

ALISSA KLEIN

Department of Sociology &
Interdisciplinary Social Sciences
University of South Florida

aklein2@usf.edu

EDUCATION

2024 (planned) – PhD, Sociology – University of South Florida, Tampa

2015 – MA, Sociology – University of South Florida, Tampa

2008 – BA, Sociology and Interdisciplinary Honors, *magna cum laude* - University of South Florida, Tampa

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2023 – Visiting Instructor, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

2016 - 2023 – Instructor of Record, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

2017 - 2019 – Adjunct Professor, University of Tampa, Tampa, FL

2014 - 2016 – Teaching Assistant, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

COURSES TAUGHT – Instructor of Record

Social Science Statistics – 2019-2024, University of South Florida

Social Psychology – 2018-2024, University of South Florida

Introduction to Sociology – 2016-2024, University of South Florida; 2017-2019, University of Tampa

Contemporary Social Problems – 2017-2021, University of South Florida

COURSES TAUGHT – Teaching Assistant

Introduction to Sociology – Spring 2014, Fall 2015, Summer 2018, University of South Florida

Sociology of Families – Summer 2016, University of South Florida

Social Science Statistics – Fall 2014, Spring 2015, University of South Florida

AREAS OF TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTEREST

- Scholarship of Teaching and Learning
- Social Psychology
- Public Sociology
- Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility
- Public Policy
- Data Science

TEACHING CERTIFICATES AND COURSES

- 2024 – Fostering a Sense of Belonging Course, Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning, University of South Florida
- 2024 – Online Instructor Recertification, Innovative Education, Digital Learning, University of South Florida
- 2022 – Inclusive and Equitable Pedagogy Course, Digital Learning, University of South Florida Innovative Education
- 2020 – Online Instructor Certification, Innovative Education, Digital Learning, University of South Florida
- 2020 – Designing Your Online Course, University of South Florida Digital Learning Innovative Education Course
- 2014 – Teaching Sociology, 14-week, for-credit graduate course focusing on active learning and student-centered pedagogy
- 2014 – Preparing for College Teaching Certification, Academy for Teaching and Learning Excellence, University of South Florida

PEDAGOGY AND TEACHING DEVELOPMENT

- 2024 – “STEM Leadership Series: Excellence, Catalysts for Change, and Inclusive Impact,” Zakiya Wilson-Kennedy, PhD, Ron and Dr. Mary Neal Distinguished Associate Professor of Chemistry Education and Associate Dean at Louisiana State University) and Dr. Santa Ono, PhD, President of the University of Michigan.
- 2024 – “It’s getting hot in here: Addressing Climate Change via Education, Research, and the Arts,” Brad Rosenheim, PhD, Geological Oceanography Professor in the USF College of Marine Science Brad Rosenheim, Denise Davis-Cotton, PhD, Director of the Florida Center for PAInT Denise Davis- Cotton, PhD, University of South Florida
- 2024 – “Mentorship: Providing Support, Development, and Advancement,” Tangela Serls, PhD, Special Advisor to the College of Arts and Sciences Dean; Associate Professor of Instruction, Department of Women’s & Gender Studies; Faculty-in-Residence, Department of Housing and Residential Education; Elizabeth Hordge-Freeman, PhD, Associate Professor of Sociology, Racial Justice Initiative Chair, University of South Florida
- 2024 – “Black History Month: Learning from the Past, Living in the Present, Looking towards the Future,” Clara Buie, MEd, Director, Office of the President, Julie Buckner Armstrong, PhD, Professor of English, Cheryl Rodriguez, PhD, Professor of Africana Studies and Anthropology, University of South Florida
- 2024 – “Systematic Approach to Support Strategic Growth and ONE USF: Reflecting on Theories of Change,” Steven Tauber, Professor of Political Science & Vice Provost for Faculty Administration, Ruthmae Sears, PhD, Professor for Mathematics Education & Associate Director for the Coalition of Science Literacy, Mr. Darren L. Gambrell, Associate Director, USF Sarasota-Manatee

- 2023 – “Mental Health: Supporting Healing, Hope, and Social and Emotional Growth,” Mrs. Diane Williams, MSW, Licensed Clinical Social Worker/ Referral Service Coordinator, Dr. Brianna Barnes-Harrington, Staff Psychologist, University of South Florida
- 2023 – Using Canvas Templates to Jumpstart Design & Delivery, Arleen Janz, MEd, Innovative Education, Digital Learning Training, LaSaundria Glenn-Bass, MEd, Innovative Education, Digital Learning Training, University of South Florida
- 2023 – “Thank you for listening to me: Voices from students describing factors influencing Students’ Success and Resiliency,” Ms. Nicole Luckett, Assistant Program Director of Multicultural Affairs, Doctoral Student, Ms. Folashade Adenuga, President of the USF NSBE chapter Undergraduate Student, Mr. Matthew Obrien, Region IX Director for the Florida Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Doctoral Student, Jacob Diaz, Ph.D., Regional Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Success and Dean of Students, University of South Florida
- 2023 – “Fostering Student Engagement in the Classroom,” Jay R. Howard, PhD, Professor of Sociology and Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Butler University, Jacqueline Zalewski, PhD, Professor of Sociology, West Chester University, and Brandon Bosch, PhD, Assistant Professor of Practice in Sociology & Political Science, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- 2023 – “You Belong Here: Fostering a Sense of Belonging in Higher Education,” Kristin Kosyluk, PhD, Assistant Professor of Mental Health Law & Policy and Director of the Stigma Action Research (STAR) Lab, Kyonna Henry, Director of Student Life and Engagement, and Deborah McCarthy, Director of Student Accessibility Services, University of South Florida
- 2023 – “Leveraging Canvas to Improve Grading and Assessment Workshop,” Otis Wilder, EdD, Learning Designer, Online Learning and Instructional Technology Services, Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning, University of South Florida
- 2023 – “Neurodiversity: Designing Inclusive Learning Environments,” Denise Barnes, University of South Florida College of Behavioral Community Sciences Center for Autism and Related Disabilities Consultant, Florida Center for Inclusive Communities Employment Coordinator; Adriana Rojas, IIDA, LEED Green Associate, HOK Principal, Director of Interiors; and Michael Furnari, LEED AP + WELL AP; BOS Market President, Workplace Strategist
- 2023 – “Reimagining Learning & Teaching (I-III): Latest in Generative AI,” Timothy Henkel, PhD Assistant Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning, Director, Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning, University of South Florida
- 2023 – “Laws and Policies Impacting Education: Implications on a Just and Inclusive Learning Environment,” Gerard Solis, Senior Vice President for Legal Affairs & General Counsel, Dana Thompson-Dorsey, PhD, Associate Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, University of South Florida
- 2023 – “Universal Design for Learning,” Jayme Joslyn, EdD, U Matter Program Director, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg
- 2023 – “Fostering Community with USF Policies,” Ashley Reese, PhD, Learning and Development Coordinator, Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning, University of South Florida

- 2023 – “Being Your Authentic Self: The Space Between Discomfort and Belonging,” Jacob Diaz, EdD, Regional Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Success and Dean of Students, Ms. Antonia Robinson, 3rd & 4th Year Student Success Advocate, University of South Florida
- 2023 – “Embracing Culture in a Virtual Environment,” Denise Davis-Cotton, PhD, Director of the Florida Center for Partnerships in Arts-Integrated Teaching, Marie Byrd, PhD, Associate Professor of Educational Leadership and Policies, Ashley Reese, PhD, Learning and Development Coordinator, Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning, Fanni Green, MFA, Interim Chair/Theatre and Associate Professor of Theatre, University of South Florida
- 2023 – “Accessibility Strategies,” Karen Ramlackhan, PhD, Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, and Helene Robinson, EdD, Associate Professor of Instruction and Director of Critical Creative and Design Thinking Program, University of South Florida
- 2023 – “Teaching Practices that Impact Students’ Mindset,” Emad Mansour, PhD, Learning & Development Facilitator, Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning, University of South Florida
- 2023 – “Conceptualization, Commercialization, and Commodification of Ethnicity and Race,” Kelly Cowart, PhD, Associate Professor of Marketing, and Elizabeth Hordge-Freeman, PhD, Senior Advisor to the President and Provost for Diversity and Inclusion and Associate Professor of Sociology, University of South Florida
- 2023 – “Teach Students How to Learn: Critical Thinking and Metacognition Practices,” Emad Mansour, PhD, Learning & Development Facilitator, Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning, University of South Florida
- 2023 – “The Model Minority Myth,” Walter Jennings, BA, Associate Director and Program Director Black Leadership Network, USF Foundation, Kevin Lee, MA, Academic Advisor, and Carlos Moreira, MBA, Director of Campus Engagement for Veteran Success and Alumni Affairs, University of South Florida
- 2022 – “Diversifying Content and Facilitating Conversations,” Rebecca Johns, PhD, Associate Professor of Geography, and David Robertson, PhD, Assistant Professor of Instruction of Psychology, University of South Florida
- 2022 – “Teaching Sensitive Topics to High School and First-Year College Students,” Charles Gallagher, Professor of Sociology, La Salle University; Hayley Lotspeich, High School Instructor, Whitney Pirtle, Associate Professor of Sociology, University of California-Merced; and Chris Salituro, Loyola University Chicago
- 2022 – “Assessing Critical Thinking,” Sara Friedman, MA, Learning and Development Facilitator, Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning, University of South Florida
- 2022 – “Teaching Critical Thinking,” Sara Friedman, MA, Learning and Development Facilitator, Academy of Teaching and Learning Excellence, Morgan Gresham, PhD, Associate Professor of English, Alaina Tackitt, PhD, Associate Director of First Year Composition, University of South Florida

- 2022 – “The Rosenthal Effect: Expect More, Get More,” Emad Mansour, PhD, Learning & Development Facilitator, Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning, University of South Florida
- 2022 – “Centering Course Structures,” Timothy Henkel, PhD, Director, Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning, University of South Florida
- 2022 – “Building Community and Flexible Assignments,” Timothy Henkel, PhD, Director, Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning, University of South Florida
- 2022 – “Teaching Innovations: Improving Student Engagement,” Autar Kaw, PhD, Professor of Mechanical Engineering; Bryon Miller, PhD, Assistant Professor of Instruction of Child and Family Studies and Program Coordinator for the ABA Minor; and Nana Tuntiya, PhD, Assistant Professor of Instruction of Sociology & Interdisciplinary Social Sciences
- 2022 – “Building Community Using a Course Covenant,” Rachel Dubrofsky, PhD, Professor of Communications and Chair of Equity Social Justice and Accountability; and Timothy Henkel, PhD, Director, Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning, University of South Florida
- 2022 – “The Science of Learning,” Oana Cimpean, PhD, Learning and Development Facilitator, Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning, University of South Florida
- 2022 – “Proactive Strategies to Increase Success,” Oana Cimpean, PhD, Learning and Development Facilitator, Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning, University of South Florida
- 2022 – “Active Learning through Student Engagement,” Otis Wilder, EdD, Learning Designer, Online Learning and Instructional Technology Services, Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning, University of South Florida
- 2022 – “Teaching First-Generation Students,” Oana Cimpean, PhD, Learning and Development Facilitator, Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning, University of South Florida
- 2022 – “A Blueprint to Inclusive Excellence: A Systemic Approach to Catalyze Change,” Ruthmae Sears, PhD, Associate Professor for Mathematics Education, Associate Director for Coalition for Science Literacy, and Lead Faculty Facilitator for USF Inclusive and Equitable Pedagogy Program, Stephanie Williams, PhD, Special Assistant to the Provost and Faculty, Judy Genshaft Honors College, and Corey Posey, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer, University of South Florida
- 2022 – “Attention: Getting It and Keeping It,” Oana Cimpean, PhD, Learning and Development Facilitator, Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning, University of South Florida
- 2022 – “Standing United to Address anti-LGBTQ+ views, policies and practices: Creating inclusive spaces for all,” Alexandra Panos, PhD, Assistant Professor in Literacy Studies, Michel Denton, PhD, Assistant Professor in Higher Education and Student Affairs, Michael Rogers, PhD, MBA, Licensed Psychologist and Assistant Director for Training, and Jennifer Icton, Academic Services Administrator, Zimmerman School of Advertising and Mass Communication, University of South Florida
- 2022 – “Should Learning be Easy?” Emad Mansour, PhD, Learning & Development Facilitator, Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning, University of South Florida

- 2022 – “Poll Everywhere: Know What They Know,” Timothy Henkel, PhD, Director, Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning, University of South Florida
- 2022 – “Engaging Students Synchronously,” Ashley Reese, PhD, Learning and Development Coordinator, Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning, University of South Florida
- 2021 – “Towards Impactful Sociological Practice through Community Engaged Research in Flint, MI,” Jennifer S. Carrera, PhD, Assistant Professor of Sociology and Environmental Science & Policy, Michigan State University
- 2021 – “People Matter: The Economics of Equity,” Theresa Chisholm, PhD, Vice Provost for Strategic Planning, Performance and Accountability, Angela Sklenka, MA, Chief Human Resources Officer, Elizabeth Hordge-Freeman, PhD, Senior Advisor to the President and Provost for Diversity and Inclusion and Associate Professor of Sociology, and Valeria Garcia, PhD, Associate Vice President, University of South Florida
- 2021 – “PAInTing the Picture of Autism: Supporting Exceptionalities through the Arts,” LaSonya Moore, EdD, Professor, College of Education, Patricia Owen, MDiv, Assistant Director and Student Outreach Coordinator for Student Accessibility Services, Denise Davis-Cotton, PhD, Director of the Florida Center for Partnerships in Arts-Integrated Teaching, Sara Green, PhD, Professor and Chair, Department of Sociology, Melinda Maconi, MA, Doctoral Candidate and Graduate Teaching Associate, and Lourdes Quinones, PT MA, Physical Therapist and Consultant for USF Center for Autism and Related Disabilities, University of South Florida
- 2021 - “Dismantling the D.NA of Microaggressions,” Denise Davis-Cotton, PhD, Director of the Florida Center for Partnerships in Arts-Integrated Teaching, Ackeem Salmon, multimedia artist, and Ruthmae Sears, PhD, Associate Professor for Mathematics Education, University of South Florida
- 2021 – “The Gap that Divides: Becoming Bridge Builders to Promote Student Success,” LaTosha Thomas, PhD, Assistant Director for Student Support Services, Anthea Henderson, PhD, Lead Advocate in Office of Academic Advocacy, and Major Larry S. Black Jr., NROTC Executive Officer and Assistant Professor for Naval Science, University of South Florida
- 2021 – “Using Transparent Teaching for Student Evaluations,” Ashley Reese, PhD, Learning and Development Coordinator, Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning, University of South Florida
- 2021 – “Engaging in Difficult Conversations: Tips and Best Practices,” Theresa Burress, MLS, Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, and DeWayne Anderson, MA, Office of Multicultural Affairs, University of South Florida
- 2021 – “Teach, Reach, Unite, Transform, and Heal (TRUTH): A Framework to Catalyze Systemic Changes to Promote Inclusive and Equitable Practices,” Denise Davis-Cotton, PhD, Director of the Florida Center for Partnerships in Arts-Integrated Teaching and Ashley Reese, PhD, Learning and Development Coordinator, Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning, University of South Florida
- 2021 – “Implementing Inclusive and Equitable Strategies in Higher Education to Promote Student Success,” Daniel Cruz, PhD, Instructor, Alexis Mootoo, PhD, Assistant Vice President, Sylvia Thomas, PhD, Interim Vice President for Research & Innovation, University of South Florida

- 2021 – “Doing Public Sociology,” Frank Biafora, PhD, Department of Sociology, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg
- 2021 – “Mapping Your Class: Organizing Information for Understanding,” Ashley Reese, PhD, Learning and Development Coordinator, Academy of Teaching and Learning Excellence, University of South Florida
- 2021 – “Constructive and Effective Feedback,” Oana Cimpean, PhD, Learning and Development Facilitator, Academy of Teaching and Learning Excellence, University of South Florida
- 2021 – “De-Escalating COVID Tensions in the Classroom: Responsive, Respectful, Resilient,” Oana Cimpean, PhD, Learning and Development Facilitator, Academy of Teaching and Learning Excellence, University of South Florida
- 2021 – “Building (Synchronous Online) Classroom Community,” Sara Friedman, MA, Learning and Development Facilitator, Academy of Teaching and Learning Excellence, University of South Florida
- 2021 – “Teaching Dual Audiences,” Kevin Yee, PhD, Director of the Academy for Teaching and Learning Excellence, Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Studies, University of South Florida
- 2020 – “Experiential Learning and Community Engagement,” Brittany Harder, PhD, Professor of Instruction in Sociology, University of Tampa
- 2020 – “Avoid Saying the Wrong Thing to Students: Maximize Learning by Minimizing Your Assumptions,” Kevin Yee, PhD, Director of the Academy for Teaching and Learning Excellence, Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Studies, University of South Florida
- 2019 – “At Risk,” Training in recognizing student mental health issues, Kognito
- 2018 – “‘Why Won’t They Talk?’ Using Discussion to Facilitate Learning,” Jay R. Howard, PhD, Professor of Sociology and Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Butler University
- 2018 – “Teaching Entitled Students,” Cathy Briggs, EdD, Dean of Student Success, Rowan College

SERVICE TO DEPARTMENT

- 2012, 2014, 2019, 2023 – Panelist on Graduate School, Interdisciplinary Social Sciences Senior Seminar and Sociology Senior Seminar
- 2020-2022 – Department of Sociology Online Advisory Committee
- 2020, 2022 – Panelist on Undergraduate Course Development, Teaching Sociology Graduate Course
- 2019-2020 – Interdisciplinary Social Sciences Instructor Search Committee
- 2018 – PhD Capstone Speaker
- 2016 – Panelist on MA Thesis Process, Graduate Research Methods
- 2015 – Panelist on Applying to PhD Programs, Professional Development for MA Students

SERVICE TO THE DISCIPLINE AND COMMUNITY

- 2021 – Created and led workshop on Class and Economic Inequality, University of South Florida
- 2017, 2018, 2019 – Conference Organization Volunteer, Annual Meetings for Society for the Study of Social Problems
- 2018 – Pinellas County High School Ethics Bowl Judge, Organized by St. Petersburg College
- 2018 – Guest Lecture on Stratification, Inequality and Mobility in *Trading Places*, Ethics of Pop Culture, St. Petersburg College
- 2017 – Guest Lecture on Ethical Implications of Social Structure and Government, Applied Ethics, St. Petersburg College
- 2016 – Organizer and Presider “Issues in Teaching Social Problems: Inequalities.” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems. Seattle, WA
- 2016 – Organizer and Presider “Mobility and Inequality.” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems. Seattle, WA
- 2015 – Organizer and Presider “Conflict and Social Welfare in the 21st Century: Neighborhoods, Cities, and Nations.” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems. Chicago, IL
- 2014 – Presider “LGBT Youth in Educational Settings.” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems. San Francisco, CA

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2022, 2023 – Award for Teaching Excellence, Department of Sociology & Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, University of South Florida
- 2020 – SAGE Publishing Keith Roberts Teaching Innovations Award
- 2017 – Distinguished Teaching Award, Department of Sociology, University of South Florida
- 2014 – Alpha Kappa Delta, International Sociology Honor Society Inductee
- 2013-2014 – University of South Florida Graduate Fellowship
- 2008 – Arts and Sciences Honor Society Inductee
- 2004-2008 – University of South Florida Presidential Scholar
- 2004-2008 – University of South Florida Honors Scholar

MEDIA

- Klein, Alissa and Christian Moriarty. 2017. “You’re Funnier than You Think: Using Humor in the Classroom.” *Faculty Focus*, Nov 13.
(<https://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/effective-teaching-strategies/using-humor-classroom/>)
- Klein, Alissa. 2017. “Net-Neutrality” (interview). *ABC 7 News at 7pm*. ABC 7. Sarasota, FL: WWSB, May 31.

Klein, Alissa. 2017. "Roundtable Discussion: Net-Neutrality Title II Debate." *ABC 7 News at 7pm*. ABC 7. Sarasota, FL: WWSB, May 31.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Klein, Alissa. 2020. "Can You Make It Through the Month? Using a Limited Budget Simulation to Teach the Sociological Imagination and the Fundamental Attribution Error." Accepted for presentation at the Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting. Canceled due to COVID-19.

Klein, Alissa. 2019. "Understanding Perceptions of Socio-economic Mobility in the United States." Presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Society. August 10-13, New York.

Klein, Alissa. 2018. "Building Walls: The Processes of Constructing Class Inequality." Presented at the semi-annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction. August 10-11, Philadelphia, PA.

Klein, Alissa. 2017. "'What You Really Were Looking For:' Construction of Poverty and Welfare Narratives in Legislative Hearings." Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems. August 12, Montréal, QC, Canada.

Moriarty, Christian and Alissa Klein. 2017. "You're Funnier than You Think: Using Humor in the Classroom." Presented at the annual Teaching Professor Conference, June 3, St. Louis, MO.

Klein, Alissa. 2016. "A Spoonful of Sugar: Teaching Social Problems through Comedy." Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, August 19, Seattle, WA.

Klein, Alissa. 2015. "Getting Ahead: Socio-economic Mobility, Perceptions of Socio-economic Mobility, and Attitudes Towards Public Assistance in the United States." Presented at the annual meeting of the Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, Chicago, IL.

Klein, Alissa. 2015. "Who Deserves Help? Gendered Perceptions of Socio-economic Mobility and Support for Public Assistance." Presented at the annual meeting of Sociologists for Women in Society, Washington, DC.

MANUSCRIPTS

Klein, Alissa – "'What You Really Were Looking For:' Construction of Poverty and Welfare Narratives in Legislative Hearings"

Klein, Alissa – "Understanding Perceptions of Socio-economic Mobility in the United States"

Klein, Alissa – "The Social Psychology of Inequalities: The Social Construction of Group Boundaries and Perceptions of Difference"

Klein, Alissa – "Getting Ahead: Socio-economic Mobility, Perceptions of Opportunity for Socio-economic Mobility, and Attitudes Towards Public Assistance in the United States"

RESEARCH POSITIONS

2014, Spring – Research Consultant, Contemporary Bodies, funded by a grant from the University of South Florida Office of Undergraduate Research

2006, Fall – Research Assistant with responsibilities for collecting background materials and conducting field interviews for research funded by the National Science Foundation

SELECTED SKILLS

- Instructional Design
- Proficiency with software commonly used in instruction
 - Learning management systems including Canvas and Blackboard
 - Microsoft Office Suite including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Teams, and Outlook
 - Zoom
 - Adobe Acrobat Pro
 - Poll Everywhere
- Data collection and analysis tools
 - Qualtrics
 - SPSS
- Writing instructional and training documentation