



ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES
ASSOCIATION DES UNIVERSITÉS DE L'ATLANTIQUE

Award for Excellence in Teaching
2021
Distinguished Teaching Award

KATE KRUG

Kate Krug is an assistant professor of Sociology in the Department of L'nu, Political and Social Studies in the School of Arts and Social Sciences at Cape Breton University. Professor Krug is recognized by colleagues and students, who have been inspired by her dedication.

As a sociologist, Kate Krug is guided by the advice of C. W. Mills, who noted that we can only ever start where we are, and coined the term “sociological imagination”—a quality of mind that enables its possessor to look at and for the intersections between the private issues of everyday lives and the public issues of social structures. As an educator, she aims to provide students with the tools they need to develop critical thinking skills and to foster their own “sociological imaginations.”

Using her ‘Pedagogy of Play’ approach to learning and teaching, one colleague describes her methodology: “Play—as Kate understands it—produces a classroom setting in which the instructor and students are not only co-creators of new knowledge, but openly negotiate the structure of the class and methods of evaluation.”

As a Department Chair, Professor Krug plays an integral leadership role, with a focus on developing and sharing innovative teaching approaches to support a truly inclusive learning environment. She has shared curated examples of her Pedagogy of Play, inspiring fellow educators with her willingness to take risks and employ new strategies in the classroom. One colleague reflects on the “authenticity to Kate Krug’s teaching as she models critical thinking and Transgressive pedagogy at all stages of her courses,” further commending her teaching as “vibrant, exciting, and always changing.” Her classroom is described as a place “where diverse student learning needs can be met while providing the building blocks for creative and critical discovery.”

Kate Krug’s commitment to her students is overwhelmingly clear through their voices. It was students who nominated her for the CBU Alumni Distinguished Teaching award, which she received in 2019.

Outside the classroom, Professor Krug has had a transformative impact on the CBU community and beyond. She has participated in CBU faculty development initiatives, sharing her innovative teaching approaches at external events such as the Atlantic Universities’ Teaching Showcase. With a commitment to service, she coordinates with student volunteers the Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) annual conference for local high-school students, held at CBU.

Professor Krug’s former student, who is now an assistant professor of anthropology, shared a message that resonates with many, “I have had the privilege of learning from many gifted teachers from all over the world, and none have impacted me as much as Kate has.” With great respect of students and colleagues, Kate Krug is an excellent choice to receive the 2021 Association of Atlantic Universities’ Distinguished Teaching Award.