

UNL Sociology Department Adds New Talent



Current 2015 Faculty pictured during the August faculty retreat: (Back row left to right) Lory Dance, Phillip Schwadel, Dan Hoyt, Kirk Dombrowski; (3rd row) David Warner, Brandon Bosch, Julia McQuillan, Tara Warner, Lisa Kort-Butler; (2nd row) Emily Kazyak, Helen Moore, Regina Werum, Jacob Cheadle; (front row) Christina Falci, Kimberly Tyler, Jolene Smyth, Jeffrey Smith, Bridget Goosby, and Kristen Olson.

Brandon Bosch is an Assistant Professor of Practice in Sociology and Political Science. He joined the Department in 2011. He has developed courses on mass media and political sociology, plus teaches our senior seminar course. Brandon is expanding our internships and would love to hear from Alumni about the opportunity for more. He earned his Ph.D. in Political Science at University of Washington.

Regina Werum served as a program officer at NSF and a faculty member at Emory before coming to UNL as the Associate Vice Chancellor for Research. She became an active member of the Department in 2014. She fills a critical need by teaching race & ethnicity, gender, and social movement courses. She is helping NSF dissertation enhancement grants. She studies how social policy shapes and reflects social inequalities, especially in the area of education. She earned her Ph.D. at Indiana University.

Emily Kazyak has been an Assistant Professor of Sociology and Women's and Gender Studies at the UNL since 2010. She earned a Ph.D. in Sociology and a Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies at the University of Michigan.

Her teaching focuses on sexuality, gender, and theory. Her research focuses on how cultural and legal contexts shape identities and family lives. She has published in journals such as the *Journal of Family Issues* and *Journal of Marriage and Family*.

Through a search for an assistant professor with an emphasis on social networks, we hired **Jeffery Smith**. After earning his bachelor's degree, Jeff worked for a year at the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This experience helped him decide to return to Graduate School in Sociology. He earned his Ph.D. at Duke University and joined the Department in Fall of 2013. He teaches methods and theory courses. Smith has already published several articles with an emphasis on social networks and demography in journals such as the *American Sociological Review* and *Sociological Methodology*.

Kirk Dombrowski joined the Department as a Full Professor in 2013. His background is in Anthropology, yet his expertise in applying social network analyses to health questions helped him to easily fit into the Sociology Department. Kirk is the Director of the university-wide Minority Health Dispari-

ties Initiative (MHDI). He also founded the REACH Lab to house the undergraduate, graduate, and post-doctoral researchers working on his projects. He has a strong grant and publishing record.

David Warner has been an Assistant Professor since 2012. He earned a Ph.D. in sociology and demography from Pennsylvania State University, was a post-doc in Demography of Aging and the Life Course the Carolina Population Center at the The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He teaches marriage and family and methodology courses. He studies health, stratification, and families. He has published in journals such as *Social Forces* and the *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*.

Tara Warner started as an Assistant Professor in 2012 after earning her Ph.D. from Bowling Green State University. She teaches crime and methods courses. She studies how human development, health, and well-being unfold in, and are affected by, the various contexts in which individuals are embedded across the life course. She has published in journals such as *Social Forces* and *Journal of Family Violence*.



Lisa Kort-Butler was featured in the news for her study on the links between kid's health problems and increased risk of delinquency. Lisa's research on prison volunteers was also featured in the news.

Click on her photo to see her story.