

John O. Curra
Vitae

I. Biographical Information

Dr. John Curra
Full Professor
Department of Anthropology, Sociology, and Social Work
Faculty member at Eastern Kentucky University since 1975

II. Teaching

A. Courses

Social Deviance
Criminology
Introductory Sociology
Social Problems
Juvenile Delinquency
Social Psychology
Methods and Statistics
Sexism in Society

B. Teaching Accomplishments

Teacher in the NOVA program, 2004-05.

I created Sociology 313 (Social Deviance) so that it could become part of the university curriculum.

I have taught intersession and summer school courses every summer for the past twenty years.

During my tenure at ECU, I have taught off-campus courses throughout the region (Introductory Sociology; Criminology; Social Deviance).

I was an instructor (1987-1992) for the United States Air Force Police Administration course that is sponsored by the College of Justice and Safety.

I have been the senior thesis mentor for five honors program students.

During my career at ECU, I have directed over thirty students in independent studies (Sociology 590).

I was able to get a criminology/deviance minor established as part of the university curriculum.

C. Teaching Awards

Excellence in Teaching Award, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences,
1980-81

Award of Achievement for Teaching Excellence (given by Chi Omega
Sorority)

Student Marshal (December graduation, 2001)

EKU Foundation Professor 2005-2007

III. Scholarship

A. Books and Articles

Curra, John. 2006. "Sociocultural Relativism." An essay written for inclusion in the *Encyclopedia of Sociology*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

Curra, John. 2006. "The Big Bang Theory and Human Origins." An essay written for inclusion in the *Encyclopedia of Anthropology*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Curra, John, Paul Paolucci. 2004. *Engaging the Sociological Imagination: An Invitation for the Twenty-first Century*. Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt.

Curra, John. 2005. *The Human Experience Reader: Selections from Sociology*. Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon.

Curra, John. 2005. Food Fights and Group Boundaries. Pp. 25-33 in *The Human Experience Reader: Selections from Sociology*, edited by John Curra. Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon.

Curra, John. 2005. The Social Construction of Appearance. Pp. 72-79 in *The Human Experience Reader: Selections from Sociology*, edited by John Curra. Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon.

Curra, John. 2005. Relativity and Theories of Deviance. Pp. 120-128 in *The Human Experience Reader: Selections from Sociology*, edited by John Curra. Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon.

Curra, John. 2003. *The Human Experience: Insights from Sociology*. Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon.

Curra, John. 2002. "The Dynamic Nature of Deviance." Pp. 175-181 in *Criminological Theories: Bridging the Past to the Future*, edited by Suzette Cote. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Curra, John. 2000. *The Relativity of Deviance*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Curra, John. 2000. "Ideal Appearance, Cultural Concept of." Pp. 1-5 in *Encyclopedia of Criminology and Deviant Behavior*, Volume IV, edited by Charles Faupel. Philadelphia, PA: Brunner/Mazel.

Curra, John. 1999. "The Social Organization of Serial Murder: The Story of Theodore Robert Bundy." Pp. 243-247 in *The Sociological Outlook*, 6th edition, by Reid Luhman. San Diego, CA: Collegiate Press.

Curra, John. 1996. "The Contours of Crime." Pp. 55-68 in *Exploring the Frontier of the Future: How Kentucky Will Live, Learn and Work*, edited by Michael Childress, Billie Sebastian, Peter Schirmer, and Michal Smith-Mello. Frankfort, KY: The Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center.

Curra, John. 1994. *Understanding Social Deviance*. New York: HarperCollins.

Curra, John. 1994. *Instructor's Manual to Accompany Understanding Social Deviance*. New York: HarperCollins.

Curra, John. 1981. Book Reviews of *The Criminological Enterprise*, by Don Gibbons, and *The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison*, by Jeffrey Reiman. *Teaching Sociology* 8:369-372.

B. Presentations

Curra, John. 2004. "Predatory Violence." A lecture presented to the Richmond Writers' Guild. June 17.

Curra, John. 2003. "Jack the Ripper: Case Reopened." A lecture and slide presentation, sponsored by the Student Sociology Association, April 14.

Curra, John. 2000. "Social Constructions of Crime and Deviance." A paper presented at an Eastern Kentucky University forum entitled Constructing Crime and Deviance: Popular Culture and Media Impact. Richmond, KY. February.

Curra, John. 1999. "A Potpourri of Perverts." A lecture and slide presentation given at Cincinnati State College. Cincinnati, OH. October.

Curra, John. 1999. "Continuities in Killing." A lecture and slide presentation given at Cincinnati State College. Cincinnati, OH. March.

Curra, John. 1998. "Theodore Bundy: A Killer For Our Time." A lecture and slide presentation given at Cincinnati State College. Cincinnati, OH. November.

Curra, John. 1996. "Contours of Crime Revisited." A lecture and slide presentation given at the meeting of The Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center. Louisville, KY, November.

Curra, John. 1988. "The Mystification of Serial Killing." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Kentucky Academy of Science. Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY. November.

Curra, John and Steve Savage. 1985. "Victimization, Etiology, and Social Reaction." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Kentucky Academy of Science. Morehead State College, Morehead, KY. November.

Curra, John and Steve Savage. 1983. "Accounting for Suicide." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Kentucky Academy of Science. University of Louisville, Louisville, KY. November.

Curra, John and Steve Savage. 1981. "The Female Weightlifter as Double Deviant." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Kentucky Academy of Science. Murray State University, Murray, KY. November.

Curra, John and Steve Savage. 1980. "Magic and Sociology." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Kentucky Academy of Science. Transylvania University, Lexington, KY. November.

Curra, John. 1979. "The Rise and Fall of Putative Deviance." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society. Atlanta, GA. April.

C. Work in Progress

Curra, John. *Malignity, Mayhem, and Murder: The Social Construction of Predatory Violence.*

Curra, John. "Pathology, Basic Human Rights, and Sociocultural Relativity."

IV. Service

A. University and College

In 2005 to 2006 I was appointed to be a member of the university strategic planning committee.

Chair of the writing subcommittee, which was responsible for preparing the

university's strategic planning document for 2006 to 2010.

I served a three-year term on the university promotion and tenure committee from Fall 1996 to Spring 1999.

In the 1998-1999 school year I was a member of the promotion and tenure committee for the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Sabbatical leave committee member for the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences in the 1995-1996 school year.

I was a member of the university parking appeals committee in the 1985-1986 school year.

I was a faculty senator from 1979 to 1982.

I served as a member of the promotion and tenure committee for the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences in the 1985-1986 school year; then again in the 1988-1989 school year; and once again in the 1992-1993 school year.

I served on the sabbatical leave committee for the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences in the 1986-1987 school year and then again in the 1993-1994 school year.

I was an organizer for the faculty retreat for the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences at Maywoods in the 1989-1990 school year.

I was a member of the college curriculum committee in the 1984-1985 school year.

Faculty sponsor for Students for a Sensible Drug Policy from 2001-2003

Faculty sponsor for honors students (2001-present)

B. Department

Sociology coordinator (Fall 2000-present)

Chair of Promotion and Tenure Committee (2005-06)

Promotion and Tenure Committee (2004-05)

Chair Search Committee (2004-05)

Executive Committee member (2003-present)

Promotion and Tenure Committee (2003-2004)

Sabbatical Leave Committee (2002-2004)

Social Work Secretary Search Committee (Spring 2002)

Sociology Search Committee (2003-2004)

Student adviser (1995 to present).

Chair of the sociology search committee (2001-2002).

Chair of promotion and tenure committee in 2000-2001.

In the 1996-1997 school year, I was a member of the promotion and tenure committee.

I am a former faculty sponsor of the Student Sociology Association (SSA).

I have been on many departmental committees during my twenty-nine years at Eastern Kentucky University. My service appointments include multiple appearances on promotion and tenure committees (approximately every other year), equipment committees, academic practices committees, search committees, evaluation of chair committees, and Spotlight Day committees.