

Kathleen (Kate) A. Ragon

The Pennsylvania State University | School of Labor & Employment Relations | The Labor School
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Academic Appointments

Assistant Clinical Professor, Labor and Employment Relations, Penn State University, 2023

Labor Education Coordinator, The Labor School, Penn State University, 2023

Visiting Assistant Professor, Sociology, Augustana College, 2021-Present

Visiting Assistant Professor, Sociology, Oberlin College, 2020-2021

Education

Ph.D., Sociology, University of Connecticut, 2020

Dissertation: *“This is a Place of Business:” The Market Schema and Graduate Employee Unionization in the Corporate University*

Graduate coursework focus in areas of Gender & Sexuality and Higher Education

Area Exam: Social Movements & American Labor Movement

M.A., Sociology, University of Connecticut, 2015

Thesis: *“How Do You Define Yourself?”: Mobilizing Leadership in the Graduate Employee Union Movement*

B.A., Sociology, Gettysburg College, 2013

Phi Beta Kappa

Thesis: *Minimum Wage, Decent Wages, and Time Sovereignty in the European Union*

Minors: Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies; Spanish

Research & Teaching Interests

Collective Behavior/Social Movements, Organizations, Labor, Education, Qualitative Methods

Credit Teaching Experience

First Year Seminar/Inquiry	Race, Gender, & Employment	Labor & Labor Movements
Introduction to Sociology	Social Statistics	Sociology of Organizations
Race, Class, & Gender	Social Problems	Social Movements

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Connecticut

Qualitative Methods I – Nancy Naples	Sociology of Health – Kathryn Strother Ratcliff
Qualitative Methods II – Nancy Naples	Introduction to Sociology – Davita Silfen Glasberg
Social Theory – Phoebe Godfrey	Social Problems – Michael Wallace

Non-Credit Teaching & Outreach Experience

Labor Education

Our Current Labor Landscape	Steward Training
Building Power: Mobilizing	Contract Campaign Training
Building Power: Communications	Know Your Rights: Act 195
Building Power: Bridging Divisions	Cross-Industry Organizing

Sociology

MCAT Test Review Course: Sociology

NVivo Qualitative Software Workshops

Publications

Ragon, Kathleen A. "Unionization." 2024. In *Inequality Around the World: Understanding the Rich-Poor Divide from America to Zimbabwe*, edited by Deric Shannon. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO. In press.

Ragon, Kathleen A. and Daisy Verduzco Reyes. 2023. "Insider-Outsider Dynamics and Identity in Qualitative Studies of Social Movements." *Research in Social Movements, Conflicts and Change*. Volume 47.

Ragon, Kathleen A., Al Evangelista, & Kip Hutchins*. 2023. "Bringing Autoethnography to Undergraduates: An Interdisciplinary Course-Cluster and Lab at Oberlin College." *Journal of Autoethnography* 4(2): 236–254. *Equal authorship.

Reyes, Daisy Verduzco and Kathleen Ragon. 2018. "Analyzing Ethnoracial Mobilization." *Sociology Compass*. 12(10): 1-13.

Ragon, Kathleen A. 2016. "The Big Game." In *Contemporary Social Issues: Sociology through Case Studies*. Ed. Michael Gibbons. Kendall Hunt.

Ragon, Kathleen A. 2013. "The Minimum Wage, Decent Wages, and Time Sovereignty in the European Union." *The Cupola*. Student Publications. Paper 84.
http://cupola.gettysburg.edu/student_scholarship/84

Work in Progress

Ragon, Kathleen A. "The Politics of Saying 'No': Constructing Organizational Leadership in a Graduate Employee Union Campaign." Journal article in progress. Draft available.

Ragon, Kathleen A. "Loose coupling from the bottom up: The case of Graduate Employment." Journal article in progress. Draft available.

Internal Grants and Awards

2020 Oberlin College Teaching Grant, Collaborating with Al Evangelista (Assistant Professor, Dance) and Kip Hutchins (Visiting Assistant Professor, Anthropology), "Performing the Self: Autoethnographic Teaching Modalities and Structures." (\$2,200)
Oberlin College Grant-In-Aid, "Partially Autonomous Spaces and Organizational Change." (\$2,500)

2019 UConn Graduate School Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship Award (\$2,000)
UConn Sociology Department Ronald L. Taylor Award for Best Graduate Student Paper (\$250)
UConn Sociology Department Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award
Nominated for the UConn Center for Excellence in Teaching Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award

2018 UConn Sociology Department Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Award (\$3,066)
Letters from Provost Kennedy recognizing Excellence in Teaching (Spring + Fall)

2017 UConn Sociology Department Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Award (\$3,587)
Letters from Provost Kennedy recognizing Excellence in Teaching (Spring + Fall)

2016 UConn Sociology Department Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Award (\$2,121)

External Grants and Awards

- 2019 Notre Dame Center for the Study of Social Movements Young Scholars Conference Attendee
2013 Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship – Honorable Mention
2011 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Mellon Summer Scholars Program (\$3,500)

Invited Talks & Workshops

- 2022 November *Increasing Student Belonging in the Classroom*. Co-facilitated with Dr. Allie Barringer for Augustana College Center for Faculty Enrichment. Rock Island, IL.
- 2022 March *Power and Class: Labor Organizing in Higher Education*. Speaker series on “What Unions Do.” Hamilton College. Clinton, NY.
- 2022 March *Introduction to NVivo Qualitative Data Analysis Software*. A two-workshop series I facilitated for Dr. Christin Munsch’s (UConn) research team. Virtual.

Public Scholarship

- Ragon, Kathleen A. 2019. “#CiteBlackWomen – Citing More Broadly.” 13 December. <<https://mobilizingideas.wordpress.com/2019/12/13/citeblackwomen-citing-more-broadly/>>
- Ragon, Kathleen A. 2019. “The Green New Deal and the Future of Work in America Conference.” 9 December. <<https://mobilizingideas.wordpress.com/2019/12/09/the-green-new-deal-and-the-future-of-work-in-america-conference/>>

Conference Presentations

- American Sociological Association Annual Meeting (virtual)
Organizations as Tools in the Emancipatory Project Paper Session: “Loose Coupling from the Bottom Up: The case of Graduate Employee Unions.” (Aug. 2021)
- American Sociological Association Annual Meeting – San Francisco, CA (virtual)
Labor & Labor Movements Roundtable: “Graduate Employee Unionization and Organizational Change in Higher Education.” (Aug. 2020 – virtual via Zoom)
- Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting: Sociology as Science and Vocation – Philadelphia, PA
Paper Presentation & Session Presider: “Science as a Vocation, Market Logic, and Labor Organizing in Higher Education.” (Feb. 2020)
- Center for the Study of Social Movements, Young Scholars Conference
Paper Presentation: “Finding the ‘Good Organizer’: Exclusive Leadership in a Graduate Employee Union Campaign.” (May 2019)
- American Sociological Association Annual Meeting: Feeling Race – Philadelphia, PA
Roundtable Presentation: Section on Labor and Labor Movements Refereed Roundtable Session, Voice and Struggle. “Sisyphus or Hercules? Institutional Outcomes of the Graduate Employee Union.” (Aug. 2018)
- Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting: Social and Institutional Change – Baltimore, MD
Paper Presentation: “Explaining Graduate Employee Unionization in the United States: A Multi-Institutional Politics Approach.” (Feb. 2018)
- Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting: The End of the World as We Know It? – Philadelphia, PA
Co-Presenter, Paper: “‘Taking Care’: Organizational Responses to Sexual Harassment in Public Festivals and Higher Education,” with Ordoitz Galilea, University of Connecticut (Feb. 2017)
- Chicago Ethnography Conference: Beyond the Case Study – DePaul University, Chicago, IL
Paper Presentation: “How do you define yourself?: Mobilizing Leadership in the Graduate Employee Union Movement.” (April 2016)
- CUNY Sociology Doctoral Student Conference: Shifting Boundaries, Enacting Change – New York, NY
Paper Presentation: “How do you define yourself?: Mobilizing Leadership in the Graduate

Employee Movement.” (March 2016)
Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting – Boston, MA
Paper Presentation: “Gendering Sexual Assault Prevention” (March 2013)
Central Pennsylvania Consortium Annual Women’s Studies Conference – Lancaster, PA
Paper Presentation: “Gendering Sexual Assault Prevention” (March 2013)
International Labor Process Conference – Stockholm, Sweden
Paper Presentation: “Minimum Wage and Working Hours in the European Union” (March 2012)
Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting – New York, NY
Paper Presentation: “Minimum Wage and Working Hours in the European Union” (February 2012)
National Down Syndrome Congress Meeting – San Antonio, TX
Paper Presentation: “Transition Out of the Family Home for Adults with Down Syndrome” with Dr. Michael Gibbons (August 2011)

Additional Research Experience

Research Assistant for Dr. Mary Bernstein and Dr. Nancy Naples
2014-2016 Breast Cancer and Decision-Making: Work included compiling literature on breast cancer, body image, and decision-making; transcribing qualitative interviews; coding interviews using NVivo software; and organizing coded interview data for book chapters.

Professional Affiliations

American Sociological Association
Sections: Collective Behavior/Social Movements; Labor and Labor Movements; Teaching and Learning in Sociology
Sociologists for Women in Society
United Association for Labor Education

Professional Service

Ad Hoc Reviewer, *Social Problems, Mobilization*
Contributing Editor, *Mobilizing Ideas*

Penn State

Undergraduate Committee (2023-)
Faculty Advisory Committee (2023-)
Faculty Advisor: United Students Against Sweatshops-Student Workers at Penn State Club (AY 2024)

Augustana College

Faculty Affinity Circle: Shared Governance (AY 2021)
AAUP Circle: Salary & Benefits (AY 2022)

UConn

Sociology Grad Association (SGA) Recruitment and Orientation Committee (2014-2019)
SGA Executive Committee President (2016)
SGA Faculty Mentor Award Committee (AY 2014)
UAW Local 6950 Recording Secretary (2015 – 2017)
UAW Local 6950 Bargaining Committee (2015 – 2017)
UAW Local 6950 Elections Committee (AY 2018)
UAW Local 6950 Childcare Committee (AY 2018)

Professional Development and Training

- Fall 2023 “Creating a culture of belonging: Inclusive physical and digital spaces,” presented by Adam Finkelstein. Sponsored by Penn State Teaching and Learning with Technology.
- Spring 2023 Center for Faculty Enrichment Book Club: *Trauma-Informed Pedagogies*.
- Fall 2022 SafeZone Training, Augustana College Office of Student Inclusion and Diversity.
- Spring 2022 “Linguistic Justice and Responding to Student Writing” workshop with Drs. Ashley Burge, Jeff Renaud, and Cathy Webb. Sponsored by the Augustana College Center for Faculty Enrichment.
- “Trauma-Informed Pedagogy” workshop with Dr. Jessica Schultz, Augustana College.
- Fall 2021 Augustana College Faculty Exploration Group: Syllabi
- Spring 2021 “Responding to Racism in the Classroom” workshop, Oberlin College Gertrude B. Lemle Teaching Center (GBLTC)
- “Homegrown Best Practices for Anti-Racism” workshop, Oberlin College GBLTC.
- Fall 2020 Dr. Asao Inoue Workshops on White Language Supremacy:
“How Does White Language Supremacy Influence What We Really Value in Student Writing?”
“Designing and Using Labor-Based Grading Contracts for Antiracist Classrooms,” Oberlin College GBLTC.
National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity (NCFDD), 14-Day Writing Challenge.
NCFDD, “Every Semester Needs a Plan” webinar workshop.
- Spring 2020 “Using Play and Games in Teaching.” UConn Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL)
UConn CETL Book Club: *The Inner Work of Racial Justice*, Rhonda Magee (2019)
- Fall 2019 “Building Your Research Story,” 7-week seminar with Dr. Kenneth Noll and Dr. Stuart Duncan about communicating your research to a public and professional audience.
“Soliciting Mid-Semester Student Feedback.” UConn CETL
“Strategies for Equitable Participation in Class.” UConn CETL
- Spring 2019 “The intellectual benefits of playfulness: bringing play into your classroom.” UConn CETL
- Fall 2018 “Supporting Students with Mental Health Concerns.” UConn CETL
- Spring 2018 “Being Present in the Classroom.” UConn CETL
- Fall 2017 “Mixing It Up: Adding Variety to your Classroom Instruction.” UConn CETL
- Spring 2014 “Write Winning NSF Grant Proposals” Seminar conducted by John D. Robertson, PhD. Grant Writers’ Seminars and Workshops, LLC. University of Connecticut.
- Fall 2014 Teaching at Teaching-Intensive Institutions Symposium
Marlboro, MA. Sponsored by MA Department of Higher Education, Bridgewater State University, Brown University, MIT, UMass Amherst, UMass Boston, Boston College, Boston University, Yale University, and Northeastern University.
- Fall 2013 “Strategies for Increasing Participation in Class and Facilitating Effective Discussion”