

CURRICULUM VITAE

**Elisha Marr, Ph.D.**

**PRESENT POSITION:**

Assistant Professor of Sociology: Hope College (July 2006 – present)  
Research Associate: The Frost Research Center (May 2006 – present)

Areas of Interest: Intersections (of race, class, and gender), Family, Policy,  
and Popular Culture

**PROFESSIONAL ADDRESS:**

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Social Work  
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**EDUCATION:**

Michigan State University: 2001 – 2006

East Lansing, MI

Ph.D. Sociology completed Fall 2006

- Dissertation: “Missing: Comprehensive Information on Transracial Adoption in Michigan”

M.A. Sociology completed Spring 2003

- Thesis: “ ‘I’ll have the melting pot soup with a side of black’: An Exploration into the Lives of Transracial Adoptees”

Grand Valley State University: 1999 – current

Allendale, MI

M.A. Public Administration in progress

Calvin College: 1997-1998

Grand Rapids, MI

Interdisciplinary B.A. – Sociology and Business Administration

Michigan State University: 1993-1996

East Lansing, MI

## **TEACHING ACTIVITIES:**

Hope College: Assistant Professor  
July 2006 - current

- Medical Sociology
- Sociology and Social Problems
- Race and Ethnicity

Ferris State University: Instructor  
January 2005 - May 2006

- Introduction to Sociology
- Gender Roles in Society
- American Minorities
- Deviant Behaviors
- The Field of Aging
- The Sociology of Health and Illness
- Leisure and Society

University of Michigan - Flint: Instructor  
August 2004 - December 2004

- Introduction to Sociology

Grand Valley State University: Teaching Assistant  
August 2003 - December 2003; August 2004

- Social Welfare Policy

## **MANUSCRIPTS AND PROPOSALS:**

Elisha Marr (under review) “Sweetheart Stories: The Portrayal of Transracial Adoption in Newsprint”

Elisha Marr (in progress) “Transracial Adoptive Mothers and Birthmothers in Newsprint”

Elisha Marr (in progress) “ ‘I’ll have the melting pot soup with a side of black’: An Exploration into the Lives of Transracial Adoptees”

## **REPORTS:**

Elisha Marr and Laurie Van Ark (2007) "Teaching American History: Teacher Focus Groups 2006-2007"

Elisha Marr and Laurie Van Ark (2007) "Van Wylen Library Student Focus Groups"

Elisha Marr and Laurie Van Ark (2006) "Teaching American History: Summer Institute Event Assessment"

Laurie Van Ark and Elisha Marr (2006) "Ozone Action Days 2006"

Laurie Van Ark and Elisha Marr (2006) "Careerline Tech Graduate Survey 2006"

Elisha Marr and Laurie Van Ark (2006) "Kids Hope Mentor Survey 2006"

Elisha Marr and Laurie Van Ark (2006) "Teaching American History: Winter Colloquium Event Assessment 2006"

Elisha Marr (2005) "Institutional Racism in the Evangelical Lutheran Church North/West Lower Synod"

Elisha Marr (in progress) "Organizational Analysis of the Community Housing Partnership"

Elisha Marr and Laurie Van Ark (in progress) "Teaching American History: Student Focus Groups"

Elisha Marr and Laurie Van Ark (in progress) "Teaching American History: Focused Learning Community"

Elisha Marr and Laurie Van Ark (in progress) "Teaching American History: Winter Colloquium Event Assessment 2007"

## **CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION:**

Elisha Marr (2007) “ ‘I’ll have the melting pot soup with a side of black’: An Exploration into the Lives of Transracial Adoptees” Second International Conference on Adoption and Culture. University of Pittsburgh, PA.

Elisha Marr (2007) “Sweetheart Stories: The Portrayal of Transracial Adoption in Newsprint” Michigan Sociological Association Annual Meeting. East Lansing, MI.

Elisha Marr (2006) “Transracial Adoption” Pacific Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Universal City, CA.

Elisha Marr (2006) Multiracial Families panelist. Pacific Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Universal City, CA.

Elisha Marr (2005) “ ‘I’ll have the melting pot soup with a side of black’: An Exploration into the Lives of Transracial Adoptees” Reproduction Disruptions Conference. University of Michigan, MI.

Elisha Marr (2005) Transracial adoption panelist. Reproduction Disruptions Conference. University of Michigan, MI.

Elisha Marr (2003) “Roadmap for Technology: Helping Foundations Plan for the Technological Future” Council of Michigan Foundations Annual Conference. Grand Rapids, MI.

Elisha Marr (2003) “Human Resource Fundamentals” Roundtable Organizer. Council on Foundations Annual Conference. Baltimore, MA

## **CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP ATTENDANCE:**

- Slavery in the Colonial Era: Muskegon Intermediate School District
- Geographic Information Systems: Michigan State University
- Reproductive Disruptions Conference: University of Michigan
- GLBT Students in the Classroom Workshop: Ferris State University
- Methods for Teaching First Year College Students Workshop: Michigan State University
- Sociologists for Women in Society Conference: Miami, Florida
- Midwest Sociological Conference: Chicago, Illinois
- Summit on Racism: Grand Rapids, Michigan
- Coalition Building and Healing Workshop with Bernice Reagan Johnson: Michigan State University
- Pop Culture Workshop with bell hooks: Michigan State University
- Teaching Workshop: Michigan State University
- Interviewing People: Grand Rapids, Michigan

## MAJOR RESEARCH ACTIVITIES:

Transracial Adoption: *Spring 2002 -*

- Requesting assistance from a large, international adoption agency for contacts with domestic and international birthparents
- Reviewing international public policy for affect on adoption
- Initiating the compilation of demographic, quantitative, and statistical data on Michigan infant adoption trends

Teaching American History Program Evaluation: *May 2006 -*

- Revised comprehensive three-year plan for evaluation of an Intermediate School District program for American history teachers
- Conduct on-going quantitative data collection including on-line pre- and post-assessments, paper surveys; SPSS employed for data analysis
- Conduct on-going qualitative work including interviews and focus group facilitation and analysis

Transracial Adoption Dissertation: *Summer 2005 - Fall 2006*

- Media content analysis of newspaper articles on transracial adoption
- Conducted qualitative interviews with adoption specialists
- Reviewed and analyzed policy and practices in the areas of adoption, abortion, and welfare
- Reviewed literature on the topics of transracial adoption, birthparents (non-transracial), welfare, and reproductive rights
- Identified lack of demographic, quantitative, and statistical data on Michigan adopted infants

Masters Thesis on Transracial Adoption: *Spring 2002 - Spring 2003*

- Conducted qualitative, ethnographic interviews with transracial adoptees and transracially adoptive parents
- Quantified qualitative data for analysis using SPSS
- Completed an extensive literature review on the topic of transracial adoption

Interviewer: American University (Rita J. Simon): *Fall 2002*

- Employed to conduct qualitative, ethnographic interviews with transracial adoptees

Consultant: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: *Fall 2005*

- Analyzed Evangelical Lutheran Church in American - North/West Lower Synod (ELCA N/WLS) constitution for evidence of institutional racism; included a review of synod surveys, training materials, and mission of their Anti-Racism team
- Created report of possible problem areas and ideas for improvement
- Presented the information to the ELCA N/WLS bishop and synod council

Reviewer: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers: *March 2006*

- The Gender Lens: Gender and Families: Scott Coltrane

Research Assistant: Michigan State University (Clifford L. Broman):  
*Summer 2005*

- Employed to research and compile literature

Sage Race Relations Abstractor: Michigan State University: *September 2003, March 2004*

- Synthesized current sociology into abstract statements

Human Resources Professionals Survey: Grand Rapids Community Foundation: *September 2003*

- Assisted in the design, distribution, collection, and analysis of field survey
- Published results in Finance-Administration Officers Group (FAOG) bulletin

On-line Application Users Survey: Grand Rapids Community Foundation:  
*Winter 2001 - Winter 2004*

- Assisted in the creation of on-line grant application
- Utilized on-line survey tool to collect information about application users and their experience
- Analyzed collected data to create suggestions for improvement

Regional Conflict Study: Wyoming and Grandville, Michigan: *January 2001 - April 2001*

- Following the development of a new shopping mall in Grandville, Michigan, the effect on the neighboring city was explored including collecting quantitative data on population shifts, financials, and crime statistics
- Collected qualitative data from area government officials, businesses, and community members
- Synthesized report on current and possible future regional conflict between the two cities

Youth Enrichment Scholarship Program Evaluation: *September 2000 - December 2000*

- Interviewed graduates and mentors of scholarship program providing funding for extracurricular activities
- Evaluated program components

## **MEMBERSHIPS AND ASSOCIATIONS:**

- Alpha Kappa Delta Honors Society
- Sociologists for Women in Society
- Midwest Sociological Society
- Grand Rapids Community Media Center

## **AWARDS, HONORS, AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- Michigan State University College of Social Science Dissertation Completion Fellowship
- Michigan State University College of Social Science Minority Retention Fellowship
- Honored as a “Favorite Faculty Member” by a Ferris State University Student Athlete, February 2006
- 101 West Michigan’s Best and Brightest Companies, May 2004
- Harry and Lucille Brown Scholarship, September 1997-1998
- Economic Club Scholarship, 1997-1998
- Calvin College 1997-1998
  - Florence G. Kuipers Scholarship
  - Multicultural Scholarship
  - Transfer Student Scholarship
- McNair/SROP Summer Fellowship Nominee, April 1996
- Women’s Resource Center Scholarship, 1993-1994 and 1995-1996
- Deans List
  - Michigan State University (undergraduate and graduate)
  - Grand Valley State University
  - Calvin College

## **VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:**

- Resurrection Life Church - Member and nursery volunteer
- Grand Rapids Community Media Center - Ex- board member
- Youth Enrichment Scholarship Program - Youth mentor
- Nic-O-Team - Human resource advisor
- Council of Michigan Foundations - Member of various technological committees
- Fiscal-Administrative Officers Group - Human resource committee member

**PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT:**

- Grand Rapids Community Foundation, September 1998 - August 2004  
Human Resources and Information Systems Specialist
- Planned Parenthood Centers of West Michigan, September 1996 -  
September 1998  
Development Secretary and Finance Assistant
- Michigan State University, September 1993 - September 1996  
Computer Lab Monitor