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VITA

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**Education**

Ph.D. 1983 Indiana University, Department of Sociology  
M.A., 1979 Indiana University, Department of Sociology  
B.A., 1974 University of Texas at Austin, Department of  
Sociology.

**Professional History**

1993-Present Associate Professor. Department of Sociology.  
Purdue University.  
2005-Present. Director of Graduate Studies. Department of  
Sociology. Purdue University.  
2004-Present. Visiting Research Fellow. Sagamore Institute  
for Policy Research.  
1989-1993 Assistant Professor. Department of Sociology and  
Anthropology. Purdue University.  
1988-1989 Associate Professor. Department of Sociology.  
University of New Orleans.  
1984-1988 Assistant Professor. Department of Sociology.  
University of New Orleans.  
1983-1984 Visiting Assistant Professor. Department of  
Sociology. Loyola University of Chicago.

### **Areas of Specialization**

Public Discourse and Social Problems  
Deviance and Social Control  
Interpretive Theory and Methods

### **Publications: Articles and Chapters**

Spencer, J. William. Forthcoming (April, 2011). *The Paradox of Youth Violence*. Under contract with Lynne Rienner.

Muschert, Glenn and J. William Spencer. May and June 2009. Introductions to Issue Editors for *American Behavioral Scientist* on "The Lessons of Columbine"

Spencer, J. William and Glenn W. Muschert. 2009. "The Contested Meanings of the Crosses of Columbine." *American Behavioral Scientist* 52 (10): 1371-1386

Einwohner, Rachel and J. William Spencer. 2005. "That's How We Do Things Here: Local Culture and the Construction of Sweatshops and Anti-Sweatshop Activism in Two Campus Communities." *Sociological Inquiry* 75 (2) 249-272.

Spencer, J. William. 2005. "It's Not as Simple as it Seems: Ambiguous Culpability and Ambivalent Affect In Media Representations of Violent Youth." *Symbolic Interaction* 28 (1) 47-65.

Spencer, J. William. 2001. "Self-Presentation and Organizational Processing in a Human Service Agency." In *Institutional Selves: Personal Troubles in a Postmodern World*, ppg. 158-175, edited by Jaber F. Gubrium and James A. Holstein. New York: Oxford University Press.

Spencer, J. William. 2000. "Initial Notes on the Appropriation of Cultural Discourses in Social Problems Claims-Making." In *Perspectives on Social Problems*, Vol. 12, ppg. 24-40, edited by Gale Miller and James Holstein. Greenwich, CT: JAI Press.

Ulmer, Jeffery T. and J. William Spencer. 1999. "The Contributions of an Interactionist Approach to Research and Theory on Criminal Careers." *Theoretical Criminology* 3(1): 95-124.

**Articles and Chapters: Continued**

Spencer, J. William and Jennifer McKinney. 1997. "'We Don't Pay for Bus Tickets, But We Can Help You Find Work': The Micropolitics of Trouble in Human Service Encounters". *Sociological Quarterly* 38(1): 185-203.

Spencer, J. William. 1996. "From Bums to the Homeless: The Social Construction of Homelessness in the 1980's". *Perspectives on Social Problems* (8), edited by J. Holstein and G. Miller. Greenwich, CT: JAI Press.

Spencer, J. William. 1994. "On the Mutual Relevance of Ethnography and Discourse." *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 23 (3):267-279.

Spencer, J. William and Elizabeth Triche. 1994. "Media Constructions of Risk and Safety: Differential Framings of Hazard Events." *Sociological Inquiry* 64 (1):199-215

Spencer, J. William. 1994. "Homeless in River City: Client Work in Human Service Encounters." Ppg. 29-45 in *Perspectives on Social Problems* (6), edited by J.A. Holstein and G. Miller. Greenwich, CT: JAI Press.

Reprinted in *Social Problems in Everyday Life: Studies of Social Problems Work*, edited by G. Miller and J. Holstein. Greenwich, CT: JAI.

Seydlitz, Ruth, J. William Spencer and George Lundskow. 1994. "Media presentations of a Hazard Event and the Public's Response: An Empirical Examination." *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters* 12(3):279-301.

Spencer, J. William. 1993. "Making 'suitable referrals': Social Workers' Construction and Use of Informal Referral Networks." *Sociological Perspectives* 36:271-285.

Spencer, J. William. 1993. "Field Research on Human Service Encounters: Diverse Solutions to Some Common Problems." *Sociological Methods and Research* 21:372-393.

Spencer, J. William and Dean D. Knudsen. 1992. "Out-of-home Maltreatment: An Analysis of Risk in Various Settings for Children." *Children and Youth Services Review* 14:485-92.

**Articles and Chapters: Continued**

Spencer, J. William. 1992. "Negotiating Role Definitions and the Working Consensus in Self-work." *Sociological Inquiry* 62:292-307.

Spencer, J. William. 1992. "Using Sociolinguistic Data for the Evaluation of Case Processing in Human Service Organizations." *Sociological Practice Review* 3(1):8-15.

Spencer, J. William, Ruth Seydlitz, Shirley Laska, and Elizabeth Triche. 1992. "The Different Influences of Newspaper and Television News Reports of a Natural Hazard on Response Behavior." *Communication Research* 19(3):299-325.

Seydlitz, Ruth, J. William Spencer, Shirley Laska, and Elizabeth Triche. 1991. "The Effects of Newspaper Reports on the Public's Response to a Natural Hazard Event." *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters* 9(1):5-29.

Spencer, J. William and Kriss A. Drass. 1989. "The Transformation of Gender into Conversational Advantage: A Symbolic Interactionist Approach." *The Sociological Quarterly* 30(3):363-383.

Spencer, J. William. 1988. "The role of Texts in the Processing of People in Organizations". *Discourse Processes* 11:61-78.

Spencer, J. William. 1987. "Self-work in Social Interaction: Negotiating Role-identities". *Social Psychology Quarterly* 50 (June):131-142.

Drass, Kriss and J. William Spencer. 1987. (with Kriss A. Drass\*) "Accounting for Presentencing Recommendations: Typologies and Probation Officers' Theory of Office." *Social Problems* 34 (June):501-517.

Spencer, J. William. 1984. "Conducting Presentencing Investigations: From Discourse to Textual Summaries." *Urban Life* 13:207-227. Reprinted in: D. Kelly (ed.) *Criminal Behavior* (2nd edition).1990.

**Articles and Chapters: Continued**

Spencer, Jack W. 1983. "Accounts, Attitudes, and Solutions: Probation Officer-Defendant Negotiations of Subjective Orientations." *Social Problems* 30 (June): 570-581. Reprinted in:

D. Kelly (ed.) *Deviant Behavior* (3rd edition). 1989.

E. Rubington and M. Weinberg (eds.), *Deviance: An Interactionist Perspective* (5th edition). 1987.

(in part) in D. Neubauer, *America's Courts and the Criminal Justice System* (3rd edition). 1989.

**Publications: Book Reviews**

*Creating Fear* by David Altheide. *Contemporary Sociology*, 2004.

*Being Homeless: Textual and Narrative Constructions* by Amir B. Marvasti, 2004.

*Homeless in Paradise: A Map of the Terrain* by Rob Rosenthal. *Contemporary Sociology*, 1994.

*Checkerboard Square: Culture and Resistance in a Homeless Community* by David Wagner. *American Journal of Sociology*, 1994.

*Rules vs. Relationships: The Ethnography of Legal Discourse* by Conley and O'Barr. *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, 1994.

*The Sociology of Social Problems* by P. Horton, G. Leslie, and R. Larson. *Teaching Sociology*, 1989.

**Publications: Teaching**

Spencer, J. William. 2001. "Juvenile Delinquency". Ppg. 142-161 in *Syllabi & Instructional Materials for Courses in Juvenile Delinquency*", edited by M. Maume and R. Matthews. New York: American Sociological Association.

### **Work in Progress**

Shinkle, George and J. William Spencer. "Global Corporate Citizenship: Greenhouse Gas and the Automobile Industry - How Global Are They?" Under review.

Spencer, J. William. "Let's Hear it for Uncertainty: Ambiguity in the Constructionist Social Problems Project." Under revision.

Baird, Denise and J. William Spencer. "'Being Divorced is Better than being Married, but I wouldn't Wish it on Anyone': Narrative Constructions of Ambivalence in Post-Divorce Adjustment." Under revision.

Spencer, J. William. "'Homeless for Christmas': The Holidays as a Rhetorical Resource in Media Constructions of Persons Without Homes." In Preparation.

Spencer, J. William. "The Discursive Constituents of Sympathy Fatigue for the Homeless". Under revision.

### **Papers Presented**

Spencer, J. William. 2007. "Let's Hear it for Uncertainty: Ambiguity in the Constructionist Social Problems Project." Society for the Study of Social Problems.

Spencer, J. William. 2004. "The Discursive Constituents of Sympathy Fatigue for the Homeless." Society for the Study of Social Problems.

Spencer, J. William. 2002. "Violent Youth as the Evil Child: Appropriating Cultural Discourses in Media Constructions of a Social Problem." Society for the Study of Social Problems.

Spencer, J. William. 1999. "Constructing Claims by Appropriating Cultural Discourses." Society for the Study of Social Problems.

Spencer, J. William and Jennifer McKinney. 1995. "The Micropolitics of Trouble in Human Service Encounters with the Homeless: The Emergence and Management of Interactive Problematics." Midwest Sociological Society.

Ulmer, Jeffery and J. William Spencer. 1995. "The Limitations of Positivist Conceptions of Criminal Careers." American Society of Criminology.

***Papers Presented: Continued***

Spencer, J. William. 1994 "From Bums to the New Homeless: Cultural Images of the Homeless in the 1980's". North Central Sociological Association.

Spencer, J. William. 1993 "The Social Construction of Homelessness from 1980 to Present." Society for the Study of Social Problems.

Spencer, J. William. 1993 "Emotions and the Situated Construction of Biographies: Social Problems Work in Human Service Encounters." Midwest Sociological Society.

Spencer, J. William. 1992 "Community Responses to Hazard Events: Differential Media Framings of Hazard Events." Southern Sociological Society.

Spencer, J. William. 1991 "Stories from the Margin: Accounts for Homelessness in Client-Social Worker Encounters." American Sociological Association.

Spencer, J. William. 1991 "The Use of Sociolinguistic Data for the Evaluation of Case Processing in People Processing and Human Service Organizations." Pacific Sociological Association.

Laska, Shirley, J. William Spencer, Ruth Seydlitz, and Elizabeth Triche. 1990. "Citizen Responses to Media Reporting of a Natural Hazard: The Case of the 1988 Mississippi River Salt Water Intrusion." Southern Sociological Society.

Spencer, J. William. 1990 "A Working Paper on Aspects of a Social Service Delivery Network for the Homeless". Southern Sociological Society.

Spencer, J. William. 1990 "Aspects of Crisis Intervention with the Homeless." American Sociological Association.

Spencer, J. William and Kriss A. Drass. 1988. "Gender and Conversational Power: The Determinants of Assertiveness in Identity Negotiation". American Sociological Association.

Spencer, J. William and Dale Hughes. 1988. "The Use of Meta-communication in the Negotiation of Role- identities". Society for the Study of Symbolic Interactionism.

**Papers Presented: Continued**

Spencer, J. William. 1985 "Texts and Organizations: An Ethnomethodological Approach". Mid-South Sociological Association.

Drass, Kriss A. and J. William Spencer. 1985. "Typologies and Accounts: A Holistic Analysis of Social Control Decision-making". Society for the Study of Social Problems.

Spencer, J. William and Kriss A. Drass. 1985. "Role Taking and Altercasting: Self Work in Face-to-face Interaction". North Central Sociological Association.

Spencer, J. William. 1984 "Notes on the Use of Discourse and Textual Data for the Study of Criminal Justice Processing: The Case of Presentencing Investigations". American Sociological Association.

Spencer, J. William. 1982 "A Sociolinguistic Approach to the Processing of Clients in a Probation Department". North Central Sociological Association.

**Professional Activities**

**Member:**

Society for the Study of Social Problems  
Midwest Sociological Society  
North Central Sociological Association

**Frequent Reviewer:**

*Social Problems*  
*The Sociological Quarterly*  
*Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*  
*Sociological Inquiry*



### **Service**

2008. Session Organizer and Presider. Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP).
2002. Presider for 2 Sessions. SSSP.
2001. Organizer and Presider for 2 Sessions. SSSP.
2000. Organizer and Presider for Session. SSSP.
- 1996-1998. Chair, Theory Division. SSSP.
1997. Organizer and Presider for 3 Sessions. Chair of Student Paper Competition, Theory Division. SSSP.
1995. Organizer and Presider for 2 Sessions. SSSP.
1994. Guest Editor, Special issue of *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* on "Discourse and Ethnography".
1993. Organizer and Presider for Session. SSSP.
1993. Organizer and Presider for Session. North Central Sociological Association.
- Member of Scholarly Achievement Award Committee. NCSA. 1992-1993.
1985. Organizer and Chair for Session, **Ethnomethodology**. Mid-South Sociological Association.
1985. Organizer and Chair for Session, **Internal Dynamics of Court Processing**. American Society of Criminology.

### **University and Community Service**

- Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Sociology University. 2005-2009.
- University Graduate Council 2005-2008.  
Thesis and Publication Committee  
Task-Force on Responsible Conduct of Research
- Liberal Arts Faculty Senate 1995-1997; 2000-2002; 2006-2008.

**Service: Continued**

Convener: Law and Society Section, Department of Sociology and Anthropology. (1998-2005)

University Grievance Committee (1996-1997)

Faculty Advisor:

Purdue Chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta (1993- 2005)  
Sociology/Law and Society Club (1996-1998; 2001-2005)  
MARC/AIM Program, Purdue University (1995-1999)  
Dean's Freshman Scholar's Program, School of Liberal Arts

Department Committees:

Chair, Undergraduate/Curriculum	2004-2005
Member, Undergraduate/Curriculum	1989-1995
Member, Graduate	1995-1997
Search	1991-1992; 1996-1997; 2000-2001; 2003-2004
Teaching Awards	1990-1991
Honors	1993-2002

Presentation on "Youth Violence" to "Town and Gown" -  
Sponsored by Purdue Community Engagement Program

Member: Tippecanoe County Homelessness Prevention Task Force.  
1990-1993

Consultant on Tippecanoe County Human Action Coalition "White Paper" on Human Services in Tippecanoe County. 1994.

**Awards and Honors**

2005. Darryl Evans Award for Teaching Excellence and Nominee for Purdue University Murphy Teaching Award. Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

2004. Purdue-Sagamore Institute Summer Fellowship.

2003. Faculty Teaching Incentive Grant. "Teaching Sociology Through Popular Film". School of Liberal Arts. Purdue University.

1995. Co-Recipient of Outstanding Teacher Award, Department of Sociology and Anthropology. Purdue University.

1993. Faculty Incentive Grant. Purdue University.

- 1990. Library Scholars Grant. Purdue University Libraries
- 1988. Research Council Grant and Summer Scholar Award. Study of social case work with homeless clients. University of New Orleans
- 1985. Research Council Grant. University of New Orleans
- 1983. Loyola University Research Grant.
- 1983. Sutherland Prize for Teaching Excellence.