

Alicia Smith-Tran, Ph.D.

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Professional Positions

2025-Present William G. Smith Associate Professor of Sociology & Comparative American Studies
Oberlin College

2024-25 Associate Professor of Sociology & Comparative American Studies
Oberlin College

2021-24 Assistant Professor of Sociology & Comparative American Studies
Oberlin College

2018-21 Assistant Professor of Sociology
Texas Christian University

Education

2018 Ph.D., Sociology
Case Western Reserve University

2015 M.A., Sociology
Case Western Reserve University

2011 M.A., Magazine, Newspaper, and Online Journalism
Syracuse University

2010 B.A., Sociology (with Honors), minor in African-American Studies
Oberlin College

Peer-Reviewed Publications

2026 **Smith-Tran, Alicia.** “‘A Slam Dunk Case’: Reflecting on How ADHD and Black Feminism Inform My Inclusive Pedagogy Playbook.” Pp. 23-33 In *Spaces for Resistance: Essays on Black Feminism on the Ground*, edited by Geniece Crawford Mondé and Ebonie Stringer. Rowman & Littlefield.

2025 **Smith-Tran, Alicia.** “Age-Centered Racism: An Emergent Framework for Considering How Ageism and Racism Intersect.” *Sociological Research Online*. November 3.

2024 **Smith-Tran, Alicia.** “Pushing Back on Black Don’t Crack.” *Contexts* 23(1): 18-23.

*with undergraduate student co-author(s)

- 2023 **Smith-Tran, Alicia.** “‘There’s the Black Woman Thing, and There’s the Age Thing’: Professional Black Women on the Downsides of ‘Black Don’t Crack’ and Strategies for Confronting Ageism at Work.” *Sociological Perspectives* 66(3): 419-33.
- *Scholarly Achievement Award: Article Division, North Central Sociological Association (Winner – 2026)*
 - *Kimberlé Crenshaw Outstanding Article Award, Society for the Study of Social Problems, Critical Race and Ethnic Studies Division (Honorable Mention – 2024)*
- Slone, Michael R., Timothy Black, and **Alicia Smith-Tran.** “On the Job, Off the Books: Organizing Against Worker Misclassification in the Neoliberal Era.” *Critical Sociology* 49(1): 39-57.
- 2022 **Smith-Tran, Alicia.** “Expecting in Unexpected Times: Navigating a Pandemic Pregnancy.” *Journal of Autoethnography* 3(4): 561-575.
- Smith-Tran, Alicia,** and Tiffany Tien Hang. “Professor-Student Interaction in the Midst of Illness: A Collaborative Autoethnography.” *Humanity & Society* 46(2): 291-313.*
- 2021 **Smith-Tran, Alicia.** “‘Finally Something for Us’: Black Girls Run! and Racialized Space-Making in Recreational Running.” *Journal of Sport and Social Issues* 45(3): 235-250.
- 2020 **Smith-Tran, Alicia.** “A Life Course Perspective on the Start of Black Middle-Class Women’s Recreational Running Careers.” *Sociological Spectrum* 40(3): 289-302.
- Smith-Tran, Alicia.** “Exploring the Benefits and Drawbacks of Age Disclosure among Women Faculty of Color.” *Teaching Sociology* 48(1): 3-12.
- 2019 **Smith-Tran, Alicia.** “‘The ‘Black Middle-Class Toolkit’ as a Framework for Understanding the Cultural Implications of Recreational Running.” *Sociological Focus* 52(3): 231-245.
- *Faculty Prize for Diversity in Research, AddRan College of Liberal Arts, Texas Christian University (Winner – 2019)*
- 2018 **Smith-Tran, Alicia.** “Muscle as Medicine: An Autoethnographic Study of Coping with Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome through Strength Training.” *Qualitative Research in Sport, Exercise and Health* 10(4): 476-492.
- 2017 **Smith-Tran, Alicia.** “‘A Chocolate Chip in a Sea of Milk’: Black Women Reflect on the Challenges of Embodying the Runner Identity.” Pp. 21-40 in *Women in Sports: Breaking Barriers, Facing*

Obstacles, edited by Adrienne N. Milner and Jomills Henry Braddock, II. Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger.

Kahana, Jeffrey, Eva Kahana, and **Alicia Smith-Tran**. "A Life Course Perspective on Disability in Old Age." Pp. 73-94 in *Disability and Aging: Learning from Both to Empower the Lives of Older Adults*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

2016 Kahana, Eva, Boaz Kahana, Kaitlyn Barnes Langendoerfer, Baruch Kahana, and **Alicia Smith-Tran**. "Elderly Cancer Survivors Reflect on Coping Strategies During the Cancer Journey." *Journal of Gerontology and Geriatrics Research* 5(337).

Other Publications

2025 **Smith-Tran, Alicia**, Sunny Hunt, Dakota Wynn, Izze Powell, Jonah Covell, and Charlie Kline. "In Pictures: Seeing Contradictions in Adulthood." *Contexts* 24(1): 56-65. *

2022 **Smith-Tran, Alicia**. "Narrative Methods: Collaborative Autoethnography." *SAGE Research Methods Series*. Invited Video.

Smith-Tran, Alicia. "Pink & Blue: Gender, Culture, and the Health of Children." *Contemporary Sociology* 51(5): 376-378. Book Review.

2021 **Smith-Tran, Alicia**. "Black Girls RUN! and the Importance of Finding a Fitness Community." *Engaging Sports*. Invited Blog Post.

2020 **Smith-Tran, Alicia**. "The Invisible Vegan." *Teaching Sociology*. Film Review.

Manuscripts in Preparation

Smith-Tran, Alicia. "One Couch, Two Faces, Mixed Races: On Running, Identity, and Narrating the And." Under Review for Special Issue of *Current Anthropology*.

Smith-Tran, Alicia. *Decentering DOB: Debunking the Necessity of Age in Assessing Autistic Kids' Lives*. In Preparation.

Smith-Tran, Alicia, Maggie Balderstone, Bella Saunders, and Cami Sweet. "The Centrality of Food as a Stressor, Coping Mechanism, and Connector for Division III Student-Athletes: A Photovoice Study." In Preparation.*

Langendoerfer, Kaitlyn Barnes, and **Alicia Smith-Tran**. "Using Collaborative Autoethnographic Photovoice as a Teaching Tool." In Preparation.

Grants, Fellowships, & Awards

2026	Scholarly Achievement Award: Article Division (Winner), North Central Sociological Association
2024	Kimberlé Crenshaw Outstanding Article Award (Honorable Mention), Society for the Study of Social Problems, Critical Race and Ethnic Studies Division
	Winter Term Funding, The Office of Winter Term, Oberlin College, \$500 <i>Project Title: "Photovoice for Social Justice"</i>
2021	Career Enhancement Fellowship for Junior Faculty, Institute for Citizens and Scholars, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
2020-22	Beta Alpha Chapter Research Award, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, \$730 (with Lisette Saleh and Susan Fife) <i>Project Title: "Certified Nurse Midwives' Experiences of their Working Relationships with Labor and Delivery Nurses in a Hospital Setting"</i>
2019-20	AddRan Interdisciplinary Teaching Grant, Texas Christian University, \$3,000 (with Stacie McCormick, Claire Sanders, Brandon Manning, and Frederick W. Gooding)
	Research and Creative Activities Fund, Texas Christian University, \$3,500
2019	Faculty Prize for Diversity in Research, AddRan College of Liberal Arts, Texas Christian University
	Junior Faculty Summer Research Program, Texas Christian University, \$6,000
2017-18	Mellon Mays Dissertation Grant, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, \$20,000

2017	Eva L. Pancoast Memorial Fellowship, Case Western Reserve University, \$1,565
2016-17	Advanced Study Fellowship, Department of Sociology, Case Western Reserve University, \$8,000
2016	College of Arts & Sciences Dissertation Fellowship, Case Western Reserve University, \$3,000
	Graduate Dean's Instructional Excellence Award, Case Western Reserve University
	Graduate Studies Enhancement Grant, Social Science Research Council, \$580
2015-16	Advanced Study Fellowship, Department of Sociology, Case Western Reserve University, \$15,000
2015	High Pass, Medical Sociology Comprehensive Exam, Department of Sociology, Case Western Reserve University
	Predocctoral Research Development Grant, Mellon Mays Graduate Initiatives
	Program, Social Science Research Council, \$2,507
2014	Graduate Studies Enhancement Grant, Social Science Research Council, \$800
2013	Graduate Studies Enhancement Grant, Social Science Research Council, \$1,000
2010-11	Full-Tuition Scholarship, Newhouse School of Public Communications, Syracuse University
2010	Comfort Starr Award, Department of Sociology, Oberlin College
	Departmental Honors, Department of Sociology, Oberlin College
2008-10	Mellon Mays Undergraduate Research Fellowship, Oberlin College
2008	Jerome Davis Research Grant, Oberlin College

Courses Taught (Instructor of Record)

Oberlin College

Autoethnography and the Life Course
Introduction to Sociology: Rules for the Game of Life
Medical Sociology
Race & Racism in the United States
Sociology of *Black-ish*: The Black Middle Class in America
Sociology Capstone
White Coat Wonders: Examining the Medical Profession

Texas Christian University

Aging & the Life Course
Health, Illness, & Medicine
Introductory Sociology

Case Western Reserve University

Introduction to Sociology
Race & Ethnic Minorities in the U.S.

Conference Presentations

- 2026 Canada, Tracie, Constancio Arnaldo, Amira Rose Davis, Bernardo Rios, **Alicia Smith-Tran**, Gabriel Torres Colón, and Lisa Uperesa. "Racialized Bodies, Athletic Experiences and Creative Exchange: Reflections from an Interdisciplinary Symposium about Sport." To be presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association in Chicago, IL.
- Smith-Tran, Alicia.** "Two Six-Piece Nuggets, No Sauce." International Association of Autoethnography and Narrative Inquiry Forum in Safety Harbor, FL.
- 2025 Saunders, Bella, Cami Sweet, **Alicia Smith-Tran**, and Maggie Balderstone. "The Centrality of Food as a Stressor, Coping Mechanism, and Connector for Division III Student-Athletes: A Photovoice Study." Annual Meeting of the North Central Sociological Association in Lexington, KY.* *Saunders and Sweet presented; I did not attend.*
- 2024 **Smith-Tran, Alicia.** "Using Collaborative Autoethnographic Photovoice as a Teaching Tool." Annual Meeting of the North Central Sociological Association in Columbus, OH.

- 2023 **Smith-Tran, Alicia.** “Exploring Theoretical Frameworks for Investigating Intersectional Age Bias.” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems in Philadelphia, PA.
- Oh, Jacqueline, and **Alicia Smith-Tran.** “The Physician Biography Video: A Tool for Shaping a Personal and Institutional Public Image.” Annual Meeting of the North Central Sociological Association in Grand Rapids, MI.*
- 2022 **Smith-Tran, Alicia.** “‘There’s the Black Woman Thing, and there’s the Age Thing’: Confronting Colorblind Ageism at Work.” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association in Los Angeles, CA.
- 2020 **Smith-Tran, Alicia.** “Where Racism and Ageism Meet: Managing ‘Black Don’t Crack’ in the Workplace.” Annual Meeting of the Mid-South Sociological Association on Zoom.
- 2019 **Smith-Tran, Alicia.** “The ‘Come to Jesus Moment’: Middle-Class Black Women Narrate Health Turning Points and the Onset of a Recreational Running Career.” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems in New York, NY.
- 2018 **Smith-Tran, Alicia.** “‘We Have a Place Here, Too’: The Social Significance of Black Girls Run.” Annual Meeting of the Association of Humanist Sociology in Detroit, MI.
- 2017 **Smith-Tran, Alicia.** “Running as a Tool of Middle-Classness.” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association in Montréal, QC.
- Smith-Tran, Alicia.** “‘It’s a Part of Me but it’s Not Who I Am:’ Saliency of the Runner Identity among Middle-Class Black Women who Run.” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems in Montréal, QC.
- 2015 **Smith, Alicia.** “Black Women Run: A Life Story Study.” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association in Chicago, IL.
- Smith, Alicia.** “Becoming a Runner, Becoming Black: Life Story Interviews with Black Women who Run.” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems in Chicago, IL.
- Smith, Alicia.** “Life Story Interviews with Black Women who Run.” Annual Meeting of the North Central Sociological Association in Cleveland, OH.

- 2014 **Smith, Alicia.** “Beyond Black: An Intersectional Analysis of a Black Women's Running Organization.” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems in San Francisco, CA.
- Smith, Alicia.** “Black Girls Run: A New Social Movement.” Annual Meeting of the North Central Sociological Association in Cincinnati, OH.
- Black, Timothy, **Alicia Smith**, and Michael Slone. “The Costs and Consequences of Worker Misclassification.” Annual Meeting of the Association for Humanist Sociology in Cleveland, OH.
- 2013 **Smith, Alicia.** “The Social Barriers between African-American Women and Exercise: A Preliminary Examination.” Annual Meeting of the Association of Black Sociologists in New York, NY.
- Smith, Alicia**, Bradley Powell, and Mary Patrice Erdmans. “*16 and Pregnant*: Managing a Spoiled Identity in the Media.” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems in New York, NY.
- Smith, Alicia**, Bradley Powell, and Mary Patrice Erdmans. “Management of Stigmatized Identities on *16 and Pregnant*.” Annual Meeting of the North Central Sociological Association in Indianapolis, IN.

Other Conference, Workshop, and Symposium Participation

- 2024 Invited Participant, SSRC-Mellon Mays Executive Leadership Pathway Convening (ELPC), New York, NY.
- Invited Participant, “Racialized Bodies, Athletic Experiences,” Wenner-Gren Research Symposium, Muñopedro, Spain.
- 2023 Invited Panelist, “Applying Sociological Research to Create More Equitable Teaching Tools and Classrooms,” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2022 Session Organizer, “Mental Health, Leisure, and Stress Relief,” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, to be held in Los Angeles, CA (Session canceled).

- 2021 Session Organizer, “The Body in Global Perspective,” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, held virtually due to COVID-19.
- Session Organizer and Presider, “Mind, Body, and Fitness,” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, held virtually due to COVID-19.
- 2020 Session Organizer and Presider, “Money, Morals, and Sport,” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, intended to be held in San Francisco, CA (Meeting canceled due to COVID-19).
- 2019 Session Organizer and Presider, “The Construction of ‘New’ Life Course Theory and its Application to Current Social Problems,” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems in New York, NY.
- Session Organizer, Session on Medical Sociology, Annual Meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society in Chicago, IL.
- 2017 Session Organizer and Discussant, Critical Dialogue on Race, Struggle, and Sport, Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems in Montréal, QC.
- 2014 Invited Participant, “Measuring the Diverging Components of Race in Multiracial America,” College Station, TX (Texas A&M University).
- 2013 Panelist, “Selecting a Graduate School,” Annual Meeting of the North Central Sociological Association, Indianapolis, IN.
- Discussant, Roundtable Session on Race, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Research Fellowship Midwest Regional Conference, Oberlin, OH (Oberlin College).

Invited Talks & Lectures

- 2026 “Spaces for Resistance: Black Feminist Theory and Praxis in Academia and Beyond,” Invited Panelist, Spelman College
- 2023 “Black Women’s Bodies: Pushed to the Limits and Pushing Back,” Oberlin College Lecture Series for Admitted Students & Alumni

- 2022 “Private Troubles, Peer-Reviewed: On Personal Growth and Writing Sociologically,” The Gene S. Uyeki Memorial Lecture, Case Western Reserve University, Department of Sociology
- 2021 “‘Finally Something for Us:’ Narratives of Black Women Challenging Stereotypes and Creating Community with Physical Activity,” Public Lecture, Oberlin College, Department of Sociology
- “Getting a Job After Graduate School,” Invited Panelist, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program Midwest Regional Conference
- 2020 “Both/And: An Exploration of Bi- and Multiracial Identities,” Invited Panelist, The Ellipsis Institute for Women of Color in the Academy

Research & Teaching Mentorship

First Reader, Sociology Honors

Ana Howard (2025-26), “In the Rec Room: The Qualitative Impacts of Arts Programming in Prisons”

Jasper King (2025-26), “Anti-Transgenderism in the U.S.”

Mentor, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program

Nikki Keating (2023-25), “A Sociological Study of ‘Blerds’ (Black Nerds)”

Mentor, Oberlin Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship

Jacqueline Oh (2022), “A Sociological Analysis of Physician Biography Videos”

Second Reader, Sociology Honors

Maggie Balderstone (2023-24), “Trans Athletes in Sport: A Systematic Analysis of Transgender Athletes and their Existence at Division III Liberal Arts Colleges”

Audrey Burkey (2022-23), “Distinguishing the Doxa: Exploring Preschool Curricular Constraints”

Supervisor for Course Writing Associates

Kate Martin (2025)

Neena Duphare (2023)

Supervisor for Student Research Assistants

Maggie Balderstone, Bella Saunders, and Cami Sweet (2023-25)

Third Reader, Honors (Outside of Sociology Department)

Fi Goldman (2025-26) [Politics], “The Politics of Safety: Gendered Impacts of Fear for Personal Safety on Political Volunteerism in the United States”

Service to the Institution, Profession, and Community

Oberlin College

Inaugural Co-Chair, Sport Studies and Management Program (2026-Present)
Member, Education Plans and Policies Committee (2025-2027) [elected position]
Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) to the NCAA (2023-Present)
Faculty Advisor, Black Student Athlete Group (BSAG) (2025-Present)
Faculty Advisor, Student Wellbeing Advocacy Group (2025-Present)
Chair, Faculty Athletics Committee (2023-24, 2025-26)
Member, Faculty Athletics Committee (2022-23)
Member, Head Women's Lacrosse Coach Search Committee (June 2024)
Member, Head Women's Volleyball Coach Search Committee (January 2024)
Member, Head Men's Basketball Coach Search Committee (May 2022)
Member, General Faculty Committee for Undergraduate Research (2022-24)
Member, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program Selection Committee (2024, 2026)
Panelist, Admissions Sessions on Undergraduate Research (Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Spring 2024)
Panelist, Admissions Sessions for Parents of High School Students (Fall 2023)

Professional

Editorial Board, *Contexts* (2025-Present)
Editorial Board, *Journal of Elder Policy* (2024-Present)
Campus Ambassador, North Central Sociological Association (2023-Present)
Associate Editor, *Humanity and Society* (2020-22)
Chair, Sport, Leisure & the Body Division, Society for the Study of Social Problems (2019-21)
[elected position]
Newsletter Editor, Section for the Sociology of Sex & Gender, American Sociological Association (2014-16)
Ad-hoc Reviewer: *Contexts*; *Critical Public Health*; *Journal of Autoethnography*; *Journal of Elder Policy*; *Meridians: Feminism, Race, Transnationalism*; *Qualitative Research in Sport, Exercise & Health*; *Sex Roles*; *Sociology of Sport Journal*; *Teaching Sociology*; *Women in Sport and Physical Activity Journal*

Community

Advisory Board Member, Connecting for Kids, Cleveland, OH (2026-Present)
Workshop Facilitator, "Finding Strength through Storytelling," Connecting for Kids, Cleveland Heights, OH (March 2026)
Invited Speaker, "COVID-19 and Race, Legal Aid of Northwest Texas (October 2020)

Media Interviews & Appearances (Selected)

“Gossip around Azzi Fudd and Paige Bueckers’ relationship misreads the WNBA.” *The Guardian*. April 2026.

“The Impossible Youth of Kamala Harris: Aka why does she look so much younger than Tim Walz?” *Burnt Toast*. Fall 2024.

“Does Research on Physical Activity Not Include Black Women?” *Psychology Today*. June 2020.

Other Academic/Professional Training & Certifications

Professional Certification in The Fundamentals of Neurodiversity, Florida State University (Summer 2024)

NCAA Division III New FAR (Faculty Athletics Representative) Orientation, Indianapolis, IN (Spring 2024)

FACTUALITY Diversity Training (Spring 2020)

Facilitator Training, Texas Christian University (Fall 2019)

Intentional Dialogue Training, Texas Christian University (Summer 2019)

Faculty Success Program, National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity (Summer 2019)

Safe Zone Training, Texas Christian University (Spring 2019)

Workshop on Creating Accessible Content, Texas Christian University (Spring 2019)

NVivo Qualitative Research Software Training Program, Cleveland, OH (Fall 2015)

Future Faculty Certificate, Case Western Reserve University (Fall 2013)