

DERRON BORDERS







KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY, MANHATTAN, KS

Research









My research sits at the intersection of social epistemology and adult learning, with a particular focus on how people break free from hegemonic frames—the deeply embedded worldviews shaped by ideology, power, and social belonging. I study how adults in so-called “post-truth” societies navigate—and sometimes transcend—epistemic bubbles, echo chambers, and neoliberal discourses that shape public understanding of political issues.

Keywords: adult learning, social epistemology, epistemic bubbles, echo chambers, hegemony, neoliberalism, critical thinking



Academic Preparation

- 2024 – Present  **Ph.D., Adult Learning & Leadership** (*in progress*) – Kansas State University
- 2014 – 2016  **M.A., College Student Personnel** – Bowling Green State University
- 2010 – 2014  **M.A., Linguistics** – University of Utah
Thesis title: *The role of gender socialization and sibilants in the perception of gay- and straight-sounding voices: a study of returned Latter-day Saint missionaries in Utah*
Committee: Mariana Di Paolo (Chair), Aaron Kaplan, Lisa Diamond
- 2005 – 2008  **B.A., Linguistics, Cum Laude** – The Ohio State University
-  **B.A., French, Cum Laude** – The Ohio State University
- 2003 – 2005  **Completed 69 credit hours towards A.A. in Humanities,** – Columbus State Community College





Administrative Experience

- 2024 –  **Investigator**, Office of Civil Rights and Title IX, Kansas State University
- 2021 – 2023  **Director**, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management, Cornell University
- 2020 – 2021  **Assistant Director of Student Life and Academic Programming**, Cornell in Washington, Brooks School of Public Policy, Cornell University
- 2016 – 2020  **Director**, Language House, West Campus House System, Cornell University
- 2014 – 2016  **Graduate Coordinator**, Ethnic Student Center, Office of Multicultural Affairs, Bowling Green State University
- 2013  **Graduate Research Associate**, National Center for Voice and Speech, University of Utah
- 2010 – 2014  **Project Manager**, Shoshoni Language Project, University of Utah
- 2010 – 2013  **Teaching Assistant**, Department of Linguistics, University of Utah




Industry Experience

- 2011 – 2013  **Lead, Language Development**, UnBound Games, Salt Lake City, UT
- 2008  **Associate Transcriber**, VoiceBox Technologies, Bellevue, WA

Graduate Experience

- 2014 – 2016  **Graduate Coordinator**, Ethnic Student Center, Office of Multicultural Affairs, Bowling Green State University
- 2013  **Graduate Research Associate**, National Center for Voice and Speech, University of Utah
- 2010 – 2014  **Project Manager**, Shoshoni Language Project, University of Utah
- 2010 – 2013  **Teaching Assistant**, Department of Linguistics, University of Utah

Teaching Experience

- 2010 – 2013  **Instructor of Record**, Department of Linguistics, University of Utah
- Teaching & Learning Across Languages (ESL 1600), American History for ESL (ESL 1700), Cross Cultural Communication (LING 3600), Expository Writing for ESL (ESL 1060)
- 2009 – 2010  **Auxiliar de inglés (teaching assistant)**, North American Language and Culture Assistants Program, Spain
- 9th-12th grade
- 2008 – 2009  **Assistant d'anglais (teaching assistant)**, Teaching Assistant Program in France
- K-6th grade

Publications

Theses

- Borders, D.** (2015). *The role of gender socialization and sibilants in the perception of gay- and straight-sounding voices: A study of returned Latter-day Saint missionaries in Utah* [Master's Thesis, University of Utah].
<https://collections.lib.utah.edu/ark:/87278/s6zd1b53>

Scholarly Paper Presentations (Refereed)

- Borders, D.** (2025a). Raising class consciousness: Adult learning in a socialist book club. *American Association For Adult and Continuing Education*.
- Borders, D.** (2025b). Toward a decolonized andragogy: Addressing the limits of neoliberal adult education. *American Association For Adult and Continuing Education*.
- Borders, D.** (2019). Decolonizing gender and sexual identity development of Indigenous students. *ACPA - College Student Educators International*.
- Alzoubi, A., & **Borders, D.** (2014). (NG) in Utah: Retention or innovation? *University of Utah Student Conference in Linguistics*.
- Borders, D.** (2014). Gay- and straight-sounding voices: Gender socialization of returned Latter-day Saint missionaries. *University of Utah Student Conference in Linguistics*.
- Alzoubi, A., **Borders, D.**, & Di Paolo, M. (2013). (NG) in Utah English. *New Ways of Analyzing Variation* 42.
- Borders, D.** (2011). An immersive and collaborative approach to teaching Indigenous languages: The Co-Teaching American Indian Language Immersion Program. *University of Utah Student Conference in Linguistics*.

Conference Presentations (Refereed)

- Barfield, T., **Borders, D.**, Briley, V. L., Fiala, M., & Haller, L. B. (2025a). Answering the “call to cohort:” takeaways from piloting a studio for designing dissertation research. *American Association For Adult and Continuing Education*.
- Barfield, T., **Borders, D.**, Briley, V. L., Fiala, M., & Haller, L. B. (2025b). Experiential learning for scholars: Building community through designing research. *American Association For Adult and Continuing Education*.
- Borders, D.**, McGhee, A., & Vital, C.-S. (2022). Fatphobia in higher education: A panel discussion. *Cornell Inclusive Excellence Summit 2022*.
- Borders, D.**, & Allbaugh, H. (2022). The intersection of anti-fatness with food, health, and wellness. *ACPA - College Student Educators International*.
- McGhee, A., **Borders, D.**, Due, J. N., & Allbaugh, H. (2022). Fatphobia in the workplace - stories from fat SA professionals. *ACPA - College Student Educators International*.
- Borders, D.**, & Strass, K. (2019). Student development of Native American identity through language revitalization programs. *ACPA - College Student Educators International*.

Invited Talks

- Borders, D.** (2022). Fatphobia in medicine. *Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science*.
- Borders, D.** (2012). Language, gender, and sexuality. *LING 3600: Cross-cultural Communication*.
- Hansen, L., & **Borders, D.** (2012). Language acquisition as an international student in an American university. *Global Pathways' Spring 2012 Meeting*.



Selected Workshops (Facilitator)

- Borders, D.** (2023). Trans inclusion in the workplace. *SC Johnson College of Business*.
- Borders, D.** (2020). Diversity and inclusion aren't enough: Towards equity and justice in business student orgs. *Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management*.
- Di Paolo, M., **Borders, D.**, Pynes, J., Mitchell, J., Arnoff, S., Broncho, S., Martin, J., & Griffith, T. (2014). Foundations for learning: Increasing Shoshoni language use in early-childhood learners. *Shoshoni Language Teacher Education Workshop*.
- Di Paolo, M., **Borders, D.**, Pynes, J., Mitchell, J., & Arnoff, S. (2013). Breaking through barriers: Increasing the use of Shoshoni in classrooms & communities. *Shoshoni Language Teacher Education Workshop*.
- Di Paolo, M., Hudson, B. J., & **Borders, D.** (2011). Workshop on teaching American Indian languages to beginning level adults: Oral language development. *8th Annual Conference on Endangered Languages and Cultures of Native America*.


University, College, & Department Service

Cornell University

University Level:

- 2022-2023  Elected Member, SC Johnson College of Business Representative, Employee Assembly
- 2020-2021  Selected Member, Building Bridges - Diverse Talent Recruitment and Retention Task Force

College Level:

- 2021-2023  Chair, Measurement and Accountability Committee, Dean's Leadership Council on Combatting Racism and Promoting Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, SC Johnson College of Business

Department Level:

University, College, & Department Service (continued)

- 2022-2023  Chair, Johnson Anti-Racism Initiative, SC Johnson Graduate School of Management
- 2020-2021  Chair, Cornell in Washington DEI Strategic Planning Committee, Cornell in Washington




Bowling Green State University

University Level:

-  Graduate Diversity and Belonging Representative, Graduate Student Senate









University of Utah

Department Level:




- 2012  Organizing Chair, University of Utah Student Conference in Linguistics
- 2011-2012  Chair, Graduate Student Advisory Committee in Linguistics, Department of Linguistics
-  Selected Member, Organizing Committee for the Annual Conference on Endangered Languages and Cultures of Native America, Center for American Indian Languages

National Service

Professional Membership

- 2024 – Present  American Association For Adult and Continuing Education
- 2015 – 2023  ACPA - College Student Educators International
- 2022 – 2023  National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education
- 2015 – 2017  NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education
- 2012 – 2015  American Dialect Society
-  International Gender and Language Association
- 2011 – 2013  American Anthropological Association
- 2010 – 2015  Linguistics Society of America




Leadership

- 2022-2023  **Chair, Membership and Outreach**, Indigenous Student Affairs Network, *ACPA - College Student Educators International*
- 2016-2022  **Chair, Marketing and Communications**, Indigenous Student Affairs Network, *ACPA - College Student Educators International*
- 2020  **Founder**, Coalition for Fat Identities, *ACPA - College Student Educators International*






Committee Work

- 2018-2022  Annual Conference Proposals Review Committee, *ACPA - College Student Educators International*


Awards & Honors

- 2013, 2014  Fellowship, Western American Language Research Group, University of Utah
- 2013  Salt Lake City Weekly Best of Utah Award, The Shoshoni Language Project Team
-  National Indian Education Association's William G. Demmert Cultural Freedom Award, The Shoshoni Language Project Team

Skills & Knowledge

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|----------------|---|--|
| Administrative |  | budgeting & bookkeeping, program and event coordination, project management, recruiting |
| Interpersonal |  | academic advising, career coaching, conflict resolution, crisis management, training development and facilitation, mediation |
| Policy |  | Affirmative Action, Americans with Disabilities Act, Clery Act, Equal Opportunity Employment, FERPA, Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, VAWA |
| Strategic |  | data analytics and assessment, risk analysis, strategic planning |
| Technical |  | Adobe Creative Suite, Asana, Audacity, Canva, Canvas, CSS, FileMaker Pro, GitHub, Google Applications, HandShake, HTML, JavaScript, L ^A T _E X, Maxient, Microsoft 365, Notion, PeopleSoft, Praat, Qualtrics, R, Rise 360, Salesforce, social media management, Synthesia.io, Visual Studio Code, web development |

Language Knowledge

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| Languages |  | Arabic | ● ● ● ● ● | <i>beginner</i> |
| | | Catalan: | ● ● ● ● ● | <i>advanced</i> |
| | | Dutch: | ● ● ● ● ● | <i>intermediate</i> |
| | | English: | ● ● ● ● ● | <i>native</i> |
| | | Finnish | ● ● ● ● ● | <i>beginner</i> |
| | | French: | ● ● ● ● ● | <i>fluent</i> |
| | | German | ● ● ● ● ● | <i>intermediate</i> |
| | | Romanian | ● ● ● ● ● | <i>beginner</i> |
| | | Shoshoni | ● ● ● ● ● | <i>field knowledge</i> |
| | | Spanish: | ● ● ● ● ● | <i>fluent</i> |