

# Markella B. Rutherford

Curriculum Vitae

January 2005

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## Education

2004            Ph.D., Sociology, University of Virginia  
Dissertation: "The Sacralization of a Secular Ideal: The Ascendancy of  
Choice in American Culture"  
Committee: Murray Milner, Jr., James Hunter, Sarah Corse, Charles  
Mathewes

Comprehensive Examinations:  
Sociology of Religion, With Distinction; Social Stratification

1997            M.A., Sociology, University of Memphis

1995            B.A., Sociology, Mississippi College    Minors: Russian, History, English

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## Employment

2004 -            Assistant Professor of Sociology, Wellesley College

1999-2003        Instructor, Department of Sociology, University of Virginia

1997-2000        Teaching Assistant, Department of Sociology, University of Virginia

1996-1997        Instructor, Department of Sociology and Social Work, University of Memphis

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## Research Interests

Cultural sociology; Religion and the sacred; Status inequality; Discourse analysis, rhetoric and power;  
Social movements; Disability; Qualitative Methods; Historical-comparative analysis

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## Courses Taught

The Sociological Perspective; Social Inequality; Classical Sociological Theory; Contemporary  
Sociological Theory; Culture, Language, and Power; Sociology of Religion; Sociology of the Family

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## Publications

2004. "Authority, Autonomy, and Ambivalence: Moral Choice in Twentieth-Century Commencement Speeches." *Sociological Forum* 19:4, 583-610.
2004. "Interview: Sacralization of a Secular Ideal." *InSight* Newsletter Fall 2004, No. 11.
- Rutherford, Markella B. 2002. "A Bibliographic Essay on Individualism" *The Hedgehog Review* 4:1, 116-127.
- Rutherford, Markella and Mary Beth Breland. 1997. "Ebonics: The Road to Legitimacy?" In Xingzhong Li, Luis Lopez, and Tom Stroik, eds., *Papers from the 1997 Mid-America Linguistics Conference*. Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri, 567-576.

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## Professional Presentations

- "Authority, Autonomy, and Ambivalence: Moral Choice in Twentieth-Century Commencement Speeches" Paper Presented at The Ways We Celebrate: Holidays and Rituals as Seedbeds of Values, Conference sponsored by The Communitarian Network, George Washington University, April 2003
- "The Secular Sacred in Two Contemporary Rites of Passage" Paper Presented at the Eastern Sociological Society, Philadelphia, PA, March 2003
- "Training the Next Generation of Scholars" (with Sharon Hays), Panel Presentation at January Teaching Workshop, University of Virginia, January 2001
- "Variations in Norms for Speaking: The Influence of Status Relationships." Paper Presented at the American Sociological Association, Chicago, IL, August 1999
- "Ebonics: The Road to Legitimacy." (with Mary Beth Breland) Paper Presented at Mid-America Linguistics Conference, Columbia, MO, October 1997
- "Analysis of a Status Degradation Ceremony: The Case of Zoe Baird." (with James Preston & Graves Enck) Paper Presented at Southwestern Social Science Association, Houston, TX, March 1996

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## Memberships

American Sociological Association  
Eastern Sociological Society  
Fellow, Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture, University of Virginia  
Fellow, Center on Religion and Democracy, University of Virginia

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