

MEREDITH A. KATZ, PH.D.

CONTACT

Address: Virginia Commonwealth University, Department of Sociology
827 West Franklin Street, Founders Hall Office 229, Richmond, Virginia 23284
Email: makatz@vcu.edu

EDUCATION

2011 Ph.D. Sociology, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia
Graduate Certificates in Preparing the Future Professoriate and Women's and
Gender Studies

2004 M.S. Sociology, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia
Graduate Certificate in Race and Social Policy

2002 B.S. Psychology, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia, *magna cum laude*

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Ethical consumption; consumer culture; anti-sweatshop organizing; labor rights; culture; public sociology

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2023 – present Associate Professor (Teaching Faculty), Department of Sociology, Virginia Commonwealth University

2017- 2023 Assistant Professor (Teaching Faculty), Department of Sociology, Virginia Commonwealth University

2013-2017 Instructor, Department of Sociology, Virginia Commonwealth University

2012 – 2017 Research Associate, Global Education Office, Virginia Commonwealth University

2010-2011 Adjunct Faculty, Department of Sociology, Radford University

2008-2009 Visiting Adjunct Faculty, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, American University of Kuwait, Kuwait City, Kuwait (Summers 2008 & 2009)

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Publications (*denotes collaboration with graduate student)

2019 **Katz, Meredith A.** "Boycotting and Buycotting in Consumer Cultures: Political Consumerism in North America." Pp. 515-537 in *The Oxford Handbook on Political Consumerism* edited by M. Boström, M. Micheletti, and P. Oosterveer.
Featured article of the month on Oxford Handbooks Website, October 2018

2017 **Katz, Meredith A.** "'The Sweatshop Effect': Consumer Activism and the Anti-sweatshop Movement on College Campuses." Pp. 243-254 in *Shopping for Change*:

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The Possibilities and Pitfalls of Consumer Resistance edited by L. Hyman and J. Tohill. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press and Toronto: Between the Lines Press.

2015 Wimberley, Dale, **Katz, Meredith A.**, and John Paul Mason. "Mobilization, Strategy, and Global Production Networks: Advantages for Student Anti-sweatshop Activism." *Societies Without Borders* 10:1. <https://scholarlycommons.law.case.edu/swb/vol10/iss1/3/>

Book Chapters and Encyclopedia Entries

2023 **Katz, Meredith A.** "Who Knows Where the Money Goes? A Reflective Spending and Consumption Diary." *Teaching Sustainable Consumption*, edited by J. Dyer, D. Fischer, J. King, M. Sahakian & G. Seyfang. Oxfordshire, UK: Routledge.

2017 **Katz, Meredith A.** and Helen V. Mays*. "Materialism." Pp. 879-882 in *The American Middle Class: An Economic Encyclopedia of Progress and Poverty* edited and compiled by Robert Rycroft. Santa Barbara, California: Greenwood Press.

2014 **Katz, Meredith A.** "Citizens' Rights in a Globalized World." Pp. 138-139 in *The Encyclopedia for Diversity and Social Justice* edited and compiled by Sherwood Thompson. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

Book Reviews

2010 **Katz, Meredith A.** "Review of *Democracy Works: Joining Theory and Action to Foster Global Social Change.*" *Societies Without Borders* 5(1): 94-96.

Additional Publications

2016 **Katz, Meredith A.** "Best Practices in Teaching the Sociology of Consumption." Consume This! Blog (American Sociological Association section on Consumers and Consumption), November. <https://asaconsumers.wordpress.com/2016/11/06/consume-this-pedagogical-approaches-to-teaching-the-sociology-of-consumption/>

2016 **Katz, Meredith A.** "Teaching Public Sociology Online." *Teaching/Learning Matters: American Sociological Association's Newsletter for the Section on Teaching and Learning in Sociology*, Winter 2016.

2014 Katz, Meredith A. "Task Force for Comprehensive Internationalization Final Report." Global Education Office, Virginia Commonwealth University

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PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY

2022 [“2022’s Best and Worst States for Jobs.”](#) Interview with *WalletHub*
2021 [“Gift Wrapped America.”](#) Interview with NPR’s *With Good Reason*
2021 [“Democratic Women in Virginia Frustrated by Paid Leave Flop.”](#) Interview with AP News
2021 [“States with Unemployment Claims are Recovering the Quickest.”](#) Interview with *WalletHub*
2019 [We’re All Scabs Now: Amid the Rise of a New Labor Movement, the Classic Insult is going Mainstream.](#) Interview with *The Huffington Post*
2016 [“Should the Minimum Wage Be Raised: Experts Pick Sides.”](#) Interview with *WalletHub*

HONORS, AWARDS, & GRANTS

2017-2018 Dean’s Fellow, College of Humanities and Sciences, Virginia Commonwealth University
2017-2018 Quest Global Impact Award, Faculty Development Seminar, Virginia Commonwealth University, \$10,000 (declined)
2016 Humanities Research Center Grant, Virginia Commonwealth University, \$1,500
2015 College of Humanities and Sciences Faculty Council Research Grant, Virginia Commonwealth University, \$500
2014 Recognized for outstanding integrity, ethics, and compliance during Compliance and Ethics Week, Virginia Commonwealth University
2012 Community Engagement Award for Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program, Division of Community Engagement, Virginia Commonwealth University
2009 Graduate Student Service Commendation Award, Virginia Tech
2007 Global Perspectives Travel Award, Virginia Tech Graduate School, \$5,000
2007 Graduate School Citizen Scholar, Virginia Tech
2006-2011 Graduate School Dean’s Assistantship, Virginia Tech
2004 Graduate Student Community Service Award, Virginia Tech

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2026 **Katz, Meredith A.** “Disruption Through Consumption: How Consumers are Reimagining the World Through Their Consumptive Choices,” Paper to be presented at the Eastern Sociological Society Meeting, Washington, D.C., March.
2025 **Katz, Meredith A.** “Consumption with a Conscience: Political Consumerism in the Marketplace.” Paper presented at the Eastern Sociological Society Meeting, Boston, March.
2024 **Katz, Meredith A.** “Disrupting Political Binaries: Political Consumerism Post-2020,” Paper presented at the Southern Sociological Society Meeting, New Orleans, April.

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2023 **Katz, Meredith A.** "Shopping Your Values: The Rise of Political Consumerism in the United States," Paper presented at the Eastern Sociological Society Meeting, Baltimore, February.

2022 **Katz, Meredith A.** "Consumption as Activism: Teaching Strategies for Why Consumer Choices Matter." Paper presented at the Association for Humanist Sociology Meeting, Mexico City, November.

2022 **Katz, Meredith A.** "Pedagogical Approaches to Teaching the Sociology of Consumption." Paper presented at the Eastern Sociological Society Meeting, Boston, March.

2021 **Katz, Meredith A.** "Organizing in a Right to Work State: Reflections on Past Experiences and Future Directions for Labor Rights." Paper presented at the Southern Sociological Society Meeting, Virtual, April.

2020 **Katz, Meredith A.** "Consuming for Change: The Case of Political Consumerism in the United States." Paper accepted for the Society of Social Problems Meeting, San Francisco, CA, August. Canceled due to COVID-19.

2020 **Katz, Meredith A.** "Teaching Sociology Online: Strategies for Engagement." Paper presented at Eastern Sociological Society Meeting, Philadelphia, March.

2019 **Katz, Meredith A.** "Solidarity Strategies for Workers Rights: The Case of United Students Against Sweatshops." Paper presented at Eastern Sociological Society Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts, April.

2019 **Katz, Meredith A.** "Strategies for Success: Public Sociology and Internships at an Urban Public Research University." Paper presented at Eastern Sociological Society Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts, April.

2016 **Katz, Meredith A.** "'By Any Means Necessary': Political Consumption and Political Participation in the United States." Paper presented at the International Conference on Consumer Research, Bonn, Germany, September.

2016 **Katz, Meredith A.** "Consumption as Activism: How Political Consumers Challenge the Market and the System." Paper presented at the annual meetings of the Southern Sociological Society, Atlanta, April.

2015 **Katz, Meredith A.** "Voting With Your Dollar: A Gendered Analysis of Ethical Consumerism." Paper presented at the annual meetings of the Southern Sociological Society, New Orleans, March.

2015 Wimberley, Dale and **Meredith A. Katz**. "Proximity, Networks, and Ease of Interaction: Qualitative Analysis of Campus Characteristics that Promote Student Anti-sweatshop

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Activism.” Paper presented at the annual meetings of the Southern Sociological Society, New Orleans, March.

2013 Wimberley, Dale, **Meredith A. Katz**, and John Paul Mason. “Labor Rights and Strategic Power Relations: The Student Anti-sweatshop Movement and University Licensed Apparel Global Production Networks” presented at the Forum on Human Rights, Blacksburg Virginia, February.

2012 Wimberley, Dale, **Katz, Meredith A.**, and John Paul Mason. “Student Anti-Sweat Campaigns and Strategic Power Relations: Theoretical Developments.” Paper presented at the annual meetings of the Southern Sociological Society, New Orleans, March.

2010 **Katz, Meredith A.** “You Going to Buy That?: Reconceptualizing Purchasing as Politics in a Consumer(ist) Society.” Paper presented at the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association, Atlanta, August.

2010 **Katz, Meredith A.** “The Clothesline Project: Political Consumerism in the Collegiate Anti-Sweatshop Movement.” Paper presented at the annual meetings of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, Atlanta, August.

2010 **Katz, Meredith A.** “Political Activism: Who is Willing to Risk?” Paper presented at the annual meetings of the Southern Sociological Society, Atlanta, April.

2010 **Katz, Meredith A.** “Political Consumerism: A New Form of Engagement.” Paper presented at the annual meetings of the Southern Sociological Society, Atlanta, April.

2010 **Katz, Meredith A.** “Purchasing as Power: Women and Political Consumer Activism.” Paper presented at the annual meetings of the Southeastern Women’s Studies Association, Columbia, South Carolina, March.

2009 **Katz, Meredith A.** “When Women Act: The Gendered Nature of Political Participation.” Paper presented at the annual meetings of the Southeastern Women’s Studies Association, Boone, North Carolina, April.

COURSES TAUGHT

Undergraduate- Introduction to Sociology (in person and online); Sociology of Culture (in person and online); Sociology of Consumption; Research Methods; Senior Research Seminar (in person and online); Contemporary Sociological Theory (in person and online); Sociology of Sex and Gender; Public Sociology (online)

Graduate- Public Sociology (online); Seminar in Sociological Practice; Contemporary Sociological Theory (online)

GRADUATE ADVISING

Master's Thesis Committee Chair

Kayleigh Flannagan, 2022

Sara Peters, 2020

DeHaven Mays, 2017

Erika Carpenter, 2017

Master's Thesis Committee Member

Erin Tucker, (expected Spring 2026)

Kathryn Morris, 2023

Caitlin Price, 2015

Internship Chair

Sana Farooq, 2022

Practicum Chair

Renée Soniat, 2025

Lisa Richard, 2022

ASA Consumers and Consumption Section Mentor/Mentee Program

Meghann Lucy, Boston University, Department of Sociology (Ph.D. granted May 2024)

DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

2022-2023	Graduate Program Director, Department of Sociology, Virginia Commonwealth University
2019-2025	ADVANCE-VCU Grant, Policies and Procedures Team Member: Career/Life Integration subcommittee, Virginia Commonwealth University
2019-2025	Immunities to Change Facilitator, ADVANCE-VCU Grant, Virginia Commonwealth University
2024-present	Internship Coordinator, Department of Sociology, Virginia Commonwealth University
2018-2022	
2021-2022	Chair, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, Department of Sociology, Virginia Commonwealth University
2020-2021; 2015-2017	Member, Graduate Committee, Department of Sociology, Virginia Commonwealth University
2019-2020	Chair, Term Ad-Hoc Committee, Department of Sociology, Virginia Commonwealth University
2018-2020	Member, Undergraduate Committee, Department of Sociology, Virginia Commonwealth University
2016-2018	Faculty Advisor, United Students Against Sweatshops at VCU-Local 804, Virginia Commonwealth University
2016-2020	Member, Sustainability Committee, Virginia Commonwealth University

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2015-2017 Member, Digital Sociology Working Group, Department of Sociology, Virginia Commonwealth University

2015-2017 Assistant Director for Graduate Program (on-campus students), Department of Sociology, Virginia Commonwealth University

2014-2017 Member, Student Engagement Committee, Department of Sociology, Virginia Commonwealth University

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/CONTINUING EDUCATION

2022 Best Practices in Online Instruction Badge, VCU Online

2019 Immunities to Change Trained Facilitator (ADVANCE-VCU grant)

2019 Online Learning Consortium Institute Summer Institute

2018 VCU Online's Excellence in Online Learning Certification

2014 Online Course Development Institute, VCU Online

2013 Preparing to Teach: Best Practices, Center for Teaching Excellence, VCU

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Data Analysis: SPSS, Microsoft Excel, NVivo

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