**Heather Gifford**

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**EDUCATION**

PhD Sociology University of Illinois Urbana Champaign 2015-Current

PhD Candidate

M.A. Sociology University of Illinois at Chicago May 2012

B.A. Multi-Ethnic Studies Boise State University May 2010

Transfer Credits Metropolitan Community College 2000-2005

**HONORS AND AWARDS**

2018 UIUC Sociology Department Travel Grant

2018 Beslow Fellowship

2015-2016 Bastion Fellowship at UIUC

2007-Present National Society of Collegiate Scholars

2008-Present Ronald E. McNair Scholar

2008-2010 McNair Scholarship Foundation Research Fellowship

2007-2010 USA Funds Scholarship Recipient

2009 Lightfoot Foundation Scholarship Recipient

2007-2009 Honor’s College, Boise State University

2007 President’s Volunteer Service Award

2007 Scholar of Promise Award, National Society of Collegiate Scholars

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Immigration & Globalization Gender & Women’s Studies Labor Migration & Global Economy

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

**2018-Current Univ. of Illinois Urbana Champaign Dissertation Data Analyses Phase**

*Missionary to Migrant: How exposure to western-based mission organizations mediates migration decisions*. Data collection complete

**2011-2012 University of Illinois at Chicago M.A. Project Qualitative**

*“It’s a Wonderful and Difficult Life”: Filipino Family-Petitioned Migrants and the Diverging American Dream*

Examined social class disparities within Filipino migration flows to the U.S. In-depth interviews with members of local Fil-Am society and community leaders in a new immigrant destination. Two articles prepared for journal submission

**2011-2012 University of Illinois at Chicago Chicago Area Study Quantitative/Qualitative**

RA for Dr. Nilda Flores-Gonazlez's research on "New Immigrant Destinations". Administered surveys and completed interviews with local businesses and leaders of community groups.

**2009-2010 Boise State University Independent Study/Research Quantitative** Quantitative follow up study to McNair Summer Research Project. Gathered over 500 surveys and analyzed the data using SPSS to support the mediating affect of attribution styles.

* 1. **Boise State University McNair Summer Research Seminar Qualitative**

“Identifying Student Perceptions: The Effect of Parent-Child Relationships on Attitudes towards Academic Abilities Requisite to Success”

Completed 21 face to face interviews with college students.

**PUBLICATIONS**

M.A. thesis Two papers have been submitted to journals for publication

Gifford, H.M. “Attitudes affecting disparities in college achievement: How much can we blame on our parents?” *Undergraduate Journal of Psychology*, 2011 V24

Gifford. H. M. “Identifying Student Perceptions: The Effect of Parent-Child Relationships on Attitudes toward Academic Abilities Requisite to Success,” *Boise State McNair Research Journal,* spring 2010

**PRESENTATIONS**

April 2019 UIUC Graduate Student Conference

Apr. 2010 7th Annual Undergraduate Research & Scholarship Conference, Boise State University

Apr. 2010 Pacific Sociological Association

Nov. 2009 18th Annual National McNair Research Conference and Graduate Fair

Aug. 2009 McNair Research Symposium, Boise State University

**FOREIGN LANGUAGE**

Tagalog: Fluent: Speak, Read, and Write

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Jan. 2016-Current Univ. of Illinois Urbana Champaign Instructor/Teaching Assistant**

Instructor: Sociology of Deviance, Gender and Society

TA: Intro to Sociology, Gender and Society, Sociology of Deviance, Head TA: Introduction to Sociology

**Aug. 2016-May 2018 Heartland Community College Adjunct Sociology Instructor**

Introduction to Sociology & Sociology of Family

**Jun. 2015-May 2018 Parkland Community College Adjunct Sociology Instructor**

Introduction to Sociology, Sociology of Gender

**Jan. 2013-June 2015 Boise State University Adjunct Sociology Instructor**

Introduction to Sociology & Social Problems

**Jan. 2013-June 2015 College of Western Idaho Adjunct Sociology Instructor**

Introduction to Sociology, Social Problems, Race & Ethnic Studies

**Aug. 2010-Jun. 2012 University of Illinois at Chicago Graduate Assistant**

TA: Gender, Sexuality, Intro to Sociology, Social Statistics, and Senior Research Experience.

**VOLUNTEER/COMMUNITY SERIVCE**

Aug. 2018 – Current Illinois Science & Technology Institute (ISTI) Research Mentor

Jan. 2018 - Current Midwest Sociological Society Social Action Committee

Aug 2017 - 2018 Society for the Study of Social Problems Chair/Grad. Paper Competition

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP**

American Sociological Association

Society for the Study of Social ProblemsChaired Graduate Student Paper Committee 2018

Midwest Sociological Society Member of Social Action Committee 2018 – Present