

## Alicia Smith-Tran, Ph.D.

Email: [asmithtr@oberlin.edu](mailto:asmithtr@oberlin.edu)

Website: [aliciasmithtran.com](http://aliciasmithtran.com)

Twitter: [@aliciasmithtran](https://twitter.com/aliciasmithtran)

Pronouns: she/her

### Professional Positions

---

- 2021-Present Assistant Professor of Sociology, Oberlin College  
2018-21 Assistant Professor of Sociology, Texas Christian University

### Education

---

- 2018 Ph.D., Sociology, Case Western Reserve University  
2015 M.A., Sociology, Case Western Reserve University  
2011 M.A., Magazine, Newspaper, and Online Journalism, Syracuse University  
2010 B.A., Sociology, Oberlin College (with Honors), minor in African-American Studies

### Peer-Reviewed Publications

---

- 2023 **Smith-Tran, Alicia.** “‘There’s the Black Woman Thing, and there’s the Age Thing’: Professional Black Women on the Downsides of ‘Black Don’t Crack’ and Strategies for Confronting Ageism at Work.” *Sociological Perspectives*. Forthcoming.
- Slone, Michael R., Timothy Black, and **Alicia Smith-Tran.** “On the Job, Off the Books: Organizing Against Worker Misclassification in the Neoliberal Era.” *Critical Sociology* 49(1). Forthcoming.
- 2022 **Smith-Tran, Alicia.** “Expecting in Unexpected Times: Navigating a Pandemic Pregnancy.” *Journal of Autoethnography* 3(4). Forthcoming.
- Smith-Tran, Alicia,** and Tiffany Tien Hang. “Professor-Student Interaction in the Midst of Illness: A Collaborative Autoethnography.” *Humanity & Society* 46(2): 291-313.\*
- 2021 **Smith-Tran, Alicia.** “‘Finally Something for Us’: Black Girls Run! and Racialized Space-Making in Recreational Running.” *Journal of Sport and Social Issues* 45(3): 235-250.
- 2020 **Smith-Tran, Alicia.** “A Life Course Perspective on the Start of Black Middle-Class Women’s Recreational Running Careers.” *Sociological Spectrum* 40(3): 289-302.
- Smith-Tran, Alicia.** “Exploring the Benefits and Drawbacks of Age Disclosure among Women Faculty of Color.” *Teaching Sociology* 48(1): 3-12.
- 2019 **Smith-Tran, Alicia.** “The ‘Black Middle-Class Toolkit’ as a Framework for Understanding the Cultural Implications of Recreational Running.” *Sociological Focus* 52(3): 231-245.
- Winner of 2019 Faculty Prize for Diversity in Research, AddRan College of Liberal Arts, Texas Christian University.
- 2018 **Smith-Tran, Alicia.** “Muscle as Medicine: An Autoethnographic Study of Coping with Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome through Strength Training.” *Qualitative Research in Sport, Exercise and Health* 10(4): 476-492.

\*=co-authored with undergraduate student

- 2017 **Smith-Tran, Alicia.** “‘A Chocolate Chip in a Sea of Milk’: Black Women Reflect on the Challenges of Embodying the Runner Identity.” Pp. 21-40 in *Women in Sports: Breaking Barriers, Facing Obstacles*, edited by Adrienne N. Milner and Jomills Henry Braddock, II. Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger.
- Kahana, Jeffrey, Eva Kahana, and **Alicia Smith-Tran.** “A Life Course Perspective on Disability in Old Age.” Pp. 73-94 in *Disability and Aging: Learning from Both to Empower the Lives of Older Adults*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers.
- 2016 Kahana, Eva, Boaz Kahana, Kaitlyn Barnes Langendoerfer, Baruch Kahana, and **Alicia Smith-Tran.** “Elderly Cancer Survivors Reflect on Coping Strategies During the Cancer Journey.” *Journal of Gerontology and Geriatrics Research* 5(337).

### Other Publications

---

- 2022 **Smith-Tran, Alicia.** “Pink & Blue: Gender, Culture, and the Health of Children.” *Contemporary Sociology*. Book Review. Forthcoming.
- Smith-Tran, Alicia.** “Narrative Methods: Collaborative Autoethnography.” *SAGE Research Methods Series*. Video. Forthcoming.
- 2021 **Smith-Tran, Alicia.** “Black Girls RUN! and the Importance of Finding a Fitness Community.” *Engaging Sports*. Blog Post.
- 2020 **Smith-Tran, Alicia.** “The Invisible Vegan.” *Teaching Sociology*. Film Review.

### Manuscripts in Preparation

---

- Smith-Tran, Alicia.** “Colorblind Ageism: An Emergent Framework for Studying Intersectional Age Bias.” *In Preparation*.
- Smith-Tran, Alicia,** and Jenifer Bratter. “The Impact of Perceived Youthfulness on Intra-racial and Interracial Relations for Black Middle-Class Professionals.” *In Preparation*.
- Smith-Tran, Alicia,** and Jackie Oh. “A Sociological Analysis of Physician Biographical Videos.” *In Preparation*.\*
- Smith-Tran, Alicia,** and Isaac, Frances-Marie. “Portrayals of Black Women Physicians on Television Medical Dramas.” *In Preparation*.\*

### Grants, Fellowships, & Awards

---

- 2021 Career Enhancement Fellowship for Junior Faculty, Institute for Citizens and Scholars, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
- 2020-22 Beta Alpha Chapter Research Award, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, \$730 (with Lisette Saleh and Susan Fife)  
*Project Title:* “Certified Nurse Midwives’ Experiences of Their Working Relationships with Labor and Delivery Nurses in a Hospital Setting”
- 2019-20 AddRan Interdisciplinary Teaching Grant, Texas Christian University, \$3,000 (with Stacie McCormick [English], Claire Sanders [History], Brandon Manning [English], and Frederick W. Gooding [African-American Studies])

- Research and Creative Activities Fund, Texas Christian University, \$3,500
- 2019 Faculty Prize for Diversity in Research, AddRan College of Liberal Arts, Texas Christian University
- Junior Faculty Summer Research Program, Texas Christian University, \$6,000
- 2017-18 Mellon Mays Dissertation Grant, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, \$20,000
- 2017 Eva L. Pancoast Memorial Fellowship, Case Western Reserve University, \$1,565
- 2016-17 Advanced Study Fellowship, Department of Sociology, Case Western Reserve University, \$8,000
- 2016 College of Arts & Sciences Dissertation Fellowship, Case Western Reserve University, \$3,000
- Graduate Dean's Instructional Excellence Award, Case Western Reserve University
- Graduate Studies Enhancement Grant, Social Science Research Council, \$580
- 2015-16 Advanced Study Fellowship, Department of Sociology, Case Western Reserve University, \$15,000
- 2015 High Pass, Medical Sociology Comprehensive Exam, Department of Sociology, Case Western Reserve University
- Predocctoral Research Development Grant, Mellon Mays Graduate Initiatives Program, Social Science Research Council, \$2,507
- 2014 Lee Support Fund, Society for the Study of Social Problems
- Graduate Studies Enhancement Grant, Social Science Research Council, \$800
- 2013 Graduate Studies Enhancement Grant, Social Science Research Council, \$1,000
- 2010-11 Full-Tuition Scholarship, Newhouse School of Public Communications, Syracuse University
- 2010 Comfort Starr Award, Department of Sociology, Oberlin College
- Departmental Honors, Department of Sociology, Oberlin College
- 2008-10 Mellon Mays Undergraduate Research Fellowship, Oberlin College
- 2008 Jerome Davis Research Grant, Oberlin College

## Teaching Experience

---

### Oberlin College (Oberlin, OH)

- *Tenure-Track Faculty*
  - Autoethnography and the Life Course (Spring 2023; Spring 2022)
  - Introduction to Sociology: Rules for the Game of Life (Spring 2023)
  - Medical Sociology (Spring 2023; Fall 2022; Spring 2022)
  - Sociology of *Black-ish*: The Black Middle Class in America (Fall 2022)

### Texas Christian University (Forth Worth, TX)

- *Tenure-Track Faculty*
  - Aging & the Life Course (Fall 2020, Fall 2019, Fall 2018)
  - Health, Illness, & Medicine (Spring 2021, Spring 2020, Spring 2019, Fall 2018)
  - Introductory Sociology (Fall 2020, Spring 2020, Fall 2019, Spring 2019)

### Case Western Reserve University (Cleveland, OH)

- *Adjunct Instructor*
  - Introduction to Sociology (Fall 2016, Spring 2016)
  - Race & Ethnic Minorities in the U.S. (Fall 2017)
- *Teaching Assistant*
  - Criminology (Spring 2017)
  - Introduction to Sociology (Spring 2015, Fall 2014, Spring 2014)
  - Narrative Methods: Life Stories, Oral History, & Sociological Storytelling (Fall 2016)
  - Racial & Ethnic Minorities (Spring 2013)

## Conference Presentations

---

- 2022 **Smith-Tran, Alicia.** “‘There’s the Black Woman Thing, and there’s the Age Thing’: Confronting Colorblind Ageism at Work.” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association in Los Angeles, CA.
- 2020 **Smith-Tran, Alicia.** “Where Racism and Ageism Meet: Managing ‘Black Don’t Crack’ in the Workplace.” Annual Meeting of the Mid-South Sociological Association Annual Meeting on Zoom.
- Smith-Tran, Alicia.** “Age Impression Management and the Challenges of ‘Black Don’t Crack’ in the Workplace.” Accepted for Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems in San Francisco, CA (Meeting canceled due to COVID-19).
- 2019 **Smith-Tran, Alicia.** “The ‘Come to Jesus Moment’: Middle-Class Black Women Narrate Health Turning Points and the Onset of a Recreational Running Career.” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems in New York, NY.
- 2018 **Smith-Tran, Alicia.** “‘We Have a Place Here, Too’: The Social Significance of Black Girls Run.” Annual Meeting of the Association of Humanist Sociology in Detroit, MI.
- 2017 **Smith-Tran, Alicia.** “Running as a Tool of Middle-Classness.” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association in Montréal, QC.
- Smith-Tran, Alicia.** “‘It’s a Part of Me but it’s Not Who I Am’: Saliency of the Runner Identity among Middle-Class Black Women who Run.” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems in Montréal, QC.

- 2015 **Smith, Alicia.** “Black Women Run: A Life Story Study.” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association in Chicago, IL.
- Smith, Alicia.** “Becoming a Runner, Becoming Black: Life Story Interviews with Black Women who Run.” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems in Chicago, IL.
- Smith, Alicia.** “Life Story Interviews with Black Women who Run.” Annual Meeting of the North Central Sociological Association in Cleveland, OH.
- 2014 **Smith, Alicia.** “Beyond Black: An Intersectional Analysis of a Black Women's Running Organization.” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems in San Francisco, CA.
- Smith, Alicia.** “Black Girls Run: A New Social Movement.” Annual Meeting of the North Central Sociological Association in Cincinnati, OH.
- Black, Timothy, **Alicia Smith**, and Michael Slone. “The Costs and Consequences of Worker Misclassification.” Annual Meeting of the Association for Humanist Sociology in Cleveland, OH.
- 2013 **Smith, Alicia.** “The Social Barriers between African-American Women and Exercise: A Preliminary Examination.” Annual Meeting of the Association of Black Sociologists in New York, NY.
- Smith, Alicia**, Bradley Powell, and Mary Patrice Erdmans. “*16 and Pregnant*: Managing a Spoiled Identity in the Media.” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems in New York, NY.
- Smith, Alicia**, Bradley Powell, and Mary Patrice Erdmans. “Management of Stigmatized Identities on *16 and Pregnant*.” Annual Meeting of the North Central Sociological Association in Indianapolis, IN.

### **Other Conference Participation**

---

- 2022 Session Organizer, “Mental Health, Leisure, and Stress Relief,” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, to be held in Los Angeles, CA (Session canceled).
- 2021 Session Organizer, “The Body in Global Perspective,” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, held virtually due to COVID-19.
- Session Organizer and Presider, “Mind, Body, and Fitness,” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, held virtually due to COVID-19.
- 2020 Session Organizer and Presider, “Money, Morals, and Sport,” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, intended to be held in San Francisco, CA (Meeting canceled due to COVID-19).
- 2019 Session Organizer and Presider, “The Construction of ‘New’ Life Course Theory and its Application to Current Social Problems,” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems in New York, NY.

Session Organizer, Session on Medical Sociology, Annual Meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society in Chicago, IL (did not attend).

2017 Session Organizer and Discussant, Critical Dialogue on Race, Struggle, and Sport, Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems in Montréal, QC.

2014 Invited Participant, “Measuring the Diverging Components of Race in Multiracial America,” College Station, TX (Texas A&M University).

2013 Panelist, “Selecting a Graduate School,” Annual Meeting of the North Central Sociological Association, Indianapolis, IN.

Discussant, Roundtable Session on Race, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Research Fellowship Midwest Regional Conference, Oberlin, OH (Oberlin College).

### **Invited Talks**

---

2022 “Private Troubles, Peer-Reviewed: On Personal Growth and Writing Sociologically,” The Gene S. Uyeki Memorial Lecture, Case Western Reserve University, Department of Sociology

2021 “‘Finally Something for Us:’ Narratives of Black Women Challenging Stereotypes and Creating Community with Physical Activity,” Public Lecture, Oberlin College, Department of Sociology, held virtually due to COVID-19

“Getting a Job After Graduate School,” Panelist, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program Midwest Regional Conference, held virtually due to COVID-19

2020 “Both/And: An Exploration of Bi- and Multiracial Identities,” Panelist, The Ellipsis Institute for Women of Color in the Academy, held virtually due to COVID-19

“COVID-19 and Race,” Panelist, Legal Aid of Northwest Texas, held virtually due to COVID-19

### **Service to the University, Profession, and Community**

---

Department/College/University

➤ *Oberlin College*

- General Faculty Committee Member, Athletics (2022-Present)
  - Search Committee Member, Head Men’s Basketball Coach (May 2022)
- General Faculty Committee Member, Undergraduate Research (2022-Present)
- Mentor, Oberlin Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship
  - Jackie Oh, 2022

➤ *Texas Christian University*

- Women’s Health Initiative, Faculty Advisor (2021)
- Women & Gender Studies (WGST) Undergraduate Awards Committee (2021)
- AddRan Festival, Judge, AddRan College of Liberal Arts (Spring 2021; Spring 2019)
- McNair Research Scholars Mentor (2020-21)
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Committee Member (2019-21)
- TCU NAACP, Faculty Advisor (2019-21)
- Campus Community Response Team (CCRT), Member, (2020-21)
- Advisory Committee, Department of Sociology & Anthropology (2019-20)
- Common Reading, Facilitator (Fall 2019)

- TCU NAACP Field Day, Team Captain (Fall 2019)
- Honors Committee Member (Sarah Taetz, Biology, Spring 2019)
- Invited Speaker, “Health Disparities Affecting Black Americans,” TCU NAACP (Spring 2019)
- Porterfield Paper Award, Judge, Department of Sociology & Anthropology (Spring 2019)
- Invited Speaker, “Natural Hair in the Media,” panel hosted by NaturallyMi (Fall 2018)
- *Case Western Reserve University*
  - President of the Sociology Graduate Student Association (2014-16)
  - Graduate Student Representative, Department of Sociology (2014-15)

#### Professional

- Associate Editor, *Humanity and Society* (2020-22)
- Chair, Sport, Leisure & the Body Division, Society for the Study of Social Problems (2019-21) [elected position]
- Newsletter Editor, Section for the Sociology of Sex & Gender, American Sociological Association (2014-16)
- Reviewer: *Critical Public Health; Journal of Elder Policy; Qualitative Research in Sport, Exercise & Health; Sex Roles; Sociology of Sport Journal; Teaching Sociology*

#### **Other Academic/Professional Training & Certifications**

---

- FACTUALITY Diversity Training (Spring 2020)
- Facilitator Training, Texas Christian University (Fall 2019)
- Intentional Dialogue Training, Texas Christian University (Summer 2019)
- Faculty Success Program, National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity (Summer 2019)
- Safe Zone Training, Texas Christian University (Spring 2019)
- Workshop on Creating Accessible Content, Texas Christian University (Spring 2019)
- NVivo Qualitative Research Software Training Program, Cleveland, OH (Fall 2015)
- Future Faculty Certificate, Case Western Reserve University (Fall 2013)