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Abigail Tessmer

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EDUCATION

Spring 2027 (expected) **University of Oklahoma**
Ph.D. in Sociology
Graduate Certificate: Women's and Gender Studies
Dissertation Title: *The Rise and Cost of Anti-Trans Legislation: Using Structural Equation Modeling to Investigate the Association Between Three Key Policy Areas and Mental Health Outcomes for Transgender People in 2015 and 2022*

2023 **University of Oklahoma**
M.A. in Sociology

2021 **University of Texas at Austin**
B.A. in Sociology with Honors
Minor: LGBTQ Studies

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Queer and Trans Studies, Gender, Race, Queer Methods, Intersectionality, and whiteness

PUBLICATIONS

2026 (forth.) **Tessmer, Abigail** and Meredith Worthen. "Trans Youth Bullying and Homelessness" in *Healthcare*.

2026 McGee, **Tessmer**, Worthen, & Hope. "Walking While Trans: Exploring Police Violence and Misconduct Towards Trans People Through Intersectional Subjection" in *The International Journal of Transgender Health*. https://doi.org/10.1080/26895269.2026.2656940

2025 **Tessmer, Abigail** and Meredith Worthen. "Transgender Realities: The Relationship Between Transgender Visibility, Race, and Victimization" in *The Journal of Interpersonal Violence.* https://doi.org/10.1177/08862605251347648

2025 **Tessmer, Abigail**, Worthen, Meredith, Schleifer, Cyrus. "Drag

Participation and Trans Women's Mental Health" in *The Journal of Creativity in Mental Health*. https://doi.org/10.1080/15401383.2024.2448441

Book Reviews & Encyclopedia Entries

2026 **Tessmer, Abigail** and Meredith G.F. Worthen. Book Review of *Trans Pleasure: On Gender Liberation and Sexual Freedom* by Brandon Robinson in *Social Forces*.

2026 (forth.) **Tessmer, Abigail** and Meredith G.F. Worthen. "Stonewall Uprising" in *SAGE Crime & Gender Encyclopedia*.

Works Under Review (Full Manuscript Available)

Tessmer, Abigail. "Rules of the Restroom: Trans Victimization in Public Restrooms by Race, Gender, and Visibility." Under review at *Sex Roles*.

Tessmer, Osborn, Moore, & Worthen. "Trans in Transit: Transgender People's Experiences with Harassment on Public Transportation." Under review at *Violence and Victims*.

Works in Progress

Tessmer, Worthen, Robinson, & Stone. **"**'Is that a firework or is that a gunshot?': Safety in Space and Sleep as it Relates to Mental Health for LGBTQ+ Housing-Insecure Youth."

Tessmer, Abigail. "The Racial Safety Blanket."

Works in Public

2026 **Tessmer, Abigail** and Meredith G.F. Worthen. July 24. "Yas Queen! Drag and Trans Women's Mental Health." *Psychology Today* blog

PRESENTATIONS

2026 (forth.) **Abigail Tessmer**, Max Osborn, Bryan Moore, and Meredith Worthen. "Trans in Transit: Transgender People's Experiences with Harassment on Public Transportation" presented at American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Chicago

2026 (forth.) Tess McGee, **Abigail Tessmer**, Meredith Worthen, and Trina Hope. "Walking While Trans: Exploring Police Violence and Misconduct Towards Trans People Through Intersectional Subjection" presented at American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Chicago

2025 **Abigail Tessmer** and Meredith Worthen. "Transgender Realities: The Relationship Between Transgender Visibility, Race, and Victimization," presented at American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago

2024 **Abigail Tessmer**, Meredith Worthen, and Cyrus Schleifer. "Drag Participation and Trans Women's Mental Health," presented at American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal

2024 **Abigail Tessmer**, Meredith Worthen, and Cyrus Schleifer. "Drag Participation and Trans Women's Mental Health," presented at LGBTQ Research Symposium, University of Kansas and University of Connecticut

2022 **Abigail Tessmer.** "Transgender Realities: How Visibility, Gender, Race, and Transition Status Relate to Verbal Harassment for Trans and Non-Binary Individuals," presented at Advanced Quantitative Methods Working Group (ADQUANT), University of Oklahoma

2021 **Abigail Tessmer.** "The Effects of Drag on Trans and Non-Binary Mental Health Outcomes Based on the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey," OU Sociology Advanced Regression Analysis Annual Presentations, University of Oklahoma

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

2023-present **Dodge Family Graduate Fellowship** ($5,000 yearly)
The Graduate College, University of Oklahoma

2026 **Grasmick Riddle Summer Research Fellowship** ($3,000)
Department of Sociology, University of Oklahoma

2025 **Conference and Travel Grant** ($750)
Graduate Student Senate, University of Oklahoma

2021-present **Graduate Teaching Assistantship & Tuition Waiver** (Annually $30,000)
Department of Sociology, University of Oklahoma

HONORS & INVITATIONS

2026 **Ph.D. Student of the Year**
The University of Oklahoma, Dodge Family College of Arts & Sciences

2025 **PEO International Scholar**
Nominee, Philanthropic Educational Organization for Women

2024 **Presider of Gender & Health Roundtable**

American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal

2024 **Carceral Studies Newsletter Member Spotlight**
Carceral Studies Consortium, The University of Oklahoma

WORK & TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2025-present **Graduate Research Assistant**
Department of Sociology, Social Justice Activism (SoJAC) Lab

2024-present **Instructor**
Department of Sociology, University of Oklahoma

- Undergraduate courses taught/prepared:
  - Social Problems (6 semesters)
  - Burning Down the House!: Revolutionary Rhetoric & Social Activism (upper division—forth.)

2021-2024 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**
Department of Sociology, University of Oklahoma

- Undergraduate courses assisted:
  - Deviance (4 semesters)
  - Social Problems (1 semester)
  - Social Statistics (1 semester)
  - Criminology Capstone (1 semester)
  - Sexual Deviance (2 semesters)
  - Sociology of Law (1 semester)
  - Race and Ethnicities (2 semesters)
  - Urban Street Gangs (1 semester)
  - Sociology of Family (1 semester)

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE & SOCIAL JUSTICE EFFORTS

<u>Department & University Experience</u>

2024-present **Community Outreach Director**
LGBTQ Research & Engagement Collective, University of Oklahoma

- Designed custom collective merchandise, collaborated with local vendors for production, and managed end-to-end product pipeline
- Organized mini conferences every year for interdisciplinary student research
- Tabling lead for semesterly recruitment events

2024-present **Core Affiliate Board Member**
Carceral Studies Consortium, University of Oklahoma

2024-2025 **Women's & Gender Studies Graduate Student Senator**
The Graduate College, University of Oklahoma

2022-2023 **Sociology Graduate Student Senator**
The Graduate College, University of Oklahoma

Public Relations Committee Member

In the Community

2025-present **OU Food Pantry**
Health & Advocacy Team Member, Volunteer
- Volunteer of the Month, April 2026

2025-present **Women in Action For All**
Member in Norman, OK

2019-present **Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA)**
U.S. Professional Cheerleading Representative, Head Instructor

2024-present **SHRED (Safety Harm Reduction Education & Delivery) the Stigma**
Community Harm Reduction Volunteer

2023 **ReMerge Oklahoma**
GED Tutor & Volunteer for Previously Incarcerated Mothers

2021-present **Oklahomans for Reproductive Justice**
Member

2020 **Black Lives Matter**
Student Ally in Austin

2019-2021 **Students for Planned Parenthood**
Volunteer & Member, University of Texas at Austin

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2026-present **ASC Division of Queer Criminology**
Member

2026-present **American Society of Criminology (ASC)**
Member

2022-present **American Sociological Association (ASA)**
Member

2022-present **ASA Sex & Gender Section**
Member

RESEARCH SKILLS

Software Proficiency: STATA (expert), SPSS (expert), NVivo (expert)
Data: 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey (USTS), National Transgender Discrimination Survey (NTDS), General Social Survey (GSS)

REFERENCES

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