

Speaker Biosketches

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Erin Cech

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Erin Cech is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at Rice University. Before coming to Rice in 2012, Cech was a postdoctoral fellow at Stanford's Clayman Institute for Gender Research. She received a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of California, San Diego and B.S. degrees in Electrical Engineering and Sociology from Montana State University. Cech's research seeks to identify cultural mechanisms of inequality reproduction, particularly cultural beliefs and practices (e.g. scientific excellence, self-expression, the meritocratic ideology) that are popularly valorized as objective but serve as powerful forces reproducing inequality. Her work on STEM has examined inequality for women, LGBT individuals, and racial/ethnic minorities in both higher education and the workforce. Cech's research has appeared in the *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, *Social Forces*, and *Social Problems*.