

Curriculum Vitae

Sandra Elizabeth Via

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CURRENT POSITION

Adjunct Faculty
Virginia Tech, Department of Political Science

Adjunct Faculty
Ferrum College, Department of Political Science

EDUCATION:

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Ph.D. (ABD), Planning, Governance and Globalization

- Graduate Certificate in Foundations of Political Analysis
- Graduate Certificate in Preparing the Future Professoriate
- Committee: Timothy W. Luke (chair), Laura Sjoberg (co-chair), Leonard Craig Brians, Rupa Gul Thadhani
- Dissertation: "Gendering the Diplomats of the 21st Century: A Feminist Perspective of Celebrity Diplomacy in the Global Economy"

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
M.A., Political Science, May 2007

- Graduate Certificate in ASPECT (Alliance for Social, Political, Ethical, and Cultural Thought)
- Committee: Wolfgang Natter (chair), Timothy W. Luke, Karen Hult, Patricia Mooney Nickel
- Thesis: "Neoliberalism in Higher Education? A Case Study of the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research"

Ferrum College
B.A., Political Science, 2004

- Honors Degree
- Summa Cum Laude

Patrick Henry Community College
Associate Degree, Legal Assisting, 2005

Other Professional/Educational Development:

“Interpretive and Relational Research Methodologies” Graduate Student Workshop at the 2008 International Studies Association-Northeast Annual Conference.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS:

Adjunct Faculty, Political Science, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, 2009-present.

Adjunct Faculty, Political Science, Ferrum College, 2009-present.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Political Science, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, 2005-2009.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Feminist international relations theory, international political economy, celebrity diplomacy, social and contemporary political theory, popular culture and cultural theory, and media studies.

COURSES TAUGHT

Adjunct Faculty, Political Economy of Development, Political Science, Ferrum College, Spring 2010.

Adjunct Faculty, The President and Congress, Political Science, Ferrum College, Spring 2010.

Adjunct Faculty, International Relations, Department of Political Science, Virginia Tech, Spring 2010.

Adjunct Faculty, U.S. Constitutional Law, Political Science, Ferrum College, Fall 2009.

Adjunct Faculty, International Law and Organization, Political Science, Ferrum College, Fall 2009.

Adjunct Faculty, International Relations, Department of Political Science, Virginia Tech, Fall 2009.

Instructor, International Relations, Department of Political Science, Virginia Tech, Spring 2009.

Instructor, U.S. Public Policy Process, Department of Political Science, Virginia Tech, Fall 2008.

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Advising Assistant, International Studies Program, Dr. Ioannis Stivachtis and Jennifer Hanratty (supervisors), Summer 2009.

Teaching Assistant, Comparative Politics, Dr. Laura Sjoberg, Department of Political Science, Virginia Tech, Summer I Session 2009.

Editorial Assistant, Dr. Karen Hult, Department of Political Science, Virginia Tech, Fall 2006-Fall 2008.

Research Assistant, Dr. Timothy Luke, Department of Political Science, Virginia Tech, Summer 2006, 2007, and 2008.

Teaching Assistant, World Politics and Global Economy, Dr. Edward Weisband, Department of Political Science, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Spring 2006 and Spring 2008.

Teaching Assistant, Nations and Nationalities, Dr. Edward Weisband, Department of Political Science, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Fall 2007.

Teaching Assistant, Constitutional Law I, Dr. Jong Ra, Department of Political Science, Virginia Tech, Spring 2007.

Teaching Assistant, Comparative Government and Politics, Dr. Jong Ra, Department of Political Science, Virginia Tech, Fall 2006.

Teaching/Research Assistant, Dr. Patricia Mooney Nickel, Government and International Affairs, Virginia Tech, Fall 2006.

Teaching Assistant, Marxian Political Analysis, Dr. Wolfgang Natter, Department of Political Science, Fall 2005.

PUBLICATIONS

Edited Books:

Sjoberg, Laura and Sandra Via, eds. 2010. *Gender, War, and Militarism*. Praeger Security International.

Chapters:

Via, Sandra. "Gender, Militarism, and Globalization: Soldiers for Hire and Hegemonic Masculinity," chapter in *Gender, War, and Militarism*. Praeger Security International.

Via, Sandra and Courtney Irene Powell Thomas. "Big Blocks of Cheese and Other

Lessons on American Politics and Government: 15 Weeks in *The West Wing*.” chapter in *Teaching Matters: Strategy and Tactics to Engage Students in the Study of American Politics*, Daniel M. Shea, ed. Pearson Longman Books.

Papers:

“Striking Back at Neoliberalism: Building Social Solidarity Through Liberation Theology” accepted for publication *SPECTRA (Social, Political, Ethical, and Cultural Theory Archives)*.

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations:

Delivered a paper entitled, “Merging Worlds: Celebrity Diplomacy in International Affairs” at the 7th Annual SGIR Pan-European International Relations Conference, Stockholm, Sweden, September 9-11, 2010.

Delivered a paper entitled, “Celebrity Diplomacy in the Current Global Economy: A Feminist Perspective” at the 2009 International Studies Association-Northeast Conference, October 2-3, 2009.

Delivered a paper entitled “‘Big Blocks of Cheese’ And Lessons on American Politics and Government: 15 Weeks in 'The West Wing'” at the 2009 American Political Science Association Teaching and Learning Conference, February 4-6, 2009.

Delivered a paper entitled “Gender, Militarism, and Globalization: Soldiers for Hire and Hegemonic Masculinity” at the 2008 International Studies Association-Northeast Conference, October 3, 2008.

Delivered a paper entitled “Child Healthcare in Crisis: Implications of Neoliberalism for Mothers and Caregivers” at the 2008 Southeastern Women’s Studies Association Conference, UNC-Charlotte, April 2008.

Delivered a paper entitled “Striking Back at Neoliberalism: Building Social Solidarity Through Liberation Theology” at the Seventh Annual International Social Theory Consortium, Virginia Tech, Spring 2006.

Invited Conference Presentations:

Plenary Panel Participant at the Third Just Connections Conference, Ferrum College, Summer 2007.

Delivered my thesis entitled, “Neoliberalism in Higher Education? A Case Study of the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research” at the Third Just Connections Conference, Ferrum College, Summer 2007.

Delivered a presentation regarding the development and coordination of a financial aid workshop in McDowell County, WV at the First Biennial Just Connections Conference, Emory and Henry College, Summer 2003.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Community-Based Research and Service-Learning

McDowell County, West Virginia

Field research conducted in McDowell County, WV to explore the community's needs. This research led to the development and coordination of a financial aid workshop with Big Creek People in Action, which is a non-profit organization that provides aid to residents of McDowell County in terms of political aid, literacy, home repairs, and several other areas of need. Conducted educational workshops concerning federal, local, and college aid with parents and students. Helped students complete FASFA applications, scholarship forms, and college admission applications. Coordinated with organizations on the campus of Ferrum College. Coordinated with Ferrum College faculty and staff, including the Offices of Financial Aid and Admissions.

SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS, AND HONORS

- Appalachian College Association Scholarship to study abroad at Oxford University, Summer 2002.
- Hurt Political Science Award, Ferrum College, 2004.
- Presidential Scholarship Recipient, Ferrum College, 2001-2004
- Ferrum College, Boone Honors Program, 2001-2004.
- Top Scholar Award, Ferrum College 2002-2003.
- Beazley Scholarship, Ferrum College, 2004.
- Distinguished Service Key, Alpha Phi Omega, 2004.

COMMUNITY SERVICE:

- Ferrum College Council on Research and Engagement (CORE) focus group moderator
- Special Love, Inc., Volunteer; 2008
- New River Stage Volunteer, 2008
- Bonner Scholar Program, 2002-2004

DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE:

- Member, Intentional and Strategic Post-graduate Education (ISAGE) Committee, 2009-2010.
- Member, Center on Civic Engagement and (Social) Entrepreneurship Concept Planning Group, Ferrum College, 2010.
- Member, School of Social Science Civic Engagement Theme Planning Committee, Ferrum College, 2010
- Member, Service Learning Committee, Ferrum College, 2003-2004

HONOR SOCIETIES:

- Alpha Chi, 2003
- Pi Sigma Alpha, 2004

- Phi Alpha Theta, 2004
- Phi Theta Kappa, 2005

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Professional Associations:

- Member, American Political Science Association
- Member, International Studies Association

Service Associations:

- Member, Alpha Phi Omega, Phi Omicron chapter, 2001-2004.