

**Ashley Currier**  
Curriculum Vitae

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Department of Sociology and Women's and  
Gender Studies Program

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## Education

Ph.D.                      Sociology  
2007                      University of Pittsburgh

Ph.D. Certificate      Women's Studies  
2007                      University of Pittsburgh

Ph.D. Certificate      Cultural Studies  
2005                      University of Pittsburgh

M.A.                      Sociology  
2003                      University of Pittsburgh

M.A.                      English  
2001                      University of Pittsburgh

B.A. (*summa cum laude*) English and Spanish  
1998                      University of Oklahoma

Certificate              Spanish Language and Literature  
1997                      Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, Santiago de Compostela, Spain

## Academic Appointment

2007-present              Assistant Professor of Sociology and Women's and Gender Studies, Texas  
A&M University

## Research and Teaching Interests

- Social Movements
- Gender
- Sexualities
- LGBT and Queer Studies
- Transnational and African Feminisms
- African Studies (Southern Africa)

## Publications

### *Book*

Currier, Ashley. 2012. *Visibility Matters: LGBT Organizing in Namibia and South Africa*.  
Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. Forthcoming in August 2012.

### *Journal Articles*

- Currier, Ashley. 2012. "The Aftermath of Decolonization: Gender and Sexual Dissidence in Postindependence Namibia." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 37(2). Forthcoming in Winter 2012.
- Blee, Kathleen M. and Ashley Currier. 2011. "Ethics Beyond the IRB: An Introductory Essay." *Qualitative Sociology* 34(3): forthcoming in September.
- Currier, Ashley. 2011. "Representing Gender and Sexual Dissidence in Southern Africa." *Qualitative Sociology* 34(3): forthcoming in September.
- Currier, Ashley. 2011. "Decolonizing the Law: LGBT Organizing in Namibia and South Africa." *Studies in Law, Politics, and Society* 54: 17-44.
- Currier, Ashley. 2010. "Political Homophobia in Postcolonial Namibia." *Gender & Society* 24(1): 110-129.
- Currier, Ashley. 2010. "The Strategy of Normalization in the South African LGBT Movement." *Mobilization: An International Journal* 15(1): 45-62.
- Blee, Kathleen M. and Ashley Currier. 2006. "How Local Social Movement Groups Handle a Presidential Election." *Qualitative Sociology* 29(3): 261-280.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2005. "Character-Building: The Dynamics of Emerging Social Movement Groups." *Mobilization: An International Journal* 10(1): 129-144.

### *Book Chapters (\*Refereed)*

- Currier, Ashley. 2010. "Behind the Mask: Developing LGBTI Visibility in Africa." Pp. 155-168 in *Development, Sexual Rights, and Global Governance*, edited by Amy Lind. New York: Routledge.
- \*Currier, Ashley. 2009. "Deferral of Legal Tactics: A Global LGBT Social Movement Organization's Perspective." Pp. 21-37 in *Queer Mobilizations: LGBT Activists Confront the Law*, edited by Scott Barclay, Mary Bernstein, and Anna-Maria Marshall. New York: New York University Press.
- Blee, Kathleen M. and Ashley Currier. 2007. "Are National Politics Local? Social Movement Responses to the 2004 Presidential Election." Pp. 156-179 in *New Perspectives in Political Ethnography*, edited by Lauren Joseph, Matthew Mahler, and Javier Auyero. New York: Springer.

## **Works in Progress**

### *Book Manuscript*

Currier, Ashley. "Political Homophobia in Postcolonial Africa."

### *Manuscript under Review*

Currier, Ashley. Book review of *Queering the Public Sphere in Mexico and Brazil: Sexual Rights Movements in Emerging Democracies*. Under review at *Social Forces*.

### *Manuscripts in Preparation*

Currier, Ashley. "Collective Identity 'Newness': LGBT Organizing in Namibia and South Africa." Revise and resubmit.

Currier, Ashley. "Danger in the Field: Reconsidering Gender and Safety."

Currier, Ashley. "Hybrid 'LGBT' Identities in Namibian and South African Gender and Sexual Diversity Organizing" for "Contextualizing LGBT Lives", a volume edited by Richard Ward, Ian Rivers, Kelly Kollman, and Jessica Gunson.

#### *Journal Editing*

Blee, Kathleen M. and Ashley Currier. 2011. "Beyond the IRB: New Frontiers in the Ethics of Qualitative Research." *Qualitative Sociology* 34(3).

### **Presentations and Conference Participation**

#### **2011**

Currier, Ashley. "Sexual Dissidence as a Decolonization Movement: The Case of Post-Independence Namibia." American Sociological Association, Las Vegas, Nevada, August 20-23.

Currier, Ashley and Tara McKay. "Same-Sex Marriage Politics in Sub-Saharan Africa." Invited presentation for "The Politics of Same-Sex Marriage," American Sociological Association, Las Vegas, Nevada, August 20-23.

Blee, Kathleen M. and Ashley Currier. "Ethical Frontiers in Oral History." "Off the Record: Unspoken in the Practice of Oral History." Concordia University, Montréal, Canada, April 28-30.

Currier, Ashley. "Scripting Homophobia: Understanding Antigay Antagonism in Postcolonial Namibia," Southwestern Social Science Association, Las Vegas, Nevada, March 16-19.

Currier, Ashley. "New Directions in Sexuality Studies" panel organizer, Southwestern Social Science Association, Las Vegas, Nevada, March 16-19.

#### **2010**

Currier, Ashley. "Representing Gender and Sexual Dissidence in Southern Africa." Conference: "Beyond the IRB: New Frontiers in the Ethics of Qualitative Research." University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, October 29.

Currier, Ashley. "Black Lesbian Organizing in Postapartheid South Africa," American Sociological Association, Atlanta, Georgia, August 14-17.

Currier, Ashley. "Danger in the Field: Reconsidering Gender and Safety," Society for the Study of Social Problems, Atlanta, Georgia, August 13-15.

Currier, Ashley. "Decolonizing the Law and Sexuality: LGBT Organizing in Africa," African History Conference: "Women, Gender, and Sexualities in Africa," University of Texas—Austin, Austin, Texas, March 26-28.

#### **2009**

Currier, Ashley. "Homosexuality 'Never Happened before Independence': Political Homophobia in Postcolonial Namibia," Invited presentation for "Gender, Sexuality, and the State," American Sociological Association, San Francisco, California, August 8-11.

#### **2008**

Currier, Ashley. "Public Contestations of Namibian Homophobia," African Studies Association, Chicago, Illinois, November 13-16.

Currier, Ashley. "Public Homophobias in Postcolonial Namibia," North Eastern Workshop on Southern Africa, Burlington, Vermont, October 17-19.

Currier, Ashley. "Normalization as a Strategy in the South African LGBTI Movement," American Sociological Association, GLBT Studies, Regular Session, Boston, Massachusetts, August 1-4.

Currier, Ashley. "Homosexuality Is African: The Dilemma of Fighting Homophobia in Southern Africa," National Women's Studies Association, Cincinnati, Ohio, June 19-22.

Currier, Ashley. "Namibian Feminists Confronting State-Sponsored Homophobia," National Women's Studies Association, Cincinnati, Ohio, June 19-22.

"Feminist Responses and Resistances to Homophobia(s)," National Women's Studies Association panel session organizer, Cincinnati, Ohio, June 19-22.

### **2007**

Currier, Ashley. "Transgender Inclusion in the Namibian and South African LGBT Movements," GLBT Studies, Regular Session, American Sociological Association, New York, August 11-14.

Currier, Ashley and Kai Heidemann. "Safe Spaces: Black Lesbian Activism in South Africa and Minority Language Activism in France." American Sociological Association Collective Behavior and Social Movements thematic workshop presentation. Hofstra University, New York, August 9-10.

Currier, Ashley. "Social Movement Publicity," American Sociological Association Collective Behavior and Social Movements thematic workshop co-organized with Kathleen M. Blee, New York, August 9-10.

"Public Sexualities and Social Change," Midwest Sociological Society panel session co-organized with Tanya Saunders, Chicago, Illinois, April 4-7.

### **2006**

Currier, Ashley. "Denialism and Misinformation as Barriers to AIDS Prevention and Treatment in South Africa," Invited presentation, Session on Health, Inequality, and Society, "Global Problems, Global Solutions" conference, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, October 7.

Currier, Ashley. "Amateur Journalism as a Strategy of Visibility of a South African Sexual Minority Movement Organization," American Sociological Association, Collective Behavior and Social Movements Roundtable, Montréal, Canada, August 11-14.

Blee, Kathleen M. and Ashley Currier. "How Local Social Movement Groups Handle Presidential Elections," American Sociological Association, Political Sociology, Regular Session, Montréal, Canada, August 11-14.

Currier, Ashley. "The Visibility of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Social Movements in Namibia and South Africa," Sociologists for Women in Society Graduate Student Roundtable, Montréal, Canada, August 11.

Currier, Ashley. "More Than a "Grammatical Construction"? Same-Sex Marriage and the Sexual Minority Movement in South Africa," Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), Montréal, Canada, August 10-12.

Currier, Ashley. "The Waves of Visibility in the Namibian and South African Sexual Minority Movements from 1995 to the Present," International Sociological Association, Durban, South Africa, July 23-29.

**2005**

Currier, Ashley. "No Sex Please, I'm a Researcher," North Central Sociological Association, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, April 9.

**2002**

Discussant for "Neighborhood Identity" roundtable, American Sociological Association, Chicago, Illinois, August.

*Presentations on Work-in-Progress*

**2009**

Currier, Ashley. "African Feminisms and Same-Sex Sexualities," Texas A&M University's Melburn G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research Faculty Colloquium, March 25.

**2008**

Currier, Ashley. "Political Homophobia: The Case of Namibia," Texas A&M University's Women and Gender Working Group Lunch Lecture, December 2.

*Invited Presentations*

**2010**

"Unspoken Conversations: The Ethics of Talking about Difference on a University Campus" panelist, sponsored by Texas A&M University's Melburn G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research's Carrol O. Buttrill '38 Endowed Fund, April 14.

"Gender Regimes around the World: The Social Cost of Alternative Sexuality and Gender" panelist, sponsored by Texas A&M University's MSC L.T. Jordan Institute for International Awareness, March 2.

**2009**

"How Do We Teach Ethics: Teaching Ethics in Disciplinary Contexts" panelist, sponsored by Texas A&M University's Melburn G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research's Carrol O. Buttrill '38 Endowed Fund, April 2.

"The Subjects of Women's Studies" Symposium panelist, Texas A&M University Women's Studies Program, March 27.

"LGBT Organizing in Namibia and South Africa," Texas A&M University, Lecture in Shari Valentine's Sociology of Gender class (SOVI/WMST 316), February 27.

**2008**

"How (Not) to Have Sex in Public," Texas A&M University, Clements Hall Residence Hall Sex Week, "Pizza and a Prof," September 11.

"What I Wish I Had Known in My First Year as a Faculty Member" panel member, Texas A&M University, Dean of Faculties New Faculty Orientation, August 19.

Same-Sex Marriage Panel participant, Texas A&M University, Texas A&M University, Honors Student Council, April 7.

"FEW...Reaching Out to Many: Black GLBT Organizing in South Africa." Texas A&M

University, Department of Multicultural Services. February 27.

“Students and Faculty on Common Ground” roundtable participant. Texas A&M University, College of Liberal Arts and Center for Teaching Excellence. February 7.

### **2007**

“Female Troubles: Social Problems Facing Namibian and South African Girls and Women.” Presentation to Women in Power, Power in Women, a Texas A&M University student group, as a representative of the Women’s Studies Program, November 27.

“Safe Spaces for LGBT Activism in Namibia and South Africa.” Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays Pittsburgh Chapter. April 8.

## **Honors and Awards**

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|--------|---|
| 2010   | American Association for University Women Postdoctoral Research Leave Fellowship alternate                                |
| 2006-7 | Mellon Predoctoral Fellowship (renewal), University of Pittsburgh   |
| 2006-7 | Women’s Studies Teaching Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh (declined)  |
| 2006   | Society for the Study of Social Problems Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities Division Graduate Student Paper Award |
| 2005-6 | Mellon Predoctoral Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh   |
| 2005-6 | Cultural Studies Fellowship (declined), University of Pittsburgh  |
| 2004   | Research Excellence Award, Department of Sociology, University of Pittsburgh  |
| 2003   | Teaching Excellence Award, Department of Sociology, University of Pittsburgh  |

## **Grants**

### *National*

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|------|---|
| 2006 | National Science Foundation Sociology Dissertation Improvement Grant (SES-0601767), \$7,500 |
| 2005 | Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality Student Research Grant, \$1,000               |

### *University*

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|---------|---|
| 2011-12 | Curriculum Development Grant to develop course on “Homophobic,” Women’s and Gender Studies Program, TAMU        |
| 2010-11 | Program for the Enhancement of Scholarly and Creative Activities, Texas A&M University (TAMU), \$10,000         |
| 2010-11 | Office of the Vice President for Research Support Grant, TAMU, \$2,000  |
| 2009-10 | College of Liberal Arts Faculty Research Enhancement Program, TAMU, \$5,000                                     |
| 2009-10 | Sociology Stipendiary Faculty Fellowship, Melbern G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research, TAMU, \$1,500    |
| 2009-10 | Curriculum Development Grant to develop course on “African Feminisms,” Women’s and Gender Studies Program, TAMU |

- 2008-9 Women's Studies Stipendiary Faculty Fellowship, Melbern G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research, TAMU, \$1,500
- 2008 Common Ground Teaching Grant, College of Liberal Arts, TAMU, \$500
- 2005 International Studies Fund, University of Pittsburgh, \$600
- 2004 Women's Studies Research Grant, University of Pittsburgh, \$960
- 2001 Women's Studies' Graduate Student Paper Second Prize, University of Pittsburgh
- 2000 African Heritage Classroom Scholarship Grant, University of Pittsburgh, \$2000
- 2000 Women's Studies Research Grant, University of Pittsburgh, \$500

## **Travel Grants**

- 2006 Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) Lee Student Support Fund Grant to attend SSSP Annual Meeting in Montréal, Canada, \$185
- 2006 American Sociological Association Travel Grant for U.S. Participants to attend the International Sociological Association 16th World Congress of Sociology (SES-0548370) in Durban, South Africa, \$370
- 2000 Sara's Wish Organization Travel Grant for travel to Harare, Zimbabwe, \$1,000

## **Courses Taught**

### *Texas A&M University*

#### Fall 2010

SOCI/WGST 332: Alternative Genders (26 students)

WGST 491 (directed study): Women in Southern African National Liberation Movements (1 student)

WGST 200: Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies (23 students)

#### Spring 2010

AFST 489/WMST 391/SOCI 489: African Feminisms (13 students)

SOCI/WMST 207: Introduction to Gender and Society (36 students)

#### Fall 2009

SOCI/WMST 207: Introduction to Gender and Society (174 students)

WMST 685 (directed study): Sexual Cultures (2 students)

#### Spring 2009

SOCI/WMST 207: Introduction to Gender and Society (68 students)

WMST 291 (directed study): Female Genital Cutting in Africa (1 student)

SOCI/WMST 689: Queer Theory (15 students)

#### Fall 2008

SOCI/WMST 207: Introduction to Gender and Society (91 students)

SOCI/WMST 332: Alternative Genders (28 students)

#### Summer 2008

WMST 685 (directed study): Race and Sexuality Studies (1 student)

#### Spring 2008

SOCI/WMST 207: Introduction to Gender and Society (100 students)

WMST 200: Introduction to Women's Studies (35 students)

#### Fall 2007

SOCI/WMST 207: Introduction to Gender and Society (57 students)

### **Professional Membership**

- American Sociological Association
- International Sociological Association
- National Women's Studies Association
- Sociologists for Women in Society
- African Studies Association
- American Association of University Women

### **Service**

#### *Service to Sociology and Women's and Gender Studies*

- National Women's Studies Association Lesbian Caucus Graduate Student Scholarship Award Committee Member, Spring 2008
- Ad-hoc manuscript reviewer, *Gender & Society* (2008-11), *Journal of Historical Sociology* (2010), *Journal of Homosexuality* (2010), *Mobilization: An International Journal* (2009), *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* (2010), Sage Publications (2009)
- Ad-hoc grant reviewer, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (2011)

#### *Service to the University*

- Student Research Week judge, TAMU, Spring 2011
- Faculty representative to Women's Progress Awards Committee, Women's Resource Center, TAMU, Spring 2010

#### *Service to the College of Liberal Arts*

- Sociology Representative to Melbern G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research Advisory Committee, TAMU, Fall 2008-present
- Women's Studies Representative to Liberal Arts Council, TAMU, Fall 2007

#### *Service to the Sociology Department and Women's and Gender Studies Program*

- Women's and Gender Studies Program Strategic Planning Committee, TAMU, Spring 2011
- Women's and Gender Studies Program Ad-Hoc Assessment Committee, TAMU, Spring

2010-present

- Department of Sociology Junior Faculty Mentoring Committee, TAMU, Fall 2007-present
- Department of Sociology Diversity Recruitment and Retention Committee, TAMU, Fall 2008-Spring 2009
- Department of Sociology Awards Committee, Fall 2007-Spring 2008

## **Graduate Student Committee Service**

### *Current Ph.D. committees*

- \*\*Cruz, Joelle (Communication): 2010-present
- \*Delgado, Daniel (Sociology): 2009-present
- \*\*Plemons, April (Sociology): 2009-present
- \*Valentine, Shari (Sociology): 2008-present
- \*\* Vaserfirer, Andrew (Sociology): 2009-present
- \*Wilson, Shannon (English): 2010-present

### *Current M.A./M.S. committees*

- \*\* Wat, Chi-cheng (Sociology): 2010-present; thesis project: “Transnational Same-Sex Marriage in Postcolonial Macao, Hong Kong, and Their Overseas Communities”

### *Completed Ph.D. Committees*

- \*Chambers, Christopher (Sociology), 2010. Current position: Assistant Professor of Sociology, Northeastern University
- \* Joseph, Lauren (Sociology, State University of New York—Stony Brook), 2010, “The Production of Pride: Institutionalization and LGBT Pride Organizations.” Current position: Assistant Professor of Sociology, Pennsylvania State University—Schuylkill

### *Completed M.A./M.S. Committees*

- \*Bach, Damon (History): defended June 2008
- \*\* Vaserfirer, Andrew (Sociology): 2009-2010; thesis: “Lesbian and Gay Student Mobilization at Texas A&M University, 1976-1985”; defended November 2010
- \* Outside committee member
- \*\* Co-chair of committee

## **International Experience**

- Namibia: 4 months (April—July 2006)
- South Africa: 7 months (September 2005—March 2006)
- Zimbabwe: 4 months (May—August 2000)
- Spain: 9 months (September 1996—May 1997)

## **Language**

- Spanish: reading, speaking, and writing competency