

JENNIFER STEELE

Department of Sociology and Anthropology
West Virginia University
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Curriculum Vitae • August 2025

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 (2003-05)
 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 (2015-present)/Assistant Chair (2010-15)
 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 200+ 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 West Virginia University

Department of Sociology and Anthropology

- Undergraduate Program Committee, Member 2008-present, Chair 2009-10
- Faculty Evaluation Committee, Member 2021-23, 2016-19
- Professional Advisor Search Committees, Chair 2025, 2016
- Faculty Search Committees, Chair 2014, Member 2018, 2015, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2007
- PhD Program Taskforce, 2012-13

Eberly College of Arts and Sciences

- Faculty Evaluation Committee, Member 2024-present
- Multidisciplinary and Integrated Studies Faculty Evaluation Committee, Member 2024
- Search Committee Chair, Director of Multidisciplinary and Integrated Studies, 2022
- Retention Group, Chair 2016-17
- Outstanding Teacher Committee, Member 2013-15
- Digital Measures Task Force, Member 2012-13
- Curriculum and Academic Quality Committee, Member 2008-10

University-level service

- Faculty Senate Recruitment and Retention Committee, Member 2024-25
- Faculty Senate Service Committee, Member 2023-24
- Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee, Chair 2020-21, Member 2016-2023
- 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

Community service

Arnettsville Community Association (rural Morgantown, WV)

- Board Member and Officer, 2009-2024 (excluding 2013, 2014, and 2018)
- Grants Coordinator and General Volunteer, 2007-present: Grant writing and administration, public speaking, assistance with fundraisers and community events

Service to the profession

Manuscript reviewer

- Completed reviews for the 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*, and *The American Sociologist*

Teaching & Curriculum Interest Group, Rural Sociological Society, Co-chair 2012-13, 2011-12, 2009-10, 2008-9

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

Undergraduate level

- Sociology of Rural Life (SOC 323), Spring 2003-present
- Social Research Methods (SOC 311), Summer 2004-present
- Practicing Sociology and Anthropology (SOC 361, 1 credit), Spring 2018-present
- Special Topic: Sociology of Food and Agriculture (SOC 393), Spring 2020
- Economy and Society (SOC 463), Spring 2019 and Fall 2013
- Orientation to Sociology and Anthropology (SOC 199, 1 credit), Fall 2007-Fall 2017
- First Year Seminar (WVUe 191, 1 credit), Fall 2017
- Introduction to Sociology (SOC 101), Fall 2025, Fall 2022, and Fall 2003-Spring 2007
- Special Topic: Environmental Sociology (SOC 293), Fall 2006

Graduate level

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

Graduate committee service in Sociology

- PhD Committee Member: Howard Ryan (2025) and Annette Mackay (2024)
- MA Committee Chair: Barbara Prince (2014) and Jennifer Mitchell (2009)
- MA Committee Member: Craig Zell (2015), Jacob Matz (2013), Debra Blaacker (2012), Chad Morrison (2011), Ellen Rodriguez (2010), Mark Middleton (2009), Jennifer Chambers (2009), and Jacqueline Canady (2006)
- External Committee Member: Elizabeth Tichner (MS in Forest Resources), 2009

HONORS AND AWARDS

Outstanding Honors Advisor Award, West Virginia University Honors College, 2025

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 21st 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.