

Melissa Blythe Ripepi
Curriculum Vitae

3260 Happy Hollow Road
Blacksburg, VA 24060
mblythe@vt.edu
(540) 449-1878

Department of Sociology, Virginia Tech
560 McBryde Hall (0137)
225 Stanger Street
Blacksburg, VA 24061
(540) 231-8971

EDUCATION

In Progress M.S./Ph.D., Sociology, Virginia Tech

2005 B.A., Urban Affairs & Planning; Public Policy, Virginia Tech

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Social Stratification and Inequality; Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration; Education; Youth Violence; and Law and Society

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS AND RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS

2019-Present Research Associate
Laboratory for the Study of Youth Inequality and Violence
2012 Research Assistant and Program Manager
Let's Talk Public Health; Public Health Education for Virginia
High School Students, Virginia Tech

PUBLICATIONS

REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Peguero, Anthony A., Yost, Lisa R., Ripepi, Melissa, & Johnson, Kecia. (Forthcoming) "Weapons at School: Examining the Significance of Place". *Journal of School Violence*.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

2019-Present Researcher (School Climate and Crime Data Analyst),
Research on Lowering Violence in Communities and Schools (ReSOLV)
American Institutes for Research and Virginia Tech
PIs: Dr. Patricia Campie and Dr. Anthony A. Peguero
Description: *Research on Lowering Violence in Communities in Schools (ReSOLV)*,

administered by the American Institutes for Research (AIR), is a longitudinal study that will examine the association of school safety and student outcomes with school-based risk and protective factors and readiness to adopt a comprehensive school safety approach. The study will be conducted in one urban, one suburban, and one rural California school district. Findings will help schools and communities better understand the relationship between community, school, and individual capacities and the willingness to adopt a comprehensive school safety approach to address root causes of school violence. Results will inform schools' planning, financing, and evaluation of current and future school safety prevention and intervention efforts.

2011-2012 Researcher and Program Coordinator,
 “Let’s Talk Public Health” Education Program for Virginia High School Students
 Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, Virginia Tech
PI: Susan Marmagas, MPH
Description: *A research and education program, the Let’s Talk Public Health initiative sought to make public health a priority in Virginia through the education of Virginia’s high school students. The programs goals were, specifically, to teach student about health disparities, inequities, and the social determinants of health; to encourage community dialogue concerning health promotion; and to increase the number of public health professionals in the workforce.*

GRANTS RECEIVED

Community Foundation of the New River Valley <i>Program to provide memberships to the Blacksburg Children’s Museum through the Montgomery County Christmas Store \$500</i>	2014
Rack Gives Back – Rackspace Educational Grant <i>STEM Educational Initiative – programing through Python, 8-12 year-old residents of the New River Valley \$1,500</i>	2014
Community Grant for Underserved Youth – Best Buy Foundation <i>Discovery Academy STEAM after school tutoring and educational programs \$9,000</i>	2014

SERVICE

TO VIRGINIA TECH

2019-Present	Department of Sociology Curriculum Committee; <i>Graduate student representative</i>
2019-Present	Sociology Undergraduate and Graduate Research Symposium Planning Committee; <i>Member</i>
2019-Present	Center for Race and Social Policy’s Combating Racial Injustice Workshop <i>Web designer/webmaster</i>
2019-Present	Sociology Graduate Student Organization; <i>Member</i>
2016-2018	Office of Undergraduate Research ambassador program; <i>Mentor</i>
2016-2018	Planning committees for university’s Undergraduate Research Symposia and Student Experiential Learning Conference; <i>Outreach committee chair</i>
2016-2018	Summer Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Peer Mentor

Program; *Advisor*

TO COMMUNITY

2019-Present Latina/o/x Criminology; *Web designer/webmaster*
2018-2019
2018 Organizing committee - March for Our Lives open forum in Blacksburg, Va;
Marketing and media lead
2017-2018 Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America; *Event Lead*
2014-2016 Board member - *The Mama Movement*
2014-2016 NRV Health Department; *Hatha yoga teacher*
2000-2010 Precinct captain/GOTV organizer for multiple VA Congressional races

SPECIAL PROJECTS

New York Times, “Conception, Season 2”; *Collaborator and storyteller*

- *When Your Child’s Bogeyman is Real*, episode 1
- 2019 Emmy; Outstanding New Approach – News and Documentary

U.S./Guyana Medical Informatics Technology Transfer Exploratory Project with the office of the President of Guyana; *Lead writer*

***What a Stranger May Know* by Erik Ehn**, performed as part of an arts and active dialog series for community healing for the 10th anniversary of the shootings at Virginia Tech; directed by Francine DuLong and Dorothy Atkinson; *Performer*

TRAININGS AND CERTIFICATIONS – NON-ACADEMIC

- Western Kentucky University Photojournalism Program’s Mountain Workshops: Documentary Storytelling (Photography)
- Duke Center for Documentary Studies: Storytelling for Social Change – storyboarding for documentary filmmaking
- Partners in Health Engage: *Crafting Story to Engaging Communities for Change*
- Healing communities through storytelling and yoga as a peace practice
- Trained in crisis intervention by the Women’s Resource Center of the New River Valley