

Amy Manning Kirk  
CURRICULUM VITAE

109 Grouse Lane  
Sewickley, PA 15143  
(C) 713-376-4693  
EMAIL: [amk009@shsu.edu](mailto:amk009@shsu.edu); [miler3@juno.com](mailto:miler3@juno.com)

EDUCATION

- 2005 Louisiana State University, Ph.D., Sociology. Dissertation: "Constructing Resilient Marital Relationships: A Panel Study of Marriages Under Pressure."
- 1998 Louisiana State University, M.A., Sociology. Thesis: "Covenant Marriage in Louisiana: Pragmatic Conservatism in the Politics of Social Change."
- 1995 Texas A&M University, B.S., Sociology; Double minor in Art History and Speech Communications.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2017- Present Adjunct Professor, Sociology Department, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas
- 2012- May 2017 Lecturer, Sociology Department, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas
- 2008-2011 Adjunct Sociology Instructor and Director of Marriage and the Family Instruction, Lonestar College (Kingwood College campus)
- 2006-2008 Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas (Graduate Faculty member 2007-2008)
- 2004-2006 Adjunct Sociology Instructor, North Harris Montgomery Community College District (Kingwood College campus)
- 1998-2005 Research Consultant, Survey Communications, Inc., Baton Rouge, Louisiana

2000-2001	Instructor, Department of Sociology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
1997-2000	Research Assistant, Department of Sociology, Louisiana State University
1996-1998	Legislative Aide, Jefferson Parish Legislative Delegation, Louisiana State Capitol, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
1994	Public Affairs Assistant, Smithsonian Associates, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C.

### COURSES TAUGHT

The Sociology of the Family (SOC 5331), online (Sam Houston State University); The Sociology of Religion (SOC 5333; 3342) online, (Sam Houston State University); Marriage and the Family (SOC 3341), online (Sam Houston State University, The Sociology of Education (SOC 6360), Gender (SOC 6360); Marriage and the Family, online (Lonestar College Kingwood); Principles of Sociology, in-class and online (Lonestar College – Kingwood College campus); Marriage and the Family, in-class (Sam Houston State University 2006-2008); Sociology of Religion, in-class (developed and taught - Sam Houston State University 2008); Introduction to Ethnic Studies, in-class and online (Sam Houston State University 2006-2008); Social Problems, in-class (Louisiana State University)

### CURRENT TEACHING INTERESTS

Current interests include developing and teaching Marriage and Public Life (graduate level), Marriage the Family (graduate and undergraduate level), The Sociology of Religion (graduate and undergraduate level), and The Sociology of Education courses, in the online context.

### CURRENT RESEARCH

Current research includes examining constructs of commitment and relationship quality in heterosexual married and dating couples who are graduate and undergraduate students in regional Texas colleges. (Research is in collaboration with colleagues in Sam Houston State University's Department of Education, Education Leadership and Counseling – Marital Therapy section).

Current research also includes a critical literature review concerning how the tradition of the protestant work ethic translates into the allocation of free time in families.

### AWARDS AND HONORS:

- 2016 (Recognition) “Choosing to Teach Online: Why Online Was Right for Me” (written by John Holder based upon an interview with me; published in *Educators and Innovators* SHSU Online Magazine)
- 2012 Texas Counseling Association Research Award for the paper “Religious and Spiritual Values and Moral Commitment in Marriage: Untapped Resources in Couples Counseling?” *Counseling and Values*, 55: (2): 228-246.
- 2011 Paper of the Year Award received from the *Counseling and Values* journal for the paper “Religious and Spiritual Values and Moral Commitment in Marriage: Untapped Resources in Couples Counseling?” *Counseling and Values*, 55: (2): 228-24

### PAST RESEARCH

- 2006-2008 Examined Covenant Marriage divorces and Covenant Marriage rates in Louisiana as a follow-up to previous research on Covenant Marriage couples.
- 2000-2004 Interviewed husbands and wives (separately) in 90 minute qualitative interviews. Couples were chosen because of husbands’ job loss. Interviews were conducted in two waves (within two months of initial job loss and 18 months after job loss)

### FUNDED RESEARCH

- 1998-2000 Research Assistant to Co-P.I.’s Scott L. Feld and Katherine Brown Rosier on “Covenant Marriage: Diffusion of a Social Innovation.” Funded by the National Science Foundation. SBR-9807379 – designed interview schedules and interviewed or co-interviewed Louisiana state politicians and Christian conservative activists who were instrumental in passing the 1997 & 1998 Louisiana and Arizona Covenant Marriage Acts. Interviewed husbands and wives who opted for Covenant Marriages in Louisiana.

### PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Kirk, A., Eckstein, D., Serres, S., & Helms, S. (2012). A dozen commitment considerations for couples: In D. Eckstein (Ed.), *The Couple’s match book: Techniques for lighting, rekindling, or extinguishing the flame* (pp. 251 – 263). North America and International: Trafford Publishing (This is reprinted from the *Family Journal*, 2007.)

- Stark, Marcella D., Amy Manning Kirk, and Rick Bruhn. 2012. "Generational Differences as a Determinant of Women's Perspectives on Commitment." *AdultSpan*, 11 (2): 112-122.
- Nelson, Judith A., Amy Manning Kirk, Pedra Ane, and Sheryl A. Serres. 2011. "Religious and Spiritual Values and Moral Commitment in Marriage: Untapped Resources in Couples Counseling?" *Counseling and Values*, 55: (2): 228-246.
- Kirk, Amy Manning, Daniel Eckstein, Sheryl A. Serres, and Sallie Helms. 2007. "Twelve Commitment Considerations for Couples." *The Family Journal: Counseling and Therapy for Couples and Families*, 18: (3): 271-276.
- Feld, Scott L., Katherine Brown Rosier, and Amy Manning. 2002. "Christian Right as a Civil Right: Covenant Marriage and a Kinder Gentler Moral Conservatism." *Review of Religious Research*, 44: (2), 173-183.

#### PAPERS PRESENTED AND PROFESSIONAL ENRICHMENT PRESENTATIONS

- 2017 – Kirk, Amy Manning. "The Protestant Ethic and Spirit of Unplugging: Protestants and Their Use of Free Time" presented at the American Association for Behavior and Social Sciences' Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada.
- 2016 Kirk, Amy Manning. "When I Was Ten: The Effective Use of Narrative in Online Marriage and Family Instruction" presented at the Southern Sociological Society's Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.
- 2015 Kirk, Amy Manning. "Religious Experiences and Moral Commitment in Marriage" presented at the Association for the Sociology of Religion's Conference in Chicago, Illinois.
- 2015 Kirk, Amy Manning. "Giving and Getting Feedback in the Online Classroom: Is it Really Better to Give Than to Receive?" presented at SHSU Online's Conference, Huntsville, Texas.
- 2014 Kirk, Amy Manning. "For the Love of the Game: Embracing and Enjoying the Online Instruction of Family Studies" presented at the Texas Council on Family Relation's Conference, Plano, Texas.
- 2009 Kirk, Amy Manning. "The Tripartite Nature of Paper Writing" presented at the Adjunct Teaching Certification Program, Lonestar College, Kingwood College campus.

- 2009 Kirk, Amy Manning. "Distance Learning Grows Up" presented to the Sociology Faculty, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX.
- 2007 Kirk, Amy Manning. "Moral Commitment as a Measure of Success Among Covenant Marriage Couples" presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Marriage and Family Section Roundtable, New York, NY.
- 2007 Kirk, Amy Manning. "Measuring Commitment Among Couples Under Duress." Paper presentation at the annual meeting of the Southwestern Social Science Association, Albuquerque, NM.
- 2006 Kirk, Amy Manning. "Effectively Teaching Online," Brown Bag Series (Sam Houston State University Sociology Department), November 2006.
- 2001 Weil, Frederick D., Troy Blanchard, and Amy Manning. "Social Capital in Context: Sociability and Trust in Different Regional and Community Settings." Paper presentation at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Anaheim, CA.
- 1998 Feld, Scott L., Christine Horne, Amy Manning and Katherine Brown Rosier. "Covenant Marriage: Louisiana's Family Experiment." Paper presentation at the annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society, Atlanta, GA.
- 1998 Rosier, Katherine Brown, Amy Manning, and Scott L. Feld. "The (D)Evolution Of American Divorce: The Political Origins of Louisiana's Covenant Marriage." Paper presentation at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Political Sociology Section Roundtable, Social Policies and Their Origins and Outcomes, San Francisco, CA.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES, COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERING  
AND CERTIFICATIONS

Grant Writing Chairman, Willow Creek Elementary PTA (Kingwood, Texas) 2016-2018

Annual Fund Campaign Chairman, Riverwood Middle School (Kingwood, Texas) 2016-2017

Arts in Education Chairman, Willow Creek Elementary PTA (Kingwood, Texas) 2013-2016

Vacation Bible School Educational Coordinator (Lake Houston Church of Christ) 2015-2017

SHSU – CHSS’s Online Teaching Committee Member 2016-2017

Chair of Book Selection Committee (Marriage and the Family Instruction), Lonestar College Kingwood College campus, Fall 2010.

Blackboard and ANGEL (online instruction) certification

Attended “Making the Most of the Online Environment” - Professional Development Series, Lonestar College, Montgomery College campus, Fall 2010.

Adjunct Teaching Certification Program Attendee and Presenter, Lonestar College, Kingwood College campus, Fall 2009.

Designed Sociology Department website, Sam Houston State University, Spring and Summer 2007.

Member: Book Selection Committee for *Introduction to Sociology*, Sam Houston State University, Spring 2007.

Academic Challenge Judge: Sam Houston State University, November 2006 & March 2007.

Member: Sociology Department and University Advancement Survey to determine students’ selection of Sam Houston State University, Sam Houston State University, Fall 2006.

Member: Search Committee to find an Associate-level Graduate Advisor, Sam Houston State University, Fall 2006.

Service Learning and Course web-page development workshops, North Harris Montgomery Community College District, 2009.

Co-Advisor: Baton Rouge Area Foundation, Forum 35 on Social Capital; coordinated Robert Putnam’s Baton Rouge Lecture in which he discussed *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of the American Community*. 2001.