

# MICHAEL DECESARE

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## EMPLOYMENT

### **Merrimack College**

Associate Professor of Sociology, 2011-Present  
Assistant Professor of Sociology, 2007-11

### **California State University, Northridge**

Assistant Professor of Sociology and *Teachers for a New Era* Faculty Fellow, 2004-07

## EDUCATION

### **University of Massachusetts**

Ph.D. in Sociology, 2004

### **Southern Connecticut State University**

M.S. in Sociology, 1999

### **University of Connecticut**

B.A. in Sociology and Certificate in Criminal Justice, 1997

## PUBLICATIONS

### **Books**

Zake, Ieva and Michael DeCesare (eds.). 2011. *New Directions in Sociology: Essays on Theory and Methodology in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland.

DeCesare, Michael. 2007. *A Discipline Divided: Sociology in American High Schools*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.

## **Chapters**

- DeCesare, Michael. 2011. "'Shut Up in Measureless Content': Toward Improving Measurement in Sociology." Pp. 145-159 in *New Directions in Sociology: Essays on Theory and Methodology in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, edited by Ieva Zake and Michael DeCesare. Jefferson, NC: McFarland.
- DeCesare, Michael. 2009. "Presenting Sociology's Four 'Faces': Problems and Prospects for the High School Course." Pp. 187-204 in *Handbook of Public Sociology*, edited by Vincent Jeffries. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.
- Boyns, David and Michael DeCesare. 2006. "Assessing Student Learning in Service-Learning Internships." Pp. 78-81 in *Quick Hits for Educating Citizens*, edited by James L. Perry and Steven G. Jones. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.

## **Peer-Reviewed Articles**

- DeCesare, Michael. 2008. "Sociology in U.S. High Schools." *Teaching Sociology* 36(3):254-261.
- DeCesare, Michael. 2007. "'Statistics Anxiety' Among Sociology Majors: A First Diagnosis and Some Treatment Options." *Teaching Sociology* 35(4):360-367.
- DeCesare, Michael. 2007. "A Textbook Approach to Teaching: Structural Uniformity among U.S. High School Sociology Courses." *The American Sociologist* 38(2):178-190.
- Emmelman, Debra S. and Michael DeCesare. 2007. "College Students' Perceptions of Their 'Best' and 'Worst' Courses and Instructors." *International Review of Modern Sociology* 33(2):227-244.
- DeCesare, Michael. 2007. "A 'Mixed Bag': The Structure of High School Sociology Courses." *Sociological Imagination* 43(1):5-17.
- DeCesare, Michael. 2006. "What Determines Whether Sociology is Taught in High School?" *Michigan Sociological Review* 20:211-229.
- DeCesare, Michael. 2006. "'It's Not Rocket Science!': High School Sociology Teachers' Conceptions of Sociology." *The American Sociologist* 37(1):51-67.
- DeCesare, Michael. 2005. "The High School Sociology Teacher." *Teaching Sociology* 33(4):345-354.
- DeCesare, Michael. 2005. "95 Years of Teaching High School Sociology." *Teaching Sociology* 33(3):236-251.

DeCesare, Michael. 2004. "'Apathetic, Active, or Antagonistic': A History of the American Sociological Association's Involvement in High School Sociology." *The American Sociologist* 35(1):102-123.  
**\*Awarded ASA History of Sociology Section's 2004 Graduate Student Paper Award**

DeCesare, Michael. 2003. "On Being a Graduate Teaching Assistant." *The Journal of Graduate Teaching Assistant Development* 9(3):149-158.

DeCesare, Michael. 2003. "The Impact of Sociological Orientation on Pedagogy: A Reconsideration of Teacher Training in Sociology Ph.D. Departments." *The American Sociologist* 34(3):73-96.

DeCesare, Michael. 2002. "The Lesson to be Learned: The Past Troubles and Future Promise of Teaching High School Sociology." *Teaching Sociology* 30(3):302-316.

DeCesare, Michael. 2000. "Public Attitudes Toward Euthanasia and Suicide for Terminally Ill Persons: 1977 and 1996." *Social Biology* 47(3-4):264-276.

### **Editor-Reviewed Articles**

DeCesare, Michael. 2011. "'Time for a New Curriculum for Social Statistics?' A Negative Answer." *Teaching/Learning Matters* 39(3):3-5.

DeCesare, Michael. 2009. "Casting a Critical Glance at Teaching 'Critical Thinking.'" *Pedagogy and the Human Sciences* 1(1):73-77.

DeCesare, Michael. 2008. "How the CLEP Introductory Sociology Exam Hurts: A Skeptical Response to Harrison and Singer." *Teaching/Learning Matters* 37(2):3-4.

DeCesare, Michael. 2008. "Rejoinder to Professor Persell." *ASA Footnotes* 36(2):8.

DeCesare, Michael. 2007. "AP or not AP: That is the Question." *ASA Footnotes* 35(9):6-7.

DeCesare, Michael and Afshan Jafar. 2007. "On Perpetuating Stereotypes and Ghettoizing Gender: A Comment on Epstein's 2006 ASA Presidential Address." *Social Problems Forum: The SSSP Newsletter* 38(2):24-27.

DeCesare, Michael. 2007. "Studying High School Sociology: Recent, Current, and Future Approaches." *Teaching/Learning Matters* 35(3):7-8.

DeCesare, Michael. 2005. "On Intellectual Collaborators and Resisters: A Response to Ferraro's 2004 SSSP Presidential Address." *Social Problems Forum: The SSSP Newsletter* 36(2):9-12.

DeCesare, Michael, Patricia O'Donnell Brummett, and Justin Weiss. 2005. "Mentoring to Overcome Struggles and Inspire Courage (MOSAIC)." Pp. 78-82 in *Service-Learning*

*and Undergraduate Sociology: Syllabi and Instructional Materials*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., edited by JoAnn DeFiore, Morten G. Ender, and Brenda M. Kowalewski. Washington, DC: American Sociological Association.

DeCesare, Michael and Jeff Lashbrook. 2004. "The Status of High School Sociology: Some Recommendations." *ASA Footnotes* 32(4):4-5.

DeCesare, Michael. 2004. "Bloom's Taxonomy." Pp. 69-73 in *Education and Technology: An Encyclopedia*, vol. 1, edited by Ann Kovalchick and Kara Dawson. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO.

DeCesare, Michael A. 2002. "Locating the State of High School Sociology on the Academic Map." *ASA Footnotes* 30(2):9.

### **Reviews**

DeCesare, Michael. In press. *Social Movement Studies* 10(3). Cruse, Harold. 2009. *Rebellion or Revolution?* Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

DeCesare, Michael. 2009. *Social Problems Forum: The SSSP Newsletter* 40(1):6, 50. Nicol, Neal and Harry Wylie. 2006. *Between the Dying and the Dead: Dr. Jack Kevorkian's Life and the Battle to Legalize Euthanasia*. Madison, WI: Terrace Books.

DeCesare, Michael. 2008. *Teaching Sociology* 36(2):165-167. Wagner, William E., III. 2007. *Using SPSS for Social Statistics and Research Methods*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge.

DeCesare, Michael. 2007. *Contemporary Sociology* 36(6):597-598. Bulman, Robert C. 2005. *Hollywood Goes to High School: Cinema, Schools, and American Culture*. New York: Worth.

DeCesare, Michael. 2007. *Humanity & Society* 31(2-3):277-278. Lavi, Shai J. 2005. *The Modern Art of Dying: A History of Euthanasia in the United States*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University.

DeCesare, Michael. 2006. *Teaching Sociology* 34(1):89-90. Schacht, Steven P. and Jeffery E. Aspelmeier. 2005. *Social and Behavioral Statistics: A User-Friendly Approach*. 2d ed. Boulder, CO: Westview.

DeCesare, Michael. 2005. *Contemporary Sociology* 34(4):420-421. Pusser, Brian. 2004. *Burning Down the House: Politics, Governance, and Affirmative Action at the University of California*. Albany, NY: State University of New York.

- DeCesare, Michael. 2004. *Contemporary Sociology* 33(1):103-105. Biddle, Bruce J. and Lawrence J. Saha. 2002. *The Untested Accusation: Principals, Research Knowledge, and Policy Making in Schools*. Westport, CT: Ablex.
- DeCesare, Michael. 2003. *Teaching Sociology* 31(4):500-502. Woodworth, Jessica. 2002. *The Virgin Diaries*. Brooklyn, NY: First Run/Icarus.
- DeCesare, Michael. 2002. *Teaching Sociology* 30(3):388-389. Yates, Pam. 2000. *Brotherhood of Hate*. Brooklyn, NY: First Run/Icarus.
- DeCesare, Michael. 2001. *Teaching Sociology* 29(3):376-377. McKinney, Kathleen, Frank D. Beck, and Barbara S. Heyl (eds.). 2001. *Sociology Through Active Learning: Student Exercises*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge.
- DeCesare, Michael. 2001. *Connecticut AAUP Vanguard* 21(4):4-5. Roth, John K. (ed.). 1997. *Inspiring Teaching: Carnegie Professors of the Year Speak*. Bolton, MA: Anker.
- DeCesare, Michael. 2001. *Connecticut AAUP Vanguard* 21(3):4. Ferber, Marianne A. and Jane W. Loeb (eds.). 1997. *Academic Couples: Problems and Promises*. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois.

### **WORK IN PROGRESS**

- DeCesare, Michael. *Death on Demand: Jack Kevorkian and the Right-to-Die Movement in America*. Book manuscript.
- DeCesare, Michael. "Editing Sociology: A Review of Introductory Sociology Readers." Invited review for *Teaching Sociology*.
- DeCesare, Michael. Review of DeFronzo, James. 2011. *Revolutions and Revolutionary Movements*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Boulder, CO: Westview. For *Mobilization*.

### **CONFERENCE SESSIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AND WORKSHOPS**

- Zake, Ieva and Michael DeCesare. 2011. "New Voices in Sociological Theory." *Annual meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society*. (Co-Organizer)
- DeCesare, Michael and Ieva Zake. 2011. "New Voices in Sociological Methodology." *Annual meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society*. (Co-Organizer)
- DeCesare, Michael. 2010. "'Shut Up in Measureless Content': Toward Improving Measurement in Sociology." *Annual meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society*.
- DeCesare, Michael. 2009. "Jack Kevorkian as a 'Marginal Movement Leader': Reconceptualizing Social Movement Leadership." *Annual meeting of the American*

*Sociological Association.*

DeCesare, Michael. 2008. "Sociology in U.S. High Schools." *Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association.*

DeCesare, Michael. 2007. "The Structure of High School Sociology Courses: Concerns, Causes, and Consequences." *Annual meeting of the Pacific Sociological Association.*

DeCesare, Michael. 2006. "A New Approach to Diagnosing and Treating 'Statistics Anxiety.'" *Annual meeting of the Pacific Sociological Association.*

DeCesare, Michael. 2005. "95 Years of Teaching High School Sociology." *Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association.*

DeCesare, Michael. 2005. "What Determines Whether Sociology is Taught in High School?" *Annual meeting of the Pacific Sociological Association.*

DeCesare, Michael. 2004. "'A Jack of All Trades and Master of None': The High School Sociology Teacher." *Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association.*

DeCesare, Michael and Jeffrey Lashbrook. 2003. Workshop on "Teaching Sociology in High School." *Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association.* (Co-Leader)

DeCesare, Michael. 2003. Institute on Statistical Analysis for Education Policy. *Annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association.* (Invited Participant)

DeCesare, Michael. 2003. "The Impact of Sociological Orientation on Pedagogy: A Reconsideration of Teacher Training in Sociology Graduate Departments." *Annual meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society.*

DeCesare, Michael. 2003. "Should We Train Sociology Graduate Students to Teach?" *University of Massachusetts, Sociology Graduate Student Colloquium.*

Emmelman, Debra S. and Michael DeCesare. 2002. "College Course and Instructor Evaluations: Some Results from a Survey of Students Enrolled in Lower-Level Sociology Courses." *Annual meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society.*

DeCesare, Michael. 2001. "Changes in Attitudes Toward the Voluntary Termination of Life as a Reflection of Public Confidence in Medicine and Belief in Individual Autonomy." *Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association.*

DeCesare, Michael. 2000. "Correlates of Attitudes Toward Euthanasia, 1977 to 1996." *Annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems.*

DeCesare, Michael. 1999. "Behavior at Stop Signs: A Matter of Convenience and Threat of Danger." *Annual meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society*.

## **GRANTS, HONORS, AND AWARDS**

### **American Sociological Association**

SAGE/Pine Forge Teaching Innovations & Professional Development Award, 2009  
Teaching Enhancement Fund Grant, 2005-06  
History of Sociology Section's Graduate Student Paper Award, 2004

### **Merrimack College**

Faculty Development Grant, 2010  
Faculty Development Grant, 2008-09

### **California State University, Northridge**

Faculty Summer Research Support Grant, 2006  
Faculty Research Grant, 2005-06  
Faculty Summer Research Support Grant, 2005  
New Faculty Research Grant, 2004-05

### **University of Massachusetts**

Graduate School Fellowship, 2003-04  
Andy B. Anderson Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor in Sociology, 2002  
Division of Continuing Education Certificate of Appreciation for Demonstrating Excellence in Teaching, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

### **American Sociological Association**

Editorial Board, *Teaching Sociology*, 2009-Present  
Publications Committee, Section on Teaching and Learning, 2009-Present  
Webmaster, Section on Teaching and Learning, 2009-Present  
Webmaster, Section on Collective Behavior and Social Movements, 2009-11  
Massachusetts Representative for High School Sociology, 2007-Present  
California Representative for High School Sociology, 2005-07

### **Pacific Sociological Association**

Committee on Membership, 2007-08  
Committee on Teaching, 2007-08

### **Merrimack College**

At-Large Member, Faculty Senate Executive Committee, 2010-11  
Treasurer, Faculty Senate Executive Committee, 2009-10  
Library Advisory Committee, 2009-Present  
Calendar Advisory Committee, 2008-09

College Wide Council, 2007-09

Alpha Kappa Delta Chapter Advisor, Department of Sociology and Criminology, 2008-Present

Webmaster, Department of Sociology and Criminology, 2007-Present

Student Association of Sociology Advisor, Department of Sociology and Criminology, 2007-08

### **California State University, Northridge**

*Teachers for a New Era* Faculty Fellow, 2004-07

University Assessment Department Liaison, 2005-06

Teacher Education Committee, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences (CSBS), 2005-07

Social Science Subject Matter Course Development Committee, CSBS, 2005-07

Social Science Subject Matter Program Committee, CSBS, 2004-07

Committee on Program Review and Assessment, Department of Sociology, 2004-07

Faculty Retreat Committee, Department of Sociology, 2004-07

Career Fair Committee, Department of Sociology, 2004-07

Professional Sociology Student Association Faculty Advisor, 2004-07

### **University of Massachusetts (Graduate Student Representative)**

Committee for Intellectual Activities, Department of Sociology, 2003-04

Recruitment Committee, Department of Sociology, 2003

Undergraduate Policy Committee, Department of Sociology, 2002-03

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

Community Gang Prevention

Culture and Personality

Introduction to Sociology

Research Methodology

Social Movements

Social Problems

Sociology of Education

Statistical Analysis

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND ACTIVITIES**

### **Member**

American Association of University Professors

American Sociological Association

Eastern Sociological Society

### **Referee**

*American Journal of Sociology*

*American Sociological Review*

*Social Forces*

*Social Problems*

*Social Science and Medicine*

*Sociology of Education*

*Teaching Sociology*

## **AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION**

History of Sociological Thought  
Research Methods  
Social Movements

Sociology of Education  
Statistics  
Teaching and Learning

## **REFERENCES**

Available upon request