

# Erin Metz McDonnell

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Department of Sociology  
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## EDUCATION

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Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois  
Ph.D., Sociology, August 2012

Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois  
B.S.Ed. *magna cum laude*, June 2002  
Major: Learning & Organizational Change  
Adjunct Major: International Studies, African region

## SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS

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- 2010 MacArthur Foundation Collaborative Summer Grant w/ James Mahoney  
“Predictions: Future oriented statements as theory building tools”
- 2009 Weinberg Dissertation Writing Fellowship, Northwestern University
- 2007 National Science Foundation: Dissertation Improvement Grant  
“Subcultures of Bureaucracy: The origin of bureaucracy in new states”
- 2007 Sociology Research Fellowship, Department of Sociology, Northwestern
- 2007 Graduate Research Grant, The Graduate School, Northwestern University
- 2006 Hans E. Panofsky Fellowship, Program of African Studies, Northwestern  
Predissertation & Archival Research: “The Subcultural Origin of Bureaucracy”
- 2005 MacArthur Foundation Collaborative Summer Grant w/Gary Alan Fine  
“Judging the Past: Ghana”
- 2004 MacArthur Foundation Collaborative Summer Grant w/Wendy Griswold  
“The Cultural Impact of the Internet in West Africa”
- 2002 Fulbright Fellowship (Institute for International Education): Ghana  
“Consuming Tradition, Creating Nation: How traditional cultural symbols are transformed for consumption as contemporary nationalist goods.”

## HONORS & AWARDS

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- 2011 Art Stinchcombe Dissertation Prize in Organizational Studies, Northwestern University
- 2009 Karpf Dissertation Prize, Department of Sociology, Northwestern University
- 2008 The Edward Shils - James Coleman Memorial Award for Best Student Paper. Theory Section, American Sociological Association  
"Budgetary Units: A Weberian Approach to Consumption"

## PUBLICATIONS

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- McDonnell, Erin. *Conditional Acceptance*. "Budgetary Units: A Weberian Approach to Consumption." *The American Journal of Sociology*.
- McDonnell, Erin and Gary Alan Fine. 2011. "Pride and Shame in Ghana: Collective Memory and Nationalism among Elite Students." *African Studies Review* 54(3):121-42
- McDonnell, Erin. 2009. "A Subcultural Theory of the Origins of Bureaucracy." *Perspectives*. 31(1): 5-8.
- Griswold, Wendy, Erin Metz McDonnell & Terence McDonnell. 2007. "Glamour and Honor: Going Online and Reading in West African Culture" *Information Technologies and International Development* 3(4)

## CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

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- "Weberian Bureaucracy and Human Wellbeing: Comparative analysis of institutional effects on childhood mortality in 34 countries." Drafting manuscript
- "Subcultural Bureaucracy: The origins of state capacity in weak states" Drafting manuscript
- "The Effects of Student Migration Patterns on Governance and Economic Development in Sending Countries." Data collection and analysis in progress.
- "'Predictions' and the Comparative Historical Tradition: Future oriented statements as theory building tools" with James Mahoney. Drafting manuscript

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- August 2011. "Weberian Bureaucracy and Human Wellbeing: Cross-national Analysis of Childhood Mortality in 33 Countries" Section on Political Sociology, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Las Vegas.

- August 2010. "Seeking the Origins of State Capacity for Development: Highly Skilled Migration and Administrative Reputation" Section on International Migration, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta.
- August 2009. "Making Meritocracy: Structures and Processes in the Production of Merit-Based Public Sector Recruitment" Political Sociology Section, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco.
- July 2009. "Subcultures of Bureaucracy: Sub-state Variation in (Weberian) Bureaucratic Quality" Adjusting to Economic and Social Challenges: Reconsidering the Roles of State and Market. Harvard Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Cambridge, MA.
- August 2008. "Feedback and supplement: Theory and methods in the approach of opaque problems." Invited presentation to the Theory Section Mini-Conference. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Boston.
- May 2008. "Making Meritocracy: Structures and Processes in the Production of Merit-Based Public Sector Recruitment" Society for Comparative Research Graduate Student Retreat. Sponsored by Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard and the Center for Comparative Research at Yale, Boston.
- August 2007. "Budgetary Units: Revisiting Weber's Forgotten Economic Unit of Consumption" Economic Sociology Section, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York.
- April 2007. "Courtiers of Compromise: The Fate of Coordinating Agencies in the African Developmental Regime." Session: "Development Policy Debates: Africa in the Age of Globalization." Midwestern Sociological Society, Chicago.
- November 2005. "Deadbeats, Goldiggers, and the 'Good Parent': The Social Meaning of Child Support Arrangements for Low Income Parents." Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Washington D.C.
- August 2005. "Learning Transnationalism: Social Capital and Students' Socialization to Transnational Practices." Section on International Migration. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia.
- February 2005. "Geeks, Puns, and Food: Organizational Supports for Individual Boundary Work in 'The High IQ Society'" Chicago Ethnography Conference, University of Illinois, Chicago.
- February 2004. "Symbol or Proxy: How Race is Constructed as Meaningful in the Teacher-Student Relationship." Chicago Ethnography Conference, Northwestern University, Evanston.
- April 2002. "Adinkra, the story of the stories: A history of Ghana's narrative 'iconoglyphs'" Special conference on "The State of the Art: Africa and America in Comparative Perspective," University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast, Ghana.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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2004-present American Sociological Association  
2010-present Social Science History Association

## SERVICE

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### **Notre Dame Service**

2011- present. Advisory Committee, International Development Studies Minor, Kellogg Institute  
2012. Recruitment Committee, Sociology Department  
2012. Experiencing the World Fellowship Evaluation Committee, Kellogg Institute  
2011. Fulbright Campus Committee member, Notre Dame  
2012. Presentation on Academic Integrity at Notre Dame, Notre Dame

### **Service to the Discipline**

2012-2013. Chair of the committee to select The Edward Shils - James Coleman Memorial Award for Best Student Paper. Theory Section, American Sociological Association  
2011. Committee on Nominations, Sociology of Development Section, American Sociological Association  
2009-2012. Theory Council Student Representative, Theory Section, American Sociological Assoc.

Reviewer for: *American Sociological Review*, *the American Journal of Sociology*, *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis*, *Sociological Forum*.

## TEACHING

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### **Teaching Honors**

2005 Robert F. Winch Memorial Award for Outstanding Teaching Assistant, Department of Sociology, Northwestern University

### **Teaching Experience**

Instructor, University of Notre Dame  
Development and Human Wellbeing (SOC 20550), Fall 2011  
Foundations of Int'l Research Design (SOC 23951), Fall 2012  
Governance and Africa (SOC 43510), Fall 2011, Spring 2012  
Sociology of Organizations (SOC 63820), Fall 2012  
University Seminar: Sociology of Money (SOC 13181-02), Spring 2012

Instructor, Northwestern University  
Political Sociology, Summer 2008  
Economic Sociology, Spring 2008  
Seminar on College Teaching & Research (Graduate Level), Spring 2007 & 2008  
Sociology of Money, Spring 2007

Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University  
Classical Social Theory, Fall 2008  
Sociology of Complex Orgs, Winter 2006. Lecture "Institutional Isomorphism"  
Economic Sociology, Spring 2005.  
Social Inequality, Fall 2004  
Introduction to Sociology, Spring 2004. Lecture "Social Control"  
The Black Diaspora and Transnationality, Fall 2005

## REFERENCES

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James Mahoney (Dissertation Chair)  
Professor of Political Science and Sociology  
Northwestern University  
1810 Chicago Avenue  
Evanston, IL 60208  
James-mahoney@northwestern.edu

Wendy Griswold (Dissertation Committee)  
Professor of Sociology  
Northwestern University  
1810 Chicago Avenue  
Evanston, IL 60208  
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Carol Heimer (Dissertation Committee)  
Professor of Sociology  
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1810 Chicago Avenue  
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Charles Camic  
Professor of Sociology  
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1810 Chicago Avenue  
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