Sonja Ardoin, Ph.D. is an author, learner, educator, and facilitator. She originates from "Cajun country" - the small, rural community of Vidrine, LA specifically - and is proud of her first generation college student to Ph.D. educational journey.  Sonja's career path includes experience in student activities, leadership development, community engagement, fraternity and sorority life, student conduct, and academic advising.  She made the move from full-time practitioner to full-time faculty member in 2015, but continues to view her professional role as that of a scholar-practitioner.  Sonja studies social class identity in higher education; college access and success for first generation college students and rural students; student and women’s leadership; and career preparation and pathways in higher education and student affairs. She credits her love of reading to her grandmother, who always brought her to the local library as a child and challenged her to read the maximum number of books each week.  You can learn more about Sonja's work at [www.sonjaardoin.com](http://www.sonjaardoin.com/).

**Education**

* Ph.D. in Educational Research and Policy Analysis (Higher Education), North Carolina State University
* M.S. in Higher Education and Student Affairs, Florida State University
* B.S. in Secondary Education, Louisiana State University

**Courses**

* HPC 5410- Introduction to Student Affairs
* HPC 5820- College Student Development Theories I

**Select Referred Publications**

***Books***

* Ardoin, S. & Martinez, B. (under contract). *Stories of social class in the academy: How people from poor and working class backgrounds navigate higher education.*Sterling, VA: Stylus Publishing.
* Ardoin, S. (2018). *College aspirations and access in working-class, rural communities: The mixed signals, challenges, and new language first-generation students encounter*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.
* Ardoin, S. & contributing writers. (2014). *The strategic guide to shaping your student affairs career.* Sterling, VA: Stylus Publishing.

***Book Chapters***

* Ardoin, S. (accepted). Social class influences on student learning. In P. Magolda, M. B. Baxter Magola, & R. Carducci (accepted), *Contested issues in student affairs: Dialogues about equity, civility, and safety*. Sterling, VA: Stylus Publishing.
* Ardoin, S. (accepted). Social class identity influences on leadership opportunities and practices. In K. L. Guthrie & V.S. Chunoo (Eds.). (accepted), *Socially just leadership education*. Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing.
* Ardoin, S. (accepted). Straddling social classes: Helping working class students create a sense of belonging in both their hometowns and higher education. In G. Martin (Ed.) (accepted), *New directions for student services: Social class identity in student affairs*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.
* Ardoin, S. & Martinez, B. (2018). No, I can’t meet you for an $8 coffee: How class shows up in workspaces. In B. Reece, V. Tran, E. DeVore, & G. Porcaro (Eds.), *Debunking the myth of job fit in student affairs*. Sterling, VA: Stylus Publishing.
* Ardoin, S. (2017). Charting one’s own theory of leadership. In J. Dugan, M.A. Torrez, N. Turman, A. Barnes, & Associates (Eds.), *Leadership theory: A facilitator’s guide for cultivating critical perspectives*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.

***Journal Articles***

* Locke, L., Stier, M., & Ardoin, S. (revise and resubmit). “It was like gliding through”: Early college and college transition experiences of women from underrepresented and marginalized groups. *The High School Journal.*
* Locke, L., Broadhurst, C., Ardoin, S., & Johnson, J. (revise and resubmit). Leading from the middle”: Exploring stories of women working for change in PK-12 Schools. *Journal of School Leadership,*
* Ardoin, S., Broadhurst, C., Locke, L., & Johnson, J. (accepted). Peacemakers and rabble rousers: Women leaders as activists in higher education. *NASPA Journal About Women in Higher Education*
* Ardoin, S. (2017). Priced out: Considerations for increasing low-income students’ ability to engage on campus and increase cultural and social capital. [*NASPA Knowledge Community Online National Conference Publication*]. Retrieved from <https://www.naspa.org/images/uploads/events/2017-naspa-final.pdf>.
* Ardoin, S. & Dippold, L. (2013). Women as Students: Two Personal PhD Reflections and Suggested Practical Strategies. ACPA *Developments, 11*(1). Retrieved from <http://www2.myacpa.org/publications/developments>.

**Select Referred Presentations**

***National***

* Ardoin, S. (2018). *What a bunch of B.S.: How institutional jargon creates in-groups & out-groups in higher education, particularly for first generation college students*. Presented at the NASPA Closing the Achievement Gap Conference, Columbus, OH.
* Ardoin, S. (2018). *Institutional strategies to summon poor and working class students’ sense of belonging.* Presented at the NASPA Closing the Achievement Gap Conference, Columbus, OH.
* Ardoin, S. (2018). *What a bunch of B.S.: How institutional jargon creates in-groups & out-groups in higher education, particularly for first generation college students*. Presented at the NASPA National Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
* Ardoin, S. & Nguyen, D. (2018). *It’s NOT all about the Benjamins: Defining social class identity on campus and in research*. Presented at the NASPA National Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
* Waugaman, C., Ardoin, S., Shelton, L.J., Hernandez, S., & Perry, A. (2018). *Successfully starting your faculty career in the academy: Resources and insights from NASPA’s emerging faculty leader academy second cohort*. Presented at the NASPA National Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
* Radimer, S., Ardoin, S., Davis, J., Anderson, A., & Lawhead, J. (2018). *A doctorate in higher education: Demystifying the pathways and navigating the obstacles to advancing your career*. Presented at the NASPA National Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
* Benjamin, M., Kniess, D., Boettcher, M., Ardoin, S., Marine, S., Beatty, C. (2018). *So you have a terminal degree, now what? Part 2: Faculty options.* Presented at the NASPA Undergraduate Pre-Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
* Ardoin, S. (2018). *Strategies to shape your student affairs career.*Presented at the NASPA Undergraduate Pre-Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
* Martin, G., Elkins, B., Ardoin, S., Trolian, T., et al. (2018). *Exploring social class as identity*. Presented at the ACPA Annual Convention, Houston, TX.

***Regional***

* Ardoin, S. (2018). *The importance of viewing ourselves as scholar-practitioners*. Presented at the Memphis in May Student Affairs Conference, Memphis, TN.
* Ardoin, S. (2017). *Institutional strategies to summon poor and working class students’ sense of belonging*. Presented at the NASPA Region I Conference, Springfield, MA.
* Ardoin, S. (2017). *Exploring your personal social class story and its impact on your work*. Presented at the NASPA Region I Conference, Springfield, MA.
* Ardoin, S. (2017). *Things we don’t learn in grad school: supervision styles, stages, and strategies*. Presented at the NASPA Region I Conference, Springfield, MA.
* Lubin, C. & Ardoin, S. (2017). *Are financial expectations limiting #SAPro engagement, connection, & development?* Presented at the NASPA Region I Conference, Springfield, MA.

**Grants**

* ACPA Commission for Professional Preparation Faculty Research Grant ($1500): 2018
* UNCW Global Travel Grant for Staff ($1500): 2014

**Professional Engagement**

* NASPA: Socioeconomic & Class Issues in Higher Education (SCIHE) Knowledge Community Leadership Team; Center for First-Generation Student Success Advocacy Group; Journal of Student Affairs Research and Practice Editorial Board
* ACPA: Journal of College Student Development Reviewer
* ASHE
* SACSA: College Student Affairs Journal Editorial Board
* Association of Fraternal Leadership and Values: Board of Directors
* LeaderShape: Co-Lead Facilitator

**Awards/Recognition**

* *The Chronicle of Higher Education* Profile Feature: [2016](https://www.chronicle.com/article/I-Fit-in-Neither-Place-/238629) & [2018](https://www.chronicle.com/article/The-Lonely-Country-Road-to/243183)
* Kansas State University Chester E. Peters Lecture Series Speaker: 2018
* Boston University School of Education Excellence in Graduate Student Advising Award: 2017
* NASPA Emerging Faculty Leader Academy (1 of 7 selected): 2017-2018
* ASHE Council for the Advancement of Higher Education Programs (CAHEP) Early Career Faculty Workshop (1 of 35 selected): 2016
* UNCW Center for Teaching Excellence *Discere Aude* Mentoring Students Award: 2014
* UNCW Division of Student Affairs Outstanding Newcomer Award (best new staff person): 2014

**Hobbies & Interests**

* Traveling (currently trying to visit as many U.S. National Parks as possible!)
* Dancing / Live Music
* Reading
* Watching and Playing Sports
* Laughing
* Spending Time with Loved Ones