

# CURRICULUM VITAE

**Rifat Akhter**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Sociology and  
Director, Gender Studies Program  
306B Irby Hall  
University of Central Arkansas  
201 Donaghey Avenue, Conway AR 72034  
Phone: 501-450-5640 (Work)  
[rifata@uca.edu](mailto:rifata@uca.edu)

---

## **Education**

**Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology, August 2006**

Southern Illinois University, Carbondale.

**Master of Science in Medical Demography, July 1998**

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of London

**Master of Social Science in Sociology, 1990**

Dhaka University, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

**Bachelor of Social Science in Sociology, 1989**

Dhaka University, Dhaka, Bangladesh

## **Research Interests**

Population Studies  
Gender  
Globalization  
Development  
Intimate Partner Violence and Crime

## **Employment**

**Assistant Professor**, Sociology Department and

**Director**, Gender Studies Program

*University of Central Arkansas, Aug 2006 -*

Teaching Responsibilities – Introduction to Sociology, Gender, Global Stratification, and Population courses. Undergraduate Honors students' Thesis Advisor.

Other responsibilities: Research and Provide Required Services to the University and the Community.

**Recipient of Doctoral Research Award,**

*Southern Illinois University Carbondale, 2005-2006.*

**Senior Teaching Fellow**

*Department of Sociology, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. 2004- 2005*

Teaching Responsibilities: a.) SOC 215: Race and Ethnic Relations in USA

b.) SOC 223: Women and Men in Contemporary Society

c.) SOC 423: Sociology of Gender

(Two courses per semester)

***Graduate Research Assistant***

*Department of Sociology, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. August 2003- August 2004*

- A) Economic Restructuring, Women's Work, and Empowerment in Bangladesh. Funded by National Science Foundation (NSF).
- B) Removing Barriers Of Domestic Violence From Women's Full Participation In Civic Society And Democracy In Bangladesh. Funded By in ALO.

Responsibilities: Developing Questionnaire, Quantitative and Qualitative data analysis (analyzed case studies), reviewed relevant literatures, report preparation, and paper writing. I have compiled list of South Asian Women's Shelters in USA, which is posted at [www.siu.edu/~narijibon/DV.htm](http://www.siu.edu/~narijibon/DV.htm)

***Instructor***

*Department of Sociology, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. 2002- 2003.*

Teaching Responsibilities: Soc 223: Women and Men in Contemporary Society

***Graduate Research Assistant***

*Department of Sociology, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. August 2001- August 2002*

***Assistant Professor***

*Population-Environment Department*

*School of Environmental Science and Management.*

*Independent University. April 1997- 2001.*

Taught following courses: Population- Environment, Concept of Positive Living (Health Course), Family Planning Program, Live in Field Experience course (6 credit course on Practical Application of Social Science Research Method).

***Assistant Program Officer***

*Pathfinder International. June 1994 to April 1997.*

Reviewed project proposal for fund request made by local Non Government Organizations (NGO) working in family planning and reproductive health sectors, monitored and evaluated the programs, developed programs and provided technical assistance to implement the programs in the field. I have assisted NGOs in analyzing data and writing annual reports. I have trained project managers on information record keeping system. I have coordinated international trainings on community based reproductive health services.

***Research Officer***

*Associate for Community and Population Research, December 1993 to June 1994.*

I have conducted research and evaluation in family planning and maternal and child health care program, which included program intervention to reduce maternal and child mortality of Bangladesh. I have developed questionnaires, trained field workers, supervised data collection, and coding process. I was involved in the following research projects:

- Family Planning through Swanirvar (Self-Reliance) Movement.1994. Funded by World Health Organization.

- Identification of Success Indicators of Management and Implantation Aspect of Government and Non Government Family Planning Program. 1993-94. Funded by Government of Bangladesh.
- Assessments of Needs and Coverage of Sanitation Program by Ansar-VDP, 1993-94, Funded by UNICEF

## **Publications**

### ***Refereed Publication***

- Akhter Rifat, 2011 "Impact of Foreign Investment, Development, Sex Ratio on Women's Status". Paper accepted for publication in *The International Journal of Interdisciplinary Social Science*, Vol 5 (forthcoming).
- Akhter Rifat 2011 "Attitude towards Physical Abuse among Women and Men of Bangladesh: An Empirical Investigation of Demographic Health Survey 2007" paper published in the *Journal of US-China Public Administration* in Vol 8, no 10, October 2011.
- Akhter , Rifat. 2009 "Impacts of Global Economy on Women's Labor Force Participation in the Developing Nations". *Global Studies Journal*, Vol 2, Issue 4, pp . 81-101.
- Akhter Rifat 2008 "Impacts of Global Economy and Women's Employment in the Informal Economy on Family Violence: A Neglected Issue." *Global Studies Journal*, Vol 1, Issue 4, pp.79-94 2008.
- Ward K B., Fahmida Rahman, A.K.M. Islam, Rifat Akhter, N. Kamal , 2004. "The Effect of Global Economic Restructuring on Urban Women's Work and Income-Generating Strategies in Dhaka, Bangladesh." *Critical Sociology*. Vol. 30, Issue 1.
- Akhter, Rifat and L. Ahmed. 2000."Gender Inequality and Fertility Transition". *Bangladesh Journal of Training and Development* Vol. 13, No1&2 Pp 15-24
- Akhter, Rifat. 1993. "Utilization of Fishery Loan in Two selected areas of Rajshahi District". *The Progressive Agriculture*. Vol. 8(1).

### ***Book Chapters***

- Akhter Rifat and Kathryn B. Ward. 2009."Globalization and Gender Equality: A Critical Analysis of Women's Empowerment in the Global Economy" *Advances in Gender Research: Perceiving Gender, Locally, Globally, and Intersectionally* Edited by Vasilikie Demos and Marcia Texler Segal. Volume 13, July 2009 Emerald Publication.
- Akhter Rifat 2009 "Domestic Violence" Edited by Janet Wilson. *The Praeger Handbook of Victimology*. pp. 79-82. Praeger, ABC-CLIO, LLC, Santa Barbara, California.
- Akhter Rifat 2009 "Domestic Violence Myth" in *The Praeger Handbook of Victimology* Edited by Janet Wilson pp 79-82 Praeger, ABC-CLIO, LLC, Santa Barbara, California.
- Mabud, M.A. and Rifat Akhter. 2003. "Recent Shift in Bangladesh's Population Policy and Programme Strategies: Prospects and Risks." PP 69- 91 in *Demographic Dynamics in Bangladesh: Looking at the Larger Picture*, edited by *Center for Policy Dialogue and UNFPA programme on Population and Sustainable Development*

## **Currently Under Review**

- Akhter, Rifat and Kathryn B Ward. "Putting Gender Inequality in Labor Force and Maternal Mortality in Globalization Debate". Submitted in the Social Science Quarterly in December 2010.

## **Work in Progress**

- Akhter, Rifat and Kathryn B. Ward. "Global Economy, Gender Inequality, and Domestic Violence: A Cross-National Study".
- Akhter Rifat, Ed Power, and Janet K. Wilson. "The Impact of Globalization on Income Inequality and Homicide Rates: An integration of World System and Anomie perspectives".
- Wilson, Janet, Rifat Akhter, and Ed Power. "Women's Status and Sex specific Homicide Rates"
- Akhter Rifat "Measuring Attitudes towards Spousal Abuse and It's Prevention As Reported by Men: An Empirical Investigation of Demographic Health Survey data 2007 through Ecological Framework".
- Akhter, Rifat, Ed Power, and Eric Cheny . "Critical Analysis of Impacts of Investment and Debt Dependency on Infant Mortality Rates"

## **Conference Presentations**

- Akhter Rifat 2011 "Factors Associated with Attitudes towards Wife-Beating and It's Prevention among Bangladeshi Men: An Empirical Investigation of Demographic Health Survey Data 2007. Paper presented at the Sixth International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences at The University of New Orleans, New Orleans in July 11-13, 2011.
- Akhter Rifat 2011 "Attitude towards Physical Abuse among Women and Men of Bangladesh: An Empirical Investigation of Demographic Health Survey 2007" paper presented in the Southwestern Social Science Association at Las Vegas in March 16-19, 2011
- Akhter Rifat 2010 "Impact of Global economy and Gender Empowerment on Domestic Violence," Paper presented at Arkansas Sociological and Anthropological Association at University of Central Arkansas in November 12, 2010.
- Akhter Rifat 2010 "Foreign Investment, Development, Sex Ratio, and Women's Participation in the Labor Force" Paper presented in the Southwestern Social Science Association at Houston in April 1-3, 2010.
- Akhter Rifat 2010. "Impacts of Foreign Investment and Sex Ratio on Women's Status. " Virtual presentation ( peer reviewed) in the Fifth International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences at Cambridge, UK in August 2-5, 2010
- Akhter, Rifat. 2009. "Development, Investment Dependency, and Gender Inequality in the labor Market in the Third World" Presented ( peer reviewed presentation -Virtual) in the International Global Studies Conference at Dubai May 28-30, 2009.
- Akhter, Rifat, Ed Power, and Eric Cheny . 2009. "Critical Analysis of Impacts of Investment and Debt Dependency on Infant Mortality Rates" Paper presented in the Southwestern Social Science Association at Denver, Colorado in April 7-11, 2009.

- Akhter, Rifat 2008. “Impacts of Global Economy and Women’s Employment in the Informal Economy on Family Violence: A Neglected Issue.” Paper presented at Global Studies Conference at Chicago on May 16-18, 2008.
- Akhter, Rifat. 2007. “Methodological Constraints of using Gender Empowerment and Gender Development Measurements: A critical Analysis of Women’s Empowerment in the Global Economy” paper presented at Midwest Sociological Society’s Conference at Chicago on April 2007.
- Akhter, Rifat. 2006. “Globalization and Gender Equality: A critical Analysis of Women’s Empowerment in the Global Economy” paper presented at Arkansas Sociological and Anthropological Association, Monticello, Arkansas on November 2006.
- Akhter, Rifat. 2005. “Global Economy, Gender Inequality, and Domestic Violence: A Cross-National Study” paper presented at American Society of Criminology, Toronto, Canada, November 2005.
- Akhter, Rifat, Saiful Islam, and Kathryn B. Ward. 2005. “Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices on Domestic Violence Against Women in Bangladesh.” Paper presented at American Sociological Association, Philadelphia on August 2005.
- Akhter, Rifat and Kathryn B. Ward. 2005. “Putting Gender Inequality in Labor Force and Maternal Mortality in Globalization Debate”, paper presented at Midwest Sociological Society, Minneapolis on April, 2005.
- Akhter, Rifat, Saiful Islam, and Kathryn B. Ward. 2005 Assessment of Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices of Domestic Violence Against Women in Dhaka, Bangladesh: Quantitative and Qualitative Perspective. Paper presented at Midwest Sociological Society, Minneapolis MN on April 2005.
- Akhter, Rifat and Kathryn B. Ward. 2004. Knowledge, Attitude and Practice towards Domestic Violence: Listening to Bangladeshi Women’s Voices, paper presented at American Sociological Association, San Francisco on August 2004.
- Akhter, Rifat. 2002. “Methodological Constraints in doing Research on Sexuality in Bangladesh” paper presented in a panel discussion organized by Caucus on Research on Gender and Sexuality in International Contexts in American Sociological Association, Chicago on August 2002.
- Akhter, Rifat. 2002 “Impact of Physical and Sexual Violence on Reproductive Morbidity: An Empirical Study on Sex workers in Bangladesh” Paper presented at Midwest Sociological Society, Milwaukee on April 2002.

### **Research Reports**

- Akhter, Rifat, Saiful Islam, and Kathryn B. Ward. 2005. Assessment of Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices of Domestic Violence Against Women in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Funded by ALO and USAID.
- Akhter, Rifat. 1998. “Impact of Pricing of Method on Contraceptive Use: Regional Variation” Masters Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Masters in Science (MSc) in Medical Demography, University of London.
- Akhter, Rifat. 1990. “Differential Determinants of Fertility and Contraception: An Empirical Study on Mymensingh District”. Masters Thesis submitted to the Department of Sociology, Dhaka University, September 1990.

## **Professional Services**

- Associate Editor, The International Journal of Interdisciplinary Social Science 2010-2011
- Organized two lecture series on “Doing Gender” at UCA in Fall 2010 and Spring 2011.
- Organized a panel discussion on “Gender and Crime” in Spring 2011.
- Associate Editor, The Global Studies Journal. 2008-2010.
- Manuscript Reviews: Violence Against Woman (2006, 2010, 2011), The Global Studies Journal (2008 and 2009), The International Journal of Interdisciplinary Social Science (2010 and 2011), International Migration (2011), The International Journal of the Humanities (2011), and International Journal of Comparative Sociology (2011).
- Member, College Research Committee 2008- present
- Member, Curriculum and Assessment Committee (Sociology Department)2006-present
- Member, Education for Global Engagement Committee, College of Liberal Arts, University of Central Arkansas. 2007- present
- Member, University Sexual Harassment Committee. 2007- present
- Session Co-Organizer and Presider, “Gender, Work, Resistance, and Globalization”, Midwest Sociological Society, March 31- April 3, 2005 Minneapolis MN.
- Volunteered in the Project “Women and Leadership in the Muslim World: Unveiling the Misinformation,” as a Muslim student to partner with a U.S. student to enhance learning about women in the contemporary Muslim world. This Project is funded by NASFA: Association of International Educators. International Programs and Services at SIUC has launched the project in March, 2005
- Volunteered in the workshop “Unequal Sisters: Learning About Women in South Asia”, to disseminate information on South Asian Women. I have delivered a lecture on “Socio Economic Status of Women in Bangladesh”. This Project is funded by NASFA: Association of International Educators. International Programs and Services at SIUC has launched the project in September 2001.
- General Secretary, Bangladesh Student Association, Registered Student Organization of International Programs and Services at SIUC. 2002-2003.

## **Panel Discussant**

Participated in a Policy Dialogue on "Efforts for Attaining The Zero Population Growth in Bangladesh" Organized by Planning Commission Bangladesh and The United Nations Population Funds on December 20, 2010.

### **Fellowship and Grant**

- University of Arkansas Medical School (UAMS) Grant August 2008- June 2009 for the project “Medicaid Women’s Health Waiver Evaluation”. Worked as Demographer jointly with Drs. Ed Powers and Lynne Rich
- University Research Grant Council, 2007. Summer Research Grant for the project The Impacts of Globalization on Income Inequality and Homicide Rates.
- Research Institute for the Study of Man (RISM)/Landes Supervised Fieldwork Grant for conducting research and field study in Bangladesh on Domestic Violence. December 2002- January 2003. I have conducted in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, visited female victims’ and street children’s shelter homes and reviewed documents on domestic violence issues.
- United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) graduate fellowship, 1997-98.

### **Professional Memberships**

- American Sociological Association, Member since 2001.
- Midwest Sociological Society, Member since 2001.
- Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) since 2004.
- Midwest Sociologists for Women in Society, Member since 2005.
- Alpha Kappa Delta, member since 2005
- American Society of Criminology, member since 2005