

Andreea A. Nica, Ph.D.
anica@wnmu.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Sociology, Portland State University, 2018

- Dissertation: “Exiters of Religious Fundamentalism: Reconstruction of Identity, Meaning, and Social Support and Relationships Related to Well-Being”
- Research Award: 2017 *Constant H. Jacquet Research Award*, Religious Research Association
- Research Paper Award: 2018 Society for the Study of Social Problems, Society & Mental Health

M.S., Media & Communications, London School of Economics & Political Science, 2009

- Thesis: “The Modernized, Empowered Female Figure in Cinematic Features: Discursive Implications of the Contemporary Femme Fatale in Neo-Noir Films”

B.A., Psychology, Northern Arizona University, 2008

- Study Abroad, University of Wolverhampton, UK
 - Research Assistant, Department of Psychology
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CURRENT APPOINTMENT

Western New Mexico University, Social Sciences & Cultural Studies, Assistant Professor of Sociology (LT) *Fall 2019 – Present*

- Introduction to Sociology
- Sociology of Family
- Social Inequality
- Social Psychology
- Sociology of Religion
- Social Problems
- Sociology of Gender
- Sociology of Intimate Relationships

Current research: (Re)conceptualizing emotional intimacy and capital in a sociological context: The Authentic Revolution (funded).

Service: Instructional Resources Committee; Online Teaching & Learning Committee; Remote Work Policy Subcommittee

Advising: Undergraduates

Curricula: Strategically growing Sociology online graduate concentration and program

PUBLICATIONS

Morgan, D. & Nica, A. (2020). Iterative Thematic Inquiry: A new method for analyzing qualitative data. *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, 19, 1-11. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1609406920955118>

Nica, A. A. (2020). Leaving my religion: How ex-fundamentalists reconstruct identity related to well-being. *Journal of Religion and Health*, 59, 2120–2134. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10943-019-00975-8>

Nica, A. (2019). Exiters of religious fundamentalism: reconstruction of social support and relationships related to well-being. *Mental Health, Religion & Culture*, 22:5, 543-556. DOI: [10.1080/13674676.2019.1636015](https://doi.org/10.1080/13674676.2019.1636015)

Nica, A. (2018). "Exiters of Religious Fundamentalism: Reconstruction of Identity, Social Relationships and Support, and Meaning Related to Well-Being". *Dissertations and Theses*. Paper 4404. <https://doi.org/10.15760/etd.6288>

Nica, A. (2016). Review of *Deconversion: Qualitative and Quantitative Results from Cross-Cultural Research in Germany and the USA*. *Secularism and Nonreligion*. 5(1), p.2. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.5334/snr.67>

In Progress

Nica, A. (2020). Meaning making and well-being among exiters of religious fundamentalism. Under Review.

Nica, A. *Freeligious: A Sociological Memoir of Exits, Transformation & Arrival*.

SELECTED RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- **Researcher**, (Re)conceptualizing emotional capital in a sociological context: The Authentic Revolution, 2019 to present. Qualitative study utilizing ethnographic techniques and interviews.
- **Researcher**, Why People Leave Religions – A Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA), Principle Investigators: Andreea Nica, Portland State University, and Dr. Ryan Cragun, University of Tampa, 2016.
- **Graduate Research**, London School of Economics and Political Science, Fall 2008 – 2009. Worked under the supervision of Dr. Sadie Wearing on thesis, “The Modernized, Empowered Female Figure in Cinematic Features: Discursive Implications of the Contemporary Femme Fatale in Neo-Noir Films.”

- **Graduate Research Assistant**, London School of Economics and Political Science, Fall 2008 – 2009. Worked under the supervision of the Media and Communications Committee of “A Discourse Analysis and Post-Feminist Ideology in Online *Cosmopolitan* Magazine.” Conducted critical discourse analysis (CDA) of three selected online articles.
- **Research Assistant**, Northern Arizona University – Department of Psychology, Fall 2007 – Spring 2008. Worked under the supervision of Dr. Meliksah Demir on a quantitative study of “I Matter to My Friend, Therefore I am Happy: Friendship, Mattering, and Happiness.” Collected data via survey research; data analysis and entry using SPSS; conducted literature review.
- **Research Assistant**, Northern Arizona University – Department of Psychology, Fall 2007 – Spring 2008. Worked under the supervision of Dr. Meliksah Demir on a quantitative study of “Romantic Relationships, Respect, and Happiness.” Collected data via survey research; data analysis and entry using SPSS; conducted literature review.
- **Research Assistant/Co-editor**, Northern Arizona University – Department of Psychology, Fall 2007 – Spring 2008. Worked under the supervision of Dr. Meliksah Demir on a quantitative study of “Close Friendships and Happiness among Young Adults: Gender Differences.”
- **Independent Researcher**, Northern Arizona University – Department of Psychology, Fall 2007 – Spring 2008. Worked under the supervision of Dr. Derrick Wirtz. Independent research on a quantitative study of “Physical Attractiveness vs. Personality.” Collected data via survey research; data analysis and entry using SPSS; conducted literature review.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- Online Teaching & Learning Committee, Western New Mexico University, Fall 2020
- Remote Work Policy Subcommittee, Fall 2020
- Contributor to Faculty Roundtable, *Online Pedagogy Discussion*, Fall 2020
- Presented at the *Writing Across the Curriculum*, Fall 2020
- Peer Reviewer, *Mental Health, Religion, & Culture*, Summer 2020
- ASA roundtable leader for the Ideas for Future Research (Virtual) Session, August 2020
- Peer Reviewer, *Secularism and Nonreligion*, October 2019
- Instructional Resources Committee, Western New Mexico University, Fall 2019 – 2020
- Faculty Recommendation Support, Promotion to Full Professor, Department of Sociology, Portland State University, October 2018
- Peer Reviewer, *Sociological Perspectives*, August 2015, and June 2018.
- Presider & Discussant, Pacific Sociological Association, “Immigration”, 2015.
- Presider & Discussant, Pacific Sociological Association, “Sexualities in the Media”, 2015.

AWARDS & FUNDING

- Applying the QM Rubric (APPQMR) professional development workshop (funded) (2020)
 - WNMU Faculty Research Award (2020)
 - WNMU Departmental Travel Funds (2020)
 - Online Course Redesign Development (funded) (2020)
 - PSUFA Professional Development Fund, ASA Annual Meeting, New York (2019)
 - Best Paper Award, Society & Mental Health, *Society for the Study of Social Problems* (2018)
 - PSUFA Professional Development Fund, ASA Annual Meeting, Philadelphia (2018)
 - Lee Student Support Award, *Society for the Study of Social Problems* Annual Meeting (2018)
 - Erwin O. Smigel Travel Award, *Society for the Study of Social Problems* Annual Meeting (2018)
 - Center for Courage & Renewal Professional Teaching Development Scholarship (2018)
 - Religious Research Association, *Constant H. Jacquet Research Award* (2017)
 - Religious Research Association Travel Award (2017)
 - Marie Brown Travel Award (2017)
 - PSU Department of Sociology Doctoral Research & Travel Grant (2017)
 - PSUFA Professional Development Fund, *Society for the Scientific Study of Religion* (2017)
 - PSU Student Education Travel (SET) Award (2016)
 - PSU Department of Sociology Travel Award (2016)
 - Marie Brown Travel Award (2015)
 - Pacific Sociological Association (PSA) Travel Award (2015)
 - PSU Department of Sociology Travel Award (2015)
 - NAU Office of the Vice President for Research Student Travel Award, 12th Biennial Meeting Society for Research on Adolescence, Chicago, IL. (2008)
 - Global Opportunities Study Abroad Scholarship, NAU Center for International Education (2007)
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PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- American Sociological Association (ASA)
- ASA Section on Sociology of Emotion
- Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
- Religious Research Association (RRA)

- Atheist Research Collaborative
 - Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) (past)
 - Pacific Sociological Association (PSA) (past)
 - Association for the Sociology of Religion (ASR) (past)
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SELECTED TEACHING/HIGHER EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

Arizona State University West, Social & Behavioral Sciences, Faculty Associate

Fall 2018 – Present

- Social Change (online and hybrid)
- Gender & Society (online)
- Social Problems (online)

Portland State University, Department of Communication, Instructor, 2015 – 2019

- Feminism and Communication
- Gender and Communication
- Religion and Communication
- Introduction to Communication (online & face-to-face)

Communication Specialist, Portland State University Provost Office, Academic Affairs

2014 – 2017

- Provided internal strategic communication support to Provost of Academic Affairs
- Developed and managed content and creative materials for Academic Affairs website
- Conducted and developed survey research on strategic initiatives using Qualtrics software
- Liaised with constituents and departments/colleges in the implementation of strategic communication initiatives.

University of Portland, Department of Sociology, Instructor, 2017

- Introduction to Sociology

Portland State University, Department of Sociology, Guest Lecturer, 2015

- Social Justice Seminar (*Religious Oppression and Social Justice*)
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CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Nica, A. (2020). “Women's Agency in Alternative Family Arrangements and Motherhood”. 19th Amendment Centennial Event. WNMU Faculty Research.
- Nica, A. (2020). “Reconceptualization of Emotional Capital and Intimacy in a Sociological Context: The Authentic Revolution”. ASA Ideas for Future Research Roundtable.
- Nica, A. (2020). “Reconceptualization of Emotional Capital and Intimacy in a Sociological Context: The Authentic Revolution”. WNMU Faculty Research Symposium.

- Nica, A. (2018). “Exiters of Religious Fundamentalism: Reconstruction of Social Relationships and Support Related to Mental Well-Being.” Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA. *Best Paper Award Recipient, Society & Mental Health Division*.
- Nica, A. (2017). “Exiters of Religious Fundamentalism: Reconstruction of Social Relationships and Support Related to Well-Being”. Religious Research Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.
- Nica, A. & Cragun, R. (2016). “Why People Leave Religions – A Qualitative Comparative Analysis”. Association for the Sociology of Religion, Seattle, WA.
- Nica, A. (2015). “The Modern, Empowered Female Figure in Cinematic Features: Discursive Implications of the Contemporary Femme Fatale in Neo-Noir Films” (Revised). Pacific Sociological Association, Long Beach, CA.
- Nica, A., & Demir, A. (2008). “Respect, romantic relationships and well-being.” Poster presented at the Northern Arizona University Undergraduate Symposium, Flagstaff, AZ.
- Demir, M., & *Nica, A. (2008). “Friendship and well-being among young adults with/out a romantic partner.” Poster presented at the Biennial Meeting of the International Association for Relationship Research, Providence, RI.
- Demir, M., *Tyrell, F., & Nica, A. (2008). “Personality and romantic relationship quality as predictors of happiness.” Poster presented at the Biennial Meeting of the International Association for Relationship Research, Providence, RI.
- Tyrell, F., *Nica, A., & Demir, M. (2008). “Friendship quality, perceived mattering, and happiness.” Poster presented at the Biennial Meeting of the International Association for Relationship Research, Providence, RI.
- Demir, M., & *Nica, A. (2008). “Close friendships and happiness among young adults: Gender differences.” Poster presented at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research on Adolescence, Chicago, IL.
- Nica, A. (2008). “Physical attractiveness v. personality in romantic relationships.” Northern Arizona University Meeting, Flagstaff, AZ.
- Nica, A., & Demir, M. (2007). “Friendship, perceived mattering, and happiness.” Northern Arizona University Undergraduate Symposium, Flagstaff, AZ.

MEDIA & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS

Freedom from Religion Foundation, Invited Speaker, Portland, OR., 2019

- Presented research, “Exiters of Religious Fundamentalism: Reconstruction of Social Support and Relationships Related to Well-Being”.

Atheist Alliance of America, Press Officer, Seattle, WA., 2014

- Published, “Lessons Learned from the Atheist Alliance of America Convention”, *Huffington Post*

Media Appearances, 2014

- Fox News, Alan Colmes Radio Show
- *Rewire.News* Reality Cast

Selected Online Media Publications*Sociologists for Women in Society*

- “Mexican Immigrant Women’s Resilience in the Face of Crises”
 - “Homophobia Hinders Women’s Progress in Building Trades”
 - “Protecting Children from Environmental Toxins is Mother’s New Job”
 - “Girls View Sexual Violence as Normal”
 - “Women Pursue Equal Relationships: Face Social Pressures”
 - *Religion Dispatches*, "The Forgotten Nones: The High Cost of Feeling Fundamentalist Religion"
 - *Rewire.News*, ““When I Spoke in Tongues’ Points the Way Out of Fundamentalist Christianity”
 - *Ms. Magazine*, “Benevolent Sexism”
 - Contributor to *Huffington Post*, *AlterNet*, and *Salon*
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RESEARCH SOFTWARE, TECHNOLOGY & LMS COMPETENCIES

- SPSS, Qualtrics, SurveyMonkey, AtlasTi, Dedoose, fsQCA
- D2L, Moodle, Canvas, Blackboard Learning Management Systems (LMS)
- VoiceThread Certified