RESEARCH STATEMENT

Dr. Ardoin focuses her research agenda on several areas, including but not limited to college access and success, first generation students, social class identity, leadership development and practice, and professional preparation and career paths, particularly in student affairs. She views research through a constructivist paradigm and utilizes qualitative research methods to discover the how and why and allow space for the voice of each individual’s unique and valuable experience (Hesse-Biber & Leavy, 2011; Merriam, 2009; Mertens, 2010; Stake, 1995).

Dr. Ardoin’s 2014 book, The Strategic Guide to Shaping Your Student Affairs Career, has received much attention in the field of student affairs. It was chosen as a conference common read for both the 2015 NASPA national conference and the 2015 SACSA regional conference, where Dr. Ardoin served as a keynote speaker. The book is being used as a course text in higher education and student affairs master’s programs around the country, allowing Dr. Ardoin the opportunity to guest lecture for multiple programs. Additionally, student affairs divisions are choosing the book as a professional development resource for their staff and inviting Dr. Ardoin to consult on their campuses.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Dr. Sonja Ardoin is a learner, educator, and facilitator. Currently serving as Program Director and Clinical Assistant Professor of Higher Education at Boston University, Sonja originates from "Cajun country" and began her higher education career as a first generation student at Louisiana State University, earning a B.S. in Secondary Education. She later attained a M.S. in Higher Education and Student Affairs from Florida State University and a Ph.D. in Educational Research and Policy Analysis from North Carolina State University. Sonja’s career path includes experience in student activities, leadership development, community engagement, fraternity and sorority life, student conduct, and academic advising. Sonja stays engaged in the field through presenting, facilitating, and volunteering with national organizations such as NASPA, ACPA, LeaderShape, Zeta Tau Alpha, Lambda Chi Alpha, and College Summit. She research interests include social class identity, particularly in college access and success; leadership development and practice; and professional preparation and career paths. Sonja authored The Strategic Guide to Shaping Your Student Affairs Career (Stylus, 2014), served as a keynote speaker for SACSA 2015, and has consulted on several campuses. She currently serves as an editorial board member for the College Student Affairs Journal and the Journal of Student Affairs Research and Practice. Dr. Ardoin is also a member of NASPA’s Region I (New England) Board, serving as the Socioeconomic & Class Issues in Higher Education (SCIHE) Knowledge Community Representative, and the Co-Coordinator of SCIHE Knowledge Community’s effort to create a group for higher education professionals from the working class.