

Susannah Laramee Kidd, Ph.D

Senior Researcher

PROFILE

- Researcher and evaluator with extensive experience in qualitative, mixed-methods, and community-based research.
- Proven track record of collaborating with artists, administrators, and community members to design data collection techniques that meet artistic and engagement goals, as well as meet research and documentation needs.
- Experience communicating research and evaluation findings to maximize internal and external use through reports, memos, charts, and presentations.
- Subject matter knowledge in cultural policy, cultural equity and inclusion, social impact of the arts, creative placemaking/art and community development, public art, grantmaking in the arts, reading and literary activities, and community engagement.

EDUCATION

Laney Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Emory University, Atlanta, GA

Ph.D. in Religion, Certificate in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, August 2013

Research Area: Anthropology of Religion and Literature

School of Theology, Boston University, Boston, MA

Master of Theological Studies, May 2006

Concentration: Feminist and Liberationist Theology & Ethics, Philosophy of Language and Literature

Gallatin School of Individualized Study, New York University, New York, NY

B.A., January 2001

Concentration: Comparative Literature, Linguistics, French

EXPERIENCE

RESEARCH & EVALUATION

Metris Arts Consulting, Easton, PA (2018 – Present)

Senior Researcher

- Collaborate on project proposals and other business development activities
- Develop research design and project methodology for evaluations, planning processes, and research projects
- Manage timelines and budgets and coordinate staff, sub-contractor, and client contributions and relationships
- Undertake qualitative and quantitative research/evaluation/planning: Literature reviews, conduct interviews and focus groups, facilitate participatory planning processes/community meetings, design and analyze surveys, analyze and synthesize primary and secondary data (Census, ACS, Data Arts, WESTAF CVI, Emsi, etc.)
- Serve as key writer on research reports and cultural plans

Independent Arts & Culture Research Consultant, Los Angeles, CA (2016 – 2018)

- Met research needs for clients in the areas of evaluation of arts for social change projects, creative placemaking, and professional development for under-resourced arts nonprofit organizations.
- Clients include Animating Democracy (Americans for the Arts), Arts for LA, and DataArts.

Los Angeles County Arts Commission, Los Angeles, CA (2015 – 2018)

Research Analyst (2017-2018), Research Analyst & Mellon-ACLS Public Fellow (2015-2017)– Conducted mixed-methods developmental evaluation of public art and community engagement projects at 2 parks and 2 libraries. Quantitative analysis of vandalism & program attendance using Excel. Qualitative data collection designed in collaboration with social practice artist, including participant observation, focus groups, interviews, and surveys. Supervise data collection by bilingual research assistants. Write evaluation report for internal decision-making and field knowledge. Contributed to an evaluation plan to assess implementation of cultural equity programs across the Arts Commission. Aligned grantee and contractor reporting process across program divisions to better support internal evaluation of programs. Conducted literature reviews on cultural equity & inclusion and art & community development. Supervised intern doing a field scan of nonprofit professional development providers in LA County. Served on a committee led by Department of Regional Planning to develop list of indicators of equity for use in planning, public health, transportation, affordable housing, and community development.

City of Atlanta, City Auditor’s Office, Atlanta, GA (2014 – 2015)

Senior Performance Auditor – Conducted extensive data cleaning and analysis using Excel and Access for an audit of citywide timekeeping practices and FLSA compliance. Conducted best practices literature reviews, interviews, and site visits for audits of transportation and watershed inventory management as part of a team. Synthesized data into written reports and presentations for internal use by agency management, committee meetings of the Atlanta City Council, and the general public.

Emory University, Graduate Division of Religion, Atlanta, GA (2010-2013)

Doctoral Researcher– Designed and completed an ethnographic dissertation research project on Protestant women’s reading groups. Conducted participant observation and interviews among 5 groups of women from a range of theological, racial, age, and economic groups in Atlanta, GA. Transcribed and analyzed audio recordings and field notes in conversation with feminist philosophies of agency and literature on reading to produce a manuscript accepted for the doctoral degree. Presented findings at academic conferences and shared an executive summary with research participants.

Emory University, Center for Community Partnerships, Atlanta, GA (2012)

Graduate Fellow– Evaluated an internally built database of campus community engagements by interviewing users and collecting entries. Made recommendations for the database’s continued development.

Emory University, Religions & the Human Spirit Strategic Initiative, Atlanta GA (2007)

Research Assistant– Conducted a literature review on women’s participation in a variety of world religions for a lecture series hosted by the Atlanta Women’s Foundation titled “Religions and Economic Justice for Women: Feminist, Womanist, Sacred, and Secular Perspectives.”

ACADEMIC

Mercer University, Penfield College, Department of Liberal Studies, Atlanta, GA (2014 – 2015)
Adjunct Faculty– Taught grammar & composition and African American religion courses in undergraduate program for non-traditional students.

Emory University, Emory College & Candler School of Theology, Atlanta, GA (2007 – 2014)
Instructor, Teaching Associate & Assistant– Taught introductory through master’s level courses in religion and theology. Assessed and advised students in writing and research design. Taught college writing skills to incarcerated women students pursuing the Theology certificate at Lee Arrendale State Prison.

Emory University, Graduate Division of Religion, Practical Matters Journal, Atlanta, GA (2012 – 2013)
Issue Co-Editor, Engaging Religious Experience– Edited issue on ethnographic theory and practice in religious studies and theology for online multimedia academic journal containing peer-reviewed and non-peer reviewed articles and book reviews.
<http://practicalmattersjournal.org/category/issue-6/>

NONPROFIT ADMINISTRATION

Place of Promise (Multi-service Residential Program), Boston & Lowell, MA
Administrator 2004-2005
Board Member 2005-2006

Woodland Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, PA
Administrative Associate 2001-2004

New York University, Center for Music Performance, New York, NY
Marketing and Promotions Assistant 1997-2001
Production Assistant 1997-1999

PUBLICATIONS

REPORTS

Art as Infrastructure: An Evaluation of Civic Art and Public Engagement in Four Communities in South Los Angeles County. Los Angeles, CA: Los Angeles County Arts Commission, 2018. Available at lacountyarts.org.

Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative: Literature Review. With Bronwyn Mauldin and Jesse Ruskin. Los Angeles, CA: Los Angeles County Arts Commission, 2016. Available at lacountyarts.org.

Performance Audit: Timekeeping. With Stephanie Jackson and Diana Coomes Lynn. Atlanta, GA: City Auditor’s Office, City of Atlanta, 2015. Available at atlaudit.org.

Performance Audit: Department of Watershed Management Inventory Management. With Jamie Amos, Christopher Armstead, Rhonda Sadler Collins, Brad Garvey, Kwasi Obeng, Michael Schroth, and Stephanie Jackson. Atlanta, GA: City Auditor’s Office, City of Atlanta, 2014. Available at atlaudit.org.

Performance Audit: Office of Transportation Inventory Management. With Jamie Amos, Brad Garvey, Kwasi Obeng, and Stephanie Jackson. Atlanta, GA: City Auditor’s Office, City of Atlanta, 2014. Available at atlaudit.org.

COMMISSIONED PUBLICATIONS

Evaluator/Researcher Companion to *“Aesthetic Perspectives: Attributes for Aesthetic Excellence in Arts for Change.”* Washington, D.C.: Animating Democracy, Americans for the Arts, 2017. Available at americansforthearts.org.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Co-Editor with Rebecca Spurrier, *Engaging Religious Experience: A Return to Ethnography and Theology*, *Practical Matters* 6 (2013); Co-authored editorial essay, "Presences and Absences: Introduction to *Engaging Religious Experience: A Return to Ethnography and Theology.*" *Practical Matters* 6 (2013), <http://practicalmattersjournal.org/2013/03/13/presences-and-absences/>

“American Muslim Women Negotiating Race, Class, and Gender within the Ummah.” Review of *American Muslim Women Negotiating Race, Class, and Gender within the Ummah*, by Jamillah Karim. *Practical Matters* 3 (2010), <http://practicalmattersjournal.org/2010/03/01/american-muslim-women-review/>

“The Laughter of the Oppressed: Ethical and Theological Resistance in Wiesel, Morrison, and Endo.” Review of *The Laughter of the Oppressed: Ethical and Theological Resistance in Wiesel, Morrison, and Endo*, by Jacqueline A. Bussie. *Practical Matters* 1 (2009), <http://practicalmattersjournal.org/2009/04/01/laughter-of-the-oppressed/>

SELECTED TALKS

“Creative Approaches to Evaluating Creative Placemaking.” With Rachel Engh, Jamie Hand, Maria Rosario Jackson, and Alexis Stephens. *Northeast Creative Placemaking Leadership Summit*, National Consortium for Creative Placemaking & ArtPlace America, Madison, NJ: May 3, 2018.

“Career Services for Non-academic Careers,” Panelist, *Applied Religious Studies Working Group*. American Academy of Religion. Boston, MA: November 19, 2017.

“Performance, Precarity, and Disruption,” Respondent to Elonda Clay, Kimerer LaMothe, and Kevin Minister. *Feminist Theory and Religious Reflection Group*. American Academy of Religion. Boston, MA: November 18, 2017.

“Evaluating the Aesthetics and Social Impact of Arts for Social Change.” With Miriam Jorgensen and Pam Korza. *Evaluation Conference 2017*. American Evaluation Association. Washington, D.C.: November 8, 2017.

“The Challenge of Evaluation in Public Art.” With Stewart Donaldson, Kendal Henray, Sarah Conley Odenkirk, and Ruri Yampolsky. *Public Art Network Pre-conference*. Americans for the Arts. San Francisco, CA: June 15, 2017.

“Imagining Otherwise than the Work Ethic through Aesthetic Engagements: A Response to Kathi Weeks’ *The Problem with Work: Feminism, Marxism, Antiwork Politics, and Postwork Imaginaries.*” *Feminist Theory and Religious Reflection Group*. American Academy of Religion. Atlanta, GA: November 21, 2015.

AFFILIATIONS

Steering Committee Member, Cultural Research Network, 2017-present

Member, American Evaluation Association, 2016-present

Working Group Member, Mapping Feminist LA, Women's Center for Creative Work, Los Angeles, CA, 2016-2018

Member, Americans for the Arts, 2015-present

Steering Committee Member, Feminist Theory and Religious Reflection Group, American Academy of Religion, 2013-2017

Member, American Academy of Religion, 2005-2017