

Kristi S. Lekies

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Education

Ph.D., Human Development and Family Studies, Iowa State University
M.S., Home Economics/Child and Family Services, University of Wisconsin-Stout
B.A., Social Work, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Professional Experience

2015- Present	Associate Professor and State Extension Specialist, The Ohio State University School of Environment and Natural Resources
2006-2015	Assistant Professor and State Extension Specialist, The Ohio State University School of Environment and Natural Resources (2010-2015) Department of Human and Community Resource Development (2007-2010) Ohio 4-H Youth Development (2006-2007)
1998-2006	Associate Director/Research Associate Cornell Early Childhood Program, Cornell University
1995-1996	Fulbright Scholar Institute for Applied Research on Childhood, Youth, and the Family, University of Potsdam, Germany
June 1998	Visiting Fellow German Institute for Research on Aging Heidelberg, Germany
1993-1998	Research Assistant Child Welfare Research and Training Project, Iowa State University
1992-1993	Research Assistant Department of Human Development, University of Wisconsin-Stout
1987-1992	Social Worker – Child and Adolescent Services/Foster Home Coordinator Polk County (Wisconsin) Department of Social Services

Recent Research and Project Funding

NE1962 Multistate Project (2012-2017, renewed for 2017-2022). Outdoor Recreation, Parks, and Other Green Environments: Understanding Human and Community Benefits and Mechanisms. Project team member.

Timmerman, A. (PI); Bohrerova, Z., Cogdill, B., Z., Day, M., Downing, D., Ficenec, C., Hallesy, T., Hougham, R., Jaeger, K., Lorek Strauss, A., Lekies, K., Mase, A., Matthiesen, A., Million, W., Nardi, A., Schroeder, B., Widholm, K., & Wood, C. (Co-PI's) (2017-2018). Determining the GAPS in Youth Water Education in the North Central Region, \$4,000. North Central Region Water Network.

Wilson, R. (PI); Culman, S., Doohan, D., Herms, C., & Lekies, K. S. (Co-PI's) (2015-2018). Quantifying and Predicting the Effects of Diverse Ecological Weed Management Strategies on the Organic Agroecosystem to Inform Farmer Decision Making, \$498,658. National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Lekies, K. S. (PI). (2017). Youth Beat Radio: The Voice to Empower. Puffin Foundation West, \$1750.

Lekies, K. S. (PI). (2016). Climate Change, Mitigation, and Adaptation in Corn-Based Cropping Systems, \$6482, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Subcontract from Iowa State University.

Morton, L.W. (PI); Lal, R., Lauer, J. G., Kladvko, E. J., Scharf, P. C., Arritt, R. W., Nkongolo, N. V., Moore, R. H., Arbuckle, J. G., Anex, R. P., Bonta, J. V., Castellano, M. J., Fausey, N. R., Helmers, M. J., Kravchenko, A. N., Nafziger, E. D., Sawyer, J. E., Strock, J. S., Today, D. P., Tyndall, J. C., Lekies, K. S. (Co-PI's) (2011-2016). Climate Change, Mitigation, and Adaptation in Corn-Based Cropping Systems, \$19,992,144. National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Lekies, K. S. (PI). (2016). Youth Beat Radio: The Voice to Empower. Puffin Foundation West, \$1700.

Lekies, K. S. (PI), and Siriano, A. (2016). Youth Beat Radio: Voices from the South Side. Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences Equity and Inclusion Mini-Grant Award, \$2000.

Lekies, K. S. (PI). (2014). Youth Beat Radio: The Voice to Empower, \$3500. Puffin Foundation West.

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Lekies, K. S. (PI), Dangler, D., Hanna, J., Stone, R., & Walker, T. (2011-2012). Hearing New Voices: Introducing Youth to Production Media, \$9,983, OSU CARES (Community Access to Resources and Educational Services).

Lekies, K. S., & Bean Smith, M. (Co-PI's). (2010-2012). Developing Agricultural Leadership: The Impact of 4-H Youth Engagement in Local Food Systems, \$3108, Ohio 4-H Foundation.

Lekies, K. S. (2010). Youth Beat Radio, \$5000, Gist Chair in Leadership and Extension Education, Ohio State University Extension.

Lekies, K. S. (2008). Sustainability Now! Central Ohio Youth Summit on the Environment, \$3550, Ohio State University Social Responsibility Initiative in Food, Agriculture, and the Environment.

Ferrari, T. M. (PI), Lekies, K. S., Bloir, K, and Arnett, N. (Co-PI's) (2006-2008). Ohio Families and Youth Initiative 2007/2008, Children, Youth, and Families at Risk, \$134,000, Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service/U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Lekies, K. S., Matarrita-Cascante, D., Schewe, R., & Winkler, R. (2015). Amenity migration in the new global economy: Current issues and research priorities. *Society and Natural Resources*, 28(10), 1144-1151.

Lekies, K. S., Yost, G. M., & Rode, J. (2015). Urban youth's experiences of nature: Implications for outdoor adventure recreation. *Journal of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism* 9, 1-10.

Jordan, J. L., Lekies, K. S., Scheer, S. D. (2015). Reducing risky driving behavior: The impact of an adolescent driver intervention program with and without mandatory parental attendance. *Journal of Human Sciences and Extension*, 3(1), 32-45.

Stough-Hunter, A., Lekies, K. S., & Donnermeyer, J. F. (2014). When environmental action Does not activate concern: The case of impaired water quality in two rural watersheds. *Environmental Management*, 54, 1306-1319.

Lekies, K. S., & Beery T. H. (2013). Everyone needs a rock: Collecting items from nature in childhood. *Children, Youth, and Environments*, 23(3), 66-88.

Harrison, J. L., Lekies, K. S., & Arnold, K. (2013). From participant to planner: A longitudinal approach to youth leadership. *Journal of Sustainability Education*, 5, Part II.

- Scheer, S. D., Harrod, N., & Lekies, K. S. (2012). The influence of competitive personality orientation on adolescent emotional intelligence. *Journal of Youth Development, 7*, 6-14.
- Lekies, K. S. (2011). Connection to place: Exploring community satisfaction and attachment among rural youth. *Children, Youth, and Environments, 21*, 77-99.
- Lekies, K. S., & Whitworth, B. (2011). Constructing the nature experience: A semiotic examination of signs on the trail. *The American Sociologist, 42*, 249-260.
- Lekies, K. S., & Bennett, A. (2011). The evaluation attitudes and practices of Ohio 4-H educators. *Journal of Extension, 49*(1). <http://www.joe.org/joe/2011february/rb2.php>
- Ferrari, T. M., Lekies, K. S., & Arnett, N. (2009). Opportunities matter: Exploring youth's perspectives on their long-term participation in an urban 4-H youth development program. *Journal of Youth Development 4*(3). <http://www.nae4ha.org/directory/jyd/>
- Lekies, K. S., Baker, B., & Baldini, J. (2009). Assessing participation in Youth Community Action projects: Opportunities and barriers. *Community Development: Journal of the Community Development Society, 40*, 346-358.
- Lekies, K. S. (2009). Youth engagement in the community: The ethics of inclusion and exclusion. *Les Atheliers de L'ethique, 4*(1), 156-164.
http://www.creum.umontreal.ca/IMG/pdf_16_Lekies.pdf
- Lekies, K. S., & Eames-Sheavly, M. (2008). Evaluating an initiative to increase youth participation in school and community gardening activities. *Journal of Youth Development, 3*(2), <http://www.nae4ha.org/directory/jyd/>
- Lekies, K. S., Eames-Sheavly, M., MacDonald, L., & Wong, K. J. (2007). Greener Voices: Strategies to increase the participation of children and youth in gardening activities. *Children, Youth, and Environments, 17*, 517-526.
http://www.colorado.edu/journals/cye/17_2/17_2_33_GreenerVoices.pdf.
- Morrissey, T. W., Lekies, K. S., & Cochran, M. (2007). New York's Universal Prekindergarten Program: An exploratory study of impacts. *Early Education and Development, 18*, 573-596.
- Morrissey, T. W., Lekies, K. S., & Cochran, M (2007). Response: Systemic impact of Universal Prekindergarten. *Early Education and Development, 18*, 617-624.
- Lekies, K. S., & Eames-Sheavly, M. (2007). Fostering children's interests in gardening. *Applied Environmental Education and Communication, 6*, 67-75.

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- Eames-Sheavly, M., Lekies, K. S., MacDonald, L., and Wong, K. J. (2007). Greener Voices: An exploration of adult perceptions of children and youth in gardening planning, design, and implementation. *HortTechnology*, 17, 247-253.
- Lekies, K. S., Eames-Sheavly, M., Wong, K. J., & Ceccarini, A. (2006). Children's garden consultants: A new model of engaging youth to inform garden design and programming. *HortTechnology*, 16, 139-142.
- Lekies, K., Eames-Sheavly, M., and Wong, K. (2006). Encouraging youth participation through "children's garden consulting." *Journal of Extension*, 44(6).
<http://www.joe.org/joe/2006december/iw3.shtml>
- Wells, N. M., & Lekies, K. S. (2006). Nature and the life course: Pathways from childhood experiences with nature to adult environmentalism. *Children, Youth, and Environments*, 16 (1-24).
- Fees, B. S., Stockdale, D. F., Crase, S. J., Riggins-Caspers, K., Yates, A. M., Lekies, K. S., & Gillis-Arnold, R. (1998). Satisfaction among foster parents: Assessment one year after training. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 20, 347-363.
- Lekies, K. S. (1998). On the use of secondary data sets: Implications for doctoral education. *Family Science Review*, 11, 2-13.

Edited Book

- Waller, T., Årlemalm-Hagser, E., Sandseter, E. B. H., Lee-Hammond, L., Lekies, K., & Wyver, S. (Eds). (2017). *The Sage handbook of outdoor play and learning*. London: Sage.

Book Chapters and Conference Proceedings

- Lekies, K. S., Beery, T. & Brensinger, J. (2017). Investigating children's collecting behavior outdoors. In T. Waller, E. Årlemalm-Hagser, E. B. H. Sandseter, L. Lee-Hammond, K. Lekies, & S. Wyver, (Eds.), *The Sage handbook of outdoor play and learning* (pp. 547-561). London: Sage.
- Lekies, K. S., & Brensinger, J. (2016). Is rural closer to nature? Comparing childhood nature experiences across residential settings. In C. Freeman and P. Tranter (Eds.), *Geographies of children and young people major reference work, Vol. 12, Risk, protection, provision and policy*. Springer.
- Lekies, K. S., & Whitworth, B. (2016). Exploring age cohort differences in children's nature experiences and connection to nature. *Proceedings of the 2014 Northeast Recreation Research Symposium*. <http://scholarworks.umass.edu/nerr/2014/Papers/8/>

Wells, N. W., & Lekies, K. S. (2012). Children and nature: Following the trail to environmental attitudes and behaviors. In J. Dickinson and R. Bonney (Eds.), *Citizen science: Public collaboration in environmental research*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

Cruse, S. J., Lekies, K. S., Stockdale, D. F., Moorman, D., Baum, A. C., Yates, A. M., Gillis-Arnold, R., & Riggins-Caspers, K. (2000). The effects of foster parent preservice training on parenting attitudes, foster parenting attitudes, and foster care knowledge. In J. M. Mercier, S. B. Garasky, and M. C. Shelley II (Eds.), *Redefining family policy: Implications for the 21st century* (pp. 135-154). Ames: Iowa State University Press.

Abstracts

Lekies, K. S., Yates, A. M., Cruse, S. J., and Stockdale, D. F. (2001). Satisfaction with foster parenting inventory [SFPI]. In J. Touliatos, B. F. Perlmutter, and M. A. Straus (Eds.), *Handbook of family measurement techniques* (v. 2, p. 175, v. 3, p. 334). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Lekies, K. S., Yates, A. M., Stockdale, D. F., and Cruse, S. J. (2001). Attitudes toward foster parent inventory [ATFPI]. In J. Touliatos, B. F. Perlmutter, and M. A. Straus (Eds.), *Handbook of family measurement techniques* (v. 2, p. 176, v. 3, p. 210). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Reports and Other Publications

Bone, L., & Lekies, K. All Things Bats: The Ohio State University Youth Outreach Team Collaborates with After School Program (2016, Autumn). *Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals Newsletter*.

Moore, R. H., Lekies, K., Todey, D. Miller, W. W., Higgins, T., Blockstein, D., Nkongolo, N., Abendroth, L. J., & Morton, L. W. (2016). *Agri-Climate Education for Preparing the Next Generation*. Technical Report Series: Findings and Recommendations of the Climate and Corn-based Cropping Systems Coordinated Agricultural Project. Iowa State University, Ames, IA. Vol 4 of 5. Sustainable Corn CAP Publication no. CSCAP-0196-2016.

Lekies, K. S., & Marquis, C. (2013, Summer). Pledging my Hands to Larger Service: Creative Ways to Get Involved in Your Community. *Ohio 4-H Teen Connections*.

Lekies, K. S., & Lenkay, S. (2010, Summer). Caring for our environment: Ways to involve children. *Ohio 4-H Cloverbud Connections*.

- Lekies, K. S., Bennett, A., & Krogel, A. (2009). *Long-term participation in Youth Outdoors: A study of youth perspectives and impacts*. Report prepared for Youth Outdoors, Cleveland Metroparks, and Ohio 4-H.
- Cochran, G., and Lekies, K. (2008). *Skills for success in the knowledge economy*. Columbus, OH: The Ohio State University, Ohio State University Extension. Action brief posted at <http://www.ohio4h.org/workforceprep/documents/SkillsforSuccess-ActionBriefMay2008.pdf>
- Lekies, K., & Cochran, M. (2007). *Preparing qualified teachers for infants and toddlers: The role and function of higher education teacher preparation programs*. Ithaca, NY: The Cornell Early Childhood Program.
- Sazer O'Donnell, N., Cochran, M., Lekies, K., Diehl, D., Morrissey, T. W., Ashley, N., & Steinke, P. (2006). *A multisite evaluation of community-based strategies to support Family, friend, and neighbor caregivers of children. Part 1: Lessons learned and recommendations*. New York: Families and Work Institute.
- Sazer O'Donnell, N., Cochran, M., Lekies, K., Diehl, D., Morrissey, T. W., Ashley, N., & Steinke, P. (2006). *A multisite evaluation of community-based strategies to support Family, friend, and neighbor caregivers of children. Part 2: Research and resources*. New York: Families and Work Institute.
- Cochran, M., & Lekies, K. (2006). *Starting early in the states: Applying the lessons learned from Early Head Start*. Ithaca, NY: The Cornell Early Childhood Program.
- Lekies, K. S. (2005). *Betreuung und Gemeinschaft: Eine Amerikanerin auf Besuch in der Kita Eden* [Care and community for children: An American's visit to the Eden preschool]. *Edener Mitteilungen*, 75, 19.
- Lekies, K. S., Morrissey, T. W., & Cochran, M. (2005). *Raising all boats: Community-based organizations as partners in Universal Prekindergarten*. Ithaca, NY: The Cornell Early Childhood Program.
- Lekies, K. S. & Cochran, M. (2004). *Continuing the collaboration: Universal Prekindergarten expansion in New York State*. Ithaca, NY: The Cornell Early Childhood Program.
- Lekies, K. S., & Cochran, M. (2002). *Early childhood workforce preparation in New York State*. Ithaca, NY: The Cornell Early Childhood Program.

- Lekies, K. S. (2001). *Überlegungen zu einem Besuch im Eden* [Reflections on a visit to Eden]. *Edener Mitteilungen*, 55, 19.
- Lekies, K. S., & Cochran, M. (2001). *Collaborating for kids: New York State Universal Prekindergarten 1999-2000*. Ithaca, NY: The Cornell Early Childhood Program.
- Lekies, K. S., Heitzman, E. H., & Cochran, M. (2001). *Early care for infants and toddlers: Examining the broader impacts of Universal Prekindergarten*. Ithaca, NY: The Cornell Early Childhood Program.
- Lekies, K. S. (1999). Youth and community in rural Brandenburg. *The funnel: Newsmagazine of the German-American Fulbright Commission*, 35(3), 19-21.
- Hicks, S. A., Lekies, K. S., and Cochran, M. (1999). *Promising practices: New York State Universal Prekindergarten*. Ithaca, NY: The Cornell Early Childhood Program.
- Lekies, K. S. (Producer). (1992). *Moving Out, Moving On* [Videotape]. (Available from Polk County Department of Social Services, Box 219, Balsam Lake, WI 54810).

Recent Academic Presentations

- Wilson, R. S., Doohan, D., Lekies, K., Culman, S., & Bessette, D. (2017, November). Quantifying and predicting the effects of ecological weed management strategies on organic agroecosystems to inform farmer decision making. Presentation at USDA/NIFA.
- Lekies, K. (2017, August). *Opportunities for citizenship: Examining the community engagement of child care centers*. Presentation at the European Early Childhood Education Research Association conference, Bologna, Italy.
- Stough-Hunter, A., & Lekies, K. (2017, July). *Community attachment among physical assistant students*. Presentation at the Rural Sociological Society conference, Columbus, OH.
- Grover, E., & Lekies, K. (July, 2017). *Influence of zoo exhibit design on visitor empathy for wildlife*. Poster presentation at the Visitor Studies Association conference, Columbus, OH.
- Youngs, R., Wood, E., Foutz, S., & Lekies, K. (2017, July). *Risk and reward: Taking chances with reliability*. Presentation at the Visitor Studies Association conference, Columbus, OH.
- Lekies, K., Rode, J., & Hearst, V. (2017, January). Engaging urban youth in outdoor recreation: A study of long-term impacts. Presentation at NE 1962 Multistate meeting, Washington, DC.

- Beery, T. H., & Lekies, K. (2016, October). *Childhood collecting in nature: Quality experience in important places*. Poster presentation at the North American Association of Environmental Education conference, Madison, Wisconsin.
- Stough-Hunter, A., & Lekies, K. (2016, August). *Hometown community attachment among physician assistant students*. Presentation at the Rural Sociological Society conference, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
- Brensinger, J., Lekies, K. S., & Beery, T. (2016, January). *Holding on to childhood memories: The impact of childhood nature collecting*. Paper presentation at the Coalition for Education in the Outdoors conference, Bradford Woods, Indiana.
- Lekies, K. S., Moore, R., Chapman, K., DiGiulio, L., Todey, D., Abendroth, L., Wright Morton, L., Miller, W., Nkongolo, N., & Blockstein, D. (2016, January). *Preparing the next generation of scientists: A transdisciplinary approach*. Poster presentation at the National Council for Science and the Environment conference, Washington, DC.
- Moore, R., Lekies, K., Hudgins, D., Chapman, K., DiGiulio, L., Merrick, N., Miller, W., Nkongolo, N., Higgins, T., Todey, D., McKellar, C., Troop, C., & Blockstein, D. (2016, January). *Climate education solutions for the U.S. Corn Belt*. Poster presentation at the National Council for Science and the Environment conference, Washington, DC.
- Lekies, K. S., & Brensinger, J. (2015, September). *From farm fields to concrete jungles: The impact of residential setting on childhood nature experiences*. Paper presented at The Great Outdoors? Children, Young People and Families in Natural and Rural Spaces conference, University of Northampton, United Kingdom.
- Lekies, K. S., Brensinger, J., & Stough-Hunter, A. (2015, August). *Is rural closer to nature: Comparing childhood nature experiences across residential settings?* Paper presented at the Rural Sociological Society conference, Madison, WI.
- Beery, T., Lekies, K. S., & Brensinger, J. (2015, June). *Connection to nature: Collecting and Place*. Presentation at the World Environmental Education Conference, Gothenburg, Sweden.
- Lekies, K. S., & Chapman, K. (2014, December). *Connecting children with nature in child care settings*. Poster presentation at The Ohio State University Extension Annual Conference and Research Colloquium, Columbus, OH.
- Bossley, J., & Lekies, K. (2014, October). *Developing an index of student-induced disturbance: Measuring the environmental impact of outdoor education stream study classes*. Poster presentation at the Natural Areas conference, Dayton, OH.

Lekies, K. S., & Chapman, K. (2014, September). *Connecting young children with nature: An assessment of opportunities at early childhood centers*. Presentation at the European Early Childhood Education Research Association conference, Hersonossis, Crete.

Lekies, K. S., & Marquis, C. (2013, August). *Reframing the brain drain: Hometown attachment among university students*. Presentation at the Rural Sociological Society Conference, New York, NY.

Lekies, K. S., Beres, M., Bean, M., & Rhodes, S. (2013, June). *Developing youth leadership through community gardening: Opportunities and outcomes*. Presentation at the Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society conference, East Lansing, MI.

Lekies, K. S. (2012, July). *Rural youth as citizens: Examining participation in community service, leadership, and community engagement activities through 4-H clubs*. Presentation at the Rural Sociological Society conference, Chicago, IL.

Lekies, K. S., Ritter, T. E., and Singh, D. (2012, July). *Understanding childhood experiences in nature and young adult environmentalism: The role of place*. Presentation at the Rural Sociological Society conference, Chicago, IL.

Lekies, K. S. (2011, July). *Community change and adaptation in historical perspective: Lessons learned from a Midwestern village*. Paper presentation at the Rural Sociological Society/Community Development Society conference, Boise, ID.

Lekies, K. S., Singh, D., and Ritter, T. E. (2011, June). *Environmental concern, attitudes, and behaviors in young adulthood: Examining the role of childhood nature experiences*. Poster presentation at the International Symposium on Society and Resource Management conference, Madison, WI.

Lekies, K. S., Yost, G. M., Singh, D., & Rode, J. (2011, June). *Connecting urban youth with nature through adventure: Understanding the process*. Poster presentation at the International Symposium on Society and Resource Management conference, Madison, WI.

Lekies, K. S. (2010, November). *Engaging youth in program evaluation: An exploration of current practices*. Paper presentation at the American Evaluation Association Conference, San Antonio, TX.

Lekies, K. S. (2010, July). *Connection to community: Development a model of community attachment for rural youth*. Paper presentation at the Rural Sociological Society conference, Atlanta, GA.

Lekies, K. S. (2010, March). *Youth radio: An approach to youth development, community engagement, and empowerment*. Poster presentation at the Society for Research on Adolescence conference, Philadelphia.

Lekies, K. S. (2009, August). *Organized community activities for 5-8 year old children: A review of the research literature*. Presentation at the European Early Childhood Education Research Association conference, Strasbourg, France.

Lekies, K. S. & Holbert, R. R. (2009, May). *The inclusion of youth as co-evaluators*. Presentation at the Ohio Program Evaluator's conference, Columbus, OH.

Lekies, K. S., & Larwin, K. (2008, November). *Structural equation modeling: The essential concepts*. Presentation at the American Evaluation Association conference, Denver, CO.

Lekies, K. S., & Harrison, J. (2008, September). *Improving communities and the environment: The youth summit approach to youth leadership and empowerment*. Paper presented at Generating Alternatives: An International Conference on Young People, Glasgow, Scotland.

Lekies, K. S. (2008, May). *Youth engagement in the community: The ethics of inclusion and exclusion*. Paper presented at the conference, Public Participation in Environmental Planning and Management: A Means of Domination and Marginalization? Montreal.

Lekies, K. S. (2008, April). *Developing workforce skills through youth gardening*. Presentation at the Ohio Community Gardening conference, Columbus, OH.

Lekies, K. S. (2007, August). *Children in the community: What are the possibilities?* Presentation at the European Early Childhood Education Research Association conference, Prague, Czech Republic.

Invited Presentations

Lekies, K. (2017, October). *Life in Brandenburg: A Society in Transition*. Presentation at The Ohio State University German Club, Community Engagement Series.

Lekies, K. (2017, July). *Children and nature: An overview [Kinder und Natur: Ein Ueberblick]* Presentation at the Institute for Applied Research on Childhood, Youth, and the Family (IFK), Staffelde, Germany.

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Lekies, K. (2016, May). *Children, youth, and nature: Developing an understanding of experience*. Presentation at the Institute for Applied Research on Childhood, Youth, and the Family (IFK), Staffelde, Germany.

Lekies, K. S. (2015, October). *Enhancing Learning through School Gardens: Workshop for Head Start administrators and parents*, Pago Pago, American Samoa. (USDA/American Samoa Land Grant) with I. Gurr.

Lekies, K. S. (2015, October). *Enhancing Learning through School Gardens: Workshop for Head Start teachers*, Pago Pago, American Samoa. (USDA/American Samoa Land Grant) with I. Gurr.

Lekies, K. S. (2009, December). *Engaging children and youth in community gardening: Lessons from current research*. Presentation at the Second Ecological Landscaping National Conference, Cleveland, OH.

Teaching/Mentoring Experience

The Ohio State University

- *Introduction to Rural Sociology* (Rural Sociology 105/1500 – 5 quarter/3 semester credits), Spring 2011-2018
Introductory sociology class focused on rural communities, populations, and issues.
- *Data Analysis in Environment and Natural Resources* (Environment and Natural Resources 222/2000 – 5 quarter/3 semester credits), Autumn 2010-2017
Introductory statistics class covering descriptive and inferential statistics; SPSS.
- *Climate, Agriculture, and Sustainability in the Corn Belt: Focus on the Lake Erie Watershed* (ENR 5194) – 2 semester credits, Summer 2015. Week-long summer course held at Stone Laboratory. Co-taught with R. Berardo, S. Ludsin, and N. Merrick.
- *Environment and Natural Resources Seminar* (ENR 8890.06) – 1 semester credit, Spring 2013 and 2015. Graduate seminar focused on research applications.
- *Program Evaluation in Agricultural and Extension Education* (Agricultural and Extension Education 770 – 3 quarter credits), Winters 2008-2010
Topics included approaches to evaluation, evaluation design, quantitative and qualitative methods, involving youth in evaluation, budgeting, dissemination of findings, and report writing.

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- *Grant Proposal Writing* (Agricultural and Extension Education 794/750 – 3 quarter credits), Spring 2008-2010
Topics included developing a grant writing plan, identifying funding sources, proposal components, peer review, and sustainability.
- *Issues and Problems in Volunteerism* (Agricultural and Extension Education – 795.02 – 3 quarter credits), Spring 2009
Topics included volunteers in American society, contemporary forms of volunteerism, impacts of volunteerism, gender issues, youth philanthropy and volunteerism, recruitment, retention, and management of volunteers.
- Faculty advisor, Defend Our Future OSU, 2017-present; Local Matters Ambassadors Program/Real Food OSU, 2013-present; Students for Food Sovereignty, 2008-2012; Columbus Youth on Air, 2010-2012; Collegiate Farmers Union, 2007-2009.

Department of Human Development, Cornell University

- *Families and the Life Course* (Human Development/Sociology 250 – 3 semester credits), Spring 2006
Topics included family history, family policy, diversity, family formation, parenting, work/family balance, economics, divorce, remarriage, families in later life, singles in society, and international perspectives.

Extension and Outreach Activities

Youth Environmental Education Outreach Initiative (ongoing)

Experiential, educational, youth development, community outreach and media activities focused on environmental sustainability, environment and natural resource understanding and appreciation, climate science, and environmental communications for children and youth, educators, and youth workers

Youth Beat Radio, 2009-present

Created weekly half-hour youth radio program focused on youth perspectives, trends, leadership, community service, and community action, WCRS 92.7/98.3 and WGRN 94.1 FM, Columbus, Ohio. Partner with local high schools, recreation centers, and youth organizations. Approximately 140 shows produced.

Program Evaluation Consultant, (ongoing)

Provide consultation to organizations, program leaders, Extension staff, and faculty on evaluation strategies

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Ohio Youth Leadership Summits on the Environment

Organized small group workshops for approximately 50 high school youth in Ohio on leadership and environmental sustainability, 2008-2009. Water-focused summit held November 2014.

Selected Extension Teaching and Events

Environmental Education Lunch and Learn Series: Focus on Volunteerism, Autumn 2017 (co-
led with A. Baird)

*Wetlands and Wonder: A Visit to the Wilma H. Schiermeier Olentangy River Wetland Research
Park*. Organized field trip to wetlands park for high school students with special needs,
November 2017 (w/J. Linares, B. Macolley, & K. Peggau)

All Thing Bats. Organized educational event at Care After School Program, Worthington, Ohio,
November 2016 (with L. Bone, L. Hersch, B. Mitchell, H. Perkins, K. Peggau, C. Wagner, & A.
Ursem)

Expressing Youth Voice through Community Radio. Presentation at the Just Columbus
Festival, May 2016 (with N. Jackson)

Youth Beat Radio: The Voice to Empower. Poster presentation at The Ohio State
University Outreach and Engagement forum, Columbus, Ohio, May 2016 and 2017 (with N.
Jackson); May 2015 (with L. Hersch and N. Makhija); May 2014 (with R. Beard and N.
Makhija)

Exceptional Science Fair. Organized educational activities at science fair for students with
special needs, Beechcroft High School, Columbus, Ohio, May 2017 (with H. Perkins); April
2016 (with B. Lorish and J. Reusser)

Youth Beat Radio Live Show. Presentation at the Dean's Spring Dinner/College of Food,
Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences Development Event, May 2014 (with R. Beard, L.
Hersch, and N. Makhija)

Sustainability Now! Central Ohio Youth Leadership Summit on the Environment. Presentation
at the Innovative Methods for Outdoor Programming conference, Sandusky, Ohio, March 2014.

People of a Feather. Film viewing and discussion, School of Environment and Natural
Resources, March 2014 (with S. Gray)

Watershed: Exploring a New Water Ethic for the New West. Film viewing and
Discussion, School of Environment and Natural Resources, September 2013 (with L. McCready)

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Fostering the Childhood-Nature Connection. Presentation at Farm Science Review, September 2013.

Statistics Review for 4-H Educators, Ohio 4-H Professionals Inservice, Columbus, February 2013 (with A. Thatcher)

Hearing Our Voices: Creating Positive Action through Youth Radio, Ohio 4-H Teen Conference, March 2012 (with A. Siriano and B. Kreuz)

Producing Youth Radio: Understanding Techniques and Technology, Training for Upper Arlington High School Broadcasting students, October 2011; Youth Advisory Council of Cuyahoga County, November 2011 (with A. Siriano)

Funding Your Club's Activities: The Basics of Grant Writing for Adult Leaders and Volunteers, Ohio 4-H Volunteers Conference, Columbus, March 2011

Funding Your Club's Activities: The Basics of Grant Writing for Teens. Ohio 4-H Teen Conference, Columbus, March 2011

Documenting Program Impacts in Youth Leadership. Ohio 4-H Professionals Inservice, Columbus, February 2011 (with G. Yost, R. Stone, and J. Hanna)

Grantwriting for Extension Professionals. Ohio 4-H Professionals Inservice, Columbus, November 2010 (with R. Cropper)

Funding Your Club's Activities: The Basics of Grant Writing. Ohio 4-H Teen Conference, Columbus, Feb. 2010 (with K. Lewis and N. Johnson)

Introduction to Data Analysis using SPSS. Ohio 4-H Inservice, Columbus, Feb. 2010 (with T. Ferrari)

Is a Career in Extension for You? Ohio 4-H Teen Conference, Columbus, Feb. 2008 and 2009 (with S. Scheer and J. King)

Practical Ways to Evaluate Your Programs and Events, Ohio 4-H Inservice, Columbus, Feb. 2007

Evaluation Basics, Ohio 4-H Teen Conference, Columbus, February 2007

Co-organized Research and Evaluation Inservice on Institutional Review Board Training and Library Resources for Ohio 4-H Educators, Columbus, October 2008

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Recent Professional Leadership and Service

Associate Editor, *Natural Sciences Education*, 2014-present

Associate Editor, *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*, 2017-present

Journal Article Reviewer, 2008-present

Children, Youth, and Environments

disP – The Planning Review

Enfances, Familles, Generations

Environment and Behavior

Human Dimensions of Wildlife

Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development

Journal of Contemporary Water Research and Education

Journal of Developmental Processes

Journal of Family Theory and Review

Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement

Journal of Interpretation Research

Journal of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism

Journal of Sustainability Education

Natural Sciences Education

Palgrave Communications

Population and Environment

Society and Natural Resources

Sustainability

Tourism Management

Tourism Management Perspectives

Rural Sociological Society

Conference Program Co-Chair 2016-2017

Elected Council Member, 2014-2016

Publications Committee Co-Chair, 2014-2016

Publications Committee Member 2014-2016

Co-chair/Chair, Applied and Extension Research Interest Group, 2009-2013

European Early Childhood Education Research Association

Member, Outdoor Play and Learning Special Interest Group, 2009-present

American Evaluation Association

Member, Quantitative Methods, Teaching of Evaluation, and Environmental Evaluation Topical Interest Groups, 2007-present

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NE1962 Multistate Project (2012-2017, renewed for 2017-2022). Outdoor Recreation, Parks, and Other Green Environments: Understanding Human and Community Benefits and Mechanisms. Project co-chair 2015-2016

The Ohio State University School of Environment and Natural Resources

Seminar Committee 2014-2016

Graduate Studies Committee 2012-2017

Honors Committee 2010-2015

Extension Team 2010-present

Developed graduate program assessment measures (2016-present)

Professional Organizations

American Evaluation Association

Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals

European Early Childhood Education Research Association

Rural Sociological Society

Visitor Studies Association

Language Skills

German