

Kait S. Schell, PhD

Qualitative Researcher, Writer, Project Manager, and Sociology PhD with 6+ years of experience.

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Research Manager *Nonprofit Organization (Confidential)*

January 2020-current

Confidential project providing internal research to help inform the foundation's decision-making in community partnerships, investments, and advocacy for stronger public schools.

- Designed and executed end-to-end qualitative research: 1:1 interviews and moderate focus groups with students, parents, and educators to uncover day-to-day pain points in public school experiences
- Translated research findings into strategic narratives and digestible reports to share insights with various stakeholders
- Implemented a formalized research process to improve communication with cross-functional teams and stakeholders
- Managed a team of up to 10 researchers at a time: onboarding, training, and delegating/overseeing all research work

Doctoral Researcher *The Ohio State University*

August 2017-December 2021

Engaged in original, independent qualitative research spanning topics of family, trauma, gender, sexuality, and education.

- Published in the top academic journal in chosen subfield; presented research at 3 academic conferences
- Clarified abstract concepts to 175+ students through storytelling and measured learning outcomes as a TA for 3 courses
- Facilitated 3 workshops for 20+ graduate students on conducting in-depth interviews on traumatic topics
- Trained 20+ faculty and students across 3 disciplines in using qualitative analysis software NVivo

Completed a dissertation: *First Gen Families: How First-Generation College Students Experience Family Relationships*.

- Collaborated on research design: survey creation, participant recruitment, 1:1 interviews with ~80 participants
- Independently conducted 40+ interviews in person and remotely; coded 150+ qualitative interviews in NVivo
- Mentored and trained 3 undergraduates in literature compilation, interviewing, and coding qualitative interviews
- Provided actionable insights to the Office of Student Life; 2 journal manuscripts in progress

Lead Researcher and Project Manager *Dr. Hollie Nyseth (Brehm) Nzitatira*

August 2019-December 2020

Managed the project "Genocide and its Aftermath: Rwanda" as data collection continued and analysis began.

- Trained 11 undergraduates from diverse educational backgrounds in coding qualitative data; managed up to 15 at a time
- Created and revised codebooks for multiple waves of qualitative interview data; managed Qualtrics survey
- Prepared to co-teach a study abroad course for Ohio State students in Rwanda (pivoted to online due to Covid)
- Coded and oversaw the coding of 300+ qualitative interviews in NVivo; measured agreement between coders
- Co-writing policy brief with actionable insights for Rwanda Correctional Services; 2 journal manuscripts in progress

Researcher and Project Manager *Dr. Jennifer Silva*

August 2015-May 2018

Helped bring Dr. Silva's book, *We're Still Here: Pain and Politics in the Heart of America*, to completion.

- Assisted in data collection; assured deadlines were met for publishers and assisted in copy editing
 - Independently coded 100+ qualitative in-depth interviews (1:1, dyads, triads)
 - Collaborated on academic publications aimed at understanding how people make political decisions
 - Book now assigned in undergraduate courses in universities across the US, reaching hundreds of students
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Education

PhD Sociology (2021)

The Ohio State University
*Dean's Distinguished University
Fellow*

MA Sociology (2019)

The Ohio State University
*Most Outstanding Pre-Candidacy
Student*

BA Sociology, Education (2017)

Bucknell University
*Honors, Magna Cum Laude, Phi
Beta Kappa*

Skills

Research Design
Project Management
Interviews
Focus Groups
Ethnography
Surveys
Content Analysis
Archival Research
Biographical Research
Writing
Editing
Public Speaking

Certificates

UX Foundation Research
UX Research Methods:
Card Sorting
Interviewing
Usability Testing
Creating Personas
Mobile Diary Studies
Guerrilla Tactics
Journey Mapping
Empathy Mapping
Experience Mapping
Storytelling
UX Remote Research

Interests

Exploring my city of
Columbus, OH
Fitness, especially group
classes and Peloton
Sociology podcasts and
keeping up with literature
Cooking for family and
friends, especially with my
home-grown vegetables
and herbs