

## **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, The Ohio State University School of Environment and Natural Resources State Specialist, Ohio State University Extension (through 6/20)
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 (2012-2022, renewal for 2022-2027 under review). Outdoor Recreation, Parks, and Other Green Environments: Understanding Human and Community Benefits and Mechanisms. Project team member.

Wilson, R. (PI); Irwin, E., Zhao, K., Wilson, A., Yongyang, C. (co-PI's); LaBarge, G., Mark, B., Randall, A., Cervanec, J., & Lekies, K. (Key Personnel) (2018-2023), \$1,199,395. Regional Integrated Modeling of Farmer Adaptations to Guide Agroecosystem Management in a Changing Climate. National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Lekies, K. (PI), & Hura, V. (co-PI). (2018-2020), \$30,000. Understanding Long-Term Participation in Youth Development Programs. Patricia Kunz Brundige Youth Development Fund for Positive Youth Development, Ohio 4-H.

Lekies, K. (PI). (2020). Affordable Learning Exchange (ALX) Grant, The Ohio State University, \$500

Lekies, K. (PI). (2020). Youth Beat Radio: The Voice to Empower. Puffin Foundation West, \$2500.

Lekies, K. (PI). (2018-2019). Community, Environment, and Youth in Rural Brandenburg, Germany: A Twenty-Year Follow Up Study, \$6,000, The Ohio State University International Award for Faculty Development.

Lekies, K. (PI). (2019). Youth Beat Radio: The Voice to Empower. Puffin Foundation West, \$2000.

Wilson, R. (PI); Culman, S., Doohan, D., Herms, C., & Lekies, K. S. (Co-PI's) (2015-2019). 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). (2018). Youth Beat Radio: The Voice to Empower. Puffin Foundation West, \$2000.

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.

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., Todey, 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.
- 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**

- Stough-Hunter, A., & Lekies, K. S. (in press). Effectively engaging first-generation rural students in higher education: New opportunities for sociology. *Teaching Sociology*.
- Overby, T. A., Diekmann, F., & Lekies, K. S. (2023). Nature-based interventions for vulnerable youth: A scoping review. *International Journal of Environmental Health Research*, 33, 15-53..  
Doi:10.1080/09603123.2021.1998390
- Beery, T. H., & Lekies, K. S. (2021). Nature's services and contributions: The relational value of childhood nature experience and the importance of reciprocity. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*, 9, Article 636944.

- Hougham, J., Lekies, K., Bohrerova, Z., Wood, C., Jaeger, K., Schroeder, B., Timmerman, A., Nardi, A., and Power, R. (2020). Youth water education: Programs and potential in the American Midwest. *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*, 75(5), 117A-122A.
- Lekies, K. S., Moore, R. H. (2020). Promoting transdisciplinary learning through a summer course on climate, water, and agriculture. *Natural Sciences Education*, 49(1), 1-12.
- Stough-Hunter, A., & Lekies, K. S. (2020). Where to live and work? Examining the influence of job and community characteristics on post-graduation plans of physician assistant students. *The Journal of Rural and Community Development*, 15(1), 17-32.
- Beery, T., & Lekies, K. S. (2019). Childhood collecting in nature: Quality experience in important places. *Children's Geographies*, 17(1), 118-131.
- 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](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](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.
- 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.

## Edited Books

- Fix, P., Larson, L., Lekies, K., Park, S., Scholl, K., Stein, T., & Tidball, K. (editors). *The Transformative Power of Parks*. Sagamore-Venture Publishing, forthcoming 2023.
- 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

- Lekies, K.S., Fisher, K.A., & Hura, V. (forthcoming). *Growth through Adventure: Examining the Long-Term Impacts of Participation in the Youth Outdoors Program*. Report prepared for Cleveland Metroparks and Ohio 4-H Youth Development.

- Lekies, K. (2021, April 22). Evaluation for the Environment: Transdisciplinary Teams and the Next Generation. *American Evaluation Association 365: A Tip a Day by and for Evaluators (invited)*
- Lekies, K., Linares, J., Macolley, B., & Peggau, K. (2018, Winter). Wetlands and Wonder. *Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals Newsletter*.
- Bone, L., & Lekies, K. (2016, Autumn). All Things Bats: The Ohio State University Youth Outreach Team Collaborates with After School Program. *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).

### **Selected Academic Presentations**

- Mank, L., Dugan, N., Thomas, Y. Y. A., & Lekies, K. (2022, Nov.). *Transformative relationships with water: Exploring a therapeutic nature photography program for vulnerable adolescents*. Poster presentation at the Water Management of Ohio conference, Columbus, OH.
- Lekies, K. S. (2021, Nov.). *Preparing the Next Generation of Environmental Evaluators: Exploring Creative Approaches*. Presentation at the American Evaluation Association conference (online).
- Lekies, K. S., Abou-Ghalioum, V., & Jayasinghe, I. (2021, June). *Recommendations for wildlife conservation funding: Perspectives of current and future environmental professionals*. Presentation at the International Association for Society and Natural Resources (online).



- Hougham, J., Lekies, K., Bohrerova, Z., Wood, C., Jaeger, K., Schroeder, B., Timmerman, A., Nardi, A., and Power, R. (2020, October). *Youth water education: Programs and potential in the American Midwest*. Presentation at the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents conference (online).
- Lekies, K. (2020, May). *The benefits of nature: Understanding impacts across the life span and among at-risk populations*. NE 1962 Multistate Project annual meeting (online).
- Lekies, K. S., Bredow, B., & Sturzbecher, D. (2019, August). *Changing times and changing places: A 20-year follow up study of community attachment of youth in Brandenburg, Germany*. Presentation at the Rural Sociological Society conference, Richmond, VA.
- Lekies, K., Fix, P., Larson, L., Scholl, K., Stein, T., & Tidball, K. (2019, June). *NE 1962 Outdoor Recreation, Parks, and Other Green Environments: Understanding Human and Community Benefits and Mechanisms*. Poster presentation at the International Society for the Study of Resource Management conference, Oshkosh, WI.
- Hura, V., & Lekies, K. (2018, October). *Developing urban youth through outdoor adventure recreation*. Poster presentation at the National Association of Extension 4-H Educators conference, Columbus, OH.
- Lekies, K. (2018, August). *Hands-on nature: Rocks, shells, and other fascinating items that children collect*. Pedagogical Short Talk at the European Early Childhood Education Research Association conference, Budapest, Hungary.
- Stough-Hunter, A., & Lekies, K. (2018, July). *Where to live and work? Examining the influence of job and community characteristics on post-graduation plans of physical assistant students*. Presentation at the Rural Sociological Society conference, Portland, OR.
- 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. (2017, July). *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. S. (2022, July). *Engaging children and youth in the natural world*. Guest lecture for Nature Ecology online MOOC course, Cornell University.
- Lekies, K. S., Abou-Ghalioum, V., & Jayasinghe, I. (2021, November). *Recommendations for wildlife conservation funding: Perspectives of current and future environmental professionals*. Presentation for Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife and National Wildlife Federation (online),
- Lekies, K. (2018, April). *Environment and childhood*. Panelist at Time for Change Week Discussion on Health, Wellness, and Sustainability, The Ohio State University.
- Lekies, K. (2018, February). *Examining risk and opportunity in the environments of children and youth*. Presentation at the Seminar in Environmental Health Sciences, Public Health 7899, The Ohio State University.
- 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.
- 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

- Second Year Transformation Experience (STEP) faculty mentor, 2019-2023
- *Natural Resources Program Planning* (ENR 5640 – 3 semester credits), Autumn 2021-present; Advanced undergraduate/graduate course focused on park, recreational, and public lands planning
- *Introduction to Rural Sociology* (Rural Sociology 105/1500 – 5 quarter/3 semester credits), Spring 2011-present  
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-present  
Introductory statistics class covering descriptive and inferential statistics; SPSS, Excel, and R.
- *Leading Environmental Volunteers*, (ENR 4193/6193 – 1 credit), Spring 2018
- *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. Ludsins, 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.
- *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, Summer Research Opportunities Program, 2015, 2021.

- Guest lecturer:  
Environment and Natural Resources 5640, Natural Resources Program Planning  
*Nature and the Life Span: Implications for Program Planning*, Autumn 2016 and 2017  
  
Rural Sociology 7600, Theories and Concepts in Rural Sociology  
*Community Attachment and Human-Nature Relationships Research*, Autumn 2015-2017, 2019  
  
Environment and Natural Resources 3400, Psychology of Environmental Problems, *Place Attachment: Definitions, Research, and Natural Resource Applications*, Autumn 2012 and 2014  
  
Environment and Natural Resources 8400, Human Dimensions of the Environment, *Place Attachment: Examining Conceptual Issues and Natural Resource Applications*, Autumn 2012;  
*Childhood Experiences with Nature: Exploring Processes and Outcomes*, Autumn 2013 and 2014.  
  
Agricultural and Extension Education 420, Program Development in Agricultural and Extension Education, *Evaluation Basics*, Spring and Autumn 2008 and Autumn 2009.
- Faculty advisor, Environmental Sustainability Magazine, 2021-2022; Defend Our Future OSU/Climate Policy Alliance, 2017-2020; Local Matters Ambassadors Program/Real Food OSU, 2013-2019; 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.

#### **Doctoral Students Advised:**

Victoria Abou-Ghaloum (current)  
Iresha Jayasinghe (current)  
Lily Mank (current)  
Keely Fisher (current)  
Casey Ortbahn (current)  
Angela Thatcher (graduated May 2022)  
Lindsey Boaz (graduated August 2020)

#### **Masters Students Advised:**

Emily Grover (graduated May 2018)  
Stacey Haught (graduated August 2017)  
Jed Brensinger (graduated August 2016)  
Bernadette Whitworth (graduated August 2013)  
Amanda Bennett (graduated May 2009)

#### **Master of Environment and Natural Resources (MENR) Advised:**

Kim Chapman (graduated August 2016)

## **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 160 shows produced.

### **Program Evaluation Consultant, (ongoing)**

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

### **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**

*Youth Water Education: Programs and potential in the American Midwest*, February 2020. North Central Region Water Network Webinar Series, (with J. Hougham and Z. Bohrerova)

*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 (with J. Linares, B. Macolley, & K. Peggau)

*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)

*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)

*Exploring Nearby Nature/National Park Service Park Rx Day*. Organized educational event and tour for Ohio State University students, May 2016.

*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)

*Youth Environmental Education Outreach Initiative.* Poster presentation at The Ohio State University Outreach and Engagement forum, Columbus, Ohio, May 2014 (with N. Jackson)

*Enhancing Learning through School Gardens.* Presentations to Head Start teachers, administrators, and parents, Pago Pago, American Samoa, October 2015 (with I. Gurr)

*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)

*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

### **Honors and Awards**

Certificate of Appreciation, Rural Sociological Society, 2017.

Epsilon Sigma Phi, Alpha Eta Chapter, Second place award for Fact Sheet, Tools for Teaching and Media Contest, 2008.

National Association of Extension 4-H Educators, Susan M. Barkman Research Award, 2007.

### **Recent Professional Leadership and Service**

Senior Associate Editor, *Environment and Behavior*, 2019-present

Associate Editor, *Natural Sciences Education*, 2014-2019

Associate Editor, *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*, 2017-2019

Journal Article Reviewer, 2008-present

*Asia-Pacific Journal of Research on Early Childhood Education*

*Children, Youth, and Environments*

*disP – The Planning Review*

*Enfances, Familles, Generations*

*Environment and Behavior*

*Human Dimensions of Wildlife*

*International Journal of Play*

*Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*

*Journal of Contemporary Water Research and Education*

*Journal of Developmental Processes*

*Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*

*Journal of Family Theory and Review*

*Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement*

*Journal of Leisure Research*

*Journal of Interpretation Research*

*Journal of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism*

*Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*

*Journal of Sustainability Education*

*Landscape and Urban Planning*

*Natural Sciences Education*

*Palgrave Communications*

*Population and Environment*

*Rural Sociology*

*Society and Natural Resources*

*Sociological Perspectives*  
*Sustainability*  
*Tourism Management*  
*Tourism Management Perspectives*  
*Urban Forestry and Urban Greening*

Rural Sociological Society

Nominations Committee Chair/Chair-Elect 2022-2024  
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, 2021-2022  
Co-chair, Teaching and Curriculum Research Interest Group, 2021-2022  
Member, Awards and Endowment Committee, 2021-present

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

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

Panelist, Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals, 2018

The Ohio State University School of Environment and Natural Resources

Promotion and Tenure Committee 2021-present  
Ad Hoc Gifts and Donations Committee 2022-present  
Ad Hoc Awards Committee 2019-2020  
Graduate Studies Committee 2012-2017  
Seminar Committee 2014-2016  
Honors Committee 2010-2015  
Extension Team 2010-present  
Developed graduate program assessment measures 2016-2017

College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

Elected Representative, Dean's Faculty Advisory Committee 2021-present  
Capital Planning Committee, 2022-present  
Judge, 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Undergraduate Research Forum, 2019/College Research Forum 2021

University

Campus Park Rx Committee, 2021-present  
Intentional Community Committee, 2021-present  
Citizenship Theme Advisory Group, General Education Curriculum Restructuring, 2021-2022  
STEP Expo Reviewer, 2020-present

**Professional Organizations**

American Evaluation Association

Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals

Children and Nature Network

European Early Childhood Education Research Association

International Association for the Study of Natural Resources

International Association People-Environment Studies

Rural Sociological Society

**Language Skills**

German