

Education

- Ph.D. **Summa Cum Laude**, 2014, The Graduate Center, City University of New York: Sociology / Doctoral Certificate: Women's and Gender Studies (Dissertation: "Circuits of Desire: Science, Therapy, Trauma, Femininity").
- M.A. **Summa Cum Laude**, 2004, University of Maryland, Baltimore County: Sociology (Thesis: "Learning Femininity: Exploring Body Image in University Women").
- B.A. **Magna Cum Laude**, 2003, University of Maryland, Baltimore County: Sociology / Certificate: Women's Studies.

Professional, Research, and Teaching Positions

- 2017–present: **Assistant Professor**, *Trinity College, Department of Sociology and Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program.*
- 2014–2017: **Assistant Professor**, *Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Department of Sociology and Women's Studies Program.*
- 2011–2014: **CUNY Research Fellow / Freshman Commons Project Manager**, *Queens College, City University of New York, Office of General Education and Center for Teaching & Learning.*
- 2012: **Instructor**, *Brooklyn College, City University of New York, Political Science Program.*
- 2010–2011: **CUNY Writing Fellow**, *Queens College, City University of New York, Writing Across the Curriculum Program.*
- 2007–2010: **Graduate Teaching Fellow**, *Queens College, City University of New York, Sociology Program.*
- 2005–2006: **Instructor**, *University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Sociology and Women's Studies Programs.*
- 2003–2005: **Teaching Assistant**, *University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Sociology Program.*
- 2004–2005: **Research Assistant**, *University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Center for Women in Technology.*
- 2004–2005: **Graduate Academic Advisor**, *University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Academic Services.*

Book Publications

- Spurgas, Alyson K. 2020. *Diagnosing Desire: Biopolitics and Femininity into the Twenty-First Century*. Columbus, OH: The Ohio State University Press ("Abnormativities: Queer/Gender/Embodiment" series, edited by Scott Herring).

Publications in Refereed Journals

- Spurgas, Alyson K. 2016. "Low Desire, Trauma and Femininity in the *DSM-5*: A Case for Sequelae." *Psychology & Sexuality* 7: 48-67.
- Spurgas, Alyson K. 2013. "Interest, Arousal, and Shifting Diagnoses of Female Sexual Dysfunction, or: How Women Learn about Desire." *Studies in Gender and Sexuality* 14: 187-205.
- Spurgas, Alyson K. 2013. "Gendered Populations and Trauma Beyond Oedipus: Reply to Angel's Commentary." *Studies in Gender and Sexuality* 14: 217-223.
- Borck, C. Ray, Jesse Goldstein, Steve McFarland, and Alyson K. Spurgas. 2013. "#occupyoureducation." *Radical Teacher* 96: 39-47.
- Spurgas, Alyson K. 2012. "Where is My Subjectivity? Techno-Imagery, Femininity and Desire." *Social Text*: http://socialtextjournal.org/periscope_article/where-is-my-subjectivity-techno-imagery-femininity-desire/
- Spurgas, Alyson K. 2005. "Body Image and Cultural Background." *Sociological Inquiry* 75: 297-316.
- Spurgas, Alyson K. 2004. "The Effect of Ethnicity on Body Image in University Women." *UMBC Review: Journal of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works* 5: 122-150.

Publications in Edited Volumes

- Kleinplatz, Peggy J., Lianne Rosen, Maxime Charest, & Alyson K. Spurgas. 2020. "Sexuality and Sexual Dysfunction: Critical Analyses." Pp. 443-454 in *The International Handbook of Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health*, edited by J. Ussher, J. Perz, and J. Chrisler. London and New York: Routledge.
- Spurgas, Alyson K. 2009. "(Un)Queering Identity: The Biosocial Production of Intersex/DSD." Pp. 97-122 in *Critical Intersex*, edited by M. Holmes. London: Ashgate Press.
- Spurgas, Alyson K. 2008. "The Cultural History of Hermaphroditism and Intersexuality," "Blepharoplasty," "The History of Makeup Wearing," "Beauty Ideals of the Eyes," and "Eye Makeup," in *The Cultural Encyclopedia of the Body*, edited by V. Pitts-Taylor. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood Press.

Book Reviews, Blog Posts, and Non-Peer Reviewed Publications

- Spurgas, Alyson K. 2016. "Solving Desire." *The New Inquiry*: <http://thenewinquiry.com/essays/solving-desire/>
- Spurgas, Alyson K. 2016. "We've Come A Long Way, Baby? Pink Pills, Blue Pills, and False Equivalences in the Medical Treatment of Sexual Dysfunction." *SIUE Women's Studies Program Blog*: <https://siuewmst.wordpress.com/2016/02/12/weve-come-a-long-way-baby-pink-pills-blue-pills-and-false-equivalences-in-the-medical-treatment-of-sexual-dysfunction/>

- Spurgas, Alyson K. 2015. "Talking About Race Isn't 'Impolite' and 'Feminist' Isn't a Dirty Word!" *SIUE Women's Studies Program Blog*: <https://siuewmst.wordpress.com/2015/02/20/talking-about-race-isnt-impolite-and-feminist-isnt-a-dirty-word/>
- Spurgas, Alyson K. 2011. "Review of *Brain Storm: The Flaws in the Science of Sex Differences* by Rebecca M. Jordan-Young." *Radical Teacher* 92: 64-66.
- Spurgas, Alyson K. 2011. "Technologies, Writing, & Embodied Identity." *Revisions: A Zine on Writing at Queens College*, Issue 8, Spring 2011, on "Writing Technologies": <http://revisions2011.qwriting.qc.cuny.edu/2011/07/19/technologies-writing-embodied-identity/>
- Morrell, Claudia, Shelia Cotten, Alisha Sparks, and Alyson K. Spurgas. 2004. "Computer Mania Day: An Effective Intervention for Increasing Youth's Interest in Technology," *Report to Maryland Commission for Women*.

Forthcoming Publications

- Meleo-Erwin, Zoë & Alyson K. Spurgas. [2021]. *Decolonize Self-Care!* Book manuscript currently under contract with OR Books ("Decolonize That!" series, edited by Bhakti Shringarpure).
- Spurgas, Alyson K. [2021]. "The Freedom to Fall Apart: A Crip Theory of Feminized Fracture." Article currently forthcoming with *Lateral*, the journal of the Cultural Studies Association [CSA] ("Everyday Emergencies: Crip Knowledges to Care for the Present" special section, edited by Theodora Danylevich and Alyson Patsavas).

Publications Under Review & In Progress

- Spurgas, Alyson K. [2021]. "Review of *Freezing Fertility: Oocyte Cryopreservation and the Gender Politics of Aging* by Lucy van de Wiel." *Contemporary Sociology: A Journal of Reviews*.

Paper Presentations at Professional Conferences

- November 2020: "Between the Bedroom and the Clinic: Erotic Potential as Measurement/Therapeutic Excess." National Women's Studies Association Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN. *Accepted Paper (conference postponed due to COVID-19)*.
- June 2020: "The Queer Intake: Ethnography and the Internalization of Medical and Scientific Discourses about Female Desire." 8th Ethnography & Qualitative Research Conference, Bergamo, Italy. *Accepted Paper (conference postponed due to COVID-19)*.
- November 2019: "When the Antidote is More of the Same Poison: The Race, Class, and Gender Implications of Selling Self-Care" (with Zoë Meleo-Erwin). National Women's Studies Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA.

- August 2019: “A Softer, Gentler Neoliberalism? Self-Help Feminism, Alternative Medicine, and the White Feminization of the Marketplace” (roundtable participant with Zoë Meleo-Erwin). American Sociological Association Annual Conference, New York, NY.
- May 2019: “Masochistic Capitalism” (roundtable participant with Tavia Nyong’o, John Andrews, Alex Pittman, and Katherine Sugg). Cultural Studies Association Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- November 2018: “The Freedom to Fall Apart: Feminine Fracturing and the Affective Production of Gendered Populations.” American Studies Association Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA.
- November 2018: “Vulnerability in the Classroom: (A)sexualities and the Politics of Educational Intimacy.” National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA.
- March 2018: “A Student Guide to Avoiding Danger: An Analysis of High School Sex Ed” (with Abigail L. Hall). Midwestern Sociological Society Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN.
- November 2017: “Parasexuality & the Feminine: An Exploration of Naturalized Receptivity v. Intentional Submission.” National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD.
- May 2017: “Queering Receptivity: Parasexual Pleasure in the Face of Compulsory & Feminized Trauma.” Queer Places, Practices, and Lives III Conference, Columbus, OH.
- November 2016: “Valorizing Femininity: Affective Labor, Sexual Carework, & the Reproduction of Receptivity.” National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference, Montreal, Québec, Canada.
- October 2016: “Desire, Consent, & Women’s Experiences with Sexual Carework.” New View Capstone Conference, Bloomington, IN.
- November 2015: “Ecstatic Therapies, Affective Treatments: Sexuality, Governance, and the Management of Low Female Desire.” National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference, Milwaukee, WI.
- August 2015: “Sexual Carework and Feminine Socialization in Intimate Relationships: Embodied Invisible Labor among Low-Desiring Women.” American Sociological Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.
- February 2015: “Low Desire, Trauma, and Femininity in the *DSM-5*: A Case for Sequelae.” International Congress for Critical Social Psychology Annual Conference, Barcelona, Spain.
- February 2015: “Posttraumatic Stress, Dissociative, Somatic Symptom, and Low Sexual Desire Disorders in the *DSM-5*: Disentangling the Comorbid, the Syndrome, and the Sequelae.” Eastern Sociological Society Annual Conference, New York, NY.
- February 2014: “Embodied Invisible Labor and Sexual Carework: Women’s Roles in Sexualized Social Reproduction within Intimate Relationships.” Eastern Sociological Society Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD.
- June 2013: “Interest, Arousal, and Shifting Diagnoses of Female Sexual Dysfunction, or: How Women Learn about Desire.” Sexuality Studies Association Annual Conference, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

- March 2012: “Against Optimization: Some Thoughts on the Machinations and Time of Desire.” Cultural Studies Association Annual Conference, San Diego, CA.
- April 2011: “Enacting a New Field of Vision for Desire: Neuroimaging, Therapy, and Evolutionary Femininity.” International Conference on Body Image and Identity in Contemporary Society, New York, NY.
- March 2011: “Circuits of Desire: Technoimaging and Therapeutic (Re)Learning.” Cultural Studies Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.
- March 2010: “Intimacy & Trauma in a Homeless Shelter for LGBTQ Youth.” Cultural Studies Association Annual Conference, Berkeley, CA.
- July 2009: “(Un)Queering Identity: The Biosocial Production of Intersex/DSD.” Disorderly Conduct Conference, Waterloo, Canada.
- February 2008: “HIV/AIDS Infection and Transmission: Attitudes, Concern, and Risk Behavior among Gay and Bisexual Men in NYC and LA” (with David Bimbi and Jeffrey Parsons). Eastern Sociological Society Annual Conference, New York, NY.
- June 2007: “The Social Construction and Medicalization of Intersexuality.” PHANYC Student Conference, New York, NY.
- March 2007: “Complicating Nature: Intersexuality, Invisibility, and Intelligibility from the Modern Medical Period to the Present.” Eastern Sociological Society Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
- August 2005: “Public Health in Cuba from 1959 to the Present: Effects on Gender, Work, and Family.” Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
- May 2005: “Tattooing and Body Image” (with Raven Baker). Visions in Feminism Annual Conference, Washington, DC.
- April 2005: “Learning Femininity: Exploring Body Image in University Women.” Southern Sociological Society Annual Conference, Charlotte, NC.
- April 2004: “Body Image and Cultural Background.” Annual UMB/UMBC Graduate Research Conference, Baltimore, MD.
- April 2004: “The Effect of Ethnicity on Body Image in University Women.” Southern Sociological Society Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Presentations at Public Lectures

- December 2018: **Invited Speaker**, “A Softer, Gentler Neoliberalism: Self-Help Feminism, Alternative Medicine, and the (White) Feminization of the Marketplace.” Global Vantage Point Lecture Series, Center for Urban and Global Studies (CUGS), Trinity College, Hartford, CT.

- September 2017: **Invited Speaker**, “Queering Receptivity: Parasexual Pleasure in the Face of Compulsory & Feminized Trauma” with discussant Katie Gentile. Women and Society Seminar, University Seminars, Columbia University, New York, NY.
- October 2016: **Invited Speaker**, “Desire, Consent, & Women’s Experiences with Sexual Carework.” Women’s Studies Program Fall 2016 Speakers Series, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Edwardsville, IL.
- October 2015: **Invited Speaker**, “Circuits of Desire: Science, Therapy, Trauma, Femininity.” Women’s Studies Program Fall 2015 Speakers Series, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Edwardsville, IL.
- February 2015: **Panelist**, “Truth-Telling and Reconciliation: A Town Hall Style Open Dialogue on Ferguson and Beyond,” facilitated by activist-educator-scholars from different campus communities as well as SIUE faculty and students, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Edwardsville, IL.
- November 2014: **Invited Speaker**, “Embodied Invisible Labor and Sexual Carework: Women’s Roles in Sexualized Social Reproduction within Intimate Relationships” with discussant Amber Jamilla Musser. Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program Fall 2014 Colloquium Series, Washington University, St. Louis, MO.
- October 2014: **Invited Speaker**, “Posttraumatic Stress, Dissociative, and Sexual Desire Disorders in the *DSM-5*: Separating Sexuality from Relationality.” Philosophy Department Fall 2014 Colloquium Series, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Edwardsville, IL.
- March 2011: **Discussant**, “Brain Storm: The Flaws in the Science of Sex Differences” with Rebecca M. Jordan-Young. NeuroCulture Lecture Series, CUNY Graduate Center, New York, NY.

Honors and Awards

- 2013: **Symonds Prize**, *Studies in Gender and Sexuality* Annual International Competition: “Interest, Arousal, and Shifting Diagnoses of Female Sexual Dysfunction, or: How Women Learn about Desire.” Awarded for best essay on a topic related to issues of gender, sexuality, or both, this paper was also published as the lead essay in Volume 14, Issue 3 of *Studies in Gender and Sexuality*.
- 2012: **Rose Laub Coser Dissertation Proposal Award**, Eastern Sociological Society: “Circuits of Desire: Neuroimaging, Evolutionary Femininity, and Therapeutic Learning.” Awarded for best dissertation proposal in the area of sex/gender studies.
- 2004: **First Place Winner**, Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociological Honor Society Graduate Student Paper Competition: “Body Image and Cultural Background.” Awarded for best research project, this paper was also published in Volume 75, Issue 3 of *Sociological Inquiry*.
- 2003–present: Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society member.
- 2002–present: Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociological Honor Society member.

Grants and Fellowships

- 2019–2020: **Completion Grant**, Trinity College.
- 2019: **Trinity Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies (TIIS) Junior Faculty Research Fellowship**, Trinity College.
- 2018–2019: **Community Learning Initiative Faculty Fellow Grant (CLiFF)**, Trinity College.
- 2018–2019: **Community Learning Student Research Fellows (CLIC) – Faculty Sponsor Grant**, Trinity College.
- 2018–2019: **Liberal Arts Action Lab (LAAL) Faculty Fellow Grant**, Opportunity Youth Project, Trinity College.
- 2013–2014: **Dissertation Year Fellowship**, The Graduate Center, City University of New York.
- 2011–2014: **CUNY Research Fellowship**, The Graduate Center, City University of New York.
- 2011–2012: **Mellon Fellowship**, Committee for Interdisciplinary Science Studies, The Graduate Center, City University of New York.
- 2010–2011: **CUNY Writing Fellowship**, The Graduate Center, City University of New York.
- 2006–2011: **Sponsored Chancellor’s Fellowship**, The Graduate Center, City University of New York.
- 2004: **International Field Research Planning & Development Fellowship**, University of Maryland, Baltimore County.
- 2003–2004: **Sponsored Graduate Scholarship**, University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

Service to the Profession

- 2020–2021: Currently authoring book review for a peer-reviewed academic journal.
- 2020: Currently reviewing scholarly article for a peer-reviewed academic journal.
- 2018: Evaluated book manuscript for a university press.
- 2017–present: Editorial board member of *Women & Performance: A Journal of Feminist Theory* (Taylor & Francis).

Service to the University, College, and Department

- 2020–present: **Racial Justice Committee member (ad-hoc committee)**, Trinity College.
- 2018–present: **Treasurer & Executive Committee member (previously At-Large Representative)**, American Association of University Professors (AAUP), Trinity College.

- 2018–present: **Faculty Conference Committee member**, Trinity College.
- 2018–present: **Global Health Humanities Gateway (GHHG) Advisory Group member**, Trinity College.
- 2018–present: **Center for Urban and Global Studies (CUGS) Advisory Board member**, Trinity College.
- 2018–present: **Safer Space faculty advocate**, Queer Resource Center (QRC), Trinity College.
- 2018–present: **Green Dot Sexual Violence Prevention Strategy faculty advocate**, Trinity College.
- 2017: **Honorary Coach** for the Women’s Basketball Team, Trinity College.
- 2015–2017: **Faculty Senator**, Rules & Procedures Committee, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.
- 2014–2017: **Sexual Assault Awareness Task Force member**, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.
- 2014–2017: **SIUE Black Lives Matter Group co-organizer**, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.
- 2014–2017: **Women’s Studies Faculty Coordinating Committee member**, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Women’s Studies Program.
- 2015–2017: **Sociology Promotional Materials Committee chair**, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Department of Sociology.
- 2015–2017: **Comprehensive Theory Exam Committee member**, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Department of Sociology.
- 2014–2017: **Strategic Planning Committee member**, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Department of Sociology.
- 2014–2017: **Sabbatical Review Committee member**, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Department of Sociology.
- 2014–2017: **Departmental Library Liaison**, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Department of Sociology.
- 2011–2012: **Executive Committee member**, The Graduate Center, City University of New York, Sociology Program.
- 2009–2011: **Colloquium Committee member**, The Graduate Center, City University of New York, Sociology Students Association.
- 2004–2005: **Faculty/Graduate Mentor**, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Women Involved with Living and Learning (WILL).

Service to the Community

- 2018–present: **Connecticut Doctors Orchestra member (second-chair viola)**, Hartford, CT.
- 2016–2017: **Member / Organizer**, Anti-Racist Collective (ARC), St. Louis, MO.

- 2016–2017: **Presenter / Workshop Organizer**, Sex+STL (Sex Positive St. Louis – community resource group), St. Louis, MO.
- 2015–2016: **Presenter / Workshop Organizer**, Box (worker-owned collective, feminist sex toy store, and sexual education resource center), St. Louis, MO.
- 2014–2015: **Organizer**, South City Solidarity Action Coalition / Ferguson Action Council, St. Louis, MO.
- 2008–2014: **Volunteer**, Sylvia Rivera Law Project (transgender rights legal collective), New York, NY.
- 2005–2006: **Member**, Speakers' Bureau, Planned Parenthood of Maryland, Baltimore, MD.
- 2005–2006: **Organizer**, Visions in Feminism Annual Conference, Washington, DC.

Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis Experience

- 2011–present: Designed a qualitative study involving participant observation at alternative health centers and medical clinics, content analysis of medical and scientific research from experimental and clinical psychology publications, and the collection and analysis of in-depth interview data with 37 participants. This qualitative and discursive analysis is ongoing.
- 2007: Utilized Binary Logistic Regression and One-Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) with SPSS in the statistical analysis of 2004 “Sex and Love Survey” data (Center for HIV Educational Studies & Training, New York City).
- 2004: Utilized grounded theory methodology and linguistic discourse analysis in the evaluation of original qualitative data for master's thesis research.
- 2004: Designed an original qualitative research project, conducted in-depth semi-structured interviews with twelve participants, and held a focus group interview in order to gather data regarding women's body image perceptions cross-culturally for master's thesis.
- 2003: Utilized frequency distributions, One-Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA), and Pearson correlations with SPSS in the statistical analysis of original quantitative survey data for undergraduate honors thesis.
- 2002–2003: Designed an original survey which was distributed to 200 undergraduate women and used to gather quantitative data regarding body image perceptions among female university students for undergraduate honors thesis.

Courses Taught

- 2019–present: SOCL 390: Medicine, Health, & Society
- 2018–present: SOCL 272: Social Movements (Community Learning Initiative course)
- 2018–present: SOCL 101: Principles of Sociology

- 2017–present: SOCL 202: Classical & Contemporary Theory
- 2017–present: SOCL/WMGS 246: Sociology of Gender
- 2017: SOC 411: Social Movements
- 2017: WMST 200: Issues in Feminism
- 2016: IS 399: (De)Constructing Difference: Race, Sex, Disability (Interdisciplinary Studies course, co-taught with a professor in Analytic Philosophy)
- 2016: SOC 383: Medicine, Health, & Society
- 2016–2017: SOC 301: Survey of Contemporary & Classical Sociological Theory
- 2015–2016: SOC 501: Survey of Contemporary & Classical Sociological Theory (graduate-level course)
- 2015: SOC/WMST 310: The Sociological Study of Sexualities & Society
- 2015: SOC 300: Social Problems
- 2014–2017: SOC/WMST 308: Gender & Society
- 2014–2015: SOC 111: Introduction to Sociology
- 2014: SOC 303: Statistics with Computer Applications (utilizing SPSS software and GSS datasets)
- 2012: POLS 3342: Protest & Revolution
- 2009–2010: SOC 381W: Body, Self, & Society (writing-intensive senior seminar capstone course)
- 2009–2010: SOC 246: Sociology of Human Sexuality
- 2007–2009: SOC 212: Sociological Analysis / Introduction to Research Methodology
- 2006: SOCY/WMST 333: Human Sexuality in Cross-Cultural Perspective
- 2006: WMST 100: Introduction to Women's Studies
- 2005: SOCY 300: Methodology of Social Research

Professional Memberships

- 2018–present: American Studies Association
- 2015–present: National Women's Studies Association
- 2014–present: International Congress for Critical Social Psychology
- 2012–present: Sexuality Studies Association of North America
- 2009–present: Cultural Studies Association
- 2007–present: Eastern Sociological Society
- 2004–present: American Sociological Association
- 2005–2007: Society for the Study of Social Problems
- 2004–2005: Southern Sociological Society

Additional Professional Employment

- 2013: **Consultant**, JustPublics@365, The Graduate Center, City University of New York.
- 2010–2013: **Co-coordinator for Labor Relations**, The Adjunct Project, Doctoral Students Council (DSC), The Graduate Center, City University of New York.
- 2005: **Health Center Associate**, Planned Parenthood of Maryland.
- 2005: **Union Organizer**, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME, AFL-CIO).