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About the Contributors

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About the Contributors

HILLARY ADAMS, EdD, is the Employment Coordinator for the College Program for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. She holds a master's degree in Mental Health Counseling and a doctorate in Education with a focus on Leadership. Adams has worked for the College Program for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder since 2011. Her research on employer attitudes toward employees with ASD has led to her interest in developing transition skills for students with autism to find meaningful employment. She is focused on creating ties with local and national employers to enhance workplace environments for people with ASD while developing opportunities for graduates. Adams also has a passion for educating community members on best practices for the inclusion and support of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder. As a native of Huntington, West Virginia, Adams believes that investing time in the education of citizens on the subject of diversity is vital to the continued growth and altruistic development of the Tri-State area.

EUGENIA DAMRON is an Assistant Professor and Program Director for Leadership Studies, which was her doctoral emphasis. She also received an Education Specialist in Educational Administration, Master's in Preschool Special Needs, and Bachelor's in Special Education, all from Marshall University. Damron has been teaching for over thirty years. Her experiences with students on the autism spectrum range from preschool to college. She has witnessed and advocated for many changes for three decades.

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

Damron taught preschool special needs, was an elementary principal, Director of Special Education for a six-county region, and now teaches at Marshall University. She also consults with local Christian Schools to ensure that students with special needs are able to attend these schools and experience success despite limitations in special classes or resources provided. Having nurtured relationships with parents and students, she believes that it takes everyone to educate everyone. No child has everything they need without the support and enhancement provided by others. The more we all work together to promote diversity and tolerance, the better our community will be for all people. She believes that a community invested in the inclusion and support of persons on the autism spectrum is a community devoted to all people and their needs. This attitude of acceptance will keep Huntington, West Virginia, on a path towards greatness and will sustain the efforts already made which allowed us to become the recipient of the Best Communities award this year.

BRIAN A. HOEY is a Professor of Anthropology in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and the Associate Dean of the Honors College at Marshall University. He received his interdisciplinary BA in Human Ecology from the College of the Atlantic and PhD in Anthropology from the University of Michigan. His ethnographic research explores the social, cultural, and personal impacts of economic restructuring through the lens of community development and, in particular, the phenomenon of non-economic migration. In addition to a continuing interest in career change, identity, and the moral meanings of work, Hoey has a longstanding interest in the anthropology of space and place and, in particular, the effects of disaster on human health. Hoey has published on these and other subjects in *American Ethnologist*, *City and Society*, *Journal of Appalachian Studies*, *Journal of Anthropological Research*, *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, *Ethnology*, several book chapters, and his books *I'm Afraid of that Water* (with E. Lassiter and B. Campbell; West Virginia University Press, 2020) and *Opting for Elsewhere* (Vanderbilt University Press, 2014). He has been the recipient of fellowships and grants from Fulbright, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, and the Oral History Association.

KRISTEN KLAAREN received her BA from Hope College in 1987, her MA from the University of Iowa in 1989, and her PhD in Social Psychology from the University of Virginia in 1993. For the last 23 years, she has taught at Randolph-Macon College, a small liberal arts institution in Ashland, Virginia, where she is currently a Professor of Psychology and Chair of the Psychology Department. A teacher/scholar at heart, she has won several teaching awards, including the Thomas Branch Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1998 and 2000 and the United Methodist Church's Exemplary Teacher Award in 2017. She teaches classes such as Social Psychology, The Psychology of Prejudice, and Psychology and Law. She also co-leads a travel course to South Africa with co-author Scott London. She has published in journals such as *The Journal of Applied Social Psychology*, *Psychological Science*, *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, and *Safundi: The Journal of South African and American Comparative Studies*. Her primary research interests are in the area of prejudice and privilege. She and her student collaborators have investigated how and why people confront racist comments, awareness of white privilege, and how best to educate people about discrimination and privilege. Much of her work has taken a multicultural approach, focusing in part on social transformations that have occurred in South Africa. In her collaborative research with Scott London, she explores the ways in which issues of privilege, race, and racism are negotiated in dialogue groups that include diverse groups of South African and American university students.

SCOTT LONDON received his BA from Vassar College and his MA and PhD in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Arizona, and has taught at Randolph-Macon College, a small liberal arts institution in Virginia, since 2001. A dedicated teacher, he teaches courses on cultural anthropology, linguistics, cultures of Africa, and socio-legal studies, as well as a travel course in South Africa with co-author Kristen Klaaren. A legal anthropologist with an interest in gender-based violence, he studied family law and domestic violence in Senegal, West Africa, with support from the National Science Foundation, Fulbright, and the West African Research Association. His research focuses on the negotiation of gender

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

and religious identity in both the family court system and informal family and community-based dispute resolution settings. Currently, he is working on an ethnographic study of campus sexual assault in the United States. In South Africa, he has conducted research on religious identity in African independent churches and on interracial dialogue. In his work with Kristen Klaaren, he examines interactions among South African and American university students to investigate the ways in which cross-cultural context complicates and facilitates interracial dialogue.

HANNAH SMITH received her BS in Biochemistry and BA in Anthropology with a minor in Classical Latin from Marshall University. Smith has presented papers about growing up in West Virginia at the West Virginia Young Writer's Convention, and on the local history and culture of Huntington, West Virginia, at the Southern Anthropological Society (SAS) Annual Conference. She was a student intern of the SAS, assisting in planning the 51st annual conference. She is a co-author on the introductory chapter of this volume. A native of Kenova, West Virginia, in the Huntington/Tri-State area, her passion for Appalachia influenced her to plan the conference, and her love for the state spills over into her research. She is now completing her master's degree in Environmental Management from Duke University in order to return to West Virginia and help the state transition to a future of stable jobs and a sustainable environment through applied research and policy negotiation.

REBECCA L. UPTON is Professor of Sociology and Anthropology at DePauw University, where she is also Director of the Global Health program. She received her PhD in medical anthropology with a background in anthropological demography and population health from Brown University and her MPH degree from the Emory University Rollins School of Public Health, where she is an affiliated faculty member. Her research for the past two decades has focused on the intersections between infertility, reproductive health, and gender in southern Africa. Specifically, she has been working in Botswana and throughout southern Africa on issues of HIV/AIDS, assisted reproductive technologies (ARTs), masculinity, and migration. Her current

research utilizes qualitative methods in public health to examine the transnational migration of Tswana women who seek access to health care across state boundaries using social media and other technologies. She has been the recipient of several Fulbright Fellowship awards and grants from the Andrew Mellon and Alfred P. Sloan foundations and has held the Edward Myers Dolan endowed chair in Sociology and Anthropology at DePauw University. She is the author of *The Negotiation of Work, Family and Masculinity Among Christian Long-Haul Truck Drivers: What Would Jesus Haul?* (Lexington Books) and her publications appear in the *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, *Gender and Society*, *Gender and Development*, the *African Journal of Reproductive Health*, and the *Journal of Southern African Studies*, among others.

MELINDA BOLLAR WAGNER received her PhD in anthropology from the University of Michigan. She is professor emerita of anthropology and Appalachian studies at Radford University in Radford, Virginia, and past president of the Appalachian Studies Association. Wagner has received awards in recognition of innovative undergraduate teaching, having led groups of students in collaborative projects with communities since 1983. For example, students buttressed community efforts at cultural conservation in five counties by undertaking ethnographic study of cultural attachment to land. Most recently, she and her students have turned their attention to the Roots with Wings oral history project, an initiative in place-based education, in cooperation with community partners and public-school teachers. Her work on religion in America has included the ethnographies *Metaphysics in Midwestern America* (Ohio State University Press, 1980) and *God's Schools: Choice and Compromise in American Society* (Rutgers University Press, 1990).