Sociology

*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 Course

*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

Fall 2014

Environment & Society

Department of Sociology
University of South Florida

Fall 2013
Spring 2014
Summer 2014

Classical Social Theory

Department of Sociology
University of South Florida

Spring 2013
Summer 2013

Environment & Society

Online Course

Department of Sociology
Northern Arizona University

Fall 2012
Spring 2013

Self & Society

Department of Sociology
University of South Florida

Summer 2012
Fall 2012

Environmental Sociology

Department of Sociology
University of South Florida

Spring 2012

Contemporary Social Problems

Department of Sociology
University of South Florida

Fall 2011

Interdisciplinary Social Sciences

Department of Interdisciplinary Social Sciences
University of South Florida

Summer 2011

Consciousness & Social Change

Department of Sociology
University of South Florida

Spring 2011

Development of Sociological Thought (Theory)

Department of Sociology and Social Work
Northern Arizona University

Spring 2010

Introduction to Sociology

Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Coconino Community College

Summer 2008

As Teaching Assistant

Introduction to Sociology

Department of Sociology
University of South Florida

Summer 2015

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

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

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Contessa, D. "They Came From Ohio: Animals, Monsters, and Narratives of Nature/Culture Boundaries." *In Preparation*

Contessa, D. "From Wild to Tame: The Mystery Monkey of Tampa Bay and the Making of An American Legend." *In Preparation*

PRESENTATIONS FOR PROFESSIONAL AUDIENCES

*Invited Presentations

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

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

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 Sociology Department of the University of South Florida

2018-2019

Internship Advisor

Interdisciplinary Social Science

2016-2019

Graduate Teaching Assistant Mentor

Introduction to Sociology
Social Psychology
Interdisciplinary Social Sciences

2016-2019

Committee Member

Interdisciplinary Social Science Curriculum Planning Committee

2017-2019

Committee Member

Events and Colloquium Committee

2014

Graduate Teaching Assistant Mentor

Introduction to Sociology

2013-2014

Co-Founder and Treasurer

Sociology Graduate Student Union

2013

Panel Discussant

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

Graduate Program Committee

2012

Panel Discussant

Senior Seminar on Graduate Students in Sociology

2011

Elected Student Representative For Graduate Student Body

2011

Panel Discussant

Senior Seminar on Graduate Students in Sociology

2010

Panel Discussant

Senior Seminar on Graduate Students in Sociology

to the Sociology and Social Work Department of Northern Arizona University

Spring 2008

Elected Student Representative

Faculty Recruitment Committee