

KRISTIN KAY BARKER
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Department of Sociology
University of New Mexico
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EDUCATION

1993 Ph.D., Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison.
Dissertation: Birthing and Bureaucratic Women: Gender, Professionalization
and the Construction of Medical Needs, 1920-1935.

Preliminary/Qualifying Examinations: Political Sociology (passed with
distinction), Medical Sociology.

Ph.D., Minor, History of Medicine

1987 M.S., Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

1985 B.S., Sociology and Gerontology, *Summa cum Laude*, Western Michigan
University.

EMPLOYMENT

2018-Present Professor of Sociology, University of New Mexico.

2012-2018 Associate Professor of Sociology, University of New Mexico.

2012-2020 Senior Fellow, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy,
University of New Mexico.

2012-2021 Faculty, Combined BA/MD Program, University of New Mexico.

2005- 2012 Associate Professor of Sociology, Oregon State University.

2003-2005 Assistant Professor of Sociology, Oregon State University.

1999-2003 Associate Professor of Sociology & Department Chair
1999-2000 and 2001-2003, Linfield College.

1998-1999 Visiting Associate Professor of Sociology, Reed College.

1993-1998 Assistant Professor of Sociology Linfield College.

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Sociology of Health and Medicine; Sociology of Science and Knowledge; Professions; Gender and Feminist Theory; Document/Text Analysis.

PUBLICATIONS

Book

2005 Barker, Kristin. *The Fibromyalgia Story: Medical Authority and Women's Worlds of Pain*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

Chapter One: http://www.temple.edu/tempres/chapters_1400/1685_ch1.pdf

Reviewed in: *American Journal of Sociology*, *Contemporary Sociology*, *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Social Forces*, *Sociology of Health and Illness*.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

2026 Barker, Kristin Kay, Erin F. Madden, Preston Lowe and Katherine Rickers. "The Neuro-Fiction of Addiction Immunizations," *Social Science & Medicine* 394:119059. doi:[10.1016/j.socscimed.2026.119059](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2026.119059).

2024 Moretti, Chiara and **Kristin Kay Barker**. "Suffering without Remedy: The Medically Unexplained Symptoms of Fibromyalgia Syndrome and Long COVID," *Social Sciences*, MDPI 13(9): 1-25. <https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci13090450>.

2022 Barker, Kristin, Owen Whooley, Erin F. Madden, Emily Ahrend and R. Neil Greene. "The Long Tail of COVID and the Tale of Long COVID: Diagnostic Construction and the Management of Ignorance". *Sociology of Health & Illness* <https://onlinelibrary-wiley-com.libproxy.unm.edu/doi/full/10.1111/1467-9566.13599>.

2022 Madden, Erin F., **Kristin Barker**, Joshua Guerra, Corey Villanueva and Sandra Sulzer. "Variation in intervention stigma among medications for opioid use disorder." *Social Science & Medicine Qualitative Research in Health*, Volume 2, 2022, 100161, ISSN 2667-3215, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmqr.2022.100161>.

2021 Whooley, Owen and **Kristin Barker**. "Uncertain and Under Quarantine: Toward A Sociology of Medical Ignorance." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, 62(2): 271-285.

2021 Barker, Kristin, Alexis M. Kenney and R. Neil Greene. "Wrong versus Right(eous): Online Reader Comments as Scientific Boundary-Work." *Sociological Forum* 36(3): 601-623. <https://doi.org/10.1111/socf.12717>

- 2019 Barker, Kristin Kay. "Lay Pharmacovigilance and the Dramatization of Risk: Fluoroquinolone Harm on YouTube." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 60(4): 509–524. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0022146519888242>
- Reprinted in Peter Conrad and Valerie Leiter (eds.). 2022. *The Sociology of Health and Illness: Critical Perspectives, 11th edition*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
- 2019 Fallin, Mallory, Owen Whooley and **Kristin Barker**. "Criminalizing the Brain: Neurocriminology and the Production of Strategic Ignorance." *BioSocieties* 14: 438-462. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41292-018-0135-y>
- 2018 Komaromy, M., E.F. Madden, A. Zurawski, S. Kalishman, **K. Barker**, P. O'Sullivan, M. Jurado, and S. Arora. "Contingent Engagement: What We Learn From Patients with Complex Health Problems and Low Socioeconomic Status." *Patient Education and Counseling*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.pec.2017.08.019>
- 2016 Barker, Kristin and Cirila Estela Vasquez Guzman. "Pharmaceutical Direct-To-Consumer Advertising and U.S. Hispanic Patient-Consumers." *Sociology of Health and Illness* 38(1): 1337-1351.
- 2015 Barker, Kristin and Galardi, Tasha. "Diagnostic Domain Defense and the DSM-5: The Case of Autism Spectrum Disorder." *Social Problems* 62(1), 120-140.
- Reprinted in Kent Sandstrom and Carissa Froyum (eds). 2017. *Inside Social Life Readings in Sociological Psychology and Microsociology, 8th Edition*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- 2014 Barker, Kristin. "Mindfulness Meditation: Do-It-Yourself Medicalization of Every Moment." *Social Science & Medicine* 106: 168-176.
- 2011 Barker, Kristin. "Listening to Lyrica: Contested Diagnoses and Pharmaceutical Determinism." *Social Science & Medicine* 73: 833-42.
- 2011 Barker, Kristin and Galardi, Tasha. "Dead by 50: Lay Expertise and Breast Cancer Screening." *Social Science & Medicine* 72: 1351-1358.
- 2010 Conrad, Peter and **Barker, Kristin**. "The Social Construction of Illness: Key Insights and Policy Implications." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 51(S):67-79.
- Translated (Portuguese) and reprinted in *Idéias (A Journal of the Institute of Philosophy and Human Science)*. 3(3) 2011: 183-219.

- 2008 Barker, Kristin. "Electronic Support Groups, Patient-Consumers, and Medicalization: The Case of Contested Illness." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 49(1): 20-36.
- Translated (Italian) and reprinted in *Salute e Società*. VIII, extra issue 1/2009
- Reprinted in Peter Conrad and Valerie Leiter (eds.). 2022. *The Sociology of Health and Illness: Critical Perspectives, 11th edition*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
- 2003 Barker, Kristin. "Birthing and Bureaucratic Women: 'Needs Talk' and the Definitional Legacy of the Sheppard-Towner Act." *Feminist Studies* 29(2): 333-355.
- 2002 Barker, Kristin. "Self-Help Literature and the Making of an Illness Identity: The Case of Fibromyalgia Syndrome." *Social Problems* 49(3): 279-300.
- Reprinted in Peter Conrad (ed.), 2005. *The Sociology of Health and Illness: Critical Perspectives, 7th edition*. New York: Worth Press.
- Reprinted in Peter Conrad (ed.), 2009. *The Sociology of Health and Illness: Critical Perspectives, 8th edition*. New York: Worth Press.
- 1998 Barker, Kristin. "A Ship upon a Stormy Sea: The Medicalization of Pregnancy." *Social Science and Medicine* 47(8): 1067-1076.
- 1998 Barker, Kristin. "Women Physicians and the Gendered System of Professions: An Analysis of the Sheppard-Towner Act of 1921." *Work and Occupations* 25(2): 229-255.
- 1990 Schulz, Rockwell, William Scheckler, Chris Girard, and **Kristin Barker**. "Physician Adaptation to Health Maintenance Organizations and Implications for Management." *Health Services Research* 25(1): 43-64.

Edited Volumes: Books and Journals

- 2012 Maturo, Antonio and **Barker, Kristin** (editors). The Medicalization of Emotions and Cognition, *Salute e Società, Special Issue*. 2/Supplement.
- 2009 Barker, Kristin and Tiedeman, Gary (editors). *Haiku for Sociologists: Seventeen Syllable Gifts for the Student of Society*. Mukilteo, WA: Basho Press.

Book Chapters, Book Reviews and Review Essays

- 2012 Barker, Kristin. "Pharmacueticalisation: What is (and is not) Medicalisation." *Salute e Società, Special Issue*. 2/Supplement: 167-172 (in English and Italian).

- 2010 Barker, Kristin. "The Social Construction of Illness: Medicalization and Contested Illness." Pp: 147-162 in Chloe Bird, Peter Conrad, Allen Fremont, and Stephan Timmermans (eds.), *The Handbook of Medical Sociology*, 6th edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.
- 2009 Barker, Kristin. "Discussion: Medicalization, Multiplication of Diseases and Human Enhancement." In Conrad P., Maturo A. (Eds.), *The Medicalization of Life, Salute e Società*, 2/2009:91-121 (in English and Italian).
- 1997 Barker, Kristin. "Federal Maternal Policy and Gender Politics: Comparative Insights." Review Essay, *Journal of Women's History* 9(2): 183-191.
- 1997 Barker, Kristin. *The Wages of Motherhood: Inequality in the Welfare State, 1941-1942* by Gwendolyn Mink. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 1995. Appears in *International Labor and Working-Class History* 52:185-188.
- 1995 Barker, Kristin. *Fallen Women, Problem Girls: Unmarried Mothers and The Professionalization of Social Work, 1890-1945* by Regina G. Kunzel. New Haven.: Yale University Press, 1993. Appears in *American Journal of Sociology* 100:1074-1077.
- 1994 Barker, Kristin. *Mother-Infant Bonding: A Scientific Fiction* by Diane E. Eyer. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1992. Appears in *American Journal of Sociology* 99:1116-1118.

AWARDS, HONORS AND GRANTS

- Visiting Fellow, Tema T Fellowship at the Department of Thematic Studies: Technology and Social Change at Linköping University, Medical Humanities and Bioethics Strand. Spring Fellow, May 5 to June 4, 2026.
- Invited Keynote Address. "The Long Tail of COVID-19 & the Tale of LONG COVID: 'It Ain't Over Till It's Over'" Invited Keynote Address. 19th Biennial European Society for Health and Medical Sociology Conference. Forli, Italy, August 2022.
- Visiting Fellow, Institute for Advanced Studies, University of Bologna, Italy, February-March, 2019.
- Chair of the American Sociological Association Section on Medical Sociology (2015-2016).
- "Gender and Direct-to-Consumer Pharmaceutical Advertising." 2011. Oregon State University, School of Public Policy Mini-Grant (\$5,000).

“Virtual Communities and Contested Chronic Illness: An Exploration in Electronic Ethnography.” 2006. Internal Fellowship, Center for the Humanities, Oregon State University (\$8,000).

“Mindfulness: The Self and Healing in Late-Modernity,” 2004. College of Liberal Arts Research Grant, Oregon State University, (\$4,500).

“Electronic Self-Help and Mutual-Help Resources and Contested Chronic Illness: The Case of Fibromyalgia Syndrome,” 2004. Faculty Release Time (FRT) Award, Oregon State University, (\$4,500).

Sociology Student Choice Award: Outstanding Professor 2004, Oregon State University.

Top-Ten Faculty Award, 1996, Linfield College.

Preliminary Examination, Political Sociology, Pass with Distinction, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1989.

PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH CONSULTING

2016-2018 University of New Mexico School of Medicine - Project ECHO (Extension for Community Health Outcomes), Qualitative Research Consultant, Complex Care Clinic.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS (partial listing)

2026 “The Neuro-Fiction of Addiction Immunizations.” Invited Speaker, Centre of Centre for Biomedicine, Self and Society at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. February 26, 2026.

2024 “The Unhappy Marriage of Women and Medically Unexplained Symptoms: The Cases of Fibromyalgia Syndrome and Long COVID”. (With Chiara Moretti). The 20th Biennial European Society for Health and Medical Sociology Conference. Antwerp, Belgium, July 2024.

2024 “Failure and Perpetual Promise of Addiction Vaccines”. (With Christopher Lyons). The 20th Biennial European Society for Health and Medical Sociology Conference. Antwerp, Belgium, July 2024

2024 Paradoxical Leakage: Diagnostic Drift and Dual Diagnosis”. (With Chiara Moretti) Leakage stsing Conference 2024, Dresden Germany. March, 2024.

2022 “The Long Tail of COVID-19 & the Tale of LONG COVID: ‘It Ain’t Over Till It’s Over’” Invited Keynote Address. 19th Biennial European Society for Health and Medical Sociology Conference. Forli, Italy, August 2022.

- 2019 “Pharmacovigilantism and the Dramatization of Risk: The Experience of Fluoroquinolone Harm on YouTube,” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 12, New York, NY.
- 2019 Invited Speaker, University of Bologna, Department of Sociology and Business Law. “The Social Construction of Illness (In A Mediated World),” March 25, 2019.
- 2019 Invited Lecture, University of Bologna, Sociology Graduate Seminar, “Finding and Studying Text in the Digital Era,” March 6, 2019.
- 2019 Invited Fellow Lecture, University of Bologna, Institute of Advanced Studies, “Who Knows: Expertise in a Mediated World,” February 19, 2019.
- 2017 Invited Speaker, Forum on Medical Sociology: The Conrad Way (Retirement Conference in honor of Peter Conrad). “Medicalization: Durability, Utility and Future,” March 2017.
- 2016 Invited Speaker, Colorado College, Department of Sociology. “Harvesting and Analyzing Qualitative Data in a Digital World: A Sociological Approach,” September 12, 2016
- 2016 Invited Speaker. Conference on Medicine and its others (19th and 20th century), Universitätsklinikum Aachen Anstalt des öffentlichen Rechts (AÖR). Mainz, Germany. “Online Patient Groups and Medical Knowledge,” October 6, 2016.
- 2016 “Online Reader Comments: Bringing a Public into the Public Understanding of Science.” With Ryeora Choe, Neil Greene, Alexis M MacLennan, and Keith Wilkins. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August, Seattle, WA.
- 2015 “Who Knows: Patient Expertise in the Internet Era.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August, Chicago, IL.
- 2014 “Pharmaceutical Direct-to-Consumer Advertising and Hispanic Patient Consumers.” With Cirila Estela Vasquez Guzman. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August, San Francisco, CA.
- 2013 “Diagnostic Domain Defense and the DSM-5: The Case of Autism Spectrum Disorder.” With Tasha Galardi. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY.
- 2012 “Contested Illness: Successes, failures and paradoxical effects of patient associations.” Patient Organizations, Health Movements and Medical Research, University of Augsburg, Germany.

- 2011 “Lay Expertise and the Internet: The Case of Mammography.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV.
- 2011 “Listening to Lyrica.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV.
- 2010 “The Policy Implications of Social Constructionism to Medical Sociology.” With Peter Conrad. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.
- 2009 “The Contributions of Social Constructionism to Medical Sociology.” With Peter Conrad. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco.
- 2008 “Pharmaceutical Risk and Online Lay Expertise.” International Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Barcelona, Spain.
- 2007 “Using Texts as Qualitative Data/Analyzing Qualitative Data as Texts.” Invited Presentation, Sociology Department, University of Victoria, British Columbia.
- 2007 “Mindfulness: The Self and Healing in Late-Modernity.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York.
- 2007 “Illness is Personal: Feminist Reflections on Medicalization.” Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, San Francisco.
- 2007 “Fibromyalgia Syndrome and Medical Skepticism: Managing Symptoms and Seeking Legitimacy.” Invited Lecture at the 31st Annual Oregon State University Gerontology Conference.
- 2005 “Mobilization and Medicalization: Electronic Support Groups and Contested Illness.” Invited Presentation at Illness and the Contours of Contestation: Diagnosis, Experience, and Policy, University of Victoria, British Columbia.
- 2005 Presider, Author Meets Critics, “*Rapunzel’s Daughters* by Rose Weitz.” Pacific Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Portland, Oregon.
- 2004 “In Search Of Meaning: Self and Self-Labeling at the Mind-Body Crossroads.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco.
- 2002 “The Medicalization of Women’s Distress: The Case of Fibromyalgia.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago.
- 2002 “Social Epidemiology of FMS: Reflections on the Sociosomatic.” Pacific Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Vancouver, British Columbia.
- 2001 “The Diagnostic Making of Fibrositis/Fibromyalgia Syndrome (FMS).” Pacific Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco.

- 1999 “Medicalization and Citizenship in the Emerging Welfare State, 1900-1935.” Invited Speaker, Thematic Session on Citizenship, Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, Chicago.
- 1998 “The Paradox and Problems of Measuring Medical Need, Utilization, and Efficacy: The Case of Prenatal Care” (co-authored). American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco.
- 1997 “The Sexual Dictates of Endocrinological Biomedicine.” Pacific Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Diego.
- 1995 “Homelessness and Teaching Ethnography” (co-authored). Pacific Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco.
- 1994 “Measuring Sexual Orientation in Survey Research” (co-authored). Lewis and Clark Gender Symposium, Portland, Oregon.
- 1993 “Gender, Professionalization, and the Medical Construction of Maternal Health Needs: An Analysis of the Sheppard-Towner Act of 1921.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Miami.
- 1993 “Women Physician's and the Gendered System of Professions.” Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Baltimore.

COURSES TAUGHT (partial listing)

Classical Sociological Theory (graduate); Sociological Theory (undergraduate); Sociology of Health and Illness (graduate and undergraduate); Sociology of Madness (undergraduate); Sociology of Science, Technology and Medicine (graduate); Social Theory and the Body (undergraduate); Gender and Society (undergraduate); Gender and Science (undergraduate); Feminist Theory (graduate); Disability Studies (undergraduate).

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

University of New Mexico, Sociology Department, Maxine Baca Zinn Search Committee, Chair. Academic Year 2019-2020.

University of New Mexico, Sociology Department, Executive Committee Member. Academic Years 2013-2014; 2014-2015, 2016-2017, 2019-2020, 2020-2021 & 2023-2024.

University of New Mexico, Sociology Department, Graduate Committee Member. Academic Year 2021-2022 & 2022-2023.

University of New Mexico, Sociology Department, Colloquium Committee Member
Academic Year 2023-2024 & 2024-2025.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

University of New Mexico, Provost's Advisory Review Committee (PARC), Spring
2025.

University of New Mexico, Faculty Senate Representative, Political Science and
Sociology. 2016 (Spring), 2016 (Fall), 2017(Spring), 2020-2022.

University of New Mexico, Library Committee Member. 2013-2014.

University of New Mexico, Combined BA/MD Program, Committee on
Curriculum and Student Progress (CCSP). 2012-2021.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Advisory Editor, *Social Science & Medicine*, 2014-2025.

Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, 2020-2025.

Manuscript Reviewer (partial listing): *American Sociological Review*, *Gender and Society*, *Health and Place*, *Social Problems*, *Social Science & Medicine*, *Sociology of Health and Illness*, Temple University Press, University of California Press, New York University Press, Routledge Press.

American Sociological Association Section on Medical Sociology, Chair, Chair-Elect
and Past-Chair (elected position), 2015-2017.

American Sociological Association Section on Medical Sociology, Publications
Committee Chair (elected position), 2011-2013.

GRADUATE STUDENT COMMITTEES

1. Tasha Galardi. Human Development & Family Studies, Oregon State University. M.A. Thesis Committee Member. 2011.
2. Amanda Seeman, Sociology, University of New Mexico. M.A. Thesis Committee member 2013.
3. Carmela Roybal. Sociology, University of New Mexico. M.A. Thesis Committee Member 2013.
4. Meredith Bergey. Sociology & Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University. Dissertation Committee Member. 2013.
5. Mallory Fallin. Sociology, University of New Mexico. M.A. Thesis Committee Chair. 2014.
6. Alena Kuhlemeir. Sociology, University of New Mexico. M.A. Thesis Committee Chair. 2014.

7. Neil Greene. Sociology, University of New Mexico. M.A. Thesis Committee Member. 2015.
8. Marilyn Garcia, BUILDing Scholar, Summer Mentoring Program, Summer 2016.
9. Ryeora Choe. Sociology, University of New Mexico. M.A. Thesis Committee Member. 2017.
10. Alexis MacLennan. Sociology, University of New Mexico. M.A. Thesis Committee Member. 2017.
11. Cirila Estela Vasquez Guzman. Sociology, University of New Mexico. PhD Dissertation Committee Chair. Graduated, 2017.
12. Jimmy Valdes. Sociology, University of New Mexico. PhD Dissertation Committee Chair. Graduated, 2021.
13. Natalie Fullenkamp. Sociology, University of New Mexico. PhD Dissertation Committee Member. Graduated Fall 2024.
14. Carmela Roybal. Sociology, University of New Mexico. PhD Dissertation Committee Member. Graduated, 2021.
15. Alena Kuhlemeir. Sociology, University of New Mexico. PhD Dissertation Committee Member. Graduated, 2021.
16. Callie Dorsey. Sociology, University of New Mexico. MA Committee Member. Graduated, 2021.
17. Neil Greene. Sociology, University of New Mexico. PhD Dissertation Committee Member. Graduated, 2022.
18. Abigail Thompson. Sociology, University of New Mexico. MA Committee Chair, Graduated, 2023.
19. Bianca Ruiz-Negron. Sociology, University of New Mexico. MA Committee Member. Completed 2023.
20. Emily Ahrend. Sociology, University of New Mexico. MA Committee Member. Completed 2023.
21. Preston Lowe. Sociology, University of New Mexico. PhD Committee Chair.
22. Abigail Thompson. Sociology, University of New Mexico. Academic Advisor.
23. Manette Fischer. Sociology, University of New Mexico. Academic Advisor and MA Committee Chair.
24. Kodiak Ly. Sociology, University of New Mexico. MA Committee Member. Graduate, 2025.

COMPREHENSIVE EXAM COMMITTEES

1. Estela Vasquez, Medical Sociology, University of New Mexico 2013.
2. Jimmy Valdes, Medical Sociology, University of New Mexico 2015.
3. Neil Greene, Medical Sociology, University of New Mexico 2017.
4. Alexis MacLennan, Medical Sociology, University of New Mexico 2018.
5. Natalie Fullenkamp, Sociology of Science, University of New Mexico 2019.
6. Kasim Ortiz, Medical Sociology, University of New Mexico 2021.
7. Amy Armstrong, Medical Sociology, University of New Mexico 2020/2021.
8. Alejandra Lemus, Medical Sociology, University of New Mexico 2023.