

# Rayna E. Momen

## Curriculum Vitae

---

West Virginia University  
Department of Sociology and Anthropology  
307 Knapp Hall  
PO Box 6326  
Morgantown, West Virginia 26506-6326

Office: 304.293.5801  
Email: rmomen@mix.wvu.edu

### Education

---

- 2016 – Ph.D. Sociology: Emphasis in crime (Doctoral Candidate, ABD)  
West Virginia University  
Examination Topic: The criminalization of transgender people  
Dissertation Title: Living on the edge: Trans\* exclusion, survival, and resilience
- 2008 M.A. Sociology  
West Virginia University  
Thesis Title: *Empirical Study of Hate Crimes in the United States: A Systematic Test of Levin and McDevitt's Typology of Offenders*
- 2001 B.A. Sociology, Cum Laude  
Minors: Creative Writing, Women's Studies  
West Virginia University

### Fellowships

---

- 2019 Summer Policy Fellow  
West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy  
Charleston, WV
- 2016 – 2019 W.E.B. Du Bois Fellow  
Office of Graduate Education and Life  
West Virginia University

### Graduate Research Assistantships – West Virginia University

---

- 2019 – 2021 Center for Women's and Gender Studies  
AGEP EAGER: Exploring Conditions for Systemic Equity Transformation that Advance Women and Minority STEM Faculty
- Qualitative interviews, transcription, coding, content analysis
  - Quantitative data collection and analysis
  - Institutional Review Board (IRB) and interview protocols
- 2005 School of Social Work
- Survey research
- 2004 – 2005 Interdisciplinary Research Task Force on Welfare Reform
- Content analysis of qualitative data from WV Works survey
- 2002 – 2005 Extension Service: Center for 4-H and Youth, Family and Adult Development
- Survey research: spreadsheet development and data entry using SPSS
  - Statistical analysis of School Violence Questionnaire using SPSS

# Rayna E. Momen

## Curriculum Vitae

### Professional Appointments

---

- 2015 – 2016 Adjunct Instructor/Lecturer  
2008 – 2010 Department of Sociology and Anthropology  
West Virginia University
- 2014 – 2016 Developmental Advising Specialist/Academic Success Advisor  
Center for Learning, Advising, and Student Success  
West Virginia University
- 2011 – 2013 Project Director  
Quality Assured Companies  
Morgantown, WV
- 2009 – 2011 Drug and Alcohol Therapist  
Valley Alliance Treatment Services  
Morgantown, WV
- 2006 – 2007 Project Director  
Marion County Prevention Planning Network  
Strategic Prevention Framework-State Incentive Grant  
Fairmont, WV

### Professional Memberships

---

- American Civil Liberties Union of West Virginia, Board of Directors, 2021 –
- Appalachian Prison Book Project, Board of Directors At-Large Member, 2021 –
- American Society of Criminology, 2020 –  
\*Division on Queer Criminology, 2021 –
- International Society for the Study of Rural Crime Inc. (founding member), 2020 –
- Mid-South Sociological Association, 2020 –
- West Virginia Criminal Law Reform Coalition, 2019 –
- Students Demand Action, WVU Student Organization Secretary, 2019 – 2020
- Sociologists for Women in Society, East Chapter, 2019
- Alpha Kappa Delta, The International Sociology Honor Society, 2018 –
- Appalachian Prison Book Project, WVU Student Organization President 2016–20, Member –
- Graduate Sociology Association, WVU Student Organization, 2016 – 2017
- WVU Commission for LGBTQ Equity, 2015 –
- Spectrum, LGBTQ and Allies, WVU Student Organization Staff Co-Advisor, 2015 – 2016
- WVU LGBT Alumni Group, Secretary, 2015 – 2016

# Rayna E. Momen

## Curriculum Vitae

### Teaching Experience – Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program (WVU courses taught in prisons)

---

Teaching Assistant for Dr. Katy Ryan, Fall 2019

- English 275: Justice and Literature  
Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program  
State Correctional Institution, Fayette, PA

Teaching Assistant for Dr. Katy Ryan, Fall 2017

- English 275: Justice and Literature  
Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program  
Federal Correctional Institution, Hazelton, WV

### Teaching Experience – West Virginia University

---

Adjunct Instructor

- Sociology and Anthropology 235: Race and Ethnic Relations (online)  
Summer 2016; Spring 2016; Fall 2015; Summer 2010; Summer 2009
- Sociology and Anthropology 221: Families and Society (online)  
Summer 2010; Spring 2010; Summer 2009; Spring 2009

Adjunct Lecturer

- Sociology and Anthropology 235: Race Relations (lecture)  
Spring 2008

### Teaching Certifications and Workshops

---

- International Instructor Training Institute of the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program, 2018
- Online Teaching Workshop with Dr. Lindsay Kahle, West Virginia University, 2019

### Teaching and Research Interests

---

Queer and Rural Criminology; Intersectionality; Anti-racist and Abolitionist Pedagogy; Higher Education in Prison; Impacts of Structural Racism and Mass Incarceration; Transgender Criminalization and Victimization; Affrilachian & Queer Appalachian Resistance

### Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – West Virginia University

---

- School of Nursing: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee Consultant, 2020 –
- Research and Graduate Education Subcommittee on Racial Justice, 2020

### Skills

---

Quantitative and Qualitative social science research; Public Policy; Stata; SPSS; Qualtrics; Dedoose; eCampus; Academic advising; Creative writing

# Rayna E. Momen

## Curriculum Vitae

### Panels and Speaking Engagements

---

- Panelist alongside Dr. Katy Ryan, “Books, Building Community, and the Appalachian Prison Book Project,” Session Five of the Furman Prison Education Partnership’s inaugural speaker series, Furman University, virtual event, 2021
- Panelist, “Young, Gifted, and Black in West Virginia Policy,” virtual event by Crystal Good and Dr. Shanequa Smith in partnership with the ACLU-WV, 2021
- Featured Poet, “Black Joy,” NAACP Morgantown/Kingwood #3241, virtual event, 2021
- Panelist, Appalachian Prison Book Project, “Freeing Minds, Building Community” Criminal Justice Reform Summit: Poverty and the Criminal Justice System, WV Criminal Law Reform Coalition virtual conference January 27-30, 2021
- Featured Poet, “A Reading by Emerging Appalachian Writers of Color,” Humanities Center Appalachian Writers of Color Mini-Series, WVU, 2020
- Panelist, “Women Beyond Bars,” founding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) event for the School of Nursing, WVU, 2020
- Panelist, “Criminal Injustice: Confronting Racial Disparities in the Criminal Legal System,” Beyond Bars Summit: A Dialogue on Mass Incarceration in West Virginia, Reed College of Media, WVU, 2020
- Panelist, “WV Working Families Party COVID-19 Conversation: COVID-19 in our Prisons & Jails,” Livestreamed, 2020
- Panelist, “We Can Get There from Here: Ending Mass Incarceration in WV,” Summer Policy Institute, West Virginia State University, 2019
- Panelist, “Black Queer Lives Matter,” LGBTQ+ Center, WVU, 2019
- Speaker on Mass Incarceration, Criminal Justice Reform, and Working with Incarcerated People, West Virginia Innocence Project Law Clinic, 2019
- Roundtable Participant, “Moving Beyond the Walls that Separate Us: A Panel Discussion on the Humanization of Incarcerated Individuals and the Current Criminal Justice System,” Social Action Clinic, WVU, 2019
- Co-Facilitator, Working Session on Student Experience, Appalachian Prison Book Project Summit, WVU, 2018
- Podcast Speaker, *Contact Across the Divide*: Ep. 1, Facilitated by Beth Staley and Valerie Surrent, WVU, 2017: <https://soundcloud.com/apbp/contact-across-the-divide-episode-1>

### Community Building and Volunteer

---

- Appalachian Community Think Tank, Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program, State Correctional Institution, Fayette, PA, 2019 –
- Women of Wisdom Book Club, Appalachian Prison Book Project, Secure Female Facility, Hazelton, 2018 – 2019
- The Council Think Tank, Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program, Federal Correctional Institution, Hazelton, WV, 2018 – 2019
- *Conversations Through the Fence*, Editorial Board, The Council Think Tank, 2017 – 2019
- Appalachian Prison Book Project nonprofit, Volunteer, 2014 –
- Badged Level II Volunteer, Federal Correctional Complex, Hazelton, WV, 2017 – 2019
- 270+ volunteer hours logged in WVU’s Center for Service & Learning iServe system, 2016 –

# Rayna E. Momen

## Curriculum Vitae

### Public Policy Experience

---

- Researched female incarceration in WV and developed a data-driven report and policy recommendations for decarceration, with support from the West Virginia Center on Budget & Policy via the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, 2019–2021 [https://www.journal-news.net/rayna-momen/image\\_14449a57-0559-5506-9139-8f66e02ffa98.html](https://www.journal-news.net/rayna-momen/image_14449a57-0559-5506-9139-8f66e02ffa98.html)
- Provided feedback and data analysis for an American Civil Liberties Union-WV report: (2021). Overcrowded and deadly: West Virginia's jails are in crisis, 2021 [https://www.acluww.org/sites/default/files/field\\_documents/overcrowded\\_and\\_deadly\\_final\\_0.pdf](https://www.acluww.org/sites/default/files/field_documents/overcrowded_and_deadly_final_0.pdf)
- Worked with a WV Delegate, *Reuters* journalist and data reporter to develop data-driven policy recommendations to reduce jail mortality in WV, 2020-2021: <https://news.yahoo.com/west-virginia-lawmakers-push-jail-212608611.html>
- Pitched “West Virginia Invests Again” initiative to then-WV Senate President Mitch Carmichael and stakeholders at the WV Capital, seeking to expand access to higher education to incarcerated West Virginians in state prisons via legislative amendment to SB1, on October 28<sup>th</sup>, November 26<sup>th</sup>, and December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019

### Professional Development

---

- Met with Mara Boggs, WV State Director, Office of the U.S. Senator Joe Manchin III, by invitation from Freedom for All Americans, and presented an overview of the co-authored report, “The Impact of Stigma and Discrimination Against LGBT West Virginians” in support of the Equality Act, 2021
- Interviewed by *USA Today* as an expert on fatal violence against transgender people, 2021: <https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/news/nation/2021/05/06/transgender-killings-puerto-ricos-transwomen-murder-rate-hits-record/4859574001/>
- Interviewed by the *Chicago Tribune* as an expert on fatal violence against transgender people, 2021: <https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/breaking/ct-transgender-woman-shot-dead-20210110-gkf4hp6bxndvno4ojvny353c6m-story.html>
- Internship, Appalachian Prison Book Project, 2019
- HOPE Think Tank Seminar, Facilitated by Inside Think Tank Members, Federal Correctional Institution, Hazelton, WV, 2019
- Trans/NonBinary Safe Zone Training, LGBTQ+ Center, WVU, 2018
- Write Winning Grant Proposals, Facilitated by Dr. John D. Robertson, Grant Writers’ Seminars and Workshops and WVU, 2018
- Getting Funded: The Science and Art of Grant Writing, 4-part Workshop Series, Facilitated by Dr. Walter S. DeKeseredy, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, WVU, 2017
- Inside-Out Interactive Workshop, Federal Correctional Institution, Hazelton, WV, 2017

### Awards, Honors, and Recognitions

---

- Honoree, Black Excellence Academic Celebration, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Pi Mu Chapter, WVU, 2021
- My poem, “A Branch of the Potomac,” was taught in Dr. Ann Pancake’s “Topics in Appalachian Literature: Love, Grief, & Hope” English course at WVU, spring 2021
- Campus Read Essay Contest Winner, Office of Graduate Education & Life, WVU, 2020
- Outstanding Women’s Studies Senior, Eberly College of Arts & Sciences, WVU, 2001

# Rayna E. Momen

## Curriculum Vitae

- Center for Black Culture Scholarship, The Trust Committee of the Loyalty Permanent Endowment Fund of the WVU Alumni Association, 2000
- Hershel “Woody” Williams Scholarship, Department of West Virginia Marine Corps League and the Hershel “Woody” Williams Scholarship Foundation, 2000
- My poem, “One of the Few,” was taught in Dr. Melissa Latimer’s “Race Relations” sociology course at WVU
- Presidential Award for Excellence in Scholarship, WVU, 2001; 2000; 1999
- Storer Award, WVU Scholars Program, Full Academic Scholarship, 1996

### PUBLICATIONS \*Peer-Reviewed

---

Mallory, C., Vasquez, L., Brown, T. N. T., **Momen, R. E.**, & Sears, B. (2021). *The impact of stigma and Discrimination against LGBT People in West Virginia*. Los Angeles, CA: The Williams Institute.

**Momen, R. E.** (2020). Mountain state women aren’t always free: The state of women’s incarceration in West Virginia. West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy. <https://wvpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/WVCBP-Women-Incarceration-Report-.pdf>

\***Momen, R. E.**, & Dilks, L. (2020). Predicting case outcomes in US transgender homicides: An exploratory examination of the intersectionality of victim characteristics. *Sociological Spectrum*. <https://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/PBYI6CU8M8DAIWJT5YG5/full?target=10.1080/02732173.2020.1850379>

\***Momen, R. E.**, & DeKeseredy, W. S. (2020). ‘Why don’t you just leave?’ Transgender resilience and barriers to escaping abuse. In X. Guadalupe-Diaz & A. Messinger (Eds.), *Transgender intimate partner violence: A comprehensive introduction* (pp. 91-109). New York, NY: NYU Press.

\*Nolan, J. J., Nicewarner, R. L., & **Momen, R. E.** (2020). Preventing rural hate crime. In A. Harkness & N. Smith (Eds.), *Rural crime prevention: Theory, tactics, and techniques*. London: Routledge.

**Momen, R. E.** (2017). Review of the book *LGBTQ intimate partner violence: Lessons for policy, practice, and research*, by A. M. Messinger. *The Division on Women and Crime*, 2017 Summer Edition. Available from <http://ascdwc.com/book-reviews-summer-2017/>

### MANUSCRIPTS FORTHCOMING

---

\***Momen, R. E.** (forthcoming). Queerly navigating the system: Trans\* experiences under state surveillance. In L. Kahle & C. Buist (Eds.), *Queering criminology in theory and praxis: Re-Imagining justice in the criminal legal system and beyond*. Bristol, UK: Bristol University Press.

\*Ryan, K., Surrett, V., & **Momen, R.** (forthcoming). Reading and writing between the devil and the deep blue: The Appalachian Prison Book Project. In S. S. McKoy & P. E. Alexander (Eds.), *Teaching literature and writing in prisons*. New York, NY: Modern Language Association.

# Rayna E. Momen

## Curriculum Vitae

### MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

---

**Momen, R. E.** Review of the book *Big house on the prairie: Rise of the rural ghetto and prison proliferation*, by J. M. Eason. Submitted to the *International Journal of Rural Criminology*.

### COMPLETED MANUSCRIPTS

---

**Momen, R. E., & Allen, D.** (unsubmitted). Queerly disrupting injustice: How the Appalachian Prison Book Project supports incarcerated LGBTQ people.

### PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS \*INVITED

---

**\*Momen, R. E., & Dilks, L.** Predicting case outcomes in US transgender homicides: An exploratory examination of the intersectionality of victim characteristics. Presented by Dr. Lisa Dilks at the Mid-South Sociological Association Virtual Conference. Oct 15, 2020.

**Momen, Rayna E:** The growth of female incarceration in WV: Causes, consequences, and solutions, presented at the West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy's Summer Policy Institute: Connecting WV's future leaders to policy work and networks. July 27, 2019, Erickson Alumni Center, West Virginia State University, Institute, WV.

**Momen, Rayna E:** Effect of protein-calorie malnutrition on cytochrome P450 and glutathione s-transferase expression. 1996. Health Sciences Center. West Virginia University

### REVIEWER FOR INTERNATIONAL & INTERDISCIPLINARY JOURNALS \*INVITED

---

- \*Violence Against Women

### AWARDED GRANTS

---

- 2021 Alma and Claude Rowe Excellence Through Equity Award from the Center for Women's and Gender Studies at West Virginia University (\$1,000), to support formerly incarcerated people pursuing higher education in West Virginia
- 2019 WV Invests Again: Expanding higher education access to incarcerated West Virginians, Policy Pitch Mini-Grant Winner, Summer Policy Institute, West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy. Karissa Bjorkgren, Jennifer Kayrouz, Edith Martinez, **Rayna Momen** (\$500), to support expansion of SB1 to currently incarcerated West Virginians in state prisons through legislative amendment
- 2019 Barrelhouse Amplifier Award. **Rayna Momen**, Katy Ryan, and Katie Vogelpohl (\$1,500), to support *These Walls Can Talk*, Appalachian Prison Book Project publishing wing

### References

---

Available upon request