

**Nicola Beisel**  
**Curriculum Vitae**

March 2011

**Education**

1990 Ph. D. University of Michigan, Sociology.  
Dissertation: "Upper Class Formation and the Politics of Censorship in Boston, New York, and Philadelphia, 1872-1892." Ph.D. Thesis Advisor: William Sewell, Jr.

1983 M.A. University of Michigan, Sociology.

1980 A.B. Bowdoin College, Sociology. Degree conferred magna cum laude.

**Employment**

September 1990 to present. Assistant to Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Northwestern University.

September 2005 to present Associate Professor of Gender Studies, Northwestern University.

September 1997 – Sept. 1998 and Sept. 2001—June 2004  
Director, Program in American Studies.

**Publications: Books and Articles**

2010 Preface to issue on "Reinventing Mothers," *Feminist Studies* 36,2 (Summer 2010): 255-59 (co-authored with Judith Gardner)

2005. Francis Doodoo and Nicola Beisel. "African in American Sociology: Invisibility, Opportunity, and Obligation" *Social Forces* 84 (Sept.): 595-600

2004 Nicola Beisel and Tamara Kay. "Abortion, Race and Gender in Nineteenth Century America." *American Sociological Review* 69 (August): 498-518

1993 "Morals Versus Art: Censorship, the Politics of Interpretation, and the Victorian Nude." *American Sociological Review* 58 (April):145-62.

1992 "Constructing a Shifting Moral Boundary: Literature and Obscenity in Nineteenth Century New York." Pp. 104-28 in *Cultivating Differences*, edited by Michele Lamont and Michael Fournier. University of Chicago Press.

1990 "Class, Culture, and Campaigns Against Vice in Three American Cities, 1872-1892." *American Sociological Review* 55(February): 44-62.

## **Publications: Reviews and Comments**

2006. Review of *Eugenic Nation: Faults and Frontiers of Better Breeding in Modern America* by Alexandra Minna Stern. *American Journal of Sociology* v. 112 (Sept.): 616-17

2006. "The Accidental Historian." Published in the Newsletter of the Comparative and Historical Sociology Section. Fall.

1998. "A Half-Hearted Manifesto for a Cultural Sociology of Pornography: Notes from the Chair." Published in the Sociology of Culture Newsletter, Spring.

1998. "Response to Goode and Ben-Yehuda" (with Brian Donovan). Published in the Sociology of Culture Newsletter, Spring.

1998. "The Problem with Moral Panics: Notes from the Chair" (with Brian Donovan). Published in the Sociology of Culture Newsletter, Winter.

1997. "Whither Culture? Notes from the Chair." Published in the Sociology of Culture Newsletter, Fall.

1993 "Feminist Theory and Historical Research: A Response to Seidman." *Contemporary Sociology*, January.

1992 Review of Steven Seidman's *Romantic Longings: Love in America, 1830-1960*. *Contemporary Sociology*, July.

1992 "An Interview with Nicola Beisel" published in the Section on the Sociology of Culture Newsletter, Spring 1992.

## **Works in Progress**

*Aborting Race: Racial Invisibility in the American Abortion Debate*. Book project,

"Discrimination or Genocide: Black Sexual Politics in the 1972 Michigan Abortion Referendum." Paper being revised for submission to the *American Journal of Sociology*, also a chapter of *Aborting Race*.

"Appropriating Auschwitz: Identity, Agency and Moral Atrocity in Pro-Life Politics" (with Sarah Lipton-Lubet). Paper to be submitted to the *American Sociological Review*.

"Framing the Right to Die: Media Discourse and Moral Politics, 1974-2005" (with Jeffrey Krimmel). This paper analyzes 270 newspaper and newsmagazine opinion pieces covering the Quinlan, Cruzan, and Schaivo cases.

“Feminism, Cosmo, and the Sexual Revolution, 1970-2010” (with Katherine Weisshaar). This paper analyzes four decades of coverage of sexual issues in two leading feminist publications, *MS.* and *Off Our Backs*, as well as 3 full years in each of four decades of *Cosmo* and *Glamour*.

“Revisiting Respectability: Abortion in America’s Black Newspapers, 1965-1973” (with Dana Behnke). This paper analyzes the extensive discussion of abortion that took place in the black press in the years before *Roe v. Wade*, during which the sexual revolution transformed American attitudes about sexuality outside of marriage.

### **Postdoctoral Honors, Grants, Fellowships**

2005 Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Best Article Award, Political Sociology Section, American Sociological Association for “Abortion, Race and Gender in Nineteenth Century America.”

2005 Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Best Article Award. Race, Class and Gender Section, American Sociological Association for “Abortion, Race and Gender in Nineteenth Century America.”

2000 Honorable Mention, Best Book Prize, Section on the Sociology of Culture, American Sociological Association for *Imperiled Innocents: Anthony Comstock and Family Reproduction in Victorian America*

1999 Distinguished Book Award. Section on the Sociology of Sex and Gender, American Sociological Association for *Imperiled Innocents: Anthony Comstock and Family Reproduction in Victorian America*

1998. Distinguished Scholarship Award of the Collective Behavior and Social Movements Section of the American Sociological Association for *Imperiled Innocents: Anthony Comstock and Family Reproduction in Victorian America*.

1998. John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship.

1998. National Humanities Center Fellowship, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina

1994. Section on the Sociology of Culture, American Sociology Association. Outstanding Article Award for "Morals versus Art: Censorship, the Politics of Interpretation, and the Victorian Nude."

1993-1995. Faculty Fellow, Center for Urban Affairs, Northwestern University.

1991. Distinguished Dissertation Award, Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies, University of Michigan.

1991. Section on the Sociology of Culture, American Sociological Association. Honorable mention for Best Recent Article, for "Class, Culture, and Campaigns Against Vice in Three American Cities."

### **Teaching Awards and Honors**

2000 – 2003 Charles Deering McCormick Professor of Teaching Excellence, Northwestern University

1994. College of Arts and Sciences, Northwestern University. CAS award for Distinguished Teaching.

1992 and 1993. Associated Student Government Faculty Honor Roll, Northwestern University.

1992. Organization of Women Faculty, Certificate in Recognition of Outstanding Contribution to Women at Northwestern University.

### **Predoctoral Honors, Awards, and Fellowships**

1989-1990. Hunting Fellowship, Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan.

1988. Section on the Sociology of Sex and Gender, American Sociological Association. Runner- up in contest for best student paper.

1988. Summer Research Fellowship, Historical Society of Pennsylvania and Library Company of Philadelphia.

1988. Research Fellowship, Center for the Study of Social Transformations, University of Michigan.

1987. Summer Research Fellowship, Committee on Gender Studies, University of Michigan.

1986-87 and 1980-82. Trainee, Population Studies Center, University of Michigan. National Institute for Child Health and Development fellowship for training in demography and research methodology.

1986. Rackham Dissertation Grant, University of Michigan.

### **Research Support: Postdoctoral**

2009. Northwestern University Faculty Research Grant for "Aborting Race: Racial Invisibility in American Abortion Politics."

1998. Northwestern University Faculty Research Grant. Grant for "Race and the Politics of Abortion in America," \$4700.

1993. ASA/NSF Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline. Grant for "Making Abortion Illegal: The Law, the Press, and the Campaign Against Abortion, 1850-1900." \$4400.

1993. Northwestern University Faculty Research Grant. Grant for "Making Abortion Illegal," \$5000.

### **Professional Service**

Deputy Editor, *American Sociological Review*, September 2010 to present.

Member of the Editorial Collective, *Feminist Studies*, June 2010 to present.

Member of the Best Recent Paper Prize Committee, Section on Political Sociology, American Sociological Association, 2006

Member of the Nominations Committee of the Comparative and Historical Sociology section of the American Sociological Association, 1998.

Chair-elect and Chair of the section on the Sociology of Culture of the American Sociological Association, August 1996 – August 1998.

Chair of the Student Paper prize committee, section on the Sociology of Culture of the American Sociological Association, 1995.

Member of the Council of the Sociology of Culture Section of the American Sociological Association, 1993-1995.

Member of Graduate Student Paper prize committee, section on Comparative and Historical Sociology of the American Sociological Association, 1994.

Organizer of Roundtable Sessions for the Comparative Historical Sociology section at the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association, Miami, August 1993.

Chair of the Cultural Studies section of the Social Science History Association, and member of the SSHA Program Committee, November 1991-October 1992, and November 1995—October 1996.

Member of the Nominating Committee of the Section on the Sociology of Culture, American Sociological Association, 1991-92.

## **Presentations at Scholarly Conferences**

"Anthony Comstock Surfs the Net: Pornography, Pedophilia, and the Problem with Moral Panics" (with Brian Donovan). Presented Association, New Orleans, October 1996.

"The Rhetoric of Race and the Language of Death: Race and Crime in Discussions of Capital Punishment." Presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, New York, August 1996.

"Family Reproduction: Children and the Politics of Morality," presented at the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association, Washington, DC, August 1995.

"Ethnicity, Gender, and the Passage of Anti-Contraceptive Laws in the Nineteenth Century," (with Alan Dahl), presented at the annual meetings of the Social Science History Association, Atlanta, GA, October 1994.

"Political Culture and the Social Construction of Women in Nineteenth-Century Anti-Abortion Rhetoric." Paper presented at the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association, August 1994.

"The Evil of the Age": Motherhood, Masculinity, and Anti-Abortion Rhetoric in the 1870s." Paper presented at the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association, August 1993.

"Making Abortion Illegal: Anthony Comstock and Reproduction Rhetoric in the 1870s." Paper presented at The fin-de-siecle Project Colloquium on "Women at the Turn of the Century," Heyman Center for the Humanities, Columbia University, October 30, 1992.

"Censorship and Anarchy: Anthony Comstock and Free Love." Paper presented at the annual meetings of the Social Science History Association, New Orleans, October 1991.

"Art or Obscenity?: Censorship and the Nude in 19th Century New York." Paper presented at the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association, Cincinnati, August 1991.

"The Legitimacy of Art Censorship in New York, 1880-1890." Paper presented at the annual meetings of the Law and Society Association, Amsterdam, June 1991.

"Writing Historical Sociology and the Question of Audience." Presentation at the annual meetings of the Midwestern Sociological Association, April 1991.

"Morals versus Art: Censorship, Class Reproduction, and the Victorian Nude." Paper presented at the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association, San Francisco. August, 1989.

"City Politics, Class Cohesion, and Censorship: Class Culture and the Politics of Lifestyles." Paper presented at the meeting of the Social Science History Association, Chicago. November 1988.

"Family Ideology, Class Reproduction, and the Suppression of Obscenity in Nineteenth Century New York." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Atlanta, GA. August 1988.

"The Politics of Morality: Anti-Vice Societies in Boston and New York, 1872-1892." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Social Science History Association, New Orleans. October 1987.

"Family Violence in the Lives of Women Terminated from AFDC." Paper presented at the National Family Violence Researchers' Conference, Durham, NH, August 1984.

### **Invited Talks and Presentations (only to 1996)**

"Race and the Politics of Abortion in America." Lecture given at the University of Wisconsin, Department of Sociology, April 1996.

"Mothers of the Race: Ethnicity, Motherhood, and Nineteenth-Century Anti-Abortion Rhetoric." Lecture given at the Center for Research on Social Organization, The University of Michigan, April 13, 1995.

"Political Culture and the Social Construction of Women: Eugenics, Motherhood, and Nineteenth-Century Anti-Abortion Rhetoric." Lecture given at the Department of Sociology, University of California at San Diego, April 7, 1995

"Political Culture and the Social Construction of Women: Eugenics, Motherhood, and Nineteenth-Century Anti-Abortion Rhetoric." Presented at the Organizations and Culture workshops, Princeton University, Department of Sociology, March 27, 1995

"Political Culture and the Social Construction of Women," presented at Politics Workshop, Department of Sociology, Indiana University, April 1994.

"Morals versus Art: Censorship, the Politics of Interpretation, and the Victorian Nude," presented at the culture workshop at the University of Chicago, October 1991.