

Kayla Crouso, PhD
The University of Oklahoma
Department of Human Relations
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EDUCATION

PhD in Educational Studies, The University of Oklahoma, 2025

Dissertation: Education as *Satyagraha*: An Intercultural Philosophy of Education for Sustainable Development and Cultural Transformation Toward Peace and Nonviolence

MTh in Theology in History, The University of Edinburgh, Scotland, 2013

BS in Intercultural Studies, Indiana Wesleyan University, *summa cum laude*, 2011

BA in Biblical Literature, Theology Minor, Indiana Wesleyan University, 2011

Study Abroad, Intercultural Internship, & Archaeological Dig, Jerusalem University College, 2010

ACADEMIC INTERESTS

Satyagraha and Nonviolence, Peace Education, Transformative Education, Critical Pedagogy, Interculturalism, Decoloniality, Social-Emotional Empowerment, Anthropology of Education, Sustainable Development, Environmental Reciprocity, Collective Thrivability

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2022-Pres. **Faculty, Instructor**, The University of Oklahoma, Dept of Human Relations

2021-Pres. **Writer & Instructor**, The University of Oklahoma, First Year Experience

2024-Pres. **Affiliate Faculty Member**, Center for Peace and Development (CPD), The University of Oklahoma

2023-Pres. **Affiliate Faculty Member**, *Institute for Community and Society Transformation (ICAST)*, The University of Oklahoma

2020-Pres. **Creator & Founder of Sadhana Farm School**, Oklahoma City, OK

- 2015-Pres. **Visiting Teacher & Community Development Leader**, Wesleyan English Medium School, Vapi, Gujarat, India
- 2020-2021 **Faculty, Adjunct**, The University of Oklahoma, Dept of Human Relations
- 2019-2020 **Asst. Director of Student Life & Multicultural Programs and Services and Coordinator of the Multicultural Greek Council**, The University of Oklahoma
- 2019-2020 **Faculty, Adjunct**, Southern Nazarene University, School of Theology
- 2015-2018 **Faculty, Teaching Fellow**, Indiana Wesleyan University, School of Theology
- 2015 Spring **Course Designer & Visiting Professor**, Vladimir Wesleyan Bible College, Russia
- 2014-2015 **Faculty, Adjunct & Course Designer**, Union University of California
- 2013-2014 **Teacher**, Bongseo Middle School, Cheonan-si, South Korea
- 2013 **Lecturer**, Partnership for Theological Education in Edinburgh, Scotland
- 2011 **Teacher & Leader for Community Development & Women's Empowerment**, Arul Errukkam Foundation, Bangalore, India
- 2010 **Intercultural Intern & Archaeological Excavator**, Jerusalem University College, Israel and Palestine
- Participant in archaeological dig under the supervision of Professor Amihai Mazar at Tel Rehov (uncovered an oil lamp from 1,000 BCE).

COURSES TAUGHT & CURRICULUM DESIGNED

The University of Oklahoma (2020–Present)

Ethical & Intercultural Leadership (CAS 1543)
 Introduction to Human Relations (HR 3013)
 Cultural Awareness (HR 3413)
 Social Change Process (HR 4013)
 Human Relations in Action (HR 4303)
 Family Issues in Human Relations (HR 3303)
 Interpersonal Skills and Group Dynamics (HR 3043)
 First-Year Foundations (previously Gateway to College Learning) (UCOL 1002)

Wesleyan English Medium School, Vapi, Gujarat, India (2015–Present)

Empowerment, Agency, and Advocacy (Workshop)
Foundations & Practices for Social Change & Community Development (Workshop)
Foundations for Intercultural & Interfaith Relationships (Workshop)
Foundations for Human Rights & Gender Equity (Workshop)
Collective Thrivability for Sustainable Development (Workshop)

Southern Nazarene University, Bethany, Oklahoma (2019-2020)

Introduction to Theology (THE 101) (Focus on Intersections of Race, Class, Gender)

Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, Indiana (2015-2018)

Introduction to Intercultural Relationships (INT 304)
Community Engagement & Development (INT 450) (Course and practicum)
Introduction to Theology (THE 101)
History of Christianity: 5 BCE to 1517 CE and the Reformation (HST 210)
History of Christianity: 1517 CE to Present Day (HST 220)

Vladimir Wesleyan Bible College, Vladimir, Russia (Spring 2015)

Theological Foundations of Social Justice and Social Change
Introduction to Theology
Theological Foundations for Biblical Feminism

Union University of California, Westminster, California (2014-2015)

Exploring Cultural Anthropology: Values, Social Structures, & Human Migration
Reading and Using Charts, Maps, & Trends
Globalization and Introduction to Intercultural Relationships

Bongseo Middle School, Cheonan-si, South Korea (2013-2014)

Conversational English & Intro to Western Culture

Partnership for Theological Education in Edinburgh, Scotland (2012)

Introduction to Theology

Arul Errukkam Foundation, Bangalore, India (2011)

Systems for Community Development (Workshop and How-To Guide)
Foundations for Gender Equity (Workshop)
Empowerment, Agency, and Advocacy (Workshop)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2023 Lead Writer, Grant Proposal “Cultivating Thrivability: Outdoor, Values-Based Education to Foster Co-Existence of the Individual, Community, and Environment.” The Institute for Community and Society Transformation (ICAST), The University of Oklahoma
- Collaborating Team: Gloria Nakyagaba (she), PhD Candidate in Geography and Environmental Sustainability; Rin Ferraro(they), PhD Candidate in Sociology; Oni Toluwanimi (he), PhD Candidate in Occupational and Environmental Health Science.
- 2021 **Crouso, Kayla.** “Memoir of a Diverse Faculty Member.” *The Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU): Resources for Recruiting, Hiring and Supporting a Diverse Faculty & Staff.*
<https://diversity.cccu.org/recruiting-diverse-faculty-staff/>
- 2013 **Crouso, Kayla.** “The Influence of the Apostolic Fathers on John Wesley’s Doctrine of Christian Perfection.” Master’s Dissertation, The University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

INVITED LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS, & KEY NOTES

- April 2025 **Crouso, Kayla.** “The Legacy of Dr. George Henderson, the Founder of our Department.” Keynote Speaker, Human Relations Day, Norman, Oklahoma
- July 2024 **Crouso, Kayla.** “What is Social Change and Why Do We Need It in Oklahoma?” Guest Speaker, Kiwanis Club, Norman, Oklahoma
- April 2024 **Crouso, Kayla.** “Unity in Diversity as Nonviolent Resistance.” Keynote Address, APIDAMENA Graduation Celebration, The University of Oklahoma
- Jan 2024 **Crouso, Kayla.** “Intercultural Education for Global Citizenship.” Presentation, Teachers Conference, The Wesleyan English Medium School in Vapi, Gujarat, India
- Jan 2024 **Crouso, Kayla.** “Interconnection of Education for Human Rights and Ecological Reciprocity.” Presentation, Teachers Conference, The Wesleyan English Medium School in Vapi, Gujarat, India

- 2023 **Crouso, Kayla.** "Intercultural Relationships and Leadership." Guest Lecture and Workshop, ACT NOW: Education for Liberation, Oklahoma City, OK
- 2022 **Crouso, Kayla.** "The Educational Theory and Praxis of Rabindranath Tagore at Santiniketan." Presentation, EDS 5003 School & Society doctoral course, The University of Oklahoma
- 2020 **Crouso, Kayla.** "Unity in Diversity: On Being Multi-ethnic." Keynote Address, New Year Celebration for the APIDAMENA Community and the Asian American Student Association, University of Oklahoma.
- 2020 **Crouso, Kayla.** "Don't Miss the Forest for the Trees: A Rationale for Interfaith Dialogue." Keynote Address, OU Hillel Interfaith Seder Meal, University of Oklahoma
- 2020 **Crouso, Kayla.** "The History of Greek Life: The Forgotten Exclusion of Minoritized Students in American Fraternities and Sororities." Keynote Address, The Multicultural Student Leadership Retreat and The Greek Student Leadership retreats, University of Oklahoma.
- 2020 **Crouso, Kayla.** "Racism on All Sides: How Dominant Culture Perpetuates Racism Through Separation of Minoritized Communities." Presentation, APIDAMENA Community Council Meeting, University of Oklahoma.
- 2020 **Crouso, Kayla.** "Civil Discourse and Interfaith Dialogue: Community Benefits and a How-To Guide." Presentation, APIDAMENA Community Council Meetings, University of Oklahoma.
- 2019 **Crouso, Kayla.** "Unity in Diversity: Unity of Minoritized Students as a Means for Social Change." Keynote Address, Multicultural Student Leaders Retreat, University of Oklahoma.
- 2018 **Crouso, Kayla.** "Civil Discourse and Interfaith Dialogue: Community Benefits and a How-To Guide." Presentation & Workshop, International Students' Association, Indiana Wesleyan University.
- 2017 **Crouso, Kayla.** "Understanding the Christian Doctrine of the Trinity as a Rationale for Diverse & Inclusive Community." Selected Finalist, Presentation, Best Lecture Series, Indiana Wesleyan University.
- 2017 **Crouso, Kayla.** "Intercultural Relationships: Implementing the Practices of Intercultural Relationship Exemplified Between Dr. Howard Thurman, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi." Presentation, Asbury Annual Academic Conference, Asbury Theological Seminary.

- 2017 **Crouso, Kayla.** "What it Means to be an Immigrant in America: Reflections of the Second Generation." Presentation, Day of Courageous Conversations, Indiana Wesleyan University.
- 2017 **Crouso, Kayla.** "Intercultural Relationships: Implementing the Practices of Intercultural Relationship Exemplified Between Dr. Howard Thurman, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi." Keynote Address, Annual Academic Lecture Series, Indiana Wesleyan University.
- 2017 **Crouso, Kayla.** "Why Feminism? Understanding Theology & Action for Social Justice." Panel Moderation, Annual Colloquium, Indiana Wesleyan University.
- 2016 **Crouso, Kayla.** "East Meets West: The Influence of Gandhi's Philosophy and Practice on Thurman's Christian Theology." Presentation, Principium Faculty Lecture Series, John Wesley Honors College, IN.
- 2016 **Crouso, Kayla.** "Becoming like a Child: Wesley's Doctrine of Childhood as a Means of Entering the Kingdom." Presentation, Wesleyan Theological Society Annual Meeting, Point Loma Nazarene University.
- 2016 **Crouso, Kayla.** "Feminism in Christian Theology." Presentation, Community Symposium for Civic Engagement, Marion, IN.
- 2016 **Crouso, Kayla.** "Understanding the Christian Doctrine of the Trinity as a Rationale for Diverse & Inclusive Community." Keynote Address, Indiana Wesleyan University.
- 2016 **Crouso, Kayla.** "Exemplifying a Civil Conversation: Differences & Similarities of Gender Roles and Equity in Christian and Islamic Theology." Panelist Participant, Marion, Indiana.
- 2015 **Crouso, Kayla.** "The Influence of the Apostolic Fathers on John Wesley's Doctrine of Christian Perfection." Presentation, Point Loma Women's Leadership Conference.
- 2014 **Crouso, Kayla.** "Cultural and Theological Constructs of the Conflict in Israel & Palestine." Presentation, Come to the Water Women's Leadership Conference, Estes Park, CO.

SERVICE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- 2023-Pres. **Creator and Leader** of Service Learning & Study Abroad Trip to India for undergraduate students in the Dept. of Human Relations (First student group anticipated Spring 2026)

- 2019-Pres. **Faculty Mentor** for students of minoritized identities to develop tools for leadership, service, and success at the University of Oklahoma.
- 2022-Pres. **Faculty Mentor** for OU international students through International Advisory Committee (IAC) and Friends of International Students (FIS)
- 2015-Pres. **Collaborator** with the founder and director of the Wesleyan English Medium School in Vapi, India, to develop workshops, trainings, and courses for teachers, students, and community members.
- 2024 **Co-Organizer** of the Teachers Conference with Ms. Seema Justin at the Wesleyan English Medium School in Vapi, Gujarat, India
- 2023 **Consultant** for ACT NOW: Education for Liberation, a grassroots organization founded by two of my undergraduate students from my course on The Process of Social Change at OU to provide educational opportunities for local high school students to engage in college level education with college professors to encourage their learning and skill development without cost in Oklahoma City, OK.
- 2021-2023 **Faculty Advisor** for Sooner Soniyes, South Asian Bollywood fusion dance club at The University of Oklahoma.
- 2020 **Coordinator** for founding of first Sikh student organization at the University of Oklahoma.
- 2019-2020 **Strategic Planning Coordinator** to ensure the direction of the APIDAMENA communities is consistent with the mission of the University of Oklahoma Division of Student Affairs and the Office of Student Life.
- 2019-2020 **Collaborator** with minoritized student associations on various projects to bring cultural awareness, belonging and celebration at the University of Oklahoma (including the American Indian Student Association, Black Student Association, Hispanic Student Association and Asian American Student Association).
- 2019-2020 **Collaborator** to lead the advancement of diversity & inclusion initiatives of Multicultural Programs and Services and Fraternity and Sorority Programs and Services as the Coordinator for the Multicultural Greek Council, University of Oklahoma.
- 2019-2020 **Creator and Writer** for bi-weekly email newsletter on philosophy and history of intercultural relationships with list of events and programs for

APIDAMENA students to find belonging and cultivate unity in diversity at The University of Oklahoma.

- 2019 **Founder** of the first Organization for the APIDAMENA Community Council at the University of Oklahoma for the purpose to promote and practice unity in diversity within the APIDAMENA community through education, leadership development, belonging, community wide events, and allyship.
- 2018 **Volunteer Horse Wrangler** during equine therapy sessions at Reins and Rainbows Therapy Center, Wabash, Indiana
- 2015-2018 **Volunteer Guide and Strategist** for building intercultural and interfaith relationships with community members and students in Marion, Indiana.
- 2015-2017 **Faculty Advisor and Collaborator** with students during bi-weekly meetings of reciprocity with local individuals who were incarcerated at the Grant County Jail, Marion, Indiana
- 2012-2013 **Participant** in monthly revitalizing projects with and for underserved communities in the city of Edinburgh, Scotland.
- 2012-2013 **Leader** of bi-weekly interfaith community dialogue with community members in Edinburgh, Scotland.
- 2011-2017 **Advocate and Educator** for girl's and women's empowerment initiatives in India.
- 2010 **Advocate and Participant** in intercultural and interfaith relationships with people of Palestinian background in Bethlehem, Palestine.
- 2009-2013 **Organizer and Leader** of after school development and tutoring programs for school aged children in rural villages near Bangalore, India with Arul Errukkam Foundation.

HONORS & AWARDS

- 2023-Pres **Honor Society Nominee**, *Society for Collegiate Leadership & Achievement*, based on academic merit for work as PhD student in OU College of Education, Educational Studies program
- 2022-Pres **Inductee**, *Honor Society*, based on academic merit for work as PhD student in OU College of Education, Educational Studies program

2024 **Recipient**, *Anna and Harold Paige Scholarship*

2023 **Recipient**, *Fred Kierstad Scholarship*

2022 **Awarded** \$21,000 *Merit Based Scholarship*, OU College of Law

2012-2013 **Recipient**, *Edinburgh Global Master's Scholarship*, University of Edinburgh

2012-2013 **Recipient**, *Scotland Saltire Scholarship*, University of Edinburgh

2009-2011 **Recipient**, *Living Water Scholarship*, Indiana Wesleyan University

2008-2011 **Recipient**, *Academic Scholarship*, Indiana Wesleyan University

SPECIALIZED CREDENTIALS

2014 **Certification in TESOL**, Korea Nazarene University, South Korea