

# KJERSTIN GRUYS, PhD

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## EDUCATION

2014 Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles, Department of Sociology  
2008 M.A. University of California, Los Angeles, Department of Sociology  
2004 A.B. Princeton University, Department of Sociology

## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2017 – Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Nevada, Reno  
2014 – 2016 Thinking Matters Fellow, Stanford Introductory Studies, Stanford University  
2014 – 2016 Postdoctoral Research Fellow (by courtesy), Michelle R. Clayman Institute for Gender Research, Stanford University

## RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Gender, Bodies & Embodiment, Intersections of Race/Class/Sexuality/Age, Social Problems, Work, Culture, Consumers & Consumption, Medical Sociology, Policy, Qualitative Methods

## PUBLICATIONS

### Refereed Journal Articles

- 2016 Frederick, David A., Abigail C. Saguy, **Kjerstin Gruys**. "Culture, Health, & Bigotry: How Cultural Accounts of Fatness Shape Attitudes About Health Risk, Health Policies, & Weight-Based Prejudice." *Social Science & Medicine*. 165(September): 271-279.
- 2014 Saguy, Abigail, David Frederick, **Kjerstin Gruys**. "Reporting Risk, Producing Prejudice: How News Reporting on Obesity Shapes Attitudes about Health Risk, Policy and Prejudice." *Social Science and Medicine*. 111(June): 125-133.
- 2012 **Gruys, Kjerstin**. "Does This Make Me Look Fat?: Aesthetic Labor and Fat Talk as Emotional Labor in a Women's Plus Size Clothing Store." *Social Problems*. 59(4): 481-500.
- Winner, Best Grad Student Paper, ASA Consumers & Consumption Section
  - Hon. Mention, Best Grad Student Paper, ASA Organizations, Occupations & Work
  - Hon. Mention, Best Grad Student Paper, ASA Labor & Labor Movements Section

## KJERSTIN GRUYS

- 2010 Saguy, Abigail and **Kjerstin Gruys**. "Morality and Health: News Media Constructions of Overweight and Eating Disorders." *Social Problems* 57(2): 231-250.
- Reprint in Peter Conrad and Valerie Leiter, Eds., *Sociology of Health & Illness* (2013)
  - Reprint in Maxine Baca Zinn, Ed., *Gender Through The Prism of Difference* (2016)
- 2010 Saguy, Abigail, **Kjerstin Gruys** and Shanna Gong. "Social Problem Construction and National Context: News Reporting on 'Overweight' and 'Obesity' in the U.S. and France." *Social Problems* 57(4): 586-610.

### Books (Trade)

- 2013 **Gruys, Kjerstin**. *Mirror, Mirror Off the Wall: How I Learned to Love My Body by Not Looking at it For a Year*. New York City, NY: Avery.
- Reviewed by *LA Times*, *The Boston Globe*, *USA Today*, *People*, *Publishers Weekly*

### Book Reviews, Book Chapters & Encyclopedia Entries

- 2017 **Gruys, Kjerstin**. "Book Review: *Buttoned Up: Clothing, Conformity, and White-Collar Masculinity*, by Erynn Masi de Cassanova" *Contemporary Sociology: A Journal of Reviews*. 46(3) 295-296.
- 2016 Bridges, Tristan, **Kjerstin Gruys**, Christin Munsch and C.J. Pascoe. "Beyond 'Bossy' or 'Brilliant'? Gender Bias in Student Evaluations." In Lisa Wade, Douglas Hartmann, and Christopher Uggen (eds.) *Assigned: Life with Gender*. W.W. Norton.
- 2015 **Gruys, Kjerstin**. "Book Review: *Fashioning Fat: Inside Plus-Size Modeling*, by Amanda M. Czerniawski." *Gender & Society*. 30(5) 842-862.
- 2014 Thomas, Jacob & **Kjerstin Gruys**. "Class." In Daniel Cook and J. Michael Ryan (eds.) *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Consumption and Consumer Studies*. London: Wiley-Blackwell.
- 2014 Siciliano, Michael & **Kjerstin Gruys**. "Mass Media." In Daniel Cook and J. Michael Ryan (eds.) *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Consumption and Consumer Studies*. London: Wiley-Blackwell.
- 2013 Yousefinejad, S., Frederick, D. A., & **Gruys, K.** "Roles (Social and Cultural)." In C. Cortes (ed.) *Multicultural America*. SAGE Publishers.
- 2012 Frederick, D.A., Jafary, A.M., **Gruys, K.** & Daniels, E.A. "Surveys & the Epidemiology of Body Image Dissatisfaction." In T. F. Cash (ed.) *Encyclopedia of Body Image and Human Appearance*. San Diego, CA: Academic Press, pp. 766-773.

## KJERSTIN GRUYS

### Manuscripts in Progress

**Gruys, Kjerstin.** “Do Charitable ‘Style Makeovers’ Help Unemployed Poor Women?: The Embodied Disadvantages of Gender, Race, Poverty & Body Size.” R&R, *Sociological Forum*.

Bishop, Katelynn, **Kjerstin Gruys**, and Maddie Evans. “Sized Out: The Impact of Clothing Size Standards on Women’s Identity, Health and Inequality.” R&R, *Gender & Society*.

Munsch, Christin and **Kjerstin Gruys.** “What Threatens Masculinity Defines It: Using Young Men’s Narratives of Masculinity Threat to Trace the Boundaries of Contemporary Masculinity.” Under review, *Men & Masculinities*.

**Gruys, Kjerstin.** “Living Mannequins: Cultural Capital, Bodily Capital and the Aesthetic Labor of Female Fit Models.” Draft Available.

**Gruys, Kjerstin.** “Years or Inches?: How Age and Femininity Intersect via Clothing Size Standards in the U.S. Ready-to-Wear Fashion Industry. Draft Available.

**Gruys, Kjerstin.** “‘I want to look good but not like I tried too hard’: How Sorority Women Negotiate Conflicting Gendered Imperatives During Rush.” Draft Available.

**Gruys, Kjerstin** and Christin Munsch. “More Privilege, Less Homework: Class, Race, Masculinity and Scholastic Effort at an Elite College” Draft Available.

Hutson, David and **Kjerstin Gruys.** (equal authorship) “Aesthetic Labor.” Invited chapter for the Oxford *Handbook of the Sociology of the Body and Embodiment*. Edited by Natalie Boero and Katherine Mason.

**Gruys, Kjerstin.** *True to Size?: A Social History of Clothing Size Standards in the U.S. Ready-to-Wear Fashion Industry.* Book manuscript, proposal in progress.

### Other Publications

2017 **Kjerstin Gruys.** “Analyzing the Aesthetic Labor of High-Maintenance Hair.” ASA Section on Sociology of the Body and Embodiment blog.  
<http://sectionbodyembodiment.weebly.com/blog/the-aesthetic-labor-of-high-maintenance-hair>

2015 Bridges, Tristan, **Kjerstin Gruys**, Christin Munsch and CJ Pascoe. “Beyond ‘Bossy’ or ‘Brilliant’?: Gender Bias in Student Evaluations.” *Gender & Society* blog.  
<https://gendersociety.wordpress.com/2015/03/14/beyond-bossy-or-brilliant/>

## KJERSTIN GRUYS

- 2013 **Gruys, Kjerstin.** “Is Abercrombie & Fitch the enemy? Or is it us?” *Salon*. May 30.  
[http://www.salon.com/2013/05/30/is\\_abcrombie\\_fitch\\_the\\_enemy\\_or\\_is\\_it\\_us/](http://www.salon.com/2013/05/30/is_abcrombie_fitch_the_enemy_or_is_it_us/)
- 2013 **Gruys, Kjerstin.** “Eat, weigh, love? Why pre-wedding diets can lead to unhappily ever after.” *Washington Post*. July 14. [http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/eat-weigh-love-why-pre-wedding-diets-lead-to-unhappily-ever-after/2013/07/12/15cbee22-e283-11e2-a11e-c2ea876a8f30\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/eat-weigh-love-why-pre-wedding-diets-lead-to-unhappily-ever-after/2013/07/12/15cbee22-e283-11e2-a11e-c2ea876a8f30_story.html)
- 2010 **Gruys, Kjerstin.** “Fat and Identity Politics” *UCLA Center for the Study of Women Update Newsletter*. February, pp. 4-6.  
[http://www.csw.ucla.edu/publications/newsletters/ay-2009-10/month-of-feb-2010/article-pdfs/Feb10\\_Gruys.pdf](http://www.csw.ucla.edu/publications/newsletters/ay-2009-10/month-of-feb-2010/article-pdfs/Feb10_Gruys.pdf)

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

#### **University of Nevada, Reno**

Introduction to Sociology (Spring 2017)

Gender & Society (Spring 2017)

#### **Stanford University**

Why So Few? Gender and Diversity in Leadership (Winter 2015, Winter 2016)

Reading the Body: Medicine, Culture & Selfhood (Spring 2015, Spring 2016)

#### **University of California, Los Angeles**

Sociology of Gender (Summer 2011, Summer 2012)

Sociology of Deviant Behavior (Summer 2011, Summer 2012)

Gender, Appearance and Inequality (Spring 2010, Spring 2011, Spring 2012)

Sex, from Biology to Gendered Society (Fall 2009, Winter 2010, Fall 2010, Winter 2011)

*As Teaching Assistant*

Social Psychology (Spring 2009)

Contemporary Theory (Winter 2009)

Sociology of the Family (Fall 2008)

### **Mentorship Activities**

2010 - 2012 **Supervision and Mentoring of Undergraduate Teaching Assistants**

Rachel Thompson, Alexandra Natwick, Diana Nguyen

2011 - 2012 **Supervision and Mentoring of Undergraduate Research Assistants**

Rachel Thompson, Taylor Rohrbaugh

2009 – 2011 **Co-Facilitator**, “UCLA Multidisciplinary Sex & Gender Undergraduate Reading Group” (w/ David Frederick, UCLA Psychology)

## KJERSTIN GRUYS

### AWARDS & HONORS

- 2013 Winner, Best Graduate Student Paper, ASA Section on Consumers & Consumption
- 2013 Honorable Mention, Thompson Award for Best Graduate Student Paper, ASA Section on Organizations, Occupations & Work
- 2013 Honorable Mention, Graduate Student Best Paper Award, ASA Section on Labor & Labor Movements/Critical Sociology
- 2013 Received a “starred review” from *Publishers Weekly* for *Mirror, Mirror Off the Wall*, indicating “a book of exceptional quality.”
- 2012 Named as one of Huffington Post’s “Top 12 Body Image Heroes”
- 2010 Excellence in Teaching Award, Department of Sociology, UCLA

### FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

- 2013 – 2014 Dorothy Meier Dissertation Fellowship, Department of Sociology, UCLA
- 2013 Conference Travel Grant, UCLA Department of Sociology
- 2013 UCLA Summer Grant
- 2012 Conference Travel Grant, UCLA Department of Sociology
- 2011 Conference Travel Grant, UCLA Department of Sociology
- 2009 IRLE Summer Grant, Institute for Research on Labor & Employment, UCLA
- 2009 Travel Grant, UCLA Department of Sociology
- 2008 Graduate Summer Research Mentorship, Graduate Division, UCLA
- 2007 – 2008 Graduate Research Mentorship Fellowship, Graduate Division, UCLA
- 2007 Graduate Summer Research Mentorship, Graduate Division, UCLA
- 2006 – 2010 Graduate Fellowship, Sociology, UCLA (Declined 2007-2010)

### INVITED TALKS

- 2015 “Gender, Appearance & Social Inequality: Do Charitable “Style Makeovers” Help Unemployed Poor Women?” Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>.
- 2015 “Gender Diversity & Leadership in the Ophthalmology.” Keynote talk for Ophthalmic Women Leaders (OWL) event. Las Vegas, NV, November 14<sup>th</sup>.
- 2014 “Pathways to Feminist Public Sociology.” Women’s and Gender Studies Department, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. October 14th.
- 2014 “Beauty Politics.” Department of Sociology, Furman University, Greenville, SC. February 10th.
- 2014 “Body Image and Eating Disorder Awareness.” Vandy Go Figure group, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. February 9th.
- 2013 “Mirror, Mirror OFF the Wall: Understanding Body Image from the Personal to the Political.” Notre Dame High School, Boston, MA. September 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- 2012 “Mirror, Mirror OFF the Wall: Understanding Body Image from the Personal to the Political.” Women’s and Gender Studies Department, Saddleback College, Mission Viejo, CA. November 28<sup>th</sup>.

## KJERSTIN GRUYS

- 2012 “The Sociology of Gender and Sexuality.” Introduction to Sociology, Sonoma State University, Sonoma, CA. September 28<sup>th</sup>.
- 2012 “Mirror, Mirror OFF the Wall: How I learned to love my body by not looking at it for a year.” Women & Gender Resource Action Center, Trinity, Hartford, CT. April 4.
- 2010 “Does This Make Me Look Fat? Appearance and Workplace Inequality in a Women’s Plus Size Clothing Store.” Sociology of Gender, Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA. October 20<sup>th</sup>.

### CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

#### Conferences/Symposiums Organized

- 2015 “Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) – Bay Area Annual Research Symposium” October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015. San Francisco, CA.

#### Panels Organized

- 2017 “Author Meets Critic: *Contesting Intersex: A Dubious Diagnosis*, by Georgiann Davis” Pacific Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Portland, OR
- 2015 “Consumption and Embodiment: Intersections and Identities.” (w/ Dana Berkowitz) American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL.
- 2013 "Managing Media Exposure... as a Junior Academic." (w/ Christin Munsch) Sociologists for Women in Society, Summer Meeting. New York City, NY.

#### Papers Presented (Selected)

- 2017 “Vanity Sizing: How Clothing Sizing Standards Reproduce Ideologies of Embodied Gender and Age.” ZoneModa Conference on Fashion & Sizing. Rimini, Italy
- 2016 “Do ‘Style Makeovers’ Help Poor Women?: The Embodied Disadvantages of Gender, Race, Class & Body Size.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Seattle, WA.
- 2015 “Vanity Sizing: How Clothing Sizing Standards Reproduce Ideologies of Embodied Gender and Age.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. New York City, NY.
- 2015 “Unemployed, Female and ‘Too Fat’ for Professional Attire: Bodily Capital and the Reproduction of Inequality.” Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA.
- 2015 “True to Size? Clothing Size standards in the U.S. Fashion Industry and the Commercialized Embodiment of Gender, Age, and Body Size/Shape.” Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA.
- 2013 “Vanity Sizing: How Clothing Sizing Standards Reproduce Ideologies of Embodied Gender and Age.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. New York City, NY.
- 2012 "Living Mannequins: How Fit Models Accomplish Aesthetic Labor Through Bodily Capital and Embodied Cultural Capital." American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Denver, CO.

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- 2011 “I want to look nice, but not like I tried too hard...’: How Elite College Women Negotiate Conflicting Gendered Imperatives During Sorority Rush.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV.
- 2011 “Does this article make me look fat? How anti-fat attitudes are shaped by specific news representations of fat bodies.” (w/ David Frederick and Abigail Saguy) American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV.
- 2011 “‘Twig Arms’ in the Land of ‘Real Women’: Feminist Research Across the Size Boundary” Midwestern Sociological Association Annual Meeting. St. Louis, MO
- 2011 “Competing to Compete: Women’s Experiences of Sorority Rush at an Elite University” Midwestern Sociological Association Annual Meeting. St. Louis, MO.
- 2011 “Does this article make me look fat? How anti-fat attitudes are shaped by specific news representations of fat bodies.” (w/ David Frederick and Abigail Saguy) Midwestern Sociological Association Annual Meeting. St. Louis, MO.
- 2010 “‘Twig Arms’ in the Land of ‘Real Women’: Doing Feminist Research Across the Size Boundary” Pacific Sociological Association Annual Mtg. Oakland, CA
- 2010 “Does This Interaction Make Me Look Fat?: Fat Talk as Emotional Labor in a Woman’s Plus-Size Clothing Store” Presented at the Pacific Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Oakland, CA
- 2008 “Body Size, Gender, Race, and Moral Hierarchies: News Reports on Overweight and Eating Disorders” (w/ Abigail Saguy) American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Boston, MA
- 2008 “Does This Interaction Make Me Look Fat?: Fat Talk as Emotional Labor in a Woman’s Plus-Size Clothing Store” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Boston, MA (Roundtable Session)
- 2008 “Does This Interaction Make Me Look Fat?: Fat Talk as Emotional Labor in a Woman’s Plus-Size Clothing Store” Annual Chicago Ethnography Conference, Dekalb, IL
- 2008 “Does This Make Me Look Fat?: Fat Talk in a Woman’s Plus-Size Clothing Store” UCLA Thinking Gender Student Research Conference. Los Angeles, CA
- 2007 “Weighing Risk, Assessing Blame: News Reporting on Obesity in the U.S. and France.” (w/ Abigail Saguy and Shanna Gong) Law & Society Assn Mtg. Berlin, Germany

### **Discussant**

- 2015 “An Engagement with Heather Talley’s *Saving Face*.” Pacific Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Long Beach, CA.

### **APPLIED RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

- 2012 – **Program Evaluation Consultant**  
Media Advocacy Project for eating disorder prevention. (American Association of University Women/About-Face “Community Action Grant.”)  
Supervisor: Jennifer Berger, About-Face
- 2012 – 2013 **Program Evaluation Consultant**  
Body image disturbance prevention program for Asian-American adolescents. (UCSF Pediatrics/About-Face Partnership Grant) PI: Megan Vo, UCSF

## KJERSTIN GRUYS

### 2006 – 2009 **Graduate Research Assistant**

News media framing of “overweight” and eating disorders in France vs. U.S.  
How does science reporting on obesity shape attitudes toward fatness?  
P.I. Abigail Saguy, UCLA

### **SERVICE**

2016-2017 Nominations Committee, ASA Sex & Gender Section  
2016-2017 Nominations Committee, ASA Body & Embodiment Section  
2015 - Chair, Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS), Bay Area Chapter  
2015 - Author of “Dear KJ...” advice column for National Eating Disorders Association  
2013-2014 Summer Mini-Conference Committee, ASA Consumers & Consumption Section  
2013-2014 Article Selection Committee, ASA Organizations, Occupations & Work Section  
2013-2014 Nominations Committee, ASA Consumers & Consumption Section  
2013-2014 Communication Committee, ASA Body & Embodiment Section  
2012-2013 Nominations Committee, ASA Body & Embodiment Section  
2007-2011 Student Co-Coordinator, UCLA Gender Working Group  
Referee: *American Journal of Sociology*  
*Social Problems*  
*Gender & Society*  
*Social Psychology Quarterly*  
*Work & Occupations*  
*Qualitative Sociology*  
*Body & Society*  
*Fat Studies*  
*Sexuality & Culture*

### **AFFILIATIONS**

Member: American Sociological Association  
Sociologists for Women in Society (National and Bay Area Chapters)  
ASA Section on Sex & Gender  
ASA Section on Bodies & Embodiment  
ASA Section on Consumers & Consumption  
ASA Section on Race, Gender & Class  
ASA Section on Work & Occupations  
ASA Section on Cultural Sociology

### **REFERENCES**

Upon Request