

Owen Whooley

Department of Sociology
University of New Mexico
MSCo5 3080
1915 Roma NE Ste. 1103
Albuquerque NM 87131-0001

owenwho@unm.edu
718-820-2364

POSITIONS

Associate Professor

Department of Sociology, University of New Mexico ■ 2018 – Present
Faculty, Combined BA/MD Program

Assistant Professor

Department of Sociology, University of New Mexico ■ 2012 – 2018

Postdoctoral Fellow

NIMH Postdoctoral Trainee in Mental Health Services Research ■ 2010 – 2012
Rutgers University, Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research

EDUCATION

New York University, New York, NY ■ 2010

Ph.D. in Sociology

Dissertation Title: Cholera and Quacks: The Epistemic Contest over Medical Knowledge
in the Nineteenth Century United States

Committee: Jeff Goodwin (chair), Craig Calhoun, Troy Duster, Ann Morning

Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA ■ 2004

M.A. in Sociology

Catholic University of America, Washington, DC ■ 2002

B.A. in History and Sociology

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Sociology of Health and Illness

Sociology of Mental Health

Sociology of Knowledge

Sociology of Professions

Sociology of Science

Sociological Theory

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Whooley, Owen. 2019. *On the Heels of Ignorance: Psychiatry and the Politics of Not Knowing*. University of Chicago Press.

Winner, 2020 Robert K. Merton Book Award, Science, Knowledge and Technology (SKAT) Section of the American Sociological Association

Honorable Mention, 2020 Eliot Freidson Outstanding Publication Award, Medical Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association

Selected as the book of the month (August 2019) by Bookstory, the book club for the podcast, *BackStory*.

Featured on the podcast, *New Books in Sociology*, April 3, 2020.

<https://newbooksnetwork.com/owen-whooley-on-the-heels-of-ignorance-psychiatry-and-the-politics-of-not-knowing-u-chicago-press-2019>.

Reviewed in *American Journal of Sociology*, *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, *Contemporary Sociology*, *History of the Human Sciences*, *Journal of American History*, *Journal of the History of Behavioral Science*, *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*, and *Times Literary Supplement*.

Whooley, Owen. 2013. *Knowledge in the Time of Cholera: The Struggle over American Medicine in the Nineteenth Century*. University of Chicago Press.

Winner, 2015 Robert K. Merton Book Award, Science, Knowledge and Technology (SKAT) Section of the American Sociological Association

Reviewed in *American Historical Review*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, *Contemporary Sociology*, *Health Affairs*, *Isis*, *Lancet: Infectious Diseases*, *Science Magazine*, *Society*, and *Sociology of Health & Illness*.

Featured on the radio program, *BackStory* with the American History Guys, Episode (2/15/2013): "Rinse and Repeat: Cleanliness in America" (<http://backstoryradio.org/rinse-and-repeat-cleanliness-in-america>).

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Whooley, Owen and Kristin Barker. 2021. "Uncertain and Under Quarantine: Toward a Sociology of Medical Ignorance," *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 62(3): 271-285.

Fallin, Mallory, Owen Whooley, and Kristin Barker. 2019. "Criminalizing the Brain: Neurocriminology and the Production of Strategic Ignorance," *BioSocieties*. 14(3): 438-462.

- Featured on the website, *Mad in America (MIA)*, a social-justice oriented mental-health webzine (<https://www.madinamerica.com/2018/11/sociologists-interrogate-neurobiological-explanations-criminology/>). *MIA* receives 120,000 unique visitors to their website per month.
- Whooley, Owen. 2016. "Measuring Mental Disorders: The Failed Commensuration Project of DSM-5," *Social Science & Medicine*, 166:33-40.
- Featured on the website, *Mad in America (MIA)*,
<https://www.madinamerica.com/2016/08/sociologist-explores-how-the-dsm-5s-attempt-at-validity-failed/>
- Smith, Tyson and Owen Whooley. 2015. "Dropping the 'Disorder' in PTSD", *Contexts Magazine*, 14(4):38-43.
- Reprinted in *The Contexts Reader*, 3rd edition, Syed Ali and Phillip N. Cohen, eds. NY: W.W. Norton, 2018: 303-310.
- Whooley, Owen. 2014. "Nosological Reflections: The Failure of DSM-5, the Emergence of RDoC, and the Decontextualization of Mental Distress," *Society and Mental Health*, 4(2):92-110.
- Winner of the 2016 Award for Best Publication, Mental Health Section of the American Sociological Association
- Whooley, Owen. 2010. "Organization Formation as Epistemic Practice: The Early Epistemological Function of the American Medical Association," *Qualitative Sociology, Special Issue on Knowledge and Practice*, 33(4):491-511.
- Whooley, Owen. 2010. "Diagnostic Ambivalence: Psychiatric Workarounds and the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders," *Sociology of Health & Illness*, 32(3): 452-469.
- Winner of the 2010 Hacker Mullins Graduate Student Paper Award, Science, Knowledge and Technology (SKAT) Section of the American Sociological Association
- Whooley, Owen. 2008. "Objectivity and its Discontents: Knowledge Advocacy in the Sally Hemings Controversy," *Social Forces*, 86(4): 1367-1390.
- Whooley, Owen. 2006. "The Political Work of Narratives: A Dialogic Analysis of Two Slave Narratives," *Narrative Inquiry*, 16(2):295-318.
- Whooley, Owen. 2004. "Locating Masterframes in History: The Religious Masterframe of the Abolition Movement and its Influence on Movement Trajectory," *Journal of Historical Sociology*, 17 (4): 490-516.
- Shandra, John M., Bruce London, Owen P. Whooley, and John B. Williamson. 2004 "International Non-Governmental Organizations, Grassroots Movements, and Carbon Dioxide Emissions: A Quantitative, Cross-National Analysis of Less Developed Countries," *Sociological Inquiry*, 74 (4): 520-545.

Chapters in Edited Volumes

- Whooley, Owen. 2022. "Revising Diagnoses, Reinventing Psychiatry: DSM and Major Depressive Disorder," in *The Edinburgh Companion to the Politics of American Health*, edited by Martin Halliwell and Sophie A. Jones. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press: 167-182.
- Whooley, Owen. 2017. "The DSM and the Spectre of Ignorance: Psychiatric Classification as a Tool of Professional Power," in *Routledge International Handbook of Critical Mental Health*, edited by Bruce Cohen. London: Routledge: 179-185.
- Whooley, Owen. 2017. "Defining Mental Disorders," in *A Handbook for the Study of Mental Health, 3rd edition*, edited by Teresa L. Scheid & Eric R. Wright. NY: Cambridge University Press: 131-176.
- Whooley, Owen and Allan V. Horwitz. 2013. "The Paradox of Professional Success: Grand Ambition, Furious Resistance, and the Derailment of the DSM-5 Revision Process," in *Making the DSM-5: Concepts and Controversies*, edited by Joel Paris and James Phillips. New York: Springer: 75-94.

Other

- Whooley, Owen. 2022. "Book Review: *Conviction* by Oliver Rollins," *New Genetics and Society* 41(1).
- Whooley, Owen. 2020. "Book Review: *The Stigma Effect* by Patrick W. Corrigan," *American Journal of Sociology* 25(6):1678-1680.
- Whooley, Owen. 2019. "Book Review: *PTSD: A Short History* by Allan V. Horwitz," *Contemporary Sociology* 48(5): 548-549.
- Whooley, Owen. 2018. "Book Review: *The Diagnostic System* by Jason Schnittker," *Contemporary Sociology* 47(6): 746-748.
- Whooley, Owen. 2018. "Book Review: *Teenage Suicide Notes* by Terry Williams," *Contemporary Sociology* 42(7): 238-239.
- Whooley, Owen. 2018. "Commentary: A (Pragmatic) Defense of (Some) Science," *Sociological Forum* 33(1): 251-254.
- Whooley, Owen. 2017. "Book Review: *Not Tonight* by Joanna Kempner," *Science, Technology and Society*, 22(2): 375-377.
- Whooley, Owen. 2017. "Book Review: *Feverish Bodies, Enlightened Minds* by Thomas A. Apel," *American Historical Review*, 122 (3): 833.
- Whooley, Owen. 2017. "Are We Complicit? Talking Social Constructionism in the Age of Trump," *Skatology: Newsletter of the ASA Section on Science, Knowledge and Technology*, spring edition, April 2017: 18-19.

(also published on SKAT blog: <https://asaskat.com/2017/02/23/are-we-complicit-talking-social-constructionism-in-the-age-of-trump/>)

- Horwitz, Ruth, Jennings, Jennifer, and Whooley, Owen. 2015. "Chapter 16: Health and Medicine," in J. Manza, L. Haney and R. Arum (eds.) *The Sociology Project 2.0*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Higher Education: 370-399.
- Whooley, Owen. 2015. "Book Review: *Putting a Name to It* by Annemarie Jutel", somatosphere.net. <http://somatosphere.net/2015/01/ajutel.html>.
- Whooley, Owen. 2015. "Book Review: *Exposed Science* by Sara Shostak", *American Journal of Sociology*, 120(2): 621-623.
- Whooley, Owen. 2015. Book Review: *Learning from the Wounded* by Shauna Devine", *American Historical Review*, 120(1):252-253.
- Whooley, Owen. Spring 2014. "Focusing on the K in SKAT," *SKAT Newsletter*: 3-7.
- Whooley, Owen. 2014. "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM)." In William C. Cockerham (Editor-in-Chief), Robert Dingwall (Co-Editor) and Stella R. Quah (Co-Editor). *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Health, Illness, Behavior, and Society*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell Publishing: 381-384.
- Whooley, Owen. February 2013. "Basic Facts Brief: What the Proliferation of Recognized Mental Disorders Means for American Health Care" Scholars Strategy Network. <https://www.scholarsstrategynetwork.org>.
- Whooley, Owen. 2012. "Useful for Whom? Clinicians, Researchers, and DSM's Many-Sided Nature," *Philosophy, Ethics, and Humanities in Medicine*, 7:15-17.
- Whooley, Owen. 2012. "Review: *Influenza and Inequality* by Patricia Fanning", *Contemporary Sociology*, 41(6): 810-811.
- Whooley, Owen. 2011. "Review: *Threat Perceptions*, by Saran Ghatak", *Contemporary Sociology*, 40(5): 593-594.
- Whooley, Owen. 2007. "Collective Identity." In G. Ritzer (ed.), *Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell Publishing: 586-588.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- Whooley, Owen. "Treatment on the Front Lines: How Mental Health Professionals Navigate the Challenges of Community Mental Health Work" (book project)
- Whooley, Owen. "How Long Does Madness Take? Temporal Cultures in the Treatment of Chronic and Severe Mental Illness" (under review)
- Barker, Kristin, Erin Madden, Owen Whooley, R. Neil Greene, and Emily Ahrend. "The Knowledge of Ignorance and the Diagnostic Fate of Long COVID" (under review)

HONORS AND AWARDS

Research Allocations Committee (RAC) Award, University of New Mexico, \$3375 ■ 2020

Regents Lecturer, University of New Mexico ■ 2019

Research Allocations Committee (RAC) Award, University of New Mexico, \$1400 ■ 2018

Award for Best Publication, Mental Health Section of the American Sociological Association ■ 2016

Robert K. Merton Book Award, Science, Knowledge and Technology (SKAT) Section of the American Sociological Association ■ 2015

EU Research Grant, Department of Sociology, University of New Mexico ■ 2014

National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) Postdoctoral Training Fellowship in Health Services Research ■ 2010 – 2012

Hacker Mullins Graduate Student Paper Award, Science, Knowledge and Technology (SKAT) Section of the American Sociological Association ■ 2010

Dean's Dissertation Writing Fellowship, New York University ■ 2009 – 2010

National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, Science, Technology, and Society Program (#0822913) ■ 2008

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Summer Predoctoral Fellowship, New York University ■ 2007

MacCracken Doctoral Fellowship, New York University ■ 2004 – 2009

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Service Fellowship, Boston College ■ 2002 – 2004

John K. Zeender Prize for Outstanding Thesis in History, Catholic University ■ 2002

PRESENTATIONS

“Psychiatry, the DSM, and the Problem of Ignorance” (invited talk), 150 Year Anniversary of the Dutch Association for Psychiatrists, Dutch Foundation for Psychiatry and Philosophy ■ 2021

“Author Meets Critics Session: *On the Heels of Ignorance* by Owen Whooley,” Annual Meeting of the Social Science History Association, Philadelphia ■ 2021

“Author Meets Critics Session: *The Western Disease* by Claire Decoteau” (Panel Discussant), Annual Meeting of the Social Science History Association, Philadelphia ■ 2021

- “On Ignorance and Social Action” (invited talk), Department of Sociology, Tulane University ■ 2019
- “Sociology’s Take on Psychiatry: A Diplomatic Visit” (invited talk), Grand Rounds, Department of Psychiatry, University of New Mexico ■ 2019
- “Criminalizing the Brain: Neurocriminology and the Expulsion of the Social Cause of Crime,” (with Kristin Barker and Mallory Fallin), Section on Mental Health Refereed Roundtables, Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Seattle ■ 2016
- “A Profession Unnerved: Psychiatry and the Politics of Ignorance” (invited talk), UCLA Health Working Group, University of California – Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA ■ Upcoming ■ 2016
- “Through the Glass Darkly: Sociological Reflections on Psychiatric Nosology” (invited talk), Rethinking the Taxonomy of Psychiatry. Rotman Institute of Philosophy, Western University, London, ON ■ 2016
- “Measuring Mental Distress: Lessons for DSM-5’s Failed Commensuration,” Regular Session. Current Issues in Mental Health, Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Chicago ■ 2015
- “The Criminalization of the Brain: Neurocriminology and the Exclusion of the Social,” (with Kristin Barker and Mallory Fallin), SKAT 25 Year Anniversary Conference, Chicago ■ 2015
- “Sociological Reflections on the Neuroscience of Mental Illnesses,” (with Kristin Barker), Invited Talk, Department of Neurology, University of New Mexico Medical School, Albuquerque ■ 2014
- “Categorical Reflections: The Implications of DSM-5 for the Sociology of Mental Health,” Regular Session on Medical Sociology (co-sponsored with Section on Sociology of Mental Health), Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, New York ■ 2013
- “Narrating Discoveries: The Transformation of Robert Koch’s Cholera Bacillus in the United States,” Regular Session on the Sociology of Knowledge. Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Las Vegas ■ 2011
- “The Professional Politics of Quantifying Mental Illness: Dimensionality and DSM-5,” Annual Meeting of the Eastern Sociology Association, Philadelphia ■ 2011
- “Author Meets Critics Session: *The Autism Matrix* by Gil Eyal” (Panel Discussant), Annual Meeting of the Social Science History Association, Boston ■ 2011
- “Capturing Cholera – and Professional Authority – in the Lab,” NYLON Culture Conference, New York ■ 2010
- “Organizational Strategies as Epistemological Practices: The Founding of the American Medical Association,” Regular Session on the Sociology of Knowledge. Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, San Francisco ■ 2009

- “Epistemic Contests and Emergent Epistemologies,” Junior Theorist Symposium, Berkeley, CA ■ 2009
- “The Birth of the American Medical Association: An Organizational Solution to an Epistemological Problem,” Inter-Ivy Sociological Symposium, Columbia University, New York ■ 2009
- “The Origins of the AMA: Epistemological Boundary Work through Organizations,” NYLON Culture Conference, Cambridge, UK ■ 2009
- “Of Quackery and Quantities: Homeopaths, the Rhetoric of Statistics, and Epistemic Authority, 1840-1890,” Regular Session on Issues of Medicalization. Annual Meeting of the Eastern Sociological Association, New York ■ 2008
- “Diagnostic Ambivalence: Psychiatrists’ Use of the DSM,” Regular Session on Organizations, Occupations, and Work. Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, New York ■ 2007
- “Diagnostic Ambivalence and Shifting Terrains of Expertise,” NYLON Culture Conference, Somerset, UK ■ 2007
- “Knowledge Advocates and the Struggle over History,” Section of Science, Knowledge, and Technology Refereed Roundtables. Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Montreal ■ 2006
- “Quacks, Regulars and the Struggle over Medical Expertise in the Nineteenth Century,” New York University Graduate Student Spring Conference, New York ■ 2006
- “The Political Work of Narratives,” Section Session on Narrative, Biography and Culture. Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Philadelphia ■ 2005
- “A Dialogue of Resistance: Comparing Bakhtin and Foucault on the Question of Resistance,” Section on Theory, Refereed Roundtables. Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Philadelphia ■ 2005
- “Masterframes and Movement Identity: A Case Study of the American Abolitionist Movements,” Section on Collective Behavior and Social Movements Refereed Roundtables. Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, San Francisco ■ 2004
- “The Final Stage: The Process of Post-Self Construction and the Politics of Death,” Section on Aging and the Life Course Refereed Roundtables. Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Atlanta ■ 2003
- “The Global Politics of Death: Mbeki’s Response to the South African AIDS Crisis” Student Section, Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Chicago ■ 2002

TEACHING

Associate Professor, University of New Mexico ■ 2012 – Present

HMHV 1101: The Social Contours of Health
SOC-340: Sociology of Medical Practice
SOC-371: Sociological theory
SOC-398: Sociology of Pandemics
SOC-427: Sociology of Madness
SOC-501: Knowledge and Power (graduate course)
SOC-513: Contemporary Sociological Theory (graduate course)
SOC-595: Sociology of Mental Health (graduate course)

Instructor, New York University ■ Summer 2007 & 2009

Introduction to Sociology – The Sociological Imagination
Sociology of Race and Ethnicity – Race in a Post-Obama America

Graduate Advisement

Emily Ahrend, Graduate Advisor
Ryeora Choe, Dissertation Committee
Yuka Doherty, Dissertation Committee
Mallory Fallin, MA Thesis Committee, defended Spring 2015
Joseph Flores, Dissertation Committee (Communications & Journalism), defended
Spring 2020
Natalie Fullenkamp, Graduate Advisor & Dissertation Chair
Alena Kuhlemeier, MA Comp Committee Chair, defended Spring 2017
Sarah Leister, MA Thesis Committee (Latin American Studies), defended Spring 2015
Drew Medaris, Dissertation Committee
Alisa Rogers, Dissertation Committee
Carmela Roybal, MA Comp Committee, defended Fall 2016
Bianca Ruiz-Negron, Graduate Advisor
Amanda Seeman, MA Thesis Committee, defended Spring 2013
Davyd Setter, Dissertation Committee
Keith Wilkins, Graduate Advisor & MA Thesis Chair
Jon Williams, Dissertation Committee
Tiu Wu, Dissertation Committee

EDITORIAL POSITIONS

Editorial Advisory Board, *The Politics of Mental Health and Illness* (book series with Palgrave Macmillan)

Editorial Board, *Qualitative Sociology* ■ 2019 – Present

Editorial Board, *Contemporary Sociology* ■ 2015 – 2018

Student Editor, *Contexts Magazine* ■ 2006 – 2007

Contributed to the *Discoveries* section of the magazine, including: “Dissing FDA Approval”, “Eat, Drink, and Demur” (Winter 2007); “Whitewashing Hip-Hop” (Summer 2007); “Not in His Genes”, “Whiter the Barricades” (Spring 2007); “Racial DNA”, “Unequal Tooth Decay”, “Intimate Apartheid” (Fall 2007); “Not My Brother’s Keeper”, “Complex Canines”, “Model Behavior” (Summer 2006); “When an Illness Might Not Exist”, “An Unhealthy Optimism”, “Masculinity Stinks” (Spring 2006); “A Scared New World” (Fall 2006); “Robo Sapiens of the Future” (Summer 2005); “No Laughing Matter” (Spring 2005); “Breaking the One Drop Rule” (Fall 2005)

SERVICE AND MEMBERSHIP

To the University of New Mexico Department of Sociology

Graduate Director, 2020 – Present
Web Content Manager, 2017 – Present
Chair, UNM Med Head Workgroup, 2012 – 2017
Member of the Graduate Studies Committee, 2013 – 2017
Member of the Executive Council, 2013 – 2014
Member of the Colloquium Committee, 2012 – 2013, 2017 – 2018

To the University of New Mexico

Senior Fellow, Center for Health Policy, University of New Mexico, 2012– Present
Member of the Committee on Curriculum and Student Progress, BA/MD
Program, 2012 - Present

Professional Associations

American Sociological Association (ASA), 1998 – Present
Section on Medical Sociology

- Session organizer for a panel, “Sociological Perspectives on DSM-5”, ASA Annual Meeting, 2013

Section on Science, Knowledge and Technology

- Committee chair, Robert K. Merton Book Award, 2021
- Committee member, Robert K. Merton Book Award, 2016

Section on Mental Health
Section on Collective Behavior
Section on Theory

- Committee member, Edward Shils- James Coleman Prize for Best Graduate Student Paper, 2022

Section on History of Sociology
Committee member, Graduate Student Paper Award, 2011

Social Science History Association (SSHA), 2012 – Present

Scholars Strategy Network (SSN), 2012 – 2014

Eastern Sociological Society (ESS), 2004 – 2012

Manuscript Reviewer for: NYU Institute for Public Knowledge, Oxford University Press, Rutgers University Press, Social Science Research Council, University of Chicago Press

Ad Hoc Reviewer for: *American Historical Review; American Journal of Sociology; American Quarterly; American Sociological Review; BioSocieties; British Journal of Psychiatry; Contexts; Contemporary Sociology; Cultural Sociology; Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry; Isis; Journal of Health and Social Behavior; New Genetics and Society; Oxford University Press; Perspectives of Biology and Medicine; Qualitative Sociology; Rutgers University Press; Science, Technology and Human Values; Science, technology and Society; Sage; Social Forces; Social History of Medicine; Social Problems; Social Science & Medicine; Social Studies of Science; Society & Mental Health; Sociology of Health & Illness; Sociological Quarterly; Sociological Theory; Theory, Culture & Society; University of Chicago Press*

Other

New York/London Cultural Analysis Conference (NYLON), 2005 – 2010
Power, Politics, and Protest (PPP), NYU, 2004 – 2010
Media Research Action Project (MRAP), Boston College, 2002 – 2004