

Dr. Ashley D. Vancil-Leap

Department of Sociology &
Gender Studies Program Affiliate
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2021 – Present Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Sociology
Mississippi State University
Applied Sociology Academic Coordinator 2022 - Present

2016- 2021 Instructor, Gender Studies Program & Department of Sociology
Mississippi State University

EDUCATION

2016 University of Missouri, Sociology, Ph.D.
Dissertation: “Feeding Others’ Children: A Comparative Ethnography of
Labor among School Food Service Employees.”
Graduate Minor: Women’s and Gender Studies

2012 University of Missouri, Sociology, M.A.
Thesis: “Factors that Explain the use of Private versus Public Food Safety
Nets among a Food Pantry Population.”

2008 Beloit College, Sociology, B.A.
Honors Thesis: “Thanks, but No Thanks: A Study of Potential Food Stamp
Recipients and Why They Decline the Benefit.”

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Gender and Sexuality	Care work	Feminist Theory
Gender Studies	Racial Minorities	Social Theory
Food Insecurity	Qualitative Methods	Introduction
Work and Organizations	Social Inequalities	Social Problems
Culture and Identity	The Family	

COURSES TAUGHT

2021–Present *Assistant Clinical Professor*, Mississippi State University, Department of
Sociology

Introduction to Sociology (Fall '21 – Fall '22 (in-person and online)
Responsible for course design, lecture preparation and delivery, student
evaluation, record management, and advising. I focused on engaging

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undergraduate students in asking sociological questions and understanding how to examine their own lives from a sociological perspective. Course was capped at 85 students per section.

Introduction to Race and Ethnicity (Fall '21-Fall '22)

Taking an intersectional standpoint, this course taught undergraduate students about the various ways in which inequalities permeate all aspects of our everyday lives. Students engaged in historical and contemporary material to gain a better understanding of how race relations operate at the individual, interactional, and institutional level today. Course was capped at 40 students per section.

Sociology of Gender and Sexuality (Fall '22)

Developed and taught undergraduate students about the complex concepts of gender and sexuality. Through the use of feminist theory and social science research, students completed three evidence-based essays and led discussions over the course readings on topics. Course was capped at 30 students.

Social Inequalities (Summer '22)

Taught twelve undergraduate students about social inequalities from a sociological perspective. Led course discussions and facilitated in-class activities.

2016- 2021 *Instructor*, Mississippi State University, Gender Studies Program & Department of Sociology

Introduction to Gender Studies (Spring '18 – Present, f2f & online)

Developed and taught undergraduate students about the social construction of gender and how the intersections of gender, race, class, sexuality, etc. create opportunities of privilege and oppression by engaging students with theories and research. Course was capped at 45 students.

Gender and Work (Fall '19)

Developed and taught undergraduate students about the intersection of gender work. The course aims to be fairly broad-based in its coverage of gender and work. Students presented and discussed theoretical and analytic evidence in the field and wrote three analytic evidence-based papers. The course was capped at 30 students.

Social Inequalities (Spring '19 & '20 f2f; Winter '20 & Spring '21 online)

Developed and taught undergraduate students on how social inequalities is one of the foundational problems in the field of Sociology. Students were expected to discuss course materials, present a final community-based project, and demonstrate their knowledge through examinations. The course was capped at 45 students.

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Gender, Food and Culture (Spring '19 & '20)

Developed and taught this service-learning course exploring the intersections between gender, food and culture, with an emphasis on communities. Overview of historic and contemporary approaches to the food system and inequalities. Students were expected to work with local food pantries and organizations addressing food insecurity to create a final presentation that was beneficial to the communities. The course was capped at 25 students.

Gender and Sexuality (Fall '18, '20, Summer '20, Fall '20, & Spring '21 online)

Developed and taught undergraduate students about the complex concepts of gender and sexuality. Through the use of feminist theory and social science research, students completed three evidence based essays and led discussions over the course readings on topics including masculinity, LGBTQ youth in the rural south, and sex education. Course was capped at 30 students.

Contemporary Social Problems (Fall '16, Spring '17, '18)

Developed and taught undergraduate students about contemporary social problems from a sociological perspective. By engaging with sociological theories, students were able to develop an understanding of the various debates surrounding current social problems and creatively develop strategies for social action. Course was capped at 80 students.

Racial Minorities (Fall '16, Spring '17(2 sections), Fall '18)

Taking an intersectional standpoint, this course taught undergraduate students about the various ways in which inequalities permeate all aspects of our everyday lives. Students engaged in historical and contemporary material to gain a better understanding of how race relations operate at the individual, interactional, and institutional level today. Course was capped at 40 students per section.

Sociology of Families (Spring '17 (2 sections), '18 (2 sections); Summer '17; Fall '17 (3 sections))

Exploring the diversity in families in the United States, this course took an inequalities perspective and examined what structural and institutional factors contribute to the privilege and oppression of various family formations. Students engaged with critical material and had in-depth discussion and assignments take expanded their previous notions about the family. Course was capped at 80 students per section.

Introduction to Sociology (Fall '16 (3 sections); Fall '17 (2 sections) Spring '19(Honors Level) & '20 online)

Responsible for course design, lecture preparation and delivery, student

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evaluation, record management, and advising. I focused on engaging undergraduate students in asking sociological questions and understanding how to examine their own lives from a sociological perspective. Course was capped at 85 students.

Direct Independent Study: Youth, Race, and Crime (Spring '17)

As requested by two undergraduate students, this direct independent study course was a reading intensive course based on the topic chosen by the students: youth, race, and crime. Meeting with the Instructor, every other week, the students completed an intensive reading schedule based on this topic and submitted bi-weekly reading responses as well as a final paper incorporating all the texts from the semester. Students engage in a critical discussion with the Instructor based on these readings on youth, race and crime.

2016 *Instructor*, University of Missouri, Women's and Gender Studies Department, Online

Themes in Gender and Work (Spring '16)

Developed and taught undergraduate students about the confluence and intersection of gender and work from an interdisciplinary perspective. Utilizing lecture-capturing tools and Blackboard, I facilitated online discussion boards and utilized technology to effectively teach students about this timely and important topic.

2016 *Grader*, University of Missouri, Mizzou Online, Department of Sociology/Department of Black Studies, Online

Social Inequalities (Spring '16, Summer 2016)

Taught over one hundred undergraduate students about social inequalities from a sociological perspective. Graded assignments within three days of submission during this self-paced cross-listed course.

2012-16 *Instructor*, Mizzou Online, Department of Sociology & Women's & Gender Studies, Online

Sociology of Gender (Summer '12, '13, '14, '16)

Developed and taught this upper level undergraduate online course. I utilized popular culture, experiential learning, recorded lectures and discussion boards to help students synthesize course theories and concepts. Course was capped at 25 students.

2015 *Adjunct Instructor*, Lincoln University, Department of Social & Behavioral Sciences

Data Collection Methods, Online (Fall '15)

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Developed and taught this masters (M.A.) level online methods course. I utilized both qualitative and quantitative approaches to discuss scientific knowledge through facilitated discussion boards, recorded lectures and email communication. Course was capped at 16 students.

2015 *Course Developer*, University of Missouri, Department of Women's & Gender Studies

Themes in Gender and Work (Summer '15)

Developed this upper level undergraduate online course for the Women's and Gender Studies. Incorporating interdisciplinary material on gender and work, I developed the courses syllabus, readings, and lectures. I created the course website and recorded course lectures.

2012-15 *Instructor*, University of Missouri, Department of Sociology

Introduction to Sociology (Honors College) (Spring '15, Fall '15)

Responsible for course design, lecture preparation and delivery, student evaluation, record management, and advising. I focused on engaging students in asking sociological questions and understanding how to examine their own lives from a sociological perspective. Course was capped at 25 students.

Sociology of Gender (Fall '12, '13, '14, Spring '13)

Cross-listed with the Women's and Gender Studies Department, I developed and taught an upper division undergraduate course examining theories of sex and gender. I utilized popular culture, experiential learning and small group facilitation to help students synthesize course theories and concepts. Course was capped at 60 students. Responsible for course design, lecture preparation and delivery, student evaluation, record management, and advising.

Sociology of Work (Spring '14)

Responsible for course design, lecture preparation and delivery, student evaluation, record management, and advising for this upper level undergraduate course. The course explored the history of the economy and capitalism and how these institutions affect our work environments. Course was capped at 60 students.

2012- 13 *Tutor*, Learning Center, University of Missouri

Lead semester-long weekly tutoring sessions with undergraduate students in Sociology and Women's and Gender Studies courses. Provided written and verbal feedback on students' writing assignments.

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2010 – 12 *Teaching Assistant*, University of Missouri, Department of Sociology

Senior Seminar

Spring: 2012

Social Psychology

Fall: 2011

Technology and Society

Spring: 2011

Social Inequalities

Fall: 2010, 2011

Introduction to Sociology

Fall: 2010

MENTORING OF INDIVIDUAL STUDENT WORK

Graduate Students

- 2022-Present *PhD Committee Co-Chair*, Kati Hall, Department of Sociology, Mississippi State University
- 2022-Present *Masters Committee Chair*, Deadra Ruffin, Department of Sociology, Mississippi State University
- 2021–Present *Thesis Committee Member*, Mary Lee Hyer, Department of Landscape Architecture, Mississippi State University
- 2018 *Hand-to-Hand Program Mentor*, Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) Annual Winter Meeting
A mentoring program hosted by SWS for faculty to mentor graduate students across the country.
- 2015-16 *Committee Member*, Brett Mitchell, Master's Comprehensive Exam Committee for the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Lincoln University.
- 2015-16 *Committee Member*, Michael Childs, Master's Comprehensive Exam Committee for the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Lincoln University.

Undergraduate Students

- 2021-2022 *Honors Thesis Committee Member*, Sarah Dulaney, Department of Communication, Mississippi State University
- 2018-2020 *Faculty Advisor*, The Thirst Project, Mississippi State University

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

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- 2020 Diego Thompson, Kecia R. Johnson, Kenya M. Cistrunk, **Ashley Vancil-Leap**, Thomas Nyatta, Leslie Hossfeld, Gina Rico Méndez & Claudette Jones. "Assemblage, food justice, and intersectionality in rural Mississippi: the Oktibbeha Food Policy Council." *Sociological Spectrum*, DOI: 10.1080/02732173.2020.1801541
- 2016 **Vancil-Leap, Ashley**. "Resistance and Adherence to the Gendered Representations of School Lunch Ladies." *Gender Issues*, pp. 1-19.

Chapters in Edited Volumes

- 2016 **Vancil-Leap, Ashley**. "The Physical and Emotional Contours of Feeding Labor by School Food Service Employees." In Vasilikie Demos & Marcia Segal (Eds.), *Advances in Gender Research*, Vol. 22. United Kingdom: Emerald Group Publishing, pp. 243-264.

Public Scholarship

- 2020 **Vancil-Leap, Ashley**. "Teaching Community Engaged Learning at Mississippi State University." Mid-South Sociological Association Newsletter.
- 2015 **Vancil-Leap, Ashley**. "Partners in School Health: The Case for the School Lunch Lady." American Sociological Association, Work and Organization, *Work in Progress*. See: <http://workinprogress.oowsection.org/2015/03/30/partners-in-school-health-the-case-for-the-school-lunch-lady/>
- 2013 **Vancil, Ashley**, Sandy Rikoon, Matt Foulkes, Colleen Heflin, Joan Hermsen, and Nikki Raedeke. "Regional Profile of Missouri Food Pantry Clients and Households." University of Missouri Institute for Public Policy #04. See: <http://foodsecurity.missouri.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/04-2013-Regional-Profile-of-Missouri-Food-Pantry-Clients-and-Households.pdf>

AWARDS, GRANTS AND HONORS

- 2022 Recipient of the Alpha Kappa Delta Outstanding Faculty Award as selected by the Department of Sociology graduate students, Mississippi State University
- 2020 Recipient of the College of Arts and Sciences Ambassadors for Excellence in Teaching Award, Mississippi State University
- 2020 Mississippi State University's 2020 Schiling Special Teaching Project recipient, **\$529**

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- 2020 The College of Arts & Science Excellence in Teaching Award, Mississippi State University, Nominated
- 2019 Honorable Mention for the Oktibbeha Food Policy Council from the Center for Community Engaged Learning Research Award, Mississippi State University, **\$750**
- 2018 Center for Community-Engaged Learning Fellowship Program, Mississippi State University. **\$1,000.**
- 2017 Center for Community-Engaged Learning Mini-Grants Program, Mississippi State University. **\$500.**
- 2014 Research and Training Award, Sociology Department, University of Missouri. **\$500.**
- 2014 James S. Rollins Slavery Atonement Grant, Black Studies Department, University of Missouri. **\$300.**
- 2013 Women's & Gender Studies Research Grant, Women's & Gender Studies Department, University of Missouri. **\$500.**
- 2012 Missouri Student Association/Graduate Professional Council Teaching Assistant Choice Award, University of Missouri.
- 2008 Midwest Sociological Society Undergraduate Student Paper Competition (2nd place), Midwest Sociology Society. **\$200.**

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

- 2020 *Certified*, Center for Teaching and Learning's Online Teaching 101 Program, Mississippi State University
- 2019 *Attendee*, Center for Teaching and Learning's "Navigating the Student Honor Code" Session, Mississippi State University
- 2018 Faculty Fellow, The Center for Community Engagement, Mississippi State University
- 2018 Attendee, Feminist Pedagogy Panel, Gender Studies Program and Center for Teaching and Learning, Mississippi State University
- 2015-16 Preparing Future Faculty Program Participant, University of Missouri

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RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

- 2016 – 2020 *Researcher*, Oktibbeha County Food Policy Council, Mississippi State University.
Serving as a member of the interdisciplinary and community project toward creating food policies for the Oktibbeha County of Mississippi.
- 2016 - 2020 *Researcher*, Mississippi Food Insecurity Project, Mississippi State University
Serving as a member of the research team, investigating and documenting food insecurity in the state of Mississippi. Current projects include collecting data on food pantry client’s participation and access to food.
- 2017 – 2019 *Researcher*, Vardaman Community Project, Mississippi State University.
Serving as a member of the qualitative research team in the community of Vardaman, MS.
- 2011–13 *Research Assistant*, Interdisciplinary Center for Food Security, University of Missouri
Served as research assistant to an interdisciplinary research team for projects investigating food (in)security at food pantries in Mid-Missouri, including collecting data for the Missouri Hunger Atlas and the “Coping with Hunger in 2013” publication: http://foodsecurity.missouri.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Coping-with-Hunger_Dec-2013.pdf.
- 2012-13 *Research Assistant*, Department of Law, University of Missouri
Provided assistance with coding and data analysis, as well as other tasks for a project on sexual harassment of female renters by landlords.
Reviewed relevant literature and developed data collection procedures for an academic study.
- 2012 *Research Assistant*, Truman School of Public Affairs, University of Missouri
Aided with entering, coding and data analysis, as well as other tasks for a project on food pantry directors in mid-Missouri. Revised and edited academic writing for publication. Gathered relevant source materials and created annotated bibliographies.
- 2011 *Research Assistant*, Department of Sociology, University of Missouri
Reviewed relevant literature and developed data collection procedures for an academic study. Revised and edited academic writing for publication. Gathered relevant source materials and created annotated bibliographies.

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PROFESSIONAL MEETING PARTICIPATION

- 2022 Presenter and Discussant, “Teaching Social Inequalities through Community Engagement,” Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting in Birmingham, AL.
- 2021 *Presenter and Discussant*, “Teaching Community Engaged Courses,” Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Online due to COVID-19 pandemic
- 2020 *Accepted as Presenter and Discussant*, “Teaching Community Engaged Courses,” Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Jacksonville, FL – meeting canceled due to COVID-19
- 2019 *Volunteer & Participant*, Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.
- 2019 Volunteer & Participant, Sociologists for Women in Society – South (SWS-S) Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.
- 2018 *Volunteer*, Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) Annual Winter Meeting, Atlanta, GA
- 2016 *Research Presenter*, “The Physical and Emotional Contours of Feeding Labor by School Food Service Employees.” Gender and Work Paper Session. American Sociological Association, Seattle, WA.
- 2015 *Research Presenter*, “Gendered Representations of Lunch Ladies: A Comparative Discourse Analysis.” Gender and Work Roundtable. American Sociological Association, Chicago, IL.
- 2015 *Research Presenter*, “The Invisibility of Feeding Labor: The Case of the School Lunch Lady.” Invisible Labor Paper Session. Midwest Sociological Society, Kansas City, MO.
- 2015 *Research Presenter*, “The Invisibility of Feeding Labor: The Case of the School Lunch Lady.” Gender Paper Session. Chicago Ethnography Conference, Evanston, IL.
- 2014 *Research Presenter*, “The Gendered Representations of ‘Lunch Ladies’: From Miss Beazly, to Adam Sandler, to Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Beyond.” Gender and Work Paper Session. Midwest Sociological Society, Omaha, NE.
- 2013 *Research Co-Presenter*, “A Food Systems Approach to Addressing Obesity Among Food Pantry Clients in Missouri.” Society for Nutrition

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Education and Behavior Conference, Portland, OR.

- 2012 *Research Presenter*, “Factors that Explain the Use of Private Versus Public Food Safety Nets among a Food Pantry Population.” Food Insecurity Paper Session. Midwest Sociological Society, Minneapolis, MN.
- 2011 *Co-Presenter*, “Harvesting Hope for Food Justice in Missouri.” Missouri Association for Social Welfare annual meeting, Osage Beach, MO.
- 2011 *Research Presenter*, “Eligibility Isn't Enough: What it takes to be a Member of the Food Stamp Program.” Hunger Roundtable. Midwest Sociological Society, St. Louis, MO.
- 2008 *Research Presenter*, “Thanks, but No Thanks: Potential Food Stamp Recipients and Why They Decline the Benefits.” American Sociological Association, Boston, MA.
- 2008 *Research Presenter*, “Thanks, but No Thanks: Potential Food Stamp Recipients and Why They Decline the Benefits.” Midwest Sociological Society, St. Louis, MO.

INVITED LECTURES AND PANELS

- 2019 - 2022 *Invited Lecturer*, Safe Zone Advisory Board’s Gender 101 Training Session, Mississippi State University
- 2020 *Invited Facilitator*, “Be You at MSU” program on queer and trans resiliency, Safe Zone Advisory Board, Mississippi State University
- 2020 *Invited Lecturer*, Alpha Kappa Delta Brown Bag Lecture Series, “Creating a Community Engaged Course”, Department of Sociology, Mississippi State University
- 2019 *Invited Lecturer*, College of Arts & Science GRE Student Preparation Workshop, Mississippi State University
- 2016 *Invited Discussant*, Gender Studies Program Film Festival, Mississippi State University.
- 2016 *Invited Panelist*, “Stigma Associated with Hunger.” Sponsored by Universities Fighting World Hunger (UFWH), University of Missouri.
- 2013 *Invited Moderator*, “Hidden Hunger at Mizzou: Food Insecurity at Mizzou.” Sponsored by Women’s Center, Tiger Food Pantry, and Environmental Leadership Office, University of Missouri.

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PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

Department & University Service

- 2021-Present *Mentor*, The College of Arts and Science Mentoring Program, Mississippi State University
- 2020-Present *Chair*, Sociology Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Department of Sociology, Mississippi State University
- 2020-Present *Committee Member*, The College of Arts and Science's Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Mississippi State University
- 2019-Present *Committee Member*, Sociology Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Department of Sociology, Mississippi State University
- 2017-2022 *Safe Zone Advisory Board Member*, Gender Studies Program Representative, Mississippi State University
- 2020-2022 *Chair*, Race in the Curriculum Committee, Department of Sociology, Mississippi State University
- 2020-2021 *Committee Member*, The College of Arts and Science's Clinical Assistant Professor Development Committee, Mississippi State University
- 2018-2020 *Gender Studies Representative*, The College of Arts & Science Faculty Senate, Mississippi State University
- 2018 *Undergraduate Textbook Committee Member*, Department of Sociology, Mississippi State University
- 2011-16 *Graduate Student Mentor*, Department of Sociology, University of Missouri.
- 2010-16 *Member*, Sociology Graduate Student Group, University of Missouri.
- 2013 *Graduate Representative*, Department of Sociology Faculty Council, University of Missouri.
- 2012 *Graduate Representative*, Department of Sociology Tenure Committee, University of Missouri.
- 2012 *Co-Coordinator*, "Food Insecurity: Assessing Disparities, Consequences, and Policies" Research & Working Symposium, University of Missouri.
- 2011-13 *Tutor*, Academic Learning Center, University of Missouri.

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2011 *Vice-President*, Sociology Graduate Student Group, University of Missouri.

Discipline

2020-Present *Vice-President*, Sociologists for Women in Society – South (SWS-S)

2016-Present *Journal Reviewer*, Gender Issues, Springer, US.

2020-2021 *Journal Reviewer*, Journal of Economic Studies, Emerald Books, US.

2018-2020 *Journal Reviewer*, Evaluation and Program Planning, an International Journal, Elsevier, US.

2018-2020 *Newsletter Editor*, Executive Committee Member for Sociologists for Women in Society-South (SWS-S)

2015 *Session Presider*, “Section on Organizations, Occupations and Work Roundtable: Female-Dominated Occupations Table.” American Sociological Association, Chicago, IL.

2015 *Session Chair*, “Sociology of Work and Emotions.” Midwest Sociological Society, Kansas City, MO.

2015 *Session Co-Chair*, “Responding to the Challenges of Inequalities in Agriculture and Food Security.” Midwest Sociological Society, Kansas City, MO.

2014 *Session Co-Chair*, “Hunger, Food Insecurity, and Inequality.” Midwest Sociological Society, Omaha, NE.

2013 *Reviewer*, Reviewed two chapters in a gender textbook. Routledge.

Professional Memberships

2016-Present Southern Sociological Society (SSS)

2008-Present American Sociological Association (ASA)

Section on Sex and Gender

Section on Work and Labor

Coalition for Food and Agriculture Sociologists

2017-Present Sociologists for Women in Society-South (SWS-South)

Vice-President, 2020 - Present

Newsletter Editor, 2018-2020

2017-Present Sociologists for Women in Society - MSU Chapter (SWS-MSU)

2008-Present Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS)

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2008-2017 Midwest Sociological Society (MSS)

IN THE MEDIA

- 2020 “Gender, Food and Culture,” *Engaged: The Center for Community-Engaged Learning at Mississippi State University* publication, 2019-2020.
Online access [here](#)
- 2020 “Community Engaged Learning,” *Forum: The Mid-South Sociological Association Newsletter*, Spring/Summer 2020.
Online access [here](#)
- 2020 SO/GS 4990: Gender, Food and Culture” featured on the Center for Community Engagement, Mississippi State University, Instagram account.
- 2013 “Students describe struggle with hunger,” *Columbia Daily Tribune*, March 15th.
- 2013 “‘Hidden Hunger’ panel hopes to inspire perspective shift,” *The Maneater*, March 15th.
Online access [here](#)
- 2013 “Hidden Hunger at Mizzou,” *Interdisciplinary Center for Food Security*.
Online access [here](#)