

Rachel Kraus joined the Department of Sociology at Ball State in 2005 after receiving her Ph.D. from Purdue University. She also has a MPA from the University of South Carolina-Columbia. Rachel's current research examines female-dominated leisure subcultures, spirituality and gender identity through a case study of people who belly dance in the United States. Rachel teaches classes on religion and spirituality, gender, research methods (undergraduate and graduate), social psychology, and social problems. Rachel was recently elected to serve as the 2013-2014 Vice-President of the North Central Sociological Association. In her free time, she enjoys belly dancing, swimming, theater, traveling, and spending time with her family and numerous inanimate stuffed friends.

