

CURRICULUM VITAE

September 2018

Tara D. Opsal, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

Director of Undergraduate Studies

Department of Sociology

Colorado State University

Education

2009 Doctor of Philosophy, Sociology
University of Colorado at Boulder

2001 Bachelor of Arts, Sociology
University of Colorado

1996-1999 Rural Sociology
University of Wisconsin

Areas of Specialization

Reentry and Community Corrections
System Involved Youth

Qualitative Research Methods
Environmental Law and Regulation

Recent Positions Held

2016- current Associate Professor, Colorado State University, Department of Sociology
Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Sociology

2012-2016 Assistant Professor, Colorado State University, Department of Sociology

2009-2012 Assistant Professor, University of Northern Iowa, Department of Sociology,
Anthropology, and Criminology

Affiliate Faculty Positions

2014- Colorado State University, Center for Disaster and Risk Analysis

2012- Colorado State University, Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research

2012- Colorado State University, Center for the Study of Crime and Justice

Selected Published Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Opsal Tara and Rebecca Eman. "Invisible Vulnerability: Participant Perceptions of a Campus-Based Program for Students without Caregivers." *Children and Youth Services Review*, forthcoming.

Malin, Stephanie, **Tara Opsal**, Tara Shelley, and Peter Hall. "The Right to Resist or a Case of Injustice?: Meta-Power in the Oil and Gas Fields." *Social Forces*, forthcoming.

Opsal, Tara, Jade Aguilar, and Steven Briggs. 2016. "The Promises and Pitfalls of Engaging Male Juvenile Offenders in Gender Violence Prevention and Bystander Education." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*.

Opsal, Tara, Jennifer Wolgemuth, Jeni Cross, Tanya Kaanta, Ellyn Dickmann, Zeynep Erdil, and Soria Colomer. 2016. "There are no Known Benefits...": Considering the Risk/Benefit Ratio of Qualitative Research." *Qualitative Health Research*, 26(8): 1137-1150.

Pogrebin, Mark, Paul Stretesky, Alex Walker, and **Tara Opsal**. 2015. "Rejection, Humiliation, and Parole: A Study of Parolees' Perspectives." *Symbolic Interaction*, 38: 413-430.

Opsal, Tara. 2015. "It's their world, so you've just got to get through": Women's Experiences of Parole Governance." *Feminist Criminology*, 10(2): 188-207.

Wolgemuth, Jennifer, Zeynep Edril, **Tara Opsal**, Jeni Cross, Tanya Kaanta, Soria Colomer, Ellyn Dickmann. 2015. "Participants' Experiences of the Qualitative Interview: Considering the Importance of Research Paradigms." *Qualitative Research*, 15(3): 351-372.

Opsal, Tara and Tara Shelley. 2014. "Energy Crime, Harm, and Problematic State Response in Colorado: A Case of the Fox Guarding the Hen House?" *Critical Criminology*, 22(4): 561 – 577.

Opsal, Tara. 2012. "'Livin' on the Straights': Identity, Desistance, and Work among Women Post-Incarceration." *Sociological Inquiry* 82(3): 378-403.

Public Sociology

News articles

Opsal, Tara and Stephanie Malin. 2018, 24, September. "Don't Frack so Close to Me: Colorado voters will weight in on drilling distances from homes and schools." *The Conversation*.

Reports to community partners

Opsal, Tara and Rebecca Eman. 2017. "Fostering Success at Colorado State University: Understanding Independent Students' Perspectives." Prepared for the Fostering Success Working Group, Colorado State University.

Opsal, Tara and Rebecca Eman. 2015. "Fostering Success: Understanding The State Of Campus Support Programs Designed For Foster Youth Alumni." Prepared for the Fostering Success Working Group, Colorado State University.

Selected Invited presentations

2018 Reentry: Structural and Cultural Challenges of Returning to the Community and their Relationship to Gender, SummitStone Health Partners Training Practitioners Series, Larimer County, CO

2018 Locked Up and Shut Out: Understanding the Consequences of Mass Incarceration and Reentry, Dialogues Around Difference Series, School of Social Work, Colorado State University. Fort Collins, CO

- 2017 Race, Incarceration, and Reentry, CSU Alternative Spring Break Student Group. Fort Collins, CO.
- 2015 Understanding Citizen's Complaints of the Oil and Gas Industry, Windsor Community Rights Network, Windsor, CO (w/ T. Shelley).
- 2014 Conducting Research on Vulnerable Populations. Enacting Critical Literacies Course, Dept. of English, Fort Collins, CO.
- 2014 Creating Change in the Context of Marginalization. TEDxCSU, Fort Collins, CO.

Selected Conference Presentations

- Alexander, Kelly and Tara Opsal. "Hazy Perceptions: Understanding Differences in Defining Hazing Activities among College Students and Their Implications", American Society of Criminology, New Orleans, LA. 2016.
- Shelley, Tara and Tara Opsal. "State Responses to Citizen Complaints Regarding Oil and Gas Activity." Front Range Conference on Environmental Governance Research, Fort Collins, CO. 2015
- Shelley, Tara and Tara Opsal. "Environmental Victimization: A Case Study of Citizen's Experiences with Oil and Gas Development in Colorado, USA." Green Criminology Conference, London South Bank University. 2014.
- Erdil, Zeynep, Jennifer Wolgemuth, Tara Opsal, Jennifer Cross, Tanya Kaanta, Ellyn Dickmann, and Soria Colomer. "Participants Experiences of the Qualitative Interview: A Multiple-Case Study." American Educational Research Association. 2014
- Opsal, Tara. "Using Service-Learning Effectively in the Classroom." American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA. 2013.
- Opsal, Tara. "Engaging Boys in Bystander Education and Gender Violence Prevention." American Society of Criminology, Chicago, IL. 2012.
- Opsal, Tara and Sara Steen. "Negotiating Institutional Goals: Parole officers' accounts of their work." American Society of Criminology, Washington DC. 2011.

Selected Fellowships and Grants, Funded

- 2016 Principle Investigator. "*Understanding the Subculture of Hazing Amongst Students.*" Funded by the Dean of Students, Colorado State University (\$4000).
- 2015 Co-Principle Investigator. "*Understanding Barriers to Creating Supportive Relationships Among the Formerly Incarcerated.*" Colorado Office of Behavioral Health. (\$4,731).

- 2015 Principle Investigator. *“Fostering Success: Understanding Obstacles and Creating Effective Programming through Student’s Voices.”* Funded by the Fostering Success Working Group, (\$8150).
- 2013 Co-Principal Investigator, *“Problems Related to the Oil and Gas Industry During a Flood Disaster: The Nature and Extent of Citizen Complaints and Satisfaction with Government Responses.”* Funded by the Natural Hazards Center and the National Science Foundation Quick Response Research Grant Program. Tara Shelley, Co-Principal Investigator. (\$2,550)
- 2012 Awardee, *“Engaging Undergraduate Students in Gender Violence Prevention Work”* Colorado State University Service Learning Mini-Grant; awarded to faculty who incorporate service-learning into their classrooms; monies used to fund graduate student for data collections efforts. (\$700)
- 2010 Awardee, *UNI Violence Prevention and Intervention Curriculum Institute*, The purpose of the institute is to provide probationary and tenured faculty from across UNI’s campus with a faculty development opportunity to learn techniques and develop course materials for the infusion of violence prevention and intervention units into course materials. (\$1000)
- 2007-08 Principle Investigator, *“Coming Back to the Community: Understanding Women’s Experiences on Parole.”* Association of University Women Fellowship (\$20,000)
- 2007-08 Principle Investigator, *“Reentry: Understanding the Parolee’s Experience.”* National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant (\$4,560)
- 2006 Awardee, *University of Colorado Dorothy Martin Doctoral Student Scholarship* Honors scholars who are dedicated to activism and awareness concerning women’s issues, academic excellence, and an openness to life and true diversity of interests. (\$1000)

Selected Honors and Awards

- 2018 Faculty Institute for Inclusive Excellence Fellow, Colorado State University
- 2016 *David R. Maines Narrative Research Award* (for article: “Rejection, Humiliation, and Parole: A Study of Parolees’ Perspectives”) Article nominated and awarded by cross disciplinary qualitative scholars

Selected Professional Service

- 2018-ongoing Department of Community Corrections, Larimer County, Research Consultant
- 2016 – 2017 CSU, Title IX Assistant Director Search Committee, Member
- 2015 – 2017 CSU, Hazing Prevention Working Group, Member
- 2012 Sexual Assault Victim Advocate Center, Research Consultant
- 2012 – 2013 Iowa Coalition against Domestic Violence, Research Consultant