

# JENNIFER STEELE

Curriculum Vitae • September 2023

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Department of Sociology and Anthropology  
West Virginia University  
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## EDUCATION

- 2002      Ph.D. in Rural Sociology  
            Pennsylvania State University (University Park, PA)  
            Specializations: Natural resource sociology, rural and community development
- 1999      M.S. in Rural Sociology  
            Pennsylvania State University (University Park, PA)
- 1992      B.A. in Biology, Environmental Studies Concentration  
            St. Olaf College (Northfield, MN)

## PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

### Academic Positions

- 2013-present    Service (formerly Clinical) Associate Professor  
                    Department of Sociology and Anthropology, West Virginia University
- 2007-13        Clinical Assistant Professor  
                    Department of Sociology and Anthropology, West Virginia University
- 2003-07        Senior Lecturer (2005-07)/Lecturer  
                    Department of Sociology and Anthropology, West Virginia University
- 2004            Visiting Instructor/Extension Specialist  
                    West Virginia University Extension Service
- 1997-2002     Graduate Research Assistant  
                    Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, Pennsylvania State University

### Administrative and Leadership Experience

- 2010-present    Associate Chair (since 2015)/Assistant Chair  
                    Department of Sociology and Anthropology, West Virginia University
- 2020-21        Chair, Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee  
                    West Virginia University

2015-16 Academic Leadership Fellow in Undergraduate Education  
Office of the Provost, West Virginia University

### **Other Work Experience**

1996-97 Environmental Technician/Planning  
Stearns County Environmental Services Department (St. Cloud, MN)

1995-96 Team Leader of Sustainable Communities Project  
Central Minnesota Initiative Fund (Little Falls, MN)

1994-95 AmeriCorps Rural Development Team Member  
East Central Regional Development Commission (Mora, MN)

1993-94 Data Management/Environmental Review Assistant  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Natural Heritage and Nongame Wildlife  
Programs (St. Paul, MN)

### **SERVICE ACTIVITIES**

#### **Administrative service to Department of Sociology and Anthropology**

Appointment-specific service, 2007-present

- Advising and advising administration: Play key role in design of advising structure, train faculty advisors, serve as advising contact for current and prospective students and other advising units at WVU and deliver related programming, directly advise 100+ students per term
- Curriculum assessment: Assist with design and implementation

Associate/Assistant Chair, 2010-present

- Take lead in course scheduling
- Assist with personnel matters pertaining to non-tenure track faculty, orientation of new faculty in relation to teaching matters, and handling student concerns

#### **Other service to Department of Sociology and Anthropology**

Undergraduate Program Committee, Member 2008-present, Chair 2009-10

Administrative Leadership Team, Member 2015-2020

Faculty Evaluation Committee, Member 2016-19

Faculty Search Committees, Chair 2016, 2014, Member 2018, 2015, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2007

PhD Program Taskforce, 2012-13

#### **Service to West Virginia University**

Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee, Chair 2020-21, Member 2016-2023

Search Committee Chair, Director of Multidisciplinary and Integrated Studies, Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, 2022

Student Success Committee and Course Opportunities Subcommittee, Member 2021-22

Course Modality and Schedule Type Task Force, Member 2020

Mountaineer Core Task Force, Member 2020

Undergraduate Council, Member 2009-19

Persistence and Completion Council, Member 2017-18

Retention Group, Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, Chair 2016-17  
Outstanding Teacher Committee, Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, Member 2013-15  
Digital Measures Task Force, Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, Member 2012-13  
Curriculum and Academic Quality Committee, Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, Member 2008-10  
Faculty Evaluation Committee, School of Applied Social Sciences, Member 2007-09

### **Community service**

Arnettville Community Association (rural Morgantown, WV)

- Board Member, 2009-present except for 2013, 2014, and 2018 (including several terms as President, most recently 2020-present)
- Grants Coordinator and General Volunteer, September 2007 to present: Grant writing and administration, public speaking, assistance with fundraisers and community events

### **Service to the profession**

Manuscript reviewer

- Have reviewed for following journals: *Community Development*, *Journal of Rural Social Sciences*, *Journal of Appalachian Studies*, *Rural Sociology*, *Invasive Plant Science and Management*, *Natural Areas Journal*, *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *The American Sociologist*, and *Local Development and Society*

Teaching and Curriculum Interest Group, Rural Sociological Society, Co-chair 2012-13, 2011-12, 2009-10, 2008-09

Workshop and panel session organizer

- 2012. "Incorporating Rural-Urban Sensitivity in Introductory Sociology Courses," teaching workshop at the annual meeting of the North Central Sociological Association, Pittsburgh, PA, April.
- 2011. "The Rural Road Show: Developing a Teaching Workshop for Delivery at Regional Meetings," panel session at the joint annual meeting of the Rural Sociological Society and Community Development Society, Boise, ID, July.
- 2009. "Course Development in Undergraduate Rural Sociology," pre-conference workshop at the annual meeting of the Rural Sociological Society, Madison, WI, July-August (co-organized with Joseph F. Donnermeyer).

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Courses taught at West Virginia University:

Undergraduate

- Sociology of Rural Life (SOCA 323), Spring 2003-present
- Special Topic: Sociology of Food and Agriculture (SOCA 393), Spring 2020
- Social Research Methods (SOCA 311), Summer 2004-present
- Practicing Sociology and Anthropology (SOCA 361, 1 credit), Spring 2018-present
- Economy and Society (SOCA 463), Spring 2019 and Fall 2013
- Orientation to Sociology and Anthropology (SOCA 199, 1 credit), Fall 2007-Fall 2017
- First Year Seminar (WVUe 191, 1 credit), Fall 2017
- Introduction to Sociology (SOCA 101), Fall 2003-Spring 2007 and Fall 2022
- Special Topic: Environmental Sociology (SOCA 293), Fall 2006

## Graduate

- Principles of Research Design (SOCA 510), Fall 2009-Fall 2012

## Graduate committee service (MA in Sociology unless otherwise specified):

- Chair: Barbara Prince (2014) and Jennifer Mitchell (2009)
- Member: Annette Mackay (PhD in Sociology, 2023), Craig Zell (2015), Jacob Matz (2013), Debra Blaacker (2012), Chad Morrison (2011), Ellen Rodriguez (2010), Mark Middleton (2009), Jennifer Chambers (2009), Elizabeth Tichner (M.S. in Forest Resources, 2009), and Jacqueline Canady (2006)

## HONORS AND AWARDS

Gabriel Brothers Faculty Award, Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, West Virginia University, 2015

Nicholas Evans Faculty Award for Advising Excellence, West Virginia University, 2011

Kenneth P. Wilkinson Memorial Scholarship in Rural Sociology, The Pennsylvania State University, 2001

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Steele, Jennifer. 2009. "Model Learning Outcomes for Introductory Rural Sociology: A Proposal and Rationale." *Southern Rural Sociology* 24(3):17-28.

Steele, Jennifer, David W. McGill, Rakesh S. Chandran, William N. Grafton, and Cynthia D. Huebner. 2008. "Landowner Characteristics Associated with Receiving Information about Invasive Plants and Implications for Outreach Providers." *Journal of Extension* [On-line], 46(6) Article 6FEA7. Available at: <http://www.joe.org/joe/2008december/a7.shtml>.

Steele, Jennifer, Rakesh S. Chandran, William N. Grafton, Cynthia D. Huebner, and David W. McGill. 2006. "Awareness and Management of Invasive Plants among West Virginia Woodland Owners." *Journal of Forestry* 104(5):248-253.

Jagnow, Coren P., Richard C. Stedman, A. E. Luloff, Gary J. San Julian, James C. Finley, and Jennifer Steele. 2006. "Why Landowners in Pennsylvania Post Their Property Against Hunting." *Human Dimensions of Wildlife* 11(1):15-26.

Steele, Jennifer and A. E. Luloff. 2003. "The Timing of Adoptions of Land Use Plans and Regulations in Pennsylvania Localities." *Social Science Quarterly* 84(1):210-218.

Steele, Jennifer, Lisa Bourke, A. E. Luloff, Pei-Shan Liao, Gene L. Theodori, and Richard S. Krannich. 2002. "The Drop-Off/Pick-Up Method for Household Survey Research." *Journal of the Community Development Society* 32(2):238-250.

Bridger, Jeffrey C., A. E. Luloff, Louis A. Ploch, and Jennifer Steele. 2001. "A Fifty-Year Overview of Persistence and Change in an Old Order Amish Community." *Journal of the Community Development Society* 32(1):65-87.

## BOOK REVIEWS

Steele, Jennifer. 2017. Review of *Rural People and Communities in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Resilience and Transformation*, by David L. Brown and Kai A. Schafft. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press, 2011, 260 pp. *Community Development* 48(3):452-454.

Steele, Jennifer. 2016. Review of *Locus of Authority: The Evolution of Faculty Roles in the Governance of Higher Education*, by William G. Bowen and Eugene M. Tobin. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2015, 380 pp. *NACADA Journal* 36(1):80-83.

Steele, Jennifer. 2012. Review of *Grounded Globalism: How the U.S. South Embraces the World*, by James L. Peacock. Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 2007, 311 pp. *Community Development* 43(4):530-532.

Steele, Jennifer. 2008. Review of *Windshield Wilderness: Cars, Roads, and Nature in Washington's National Parks*, by David Louter. Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 2006, 240 pp. *Community Development* 39(1):123-124.

## RESEARCH REPORTS

Basden, Tom, Mark Sperow, Jennifer Steele, Ed Rayburn, Sigrid Teets, and Jason Teets. 2013. *Multi Species Grazing System using Sheep and Cattle for Improved Ecological Soil Conditions*. Report prepared for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Morgantown, WV: West Virginia University Extension Service.

Chandran, Rakesh and Jennifer Steele. 2005. *Identifying Outreach Strategies for Engaging Private Forest Landowners in Invasive Plant Management*. Report prepared for the USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, and the WV Department of Agriculture, Plant Industries Division. Morgantown, WV: West Virginia University Extension Service.

Steele, Jennifer, A. E. Luloff, and James C. Finley. 2004. *Community Survey: Wallowa Resources Community-Based Forestry Initiative*. Report prepared for Wallowa Resources, Inc. University Park, PA: The Pennsylvania State University.

\_\_\_\_\_. 2003. *Community Survey: Makah Community-Based Forestry Initiative*. Report prepared for the Makah Tribal Council. University Park, PA: The Pennsylvania State University.

\_\_\_\_\_. 2003. *Community Survey: Rural Action Community-Based Forestry Initiative*. Report prepared for Rural Action, Inc. University Park, PA: The Pennsylvania State University.

Finley, James C., A. E. Luloff, Jennifer Steele, Coren Jagnow, Gary San Julian, and Melissa Hobbs. 2002. *Access Decisions of Pennsylvania's Private Landowners*. Report prepared for the Pennsylvania Game Commission. University Park, PA: The Pennsylvania State University.

Luloff, A.E., Cathy D. Kassab, Jeffrey C. Bridger, Jennifer Melbye, Pei-Shan Liao, and Gene L. Theodori. 2000. *Rural Economic Development and Individual Well-Being*. Report prepared for the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service. University Park, PA: The Pennsylvania State University.

## PRESENTATIONS AT PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES (\* denotes presenter)

Colyer, Corey,\* Annette Mackay, and Jennifer Steele. 2018. "What do They (Think They) Want? Assessing the Wants and Needs of New Sociology Students," presented at the annual meeting of the North Central Sociological Association, Pittsburgh, PA, April.

Steele, Jennifer. 2016. "'Unpacking' High Predictive Course Rankings," presented at the John N. Gardner Institute Gateway Course Experience Conference, Atlanta, GA, April.

- Steele, Jennifer. 2014. "Rural Dimensions of Student Academic and Career Advising," presented at the Region 3 conference of the National Academic Advising Association, Morgantown, WV, April.
- Steele, Jennifer. 2013. "The Emergence, Survival, and Struggles of a Community-Based Organization," presented at the annual meeting of the Rural Sociological Society, New York, NY, August.
- Faulkner, Joshua,\* Tom Basden, Jennifer Steele, Dave Seymour, and Mary Beth Bennett. 2012. "Innovative Strategy for Gaining Agricultural Stakeholder Input to Inform Watershed Planning in the Chesapeake Bay." Poster presented at the Land Grant and Sea Grant National Water Conference, Portland, OR, May.
- Steele, Jennifer. 2009. "Assessing Student Learning in Undergraduate Rural Sociology," presented at the annual meeting of the Rural Sociological Society, Madison, WI, July-August.
- Steele, Jennifer. 2008. "Model Learning Objectives for Introductory Rural Sociology: A Proposal and Rationale," presented at the annual meeting of the Rural Sociological Society, Manchester, NH, July.
- Steele, Jennifer\* and Rakesh Chandran. 2005. "Identifying Strategies for Engaging Private Woodland Owners in Invasive Plant Management," presented at the annual meeting of the Rural Sociological Society, Tampa, FL, August.
- Steele, Jennifer\* and Rakesh Chandran. 2005. "Engaging Private Woodland Owners in Invasive Plant Management," presented at the West Virginia Invasive Species Working Group, Flatwoods, WV, April.
- Steele, Jennifer\* and Rakesh Chandran. 2005. "Opportunities and Challenges for Engaging Private Landowners in Invasive Plant Management," presented at the annual meeting of the Northeastern Weed Science Society, Washington, D.C., January.
- A.E. Luloff, James C. Finley,\* and Jennifer Steele. 2004. "A Comparative Response to Community-Based Forestry," presented at the International Symposium on Society and Resource Management, Keystone, CO, June.
- Melbye, Jennifer\* and A.E. Luloff. 2002. "Community Perspectives on the Use of Land Use Tools in Rural Pennsylvania Localities," presented at the International Symposium on Society and Resource Management, Bloomington, IN, June.
- Luloff, A.E.,\* James C. Finley, and Jennifer Melbye. 2001. "Social Issues and Impacts Associated with Land Parcelization in the Northeast," presented at the annual meeting of the Rural Sociological Society, Albuquerque, NM, August.
- Melbye, Jennifer\* and A.E. Luloff. 2000. "Planning, Zoning, and Land Use Conversion: What are the Relationships?" presented at the annual meeting of the Rural Sociological Society, Washington, D.C., August.
- Melbye, Jennifer\* and A.E. Luloff. 2000. "Land Use Conversion in Pennsylvania: Do Local Planning and Zoning Efforts Matter?" presented at the International Symposium on Society and Resource Management, Bellingham, WA, June.
- Theodori, Gene L.,\* Jennifer Melbye, and A.E. Luloff. 2000. "Ozone Action Days: Asking for Voluntary Actions to Reduce Emissions of Ozone-forming Pollutants," presented at the International Symposium on Society and Resource Management, Bellingham, WA, June.

Melbye, Jennifer,\* Lisa Bourke, A.E. Luloff, Pei-shan Liao, Gene L. Theodori, and Richard S. Krannich. 1999. "The Drop-Off/Pick-Up Method for Household Survey Research," presented at the annual meeting of the Rural Sociological Society, Chicago, IL, August.

Melbye, Jennifer\* and A.E. Luloff. 1999. "Factors Associated with Perceptions of Forests in Four Northern Pennsylvania Communities," presented at the annual meeting of the Rural Sociological Society, Chicago, IL, August.

Liao, Pei-shan,\* Jennifer Melbye, Gene L. Theodori, and A.E. Luloff. 1999. "Individual Well-Being in Growing and Declining Communities: Affective, Cognitive, and Behavioral Dimensions," presented at the annual meeting of the Rural Sociological Society, Chicago, IL, August.

Theodori, Gene L., Jennifer Melbye,\* and A.E. Luloff. 1998. "Rural Economic Development and Individual Well-Being," presented at the annual meeting of the Rural Sociological Society, Portland, OR, August.

Melbye, Jennifer\* and A.E. Luloff. 1998. "Toward Improved Stewardship of Nonindustrial Private Forestlands: A Community-Based Model," presented at the International Symposium on Society and Resource Management, Columbia, MO, May.

Melbye, Jennifer. 1997. "Sustainable Community Indicators," presented at the St. Cloud State University Regional Conference on Sustainable Communities, St. Cloud, MN, May.

Melbye, Jennifer. 1996. "Community Problem Solving," presented at the Minnesota Extension Service Local Government Forum, St. Cloud, MN, February.