

**IULIA FRATILA**

Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism  
College of Applied Health Sciences  
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**Website(s):** [Diversity Lab website](#)  
[College of Applied Health Sciences Bio](#)  
[ResearchGate Profile](#)  
[LinkedIn Profile](#)  
[ORCID Profile](#)

**EDUCATION**

Ph.D.  
September 2017- Current

University of Illinois Urbana- Champaign  
Champaign-Urbana, Illinois  
College of Applied Health Sciences  
**Recreation, Sport and Tourism**

MBA  
September 2015 –  
August 2016

University of South Florida  
Tampa, Florida  
Muma College of Business  
**Sport and Entertainment Management**

B.S.  
September 2011 –  
May 2015

Western Michigan University  
Kalamazoo, Michigan  
College of Education and Human Development  
**Recreation Major and Event Management Minor**

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Iulia's research focuses on understanding the boundaries between deviant/normative, risky/beneficial leisure. Her dissertation will be looking at the role of leisure meanings and perceived risk-benefit considerations of cannabis use, as well as reactions to drug education messaging among young adults. The implications of this research are related to biopsychosocial aspects of leisure, health and well-being. Including the physical, biological, environmental, economic, social, cultural, and metaphysical (moral and spiritual) impacts of various risky behaviors across the life course and in different cultural contexts. Her interests also include leisure and identity including and expanding beyond risky behaviors; to understand how our leisure pursuits impact our various identities, and oppositely how our identities inform our leisure pursuits. Iulia has also worked on research investigating the relationship between leisure, sexual expression, and sexual health education.

## PUBLICATIONS

- **Fratila, I.,** & Berdychevsky, L. (2020). Understanding drugs as leisure through the (de)differentiation lens and the dialectic of Logos- and Eros-modernity. *Leisure Studies*, 40(4), 1-16. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02614367.2020.1843694>
- **Fratila, I.,** & Berdychevsky, L. (2021). Aiming 'High' in College: The Meanings of Recreational Drug Consumption in/as leisure and Existential Authenticity. *Leisure Sciences*, 1-19. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01490400.2021.1957728>
- Clary, L. K., Habbal, M., Smith, C. D. & **Fratila, I.** (2021). The Green Sheep: Exploring the Perceived Risks and Benefits of Cannabis among Young Veterans. *Cannabis*, 4(2), 31- 46. <https://doi.org/10.26828/cannabis/2021.02.003>
- **Fratila, I.** & Berdychevsky, L. (n.d.). Young Adults' Views of Sex as Leisure, Sexual Attitudes, and Acceptance of Later-Life Sexuality. Manuscript in preparation for submission to *Leisure Studies*.

## SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

- Brooks, C. & **Fratila, I.** (2021, May 30<sup>th</sup>- June 1<sup>st</sup>). Consent as a Criteria for Widening our Understanding of the Diversity of Leisure Experiences. *The Canadian Congress on Leisure Research (CCLR; Online)*.
- **Fratila, I.** & Berdychevsky, L. (2021, February 4<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>). Young Adults' Views of Sex as Leisure, Sexual Attitudes, and Acceptance of Later-Life Sexuality. *The Academy of Leisure Sciences' (TALS) Conference on Research and Teaching. (Online)*.
- **Fratila, I.** & Berdychevsky, L. (2020, November 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>). Asking Young Adults about Their Attitudes toward and Knowledge of Sex in Later Life. *The Gerontological Society of America Annual Scientific Meeting (Online)*.
- Escutia, J., **Fratila, I.,** & Berdychevsky, L. (2020, April 27<sup>th</sup>- May 1<sup>st</sup>). Young adults' attitudes toward elderly sexuality. *The Undergraduate Research Symposium (Online). University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, United States.*
- **Fratila, I.** (2020, February 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>). Challenges of Interdisciplinarity: Graduate Students' Perspectives. *Panelist at The Academy of Leisure Sciences' (TALS) Conference on Research and Teaching. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, United States.*
- **Fratila, I.,** & Berdychevsky, L. (2019, May 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>). Phenomenology of Recreational Drug Use among the U.S. College Students. *The 15<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry (IQI2019). Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, United States.*
- Cabrera, S., **Fratila, I.,** Berdychevsky, L. (2019, April 14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>). Sexual Satisfaction and Constraints in Later Life: Insights from LGBT Older Adults. *The Undergraduate Research Symposium. Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, United States.*

- Berdychevsky, L., Nimrod, G., Rogers, W., & **Fratila, I.** (2019, February 26<sup>th</sup> -March 1<sup>st</sup>). 'Don't stop living before you stop living!' Sex as leisure in older adulthood. *The Academy of Leisure Sciences' Annual Conference on Research and Teaching. Greenville, South Carolina, United States.*
- **Fratila, I.**, & Berdychevsky, L. (2019, February 26<sup>th</sup> -March 1<sup>st</sup>). Missing Chapter: Recreational Drug Use in Leisure Literature vs. Empirical Evidence. *The Academy of Leisure Sciences' Annual Conference on Research and Teaching. Greenville, South Carolina, United States.*
- **Fratila, I.**, & Berdychevsky, L. (2018, October 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>). Meanings, outcomes and leisurely Connotations of recreational drug consumption for U.S college students. *The LARASA International Congress. Durban, South Africa.*
- **Fratila, I.**, & Berdychevsky, L. (2018, September 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>). Analyzing recreational drug use among college students through the lens of dedifferentiation and the dialectic of Logos and Eros-modernity. *The International Conference of the Romanian Sociologists Society (RSS): Living in a Liquid Society. Timisoara, Romania.*
- **Fratila, I.**, & Berdychevsky, L. (2018, July 15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>). Aiming “high” in college: Potential links between existential authenticity and drug consumption in/as leisure experience. *The International Sociological Association (ISA) World Congress of Sociology: Power, Violence and Justice: Reflections, Responses and Responsibilities. Toronto, Canada.*

### **RESEARCH ASSISTANSHIPS**

September 2018 – May 2020  
University of Illinois  
Champaign- Urbana

**Research assistant** to Dr. Liza Berdychevsky; responsible for creating literature library (e.g., 1-3 page article annotations for over 200 articles) and qualitative data analysis (e.g., coding 73 participants using Atlas t.i., creating codebook)

September 2017 – May 2018  
University of Illinois  
Champaign- Urbana

**Research assistant** to Dr. Laura Payne; supported quantitative data analysis utilizing SPSS software and writing statistical results descriptions

August 2017- September 2017  
August 2018- September 2018  
University of Illinois  
Champaign-Urbana

**Research assistant** administering survey's and health screenings for Workplace Wellness project that was funded by the U.S. National Institute of Health and the U.S. National Bureau of Economic Research

### **MEDIA COVERAGE OF RESEARCH**

- PhD student's research gives insight into drug education programs. (February 2019 by Lara Browning). *Recreation, Sport & Tourism (RST) Newsletter Winter 2019*.  
Url: <http://rst.illinois.edu/drugeducation>
- Research project studies link between self-identity, recreational drug use. (February 19th, 2018, by Pari Apostolakos). *The Daily Illini: The independent student newspaper at the University of Illinois*.  
Url: <https://dailyillini.com/features/2018/02/19/research-project-studies-link-college-success-recreational-drug-use/>

### **TEACHING AND ADVISING**

May 2021 – Present  
University of Illinois  
Champaign-Urbana  
College of Applied Health Sciences

**Assisting with new course development**, helping to develop online graduate level course about designing inclusive spaces and events in the field of recreation, sport and tourism

January 2021 – May 2021  
University of Illinois  
Champaign-Urbana  
College of Applied Health Sciences

**James Scholar Honors Project Advisor**, includes mentoring undergraduate student on honors research project (i.e., data collection, data cleaning and preliminary data analysis for Reddit based netnography)

January 2021 – May 2021  
University of Illinois  
Champaign-Urbana  
College of Applied Health Sciences

**Instructor** of online undergraduate course RST 370: Research Methods and Analysis

October 2020 – December 2020  
University of Illinois  
Champaign-Urbana  
College of Applied Health Sciences

**Co-Instructor** of online undergraduate course RST 260: Disability in Recreation, Sport and Tourism. Received mention on the list of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by their Students.

August 2020 – October 2020  
University of Illinois  
Champaign-Urbana  
College of Applied Health Sciences

**Co-Instructor** of online graduate course RST 512: Managing Recreation, Sport and Tourism Organizations

August 2020 – December 2020  
University of Illinois  
Champaign-Urbana  
College of Applied Health Sciences

**Teaching assistant** for online undergraduate courses RST 316: Human Development and Recreation, Sport and Tourism and RST 340: Facility Management in Recreation, Sport and Tourism

June 2020- August 2020  
University of Illinois  
Champaign-Urbana  
College of Applied Health Sciences

**Co-Instructor** of online undergraduate course  
RST 100: Recreation, Sport and Tourism.  
Received mention on the list of Teachers Ranked  
as Excellent by their Students.

October 2019 – May 2020  
January 2019 – May 2019  
University of Illinois  
Champaign- Urbana  
College of Applied Health Sciences

**Student Aging Researchers Training  
(START) Program Co-mentor**, included  
providing educational seminars and supervising  
mentee on a research project and its  
presentation at the University Undergraduate  
Research Symposium (START website:  
<http://adl.kch.illinois.edu/start-home>)

Fall 2019 semester  
University of Illinois  
Champaign- Urbana  
School of Social work

**Guest lectured** for undergraduate research  
methods class about qualitative approaches to  
sensitive topics (Social Work 427)

October 2017- May 2018  
University of Illinois  
Champaign- Urbana  
College of Applied Health Sciences

**Teaching assistant** for online and on-campus  
undergraduate courses RST 101: Orientation to  
Recreation, Sport and Tourism; RST 242: Nature  
and American Culture

August 2013 – December 2013  
Western Michigan University  
Office of Student Transitions

**Co-Instructor** for First Year Seminar class,  
serving as a mentor for college students where  
responsibilities included planning a class lesson,  
organizing group volunteer and extracurricular  
class outings

### **SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS**

Christine Ziebarth Howe Graduate Student Award (\$1,500)  
Awarded by Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
2021 RST Awards Website: <https://ahs.illinois.edu/rst-awards-2021>  
February 2021

Graduate Conference Travel Award  
Awarded by Illinois Graduate College, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
Fall 2020

Allen V. Sapora Research Award for PhD Student Research (\$1,500)  
2019 RST Awards website: <https://www.ahs.illinois.edu/2019-rst-awards>  
Awarded by Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
February 2019

Graduate Conference Travel Award  
Awarded by Illinois Graduate College, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
Fall semester 2018

Michigan Parks and Recreation Scholarship  
Awarded by Michigan Parks and Recreation Association (MRPA)  
March 2014

Haenicke Institute Global Education Scholarship  
Awarded by Haenicke Institute Global Education, Western Michigan University  
January 2014

Michigan Campus Compact Heart & Soul Award  
Nominated by Dr. James Lewis, and awarded by Campus Compact Michigan  
February 2013

**SERVICE**

Fall 2021  
The Cutting Edge Speaker Series  
Department of Recreation, Sport, and Tourism  
University of Illinois  
Champaign-Urbana

**Moderator** of monthly symposium series highlighting cutting-edge research in tourism, sport, and leisure

April 2021  
iCU Intercultural Dialogue Series  
International Education Programs  
Office of Inclusion & Intercultural Relations  
University of Illinois  
Champaign-Urbana

**Speaker/Presenter for one session of the intercultural dialogue series**, talked about how concepts of slow food and slow tourism fit with the culture and country of Romania

Fall 2020  
GLOBE: Global Leaders Orange and Blue Engagement  
International Education Programs  
Office of Inclusion & Intercultural Relations  
University of Illinois  
Champaign-Urbana

**Engagement leader** connecting domestic and international students to enhance intercultural communication skills, leadership experience, and to help students develop global awareness and cultural competency

January 2018 – February 2019  
Journal of Leisure Research  
Taylor & Francis Publishing

**Assistant editor** providing guidelines to authors submitting manuscripts to the Journal of Leisure Research (JLR)

October 2017  
University of Illinois  
Champaign- Urbana

**Student Panel Member** for the College of Applied Health Sciences Ph.D. Recruitment Day 2017

September 2015- December 2015  
University of South Florida

**Football Team Liaison** for athletic department during the 2015 USF Bulls Football season, serving as guide around Raymond James Stadium and point of contact for the visiting team's executives

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) Student check in and Shuttle team member**

University of Illinois  
Champaign-Urbana  
August 2019

- Welcomed and directed new international students to resources while going through government required check in, also helped to guide students into housing from shuttles

**Global Purchasing Trainee**

General Motors  
Sibiu, Romania  
January 2017 – August 2017

- Analyze data and identify possible savings to assist wiring harness buyers in their purchasing negotiations

**Sport Marketing Intern**

HALAX – Hillsborough County  
Lacrosse Alliance  
Tampa, FL  
September 2015 – August 2016

- Manage online marketing channels and create original content for website, emails and social media, and organize various fundraising events in community

**Associate**

Southwest Michigan First  
Kalamazoo, MI  
January 2015 – June 2015

- Coordinate event planning for monthly networking events and leadership programs
- Assist with tracking budget goals, marketing, and communication

**Intern**

Southwest Michigan First  
Kalamazoo, MI  
December 2013 – December 2015

- Assist with administrative tasks at Kalamazoo Chamber of Commerce including billing, invoicing, event planning, and creating social media content

**COMPUTER AND SOFTWARE SKILLS**

- Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook)
- Google Suite (Docs, Sheets, Slides, Gmail)
- Keynote
- Compass/Blackboard
- Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS)
- ATLAS.ti The Qualitative Data Analysis and Research Software
- Qualtrics
- Beginner level Photoshop
- Survey Monkey
- Salesforce Database
- Endnote X7
- Compass
- Zoom

**CERTIFICATES**

- Center for Innovation in Teaching & Learning (CITL) Foundations of Teaching Certificate, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- Illinois Summer Teaching Institute 2021 "Amplifying Student Learning Across Modalities" Completion Certificate, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

**LANGUAGES**

- English – Excellent
- Romanian – Excellent