

Rachel E. Davis

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Murfreesboro, TN 37132
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Rachel.Davis@mtsu.edu

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor of Sociology 2023 – present
Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN
Department of Sociology and Anthropology.
Women's and Gender Studies Program.

Faculty Affiliate 2023 – present
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Remote
Center for Information, Technology and Public Life.

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Critical Feminist Criminology Gendered Violence
Internet Studies Sexual Labor
Feminist Sociology Social Inequalities

EDUCATION

University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY
Ph.D. in Sociology 2023
Graduate Certificate in Gender & Women's Studies 2020
M.A. in Sociology 2019

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
B.A. in Sociology 2017
B.A. in Women's Studies 2017

PUBLICATIONS**Peer-Reviewed Publications**

Davis, Rachel E. 2026. "Debt, Sex, and Money: Imperialist Discourses of Transactional Sex Across Three Geographic and Cultural Contexts." *Criminology & Criminal Justice*. 26(1):85-101.
doi:10.1177/17488958241231879.

- Davenport, Chloe, * **Rachel E. Davis**, Ugur Orak, and Vaun Baltimore. * 2026. “Unhoused and Unfairly Treated: Intersectional Insights into Homelessness and Treatment by Police.” *Critical Criminology*. (Forthcoming)
- Davis, Rachel E. 2025. “Seeking and Surveilled: The Effects of Tumblr’s Sexual Content Ban on Sugar Babies’ Posts.” *Feminist Media Studies* 25(3):704-720. doi:10.1080/14680777.2024.2310826.
- Baltimore, Vaun, * **Rachel E. Davis**, Ugur Orak, Leyla Solakoglu, * and Chloe Davenport. * 2025. “Early Perceptions, Enduring Consequences: How School Safety Concerns Shape Criminal Trajectories Through Developmental Pathways.” *Journal of Developmental and Life Course Criminology* 11:230-253. doi:10.1007/s40865-025-00288-3.
- Davis, Rachel E., and Claire Renzetti. 2022. “Is Religious Self-Regulation a Risk or Protective Factor for Men’s Intimate Partner Violence Perpetration?” *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 37(11-12):NP9981–NP10006. doi:10.1177/0886260520985497.
- Noe, Marcia, **Rachel E. Davis**, and Brittain Whiteside-Galloway. 2014. “Performative Fashion in the Short Fiction of Kate Chopin.” *Midwestern Miscellany* 42:19-31. <https://ssml.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/2014-Fall-MISC.pdf>

Editorially Reviewed Publications

- Davis, Rachel E. 2026. “Digital Sovereignty, Material Atrocities: Social Media Corporations as State Criminal Actors.” Pp. 51-63 in *Handbook on State Criminality*, edited by D. L. Rothe, V. E. Collins, and C. M. Cain. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing. doi:10.4337/9781035320288.00010.
- Davis, Rachel E. 2026. “OnlyFans Digital Threats.” Pp. 883–885 in *The Sage Encyclopedia of Crime and Gender*, edited by J. P. Stamatel. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. doi:10.4135/9781071951804.
- Love, Tony P., Jenny L. Davis, **Rachel E. Davis**, William Fisher, and Rachel Barczak. 2023. “Assessing Collective Identity (Non)Verification with Social Media Data through Web Scraping, Sentiment Analysis, and Qualitative Coding.” Pp. 260–273 in *Handbook of Research Methods for Studying Identity In and Around Organizations: Usual Suspects and Beyond*, edited by R. Cascón-Pereira, I. Winkler, and S. Reissner. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing. doi:10.4337/9781802207972.00034.

Manuscripts in Preparation

- Davis, Rachel E. *Level Up, Ladies: Feminism, Hypergamy, and “Harm” on Social Media*. Bloomsbury Academic. (Under advance contract)

* Student co-author

MEDIA APPEARANCES

MTSU Undergraduate Research Center. November 3, 2025. "Featured Faculty Mentor: Dr. Rachel Davis." *The Student Scholar: News from the URC*. <https://www.canva.com/design/DAG1Zr-5o0k/pkAbzh5sg9k4vkdl8fefNQ/view?utlId=hb3d82d22f9>

Stuart, Carol. June 5, 2025. "Trafficking Signs." *MTSU Research Magazine*. <https://issuu.com/mtsumag/docs/mtsuresearch2025/28>

Cameron, Luke. December 1, 2023. "Meet Rachel Davis: MTSU's Newest Sociology Professor Aims to Make a Difference." *MTSU Sidelines*. <https://mtsusidelines.com/2023/12/01/meet-rachel-davis-mtsus-newest-sociology-professor-aims-to-make-a-difference/>

Loftus, Jamie. January 17, 2021. "Dolores Logs In." *Lolita Podcast*. <https://omny.fm/shows/lolita-podcast/8-dolores-logs-in>

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Received

Undergraduate Research Experience and Creative Activity (URECA) Grant \$500 MTSU Undergraduate Research Center	2026
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Undergraduate Research Experience and Creative Activity (URECA) Grant \$3,000 MTSU Undergraduate Research Center	2025
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Peer-Reviewed Publication/Creative Activity Grant \$1,000 MTSU Office of Research and Sponsored Programs	2025
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Instructional Support Grant \$250 MTSU Engage	2025
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Undergraduate Research Experience and Creative Activity (URECA) Grant \$4,000 MTSU Undergraduate Research Center	2024
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Under Review

OVW Fiscal Year 2025 Research and Evaluation Initiative \$100,000 US Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women	2025
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AWARDS

Faculty Student Success Award MTSU College of Liberal Arts	2026
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Making a Difference Recognition MTSU Office of Student Affairs	2026
Outstanding Advising Award MTSU Women's and Gender Studies Program	2025
Influential Faculty Member Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society	2025
Making a Difference Recognition MTSU Office of Student Affairs	2025
Outstanding Undergraduate Mentor of the Year, Nominee MTSU Office of Undergraduate Research	2025

PRESENTATIONS

Conference

- Davis, Rachel E. 2025. "Digital Sovereignty, Material Atrocities: Social Media Corporations as State Criminal Actors." Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, November 14, Washington, DC.
- Davis, Rachel E. 2025. "Trauma-Informed Pedagogy." Lightning Talk presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, November 12, Washington, DC.
- Guinn, Melissa,* and **Rachel E. Davis**. 2025. "Law Enforcement Perceptions of Sexual Assault and Sex Trafficking." Paper presented at the Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, April 11, Charlotte, NC.
- Davis, Rachel E. 2024. "(In)Capable Guardians: Campus Sexual Assault Adjudication." Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, November 15, San Francisco, CA.
- Guinn, Melissa,* and **Rachel E. Davis**. 2024. "Law Enforcement Perceptions on Sexual Assault and Sex Trafficking." Poster presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, November 14, San Francisco, CA.
- Davis, Rachel E. 2024. "Digital Sovereignty, Material Atrocities: Social Media Corporations as State Criminal Actors." Paper presented at the Mid-South Southern Sociological Association Annual Meeting, October 17, Nashville, TN.

* Student co-presenter

Davis, Rachel E. 2024. "Financed Femininity: Sugar Babies, Spoiled Girlfriends, and High-Value Women on TikTok." Paper presented at the Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, April 6, New Orleans, LA.

Davis, Rachel E. 2023. "Debt, Sex, and Money: Imperialist Discourses of Transactional Sex Across Three Geographic and Cultural Contexts." Paper presented at the Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting, August 18, Philadelphia, PA.

Davis, Rachel E. 2022. "Sweet and Sour: The Impact of Tumblr's Adult Content Ban on Sugar Babies." Paper presented at American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, November 17, Atlanta, GA.

Davis, Rachel E. 2021. "Seeking and Surveilled: The Effects of FOSTA on Sugar Babies' Tumblr Activities." Paper presented at American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 9, online due to COVID-19.

Davis, Rachel E. 2019. "The Fear of God: Religious Motivations and Men's Intimate Partner Violence Perpetration." Paper presented at Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, April 11, Atlanta, GA.

Campus

Davis, Rachel E. 2025. "Law Enforcement Perceptions of Sex Trafficking." Middle Tennessee State University Office of Research and Sponsored Programs Raider Research Series, April 7, Murfreesboro, TN.

Davis, Rachel E. 2025. "Level Up, Ladies: Sugar Babies, Spoiled Girlfriends, and High-Value Women on Tumblr and TikTok." Middle Tennessee State University Women's and Gender Studies Spring Research Series, February 26, Murfreesboro, TN.

Davis, Rachel E. 2024. "Human Trafficking: Putting a Name to My Face." Middle Tennessee State University Expert Panel, March 20, Murfreesboro, TN.

Davis, Rachel E. 2021. "Seeking and Surveilled: The Effects of FOSTA on Sugar Babies' Tumblr Activities." University of Kentucky Sociology Beers Lecture. April 29, online due to COVID-19.

Davis, Rachel E. 2020. "Seeking and Surveilled: The Effects of FOSTA on Sugar Babies' Tumblr Activities." University of Kentucky Gender and Women's Studies Fall 2020 Colloquium, October 9, online due to COVID-19.

Davis, Rachel E. 2019. "The Fear of God: Intersection of Religiosity with Intimate Partner Violence." Center for Research on Violence Against Women Brown Bag Series, March 27, Lexington, KY.

TEACHING

Courses

Assistant Professor 2023 – present

Middle Tennessee State University. Murfreesboro, TN

SOC 2010 Social Problems. SOC 3060 Sociological Theory. SOC 3210 Drugs in Society.*
SOC 3250 Social Deviance. SOC 4210-5210 Social Media: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly.
SOC 4300-5300 Criminology.* SOC 4400 Sex Trafficking.* SOC 6560 Sociological Theory.
WGST 6000 Feminist Theory. Develop and teach undergraduate and graduate courses of 8
to 35 students, both online and in person.

Graduate Instructor 2020 – 2023

University of Kentucky. Lexington, KY

SOC 235 Inequalities in Society. SOC 335 Sociology of Gender. SOC 339 Introduction to
Criminology. SOC 350 Crime & Disasters. Independently developed and taught lower-level
and upper-level courses of 18 to 72 students from a variety of majors, both online and in
person.

Curriculum Development

New Course Proposal 2026

Middle Tennessee State University. Murfreesboro, TN

Submitted a proposal to add a graduate-level course to the curriculum, SOC 5430 Sex
Trafficking.

New Course 2026

Middle Tennessee State University. Murfreesboro, TN

Submitted successful proposals to add an undergraduate- and graduate-level course to the
course catalog, SOC 4210-5210 Social Media: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly.

Online Course Developer 2024 – 2025

Middle Tennessee State University. Murfreesboro, TN

Developed upper-level course SOC 4210-5210 Social Media: The Good, the Bad, and the
Ugly and revised upper-level course SOC 4400 Sex Trafficking.

Workshops

Resilience Over Harm: Tools for Trauma-Informed Pedagogy 2025

Middle Tennessee State University. Murfreesboro, TN

Co-developed and co-facilitated workshop for the Center for Teaching and Mentoring.

* Engage-certified

Organizing Your Workplace in a Right-to-Work State 2024
Mid-South Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN
Developed and led a workshop on union organizing at the Mid-South Sociological Association Annual Meeting.

Citation Management Software 2024
Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN
Developed and led a workshop on citation management software for the Sociology Graduate Student Professional Development Seminar.

Guest Lectures

Technology and Politics 2026
California Lutheran University, Remote
Participated in a Q&A session with about 20 undergraduate students in an upper-level Technology and Politics course about my research on FOSTA.

Sexuality Studies 2026
Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN
Presented a guest lecture on my transactional sex research in an upper-level Sexuality Studies course of 13 students.

Social Problems 2026
Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN
Served on a panel about gender and sexualities in an introductory Social Problems course of 20 students.

Sociology Professional Development 2026
Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN
Participated in a panel discussion about areas of specialization for the Sociology Graduate Student Professional Development Seminar.

Sociology as a Profession 2026
Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN
Participated in an introductory panel with other Sociology faculty members in an undergraduate Sociology professional development course of 10 students.

Sociology Professional Development 2025
Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN
Participated in a panel discussion about areas of specialization for the Sociology Graduate Student Professional Development Seminar.

Social Sciences Career Panel 2025
Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN
Participated in a Social Sciences Career Panel organized by the MT Student Sociologists.

Sociology Professional Development 2025
 Middle Tennessee State University. Murfreesboro, TN
 Participated in a panel discussion about PhD programs for the Sociology Graduate Student Professional Development Seminar.

Sexuality Studies 2025
 Middle Tennessee State University. Murfreesboro, TN
 Presented a guest lecture on my sex trafficking research in an upper-level Sexuality Studies course of 10 students.

Feminist Theory 2025
 Middle Tennessee State University. Murfreesboro, TN
 Presented a guest lecture on Intersectionality in an upper-level Feminist Theory course of 10 students.

Sociology of the Body 2022
 University of Kentucky. Lexington, KY
 Presented a guest lecture on my dissertation research in upper-level Sociology of the Body course of 20 students.

Contemporary Sociological Theory 2020
 University of Kentucky. Lexington, KY
 Facilitated a discussion on feminist theorizing in a graduate-level Contemporary Sociological Theory course of 5 students.

Classical Sociological Theory 2019
 University of Kentucky. Lexington, KY
 Presented a guest lecture on *The Communist Manifesto* in an upper-level Classical Sociological Theory course of 30 students.

Introduction to Sociology 2019
 University of Kentucky. Lexington, KY
 Presented a guest lecture on gender, sex, and sexualities in an Introduction to Sociology course of 120 students.

Master's Theses

Ibacik, Alican.* 2026. "Beyond the Immigrant Paradox: Everyday Deviance and Criminal Adaptation Across Generations."

Sistoso, Cassie.* 2026. "'Love Will Hurt You, but Limerence Will Destroy You': The Etymology of Limerence and Its Digital Discourse."

Davenport, Chloe. 2026. "The Lasting Implications of Arrest on Housing Instability in Early Adulthood: Evidence from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997."

* Chaired

Hall, Mack. 2026. "Gay Thoughts on Gay Spots: An Examination of Inclusivity and Navigation in the Absence of Lesbian-Centered Venues."

Baltimore, Vaun.* 2025. "Algorithmic Curation and Adolescents' Media Consumption."

Haizlip, Matine.* 2025. "Between and Beyond: Understanding the Lived Experiences of Biphobia."

Fowler, Casey. 2024. "An Analysis of the Relationship Between Work-Related Stressors and Criminal Behavior."

Undergraduate Honors Theses

Turner, Emma.* 2026. "Social Identity and Cultural Fragmentation in the Arcane Twitter Fandom Community."

Shawl, Wyeth. 2025. "The Owl House: Representation, Resonance, and Reciprocation."

Other Undergraduate Research

Wheeler, Paige. 2026. "Farming for Lolcows: The Effects of Coordinated Harassment Campaigns." URECA Research.

Carpenter, Lexi. 2024 – 2025. "Societal Acceptance of Age Disparate Relationships in Fictional Literature from 1956 to Modern Day." Paper Presented at Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting.

Guinn, Melissa. 2024 – 2025. "The Role and Effectiveness of Sex Education in Sexual Abuse Awareness and Prevention." URECA Research.

Guinn, Melissa. 2023 – 2024. "Law Enforcement Perceptions on Sexual Assault and Sex Trafficking." Paper presented at American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting.

EDITING

Social Media Editor 2018 – 2023
 Sage Publications. Lexington, KY
 Managed the interdisciplinary journal on *Violence Against Women's* Twitter and Facebook accounts @VAWJournal.

Assistant Editor 2014
 University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Chattanooga, TN
 Assistant edited the book *Pregnancy Discrimination and the American Worker* by Michelle D. Deardorff and James G. Dahl, published in 2015 by Palgrave Macmillan.

Copy Editor	2013 – 2014
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Chattanooga, TN	
Copy edited the journals <i>Midwestern Miscellany</i> and <i>MidAmerica</i> .	

CERTIFICATIONS

Social and Behavioral Research CITI Program	2024 – 2028
Intranasal Naloxone Administration Tennessee Department of Health	2026 – 2028
MT LGBT+ Safe Zone Middle Tennessee State University Office of Intercultural and Diversity Affairs	2024 – 2027
Adult Mental Health First Aid National Council for Mental Wellbeing	2023 – 2026

SERVICE

Disciplinary

Peer Reviewer	
<i>Trauma, Violence, and Abuse</i>	2026 – present
<i>Gender and Justice</i>	2026 – present
<i>The Journal of Sex Research</i>	2025 – present
<i>Feminist Criminology</i>	2024 – present
<i>Asian Women</i>	2024 – present
<i>Feminist Media Studies</i>	2023 – present
<i>Journal of Interpersonal Violence</i>	2023 – present
<i>Violence Against Women</i>	2023 – present

Mentor	2025
ASC DFC Dr. Christine Rasche Mentoring Program	

Session Presider: Crime, Law, and Deviance & Sex/Gender Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting	2025
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Mentor	2024 – 2025
Alpha Kappa Delta Mentorship Program	

Session Organizer and Chair: Socio-Political Contexts: Race, Class, Gender and Deviance Mid-South Sociological Association Annual Meeting	2024
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Session Organizer: Digital Sociology 2024
Mid-South Sociological Association Annual Meeting

Session Chair: Navigating the Dynamic Landscape of Social Interaction in the Digital Age 2024
Mid-South Sociological Association Annual Meeting

Session Presider 2024
Undergraduate Social Science Symposium

University

Committee on Disability Committee Member 2025 – present
Middle Tennessee State University

Faculty Sponsor 2024 – 2025
Student Worker Advocacy (SWAY)

Strategic Plan Review Committee Member 2024 – 2025
Middle Tennessee State University College of Liberal Arts

Panelist 2025
MT Student Sociologists Social Sciences Career Panel

Panelist 2025
Middle Tennessee State University College of Liberal Arts Open Classroom Day Panel

Faculty Sponsor 2024 – present
Middle Tennessee Student Sociologists

Poster Session Judge 2024
Middle Tennessee State University Scholars Week Research and Creative Activity Exposition

Departmental

Department Bylaws and Guidelines Committee Member 2026 – present
Middle Tennessee State University Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Faculty Search Committee Member 2025 – 2026
Middle Tennessee State University Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Department Social Media Manager 2025 – present
Middle Tennessee State University Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Alpha Kappa Delta Chapter Representative 2024 – present
Middle Tennessee State University Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Sociology Graduate Program Review Committee 2024 – 2025
Middle Tennessee State University Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Sociology Undergraduate Program Review Committee Middle Tennessee State University Department of Sociology and Anthropology	2024 – 2025
Graduate Admissions Committee Member Middle Tennessee State University Department of Sociology and Anthropology	2023 – present
Women's and Gender Studies Council Member Middle Tennessee State University Department of Women's and Gender Studies	2023 – present
Sociology Graduate Program Curriculum Committee Member Middle Tennessee State University Department of Sociology and Anthropology	2023 – present
Sociology Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Member Middle Tennessee State University Department of Sociology and Anthropology	2023 – present
Women's and Gender Studies Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Member Middle Tennessee State University Department of Gender and Women's Studies	2023 – present
Department Chair Search Committee Member Middle Tennessee State University Department of Sociology and Anthropology	2023 – 2024
Undergraduate Social Science Symposium Committee Member Middle Tennessee State University Department of Sociology and Anthropology	2023 – 2024
Lecturer Search Committee Member Middle Tennessee State University Department of Sociology and Anthropology	2023

MEMBERSHIPS

American Society of Criminology Division on Feminist Criminology Division on Critical Criminology & Social Justice	2021 – present
American Sociological Association Section on Crime, Law, and Deviance Section on Race, Gender, and Class Section on Sociology of Sex and Gender	2019 – present
Southern Sociological Society	2015 – present
LEX Research Network	2025 – present