

BRENNA M. HELM, M.A.

Curriculum Vitae
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School of Criminal Justice
Michigan State University
655 Auditorium Road
East Lansing, MI 48824

Research Interests: Extremism, hate/bias crimes, extremists' use of online spaces, male supremacy, far right extremism, deviant/extremist subcultures, gender/sexuality, qualitative methods, social network analysis, group-based trajectory modeling

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Webpage: brennahelimportfolio.com

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

2019 – 2024 **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)**

School of Criminal Justice, Michigan State University

Committee Members: Dr. Thomas J. Holt (Chair), Dr. Steven Chermak, Dr. Karen Holt, Dr. Maura Conway

(Forthcoming) Dissertation Title: *An Examination of Racial and Ethnically Motivated Extremist Women's Discourse and Identity Constructions Across Digital and Media Platforms*

2017 – 2019 **Master of Arts (M.A.)**

Graduate Assistant, Advisor(s): Dr. Thomas Vander Ven

Department of Sociology & Anthropology, Ohio University

Committee Members: Dr. Thomas Vander Ven (Chair), Dr. Howard Welser, Dr. Christine Mattley

Thesis Title: *Communication in a Technologically Mediated Hookup Culture: Experience and Expectation Fulfillment of Mobile Dating and Hookup App Users*

2013 – 2017 **Bachelor of Arts with Distinction (B.A.)**

Majors: Psychology; Sociology/Criminology

Minor: Women's Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Department of Psychology; Sociology; Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Otterbein University

Distinction Thesis: *Separation of Church and State: Stratified Access to Reproductive Healthcare in The United States*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Aug 2023 – Dec 2023 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**

School of Criminal Justice, Michigan State University

CJ292: Methods of Criminal Justice Research

Supervisor: Dr. Steve Chermak

Aug 2022 – May 2023 **Graduate Research Assistant**

School of Criminal Justice, Michigan State University

Advisor: Dr. Steve Chermak; Duties included assisting on funded grant projects, etc.

Aug 2022 – Dec 2022 **Teaching Assistant**

Gary Rudd

School of Criminal Justice, Michigan State University

CJ445: Cybercrime & Cybersecurity (*Online Course*)

Duties included grading assignments and exams, as well as providing support in managing the online course page (D2L).

- June 2021 – Mar 2023 **Grant Project Research Assistant**
Vergani, Matteo, Barbara Perry, Joshua D. Freilich, Steven M. Chermak, and Ryan Scrivens. (2020-2023). Public Safety Canada, Campbell Collaboration Crime and Justice Coordinating Group. “Scientific Knowledge and Approaches to Defining and Measuring Hate Crime, Hate Speech and Hate Incidents.” \$268,485 USD.
- Aug 2019 – May 2022 **Graduate Research Assistant**
School of Criminal Justice, Michigan State University
Advisor: Dr. Ryan Scrivens; Duties included serving as a data manager overseeing undergraduate coding assistants, assisting on funded grant projects, etc.
- Aug 2019 – May 2020 **Graduate Research & Teaching Assistant**
School of Criminal Justice, Michigan State University
Advisor: Dr. Christina DeJong; Duties included research and coding responsibilities, as well as involvement in undergraduate courses by way of grading assignments, projects, and serving as a resource for students.
- June 2018 – May 2019 **Teaching Assistant**
Dr. Thomas Vander Ven
Department of Sociology & Anthropology, Ohio University
SOC1000: Introduction to Sociology (*Online Course*); SOC2600: Criminal Justice; SOC3600: Criminology; SOC3630: Juvenile Delinquency

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

- Welser, H.T., **Helm, B.**, & Vander Ven, T. 2023. “Swipe for your right to party: Masculinity, social structure, and mediated relations in college drinking patterns.” *Sociological Focus*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00380237.2023.2227795>
- Liggett O’Malley, R. and **Helm, B.**. 2022. “The Role of Perceived Injustice and Need for Esteem on Incel Membership Online.” *Deviant Behavior*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01639625.2022.2133650>
- Helm, B.**, Scrivens, R., Holt, T.J., Chermak, S.M., & Frank, R. 2022. “Examining an Incel Subculture on Reddit.” *Journal of Crime and Justice*. <http://doi.org/10.1080/0735648X.2022.2074867>
- DeJong, C., Holt, K, **Helm, B.**, & Morgan, S. 2021. “‘A Human Being Like Other Victims’: The Media Framing of Trans Homicide in the United States.” *Critical Criminology* 29(1). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10612-021-09559-z>

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

- Helm, B.**, Vander Ven, T., & Welser, H.T. 2020. “Electric Hookups: An analytical review of the literature on the risks related to hookup app use among emerging adults.” *Recent Advances in Digital Media Impacts on Identity, Sexuality, and Relationships*, edited by M.F. Wright. Hershey, PA: IGI Global. doi:10.4018/978-1-7998-1063-6

Non-Peer Reviewed Publications

- Helm, B.** 2016. Crossing Ideological Bridges Post Election: Climbing The Empathy Wall. *Aegis*, Otterbein University, Westerville, OH.

Peer-Reviewed Articles – Under Review

- Helm, B.**, Holt, T.J., Scrivens, R., Wojciechowski, T.W., & Frank, R.. “Examining the Online Posting Behaviors of Incel Forum Members.”

Manuscripts In-Progress

Litterer, S., Holt, T.J., & **Helm, B.** “A Mixed-Methods Examination of Post Engagement on an Incel Subreddit.”

Helm, B., Cooper, C., & Pelletier, K.. “Online Communities and Gun Ownership: A Thematic Analysis of r/Firearms.”

Helm, B. & Lee, J.R. “Communication within a technologically mediated hookup culture: Experiences and expectation fulfillment among mobile dating app users.”

Helm, B. “Examining Mechanisms of Radicalization Within a Sample of Ideologically Motivated Cyber- and Offline Extremists.”

Research Briefs

Helm, B., Ryan Scrivens, Thomas J. Holt, Steven M. Chermak, and Richard Frank. (2022).

Examining Incel Subculture on Reddit. [Global Network on Extremism and Technology Insights](#).

Helm, B. and Roberta Liggett O’Malley. (2022). The Role of Perceived Injustice and Need for Esteem on Incel Membership Online. [Global Network on Extremism and Technology Insights](#).

GRANTS**Awarded**

Dr. Karen Holt and **Brenna Helm**. Michigan State University Office for Inclusion & Intercultural Initiatives, 2021-2022 Creating Inclusive Excellence Grant, “Creating and Sustaining an Inclusive Community within the School of Criminal Justice.” \$15,000 USD.

PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS**Conference Presentations**

Cooper, C., **Helm, B.**, & Pelletier, K. 2023. “Online Communities and Gun Ownership: A Thematic Analysis of r/Firearms.” American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA, USA. November 17, 2023.

Helm, B (*Lead Presenter*), Holt, T.J., Scrivens, R., Wojciechowski, T.W., & Frank, R. 2023. “Examining the Online Posting Behaviors and Trajectories of Incel Forum Members.” American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA, USA. November 15, 2023.

Helm, B. 2023. Roundtable Discussant, *The Role of Online Communications Platforms in Facilitating Intentional and Unintentional Sexual Violence*. American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA, USA. November 15, 2023.

Helm, B. 2022. “Examining Mechanisms of Radicalization Within a Sample of Ideologically Motivated Cyber- and Offline Extremists.” American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA, USA. November 17, 2022.

Helm, B. (*Lead Presenter*) & J. Lee. 2022. “An Exploratory Analysis of Online Dating App Expectations and Risk Factors Among College Students.” American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA, USA. November 16, 2022.

Helm, B. 2021. “Examining Incel Subculture on Reddit.” American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL, USA. November 19, 2021.

Helm, B. 2021. “Online Incel Subculture and the Technological Facilitation of Harm.” SECREV: The Cybersecurity Revolution. Montreal, Canada. May 21, 2021.

- Helm, B.** 2020. "The Undateables': Techniques of Neutralization Employed Within Online Incel Communities." Accepted at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Washington, District of Columbia, USA. November 18-21, 2020. (Cancelled due to COVID-19).
- Vander Ven, T., Mattley, C., & **Helm, B.** (*Lead Presenter*) 2019. "Looking for Hate: Methodological Challenges in Estimating Hate Crimes in a Sample of Homicides in the Trans Community." Presented at North Central Sociological Association, Cincinnati, OH. March 30, 2019.
- Mattley, C., **B. Helm** (*Lead Presenter*) & T. Vander Ven. 2018. "An Examination of Foreground Factors and Motives of Transgender Individuals." Presented at North Central Sociological Association, Pittsburgh, PA. April 7, 2018.
- Helm, B.** 2016. "Hegemonic Masculinity: Developing, Proliferating, and Accepting Gendered Violence." Northeast Ohio Undergraduate Sociology Symposium, Kent, OH.
- Helm, B.** & Atkinson, C. 2016. "College Students' Implicit Attitudes Towards Casual Sex." Ohio Undergraduate Psychology Research Conference, Lorain, OH.
- Helm, B.** 2015. "The Multidimensional Facets of Sexual Violence: An Analysis of the Cultural Responses to Sexual Violence Variances." Northeast Ohio Undergraduate Sociology Symposium, Kent, OH.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Aug 2023 – Dec 2023 **Instructor**, CJ292: Methods of Criminal Justice Research
School of Criminal Justice, Michigan State University
Taught in-person, approximately 40 students
Course Evaluation (*Forthcoming*)
- May 2023 – June 2023 **Instructor**, WS351: Gendered Violence & Intersections of Power
Women's and Gender Studies, Michigan State University
Asynchronous, 5 students
Course Evaluation – *Not available for courses with enrollment under 10 students*
- Jan 2019 – May 2019 **Instructor**, Introduction to Sociology
Department of Sociology & Anthropology, Ohio University
Taught in-person, course of 60 students
Course Evaluation (5 indicating positive rating):
- Instructor: 4.37
- Course: 4.27
- Aug 2018 – Jan 2019 **Instructor**, Introduction to Sociology
Department of Sociology & Anthropology, Ohio University
Taught in-person, course of 45 students
Course Evaluation (5 indicating positive rating):
- Instructor: 4.52
- Course: 4.24

Invited Talks & Presentations

- Helm, B.** "Unpacking Involuntary Celibacy: The Manosphere, Deviant Subcultures, and Networked Misogyny Online." Ohio University, Department of Sociology & Anthropology Department Colloquium series. April 5, 2023.
- Helm, B.** "The Digital Landscape of Extremism: Radicalization, Online Subcultures, and the Incel Movement." Presented for Otterbein University's Social Justice Speaker Series. April 3, 2023.

Helm, B. “Incels’ Use of Online Spaces and Networking Platforms.” Presented for Home Office Research, Information, and Communications Unit. August 3, 2022.

Helm, B. “Incel Subculture on Reddit.” Presented for the Global Network on Extremism and Technology (GNET) and the Cyber Threats Research Centre (CYRTEC), ‘Assessing (and Countering?) the Threat of Incel Violence?’. June 20, 2022.

Invited Guest Lectures

Helm, B. “Considerations for Research Using Online & Digital Platforms.” Presented in CJ 292: Methods of Criminal Justice Research, Michigan State University. April 2024. *Forthcoming*.

Helm, B. “Conducting Research Using Online Platforms.” Presented in CJ 292: Methods of Criminal Justice Research, Michigan State University. October 2023. *Forthcoming*.

Helm, B. “Critical Criminology: Theoretical Frameworks.” Presented in CJ 220: Criminology, Michigan State University. April 2023.

Helm, B. “Online Data & Research.” Presented in CJ 292: Methods of Criminal Justice Research, Michigan State University. November 2022.

Helm, B. “Electric Hookup: An Application of Routine Activities Theory.” Presented in CJ 220: Criminology, Michigan State University. February 2020.

Helm, B. “Sexual Deviance.” Presented in SOC 2610: Deviant Behavior, Ohio University. April, 2018.

Helm, B. “Contextualizing Sexual Violence.” Presented in Sociology Senior Capstone, Sexual Violence: Research, Prevention, and Advocacy, Ohio University. September 2018.

Helm, B. “An Examination of Foreground Factors and Motives in Homicides of Transgender Individuals.” Presented in Graduate Seminar & Senior Capstone, Ohio University. October 2018.

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

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| 2023 | <p>Institute for Research on Male Supremacism (IRMS) Fellowship Program
A research community seeking to address and better understand male supremacism. The IRMS facilitates a series of trainings and webinars, an internal mentorship program, a blog, and provides resources for effective media engagement and public-facing work. Learn more.</p> |
| 2023 | <p>RSAC Security Scholar Award
Michigan State University’s student recipient of the RSA Scholar Award for the 2023 RSA Conference. The award includes a full conference pass and financial support for travel and lodging expenses.</p> |
| 2022 | <p>VOX-Pol Network of Excellence
Summer School Travel Award</p> |
| 2021 | <p>Arthur F. Brandstatter Endowed Scholarship
Michigan State University School of Criminal Justice: East Lansing, Michigan</p> |
| 2019 | <p>Dept. of Sociology & Anthropology Excellence in Research
Ohio University: Athens, Ohio</p> |
| 2019 | <p>College of Arts & Sciences Outstanding Teaching Award
Ohio University: Athens, Ohio</p> |

- 2017 **Phyllis Weygandt-Auerback '57 Memorial Award**
Otterbein University: Westerville, Ohio
- 2017 **Ventresca Family Endowment for Research and Internship Award**
Otterbein University: Westerville, Ohio
- 2014 **Albert Lovejoy Award**
Sociology Department Award
Otterbein University: Westerville, Ohio

TRAINING PROGRAMS

- April 2023 **RSA Security Scholar Program**
RSA Conference, April 24-27, 2023. San Francisco, California.
Program Objectives: *Through carefully curated experiences, RSAC Security Scholar connects the hand-selected brightest up-and-coming cybersecurity students to thought leaders, industry luminaries, peers and conference attendees. The goal is to share knowledge, experience and connections to enrich the discourse on how to stay ahead of cyberthreats. (*See program site: [RSA Security Scholar Program](#))*

Research & Statistical Analysis

- July 2022 **Topics in Violent Online Political Extremism Summer School**
VOX-Pol Network of Excellence, July 4-8, 2022. Swansea University, Singleton Park Campus Swansea, Wales, United Kingdom
Program Objectives: *This week-long course is designed to provide postgraduate students and early-career researchers with an expert-led curriculum on the role of the Internet in violent extremism and terrorism. The course will include a range of teaching and learning styles, including lectures, workshops, and small-group activities. It will cover a range of issues and topics, such as: how violent extremists use the Internet; exploitation of online platforms; how we respond to this threat; research methods; ethics; and gender perspectives. (*See site: [VOX-Pol Summer School](#)).*
- May 2021 **Group-Based Trajectory Modeling**
Dr. Thomas Loughran and Dr. Daniel Nagin
Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR). May 17-21, 2021.
Training Completed: *This week-long program covered the basics of group-based trajectory modeling, as well as adding time-varying covariates, estimating joint trajectory models of comorbid behaviors, and linking trajectories with distal outcomes. Stata was utilized for this program.*

Teaching Certifications & Training

- 2023 **Teaching Criminology using Intersectional Pedagogies**
Dr. Christina DeJong, Michigan State University School of Criminal Justice
Training Completed: *This workshop covered eight topics pertinent to developing a course implementing intersectional pedagogy. The workshop included topics ranging from creating course objectives, developing and evaluating learning outcomes, decolonizing your syllabus, fostering student engagement, drafting a teaching philosophy, and developing a syllabus. Stemming from this workshop, I constructed a syllabus and course materials for the “Gendered Violence and Intersections of Power” course within the Women’s and Gender Studies program at Michigan State University (WS351).*

- 2018 **Teaching Seminar**
 Dr. Thomas Vander Ven, Ohio University Department of Sociology & Anthropology
Training Completed: *Seminar facilitated by Dr. Thomas Vander Ven, explored theoretically and empirically supported pedagogical techniques, emphasizing student learning outcomes as the foundation for constructing a course. Seminar included: writing a seminar, designing critical thinking assignments, exam and assessment methods; as well as developing and presenting lectures to undergraduate students. Culminating from this course is my [personal teaching eportfolio](http://www.brennahelmporfolio.com/), which can be found at: <http://www.brennahelmporfolio.com/>*
- 2018 **Online Facilitator Training**
 Sarah McCorkle, Center of Instructional Innovation
 Ohio University, Athens, Ohio
Training Completed: *This was a three-week course exploring online pedagogical techniques, utilizing various software and technology to facilitate the learning process and overcome obstacles unique to the online learning environment.*
- SERVICE**
- August 2023 - Present **Next Gen Program for New & Early Career Scholars**
 United States Representation and Steering Committee Member
 VOX-Pol Network of Excellence, Swansea University
I am the U.S. Representative on the steering committee working to develop and implement a program dedicated to serving new and early career scholars affiliated with the VOX-Pol Network of Excellence.
- August 2023 **New Student Orientation Speaker**
 Student speaker on School committee involvement, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee
 Michigan State University School of Criminal Justice, East Lansing, MI
I was invited to speak to incoming graduate students about the DEI committee, student involvement, current initiatives, and benefits of volunteering.
- November 2022 **Graduate School Applications: Small Group Workshop**
 Organizer and Speaker
 School of Criminal Justice, Michigan State University
This event followed the large-group information session on graduate school. Upper-class students who were planning or actively applying to graduate programs were invited to a presentation and workshop that covered the elements of an application, how to collect application materials, and how to cultivate an application for a specific program. Real application materials were collected from volunteer graduate students in the School of Criminal Justice, including applications for both master's and doctoral programs. Additionally, we discussed how to evaluate acceptance offers and considerations for selecting a program. The event included Q&A, as well as soliciting feedback on application materials from current graduate students.
- October 2022 **Graduate School Information Session**
 Co-Organizer and Speaker
 School of Criminal Justice, Michigan State University
This event targeted undergraduate students in the School of Criminal Justice at Michigan State University. Speakers provided information, insight, and guidance for attendees about the process of applying and selecting graduate programs.

August 2022 **New Student Orientation Speaker**
 Student speaker on School committee involvement, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee
 Michigan State University School of Criminal Justice, East Lansing, MI
I was invited to speak to incoming graduate students about the DEI committee, student involvement, current initiatives, and benefits of volunteering.

July 2021 - 2023 **The School of Criminal Justice's Graduate Committee**
 Doctoral Student Representative
 School of Criminal Justice, Michigan State University
As stated in the bylaws, the Graduate Committee is responsible for the formulation, review, and recommendations concerning the graduate degree offerings, the quality of graduate education, and the quality of graduate admissions.

July 2020 - Present **The School of Criminal Justice's Graduate Student Network**
 Graduate Student Mentor
 School of Criminal Justice, Michigan State University
As a graduate student mentor, I am tasked with providing guidance, assistance, and support to incoming graduate students; as well as providing my mentee with opportunities to build both personal and professional networks. Mentor-mentee relationships are ongoing and to date I have three mentees within the School of Criminal Justice.
 Mentees to date: Daniella Ferrante (2023); Maddison Vansaw (2022); Somin Kim (2022); Taylor Momenee, M.A (2021)

June 2020 - 2022 **Committee on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**
 Doctoral Student Representative
 School of Criminal Justice, Michigan State University
Led the creation of a supervisor-graduate assistant document meant to protect graduate students, foster open communication, and address the faculty-student power differential.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

2022 **Anti-Racist Primer**
 The Truth & Titus Collective
 Length of Training: 16 Hrs, [Website](#)
Training Completed: *This four-part virtual series is designed for institutions looking to invest in introductory-level anti-racist learning. The series will help individuals examine both themselves and their institution through the lens of racial equity. This work is interactive, intersectional, and rooted in truth-telling and love. Participation in all four sessions is required as each session builds into the next.*

- 2021 **Multicultural Competency Workshop**
 Michigan State University Extension Program
 Length of Training: 15 Hrs, [Website](#)
Training Completed: During this two-day Multicultural Self-Awareness Workshop, participants will explore ways in which to view interactions with people different from themselves. The emphasis is on differences rather than similarities. The workshop focuses on the individual and helps explore belief systems about multiculturalism to identify feelings and values from a multicultural perspective. This intensive learning experience focuses on increasing awareness of several areas of prejudice, discrimination and oppression, including racism, sexism, classism, heterosexism and ableism. Participants are encouraged to reflect on how they've learned to think about human differences and on the widespread tendency to view differences within a monocultural view of "better than/less than" thinking. In addition, participants have opportunities to apply what they're learning to work-related scenarios and explore alternative, more helpful behaviors.

PEER REVIEW/REFEREE ACTIVITIES

Journal of Interpersonal Violence
Journal of Crime and Justice
Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking

CONSULTING

- 2021 **Moonshot**
 Consulting on an incels intervention project.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- 2023 – **Institute for Research on Male Supremacism (IRMS)**
 2023 Fellow
- 2022 – **Graduate Women in Science (GWIS)**
 Chapter: Mid-Michigan
- 2019 – **Alpha Kappa Delta (International Sociology Honor Society)**
 Beta Chapter
 Ohio University, Athens, Ohio
- 2018 – **American Society of Criminology**
 Division Sections: Terrorism & Bias Crime; Women & Crime
- 2018 – **American Sociological Association**
 Division Sections: Crime, Law, and Deviance
- 2018 – 2020 **NCSA: North Central Sociological Association**
- 2015 – **Mortar Board Senior Honor Society: Teleiotes Chapter**
 Otterbein University, Westerville, Ohio
- 2015 – **Iota Iota Iota (Women's Studies Honor Society)**
 Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
 Otterbein University, Westerville, Ohio