Jennifer Haskin received her PhD in Sociology from Wayne State University, and her MA in Sociology and BA in Psychology from Eastern Michigan University. Dr. Haskin joined the Sociology Department as full-time lecturer in Fall 2015.

Tell us about your current research. My current research explores the ways in which career-oriented women in the U.S. who have preschool aged children think about and act toward their maternal bodies in a third shift of appearance work. Other projects I am working on center on my interests in girlhood and organizations that purport to teach girls valuable life skills, women’s experiences with reproductive difficulties, and also mass media content aimed toward working mothers.

How would you describe your teaching style? I would describe my teaching style as interactive and student centered. I really like class discussion. I also try to bring the “real world” into my classes by using interactive activities, current events, video clips, and other relevant materials so that my students can see how much Sociology matters in their everyday lives.

What advice do you have for a student thinking about a graduate degree in Sociology? Find a supportive mentor who inspires you and who is inspired by you early on, and do not give up — even when you really want to. Network as much as you can. I was a “non-traditional” graduate student with lots of competing demands. I would have to say that not prioritizing networking early on and maintaining those relationships is something I wish I had done (or been able to do)!

What’s your spirit animal? The butterfly.

What is your favorite book? If I had to choose one, it would be Jitterbug Perfume by Tom Robbins.

What is the most fulfilling part of your job? I have to say, being a professor is a pretty great job, and it is something that I always knew I wanted to do. There is no one thing that stands out as more fulfilling than another. I enjoy working with students, love doing research, and really like interacting with and getting to know my colleagues. I am pretty lucky to be able to do what I do.