

Jessica Sayles West

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Education

- 2021 **Ph.D., Sociology, Duke University**
Dissertation: “Stress Proliferation and Disability over the Life Course.”
Committee: Drs. Scott M. Lynch (co-chair), Jen’nan G. Read (co-chair), Tyson Brown, and Matthew E. Dupre.
Concentrations: Medical Sociology and Demography.
- 2018 **M.A., Sociology, Duke University**
- 2015 **M.P.H., Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health**
Sociomedical Sciences with a certificate in Public Health Research Methods.
Thesis: “Exploring Strategies for Telling Others About Hearing Loss.”
Supervisors: Drs. Corinne Kirchner and Konstantina M. Stankovic.
- 2012 **B.A., Social Anthropology, University of Michigan**
Dual Sociology/Anthropology concentration with a Medical Anthropology focus.
Distinction and High Honors
Honors Thesis: “The Everyday Management of a Hard of Hearing Identity.”
Supervisors: Drs. Elizabeth A. Armstrong and Karin Martin.
Robert Cooley Angell Honors Thesis Award for the best Sociology honors thesis.
- 2011 **Boston University Summer Session, Department of Deaf Studies**
Studied American Sign Language and Deaf Literature.

Positions Held

- 2021-present Postdoctoral Associate
Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development
Duke University Medical Center
Supervisors: Matthew E. Dupre and Sherri L. Smith
- 2012-2014 Visiting Post Baccalaureate Research Fellow, Harvard Medical School
- 2012-2014 Research Fellow, Eaton-Peabody Laboratories, Massachusetts Eye and Ear

Research Interests

Medical Sociology
Life Course and Aging

Public Health
Demography

Disability
Hearing Loss

Publications

*Denotes graduate student co-author at time of writing, **undergraduate student co-author.

Riska, Kristal Mills, Sarah B. Peskoe, Maragatha Kuchibhatla, Alexander Gordee, Juliessa Pavon, Se Eun Kim, * **Jessica S. West**, & Sherri L. Smith. (2021) "Impact of Hearing Aid Use on Falls and Falls Related Injury: Results from the Health and Retirement Study." *Ear and Hearing*. DOI: 10.1097/AUD.0000000000001111.

Kamis, Christina,* Allison Stolte,* **Jessica S. West**, Samuel Fishman, Taylor Brown*, Tyson Brown, Heather R. Farmer. (2021) "Overcrowding and COVID-19 Mortality Across U.S. Counties: Are Disparities Growing Over Time?" *SSM-Population Health*, 15:100845. DOI: 10.1016/j.ssmph.2021.100845.

West, Jessica S., Sherri L. Smith, & Matthew E. Dupre. (2021) "Hearing Loss." In: Gu, D., Dupre, M. (eds) *Encyclopedia of Gerontology and Population Health*. Springer, Cham. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-319-69892-2_1135-1.

Read, Jen'nan G., Scott M. Lynch, & **Jessica S. West**. (2021) "Disaggregating Heterogeneity among Non-Hispanic Whites: Evidence and Implications for U.S. Racial/Ethnic Health Disparities." *Population Research and Policy Review*, 40:9-31. DOI: 10.1007/s11113-020-09632-5.

West, Jessica S. & Scott M. Lynch. (2020) "Demographic and Socioeconomic Disparities in Life Expectancy with Hearing Impairment in the U.S." *The Journals of Gerontology Series B: Psychological Sciences & Social Sciences*, 76(5):944-955. DOI: 10.1093/geronb/gbaa166

Zang, Emma, Scott M. Lynch, & **Jessica S. West**. (2020) "Regional Differences in the Impact of Diabetes on Population Health in the United States." *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health*, 75(1):56-61. DOI: 10.1136/jech-2020-214267

West, Jessica S., Kevin H. Franck, & D. Bradley Welling. (2020) "Providing Health Care to Patients with Hearing Loss During COVID-19 and Physical Distancing." *Laryngoscope Investigative Otolaryngology*, 5:396-398. DOI: 10.1002/lio2.382

West, Jessica S. (2020) "Hearing Impairment and Mental Health Among Married Couples." *The Journals of Gerontology Series B: Psychological Sciences & Social Sciences*, 76(5):933-943. DOI: 10.1093/geronb/gbaa023

- Featured on *Academic Minute* (<https://bit.ly/3mP9ZI5>)
- Honorable Mention, Graduate Paper Award, American Sociological Association Section on Aging and the Life Course

Read, Jen'nan G., **Jessica S. West**, & Christina Kamis.* (2020) "Immigration and Health among Non-Hispanic Whites: The Impact of Arrival Cohort and Region of Birth." *Social Science & Medicine*, 246:112754. DOI: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2019.112754

Read, Jen'nan G., Kristine J. Ajrouch, & **Jessica S. West**. (2019) "Disparities in Disability among Arab Americans by Nativity, Immigrant Arrival Cohort, and Country of Birth." *SSM – Population Health*, 7:100325. DOI: 10.1016/j.ssmph.2018.100325

West, Jessica S. (2017) "Hearing Impairment, Social Support, and Depressive Symptoms Among U.S. Adults: A Test of the Stress Process Paradigm." *Social Science & Medicine*, 192:94-101. DOI: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2017.09.031

- Featured in the *Duke Research Blog* and *Futurity.org*.

West, Jessica S., Jacob C.M. Low,* & Konstantina M. Stankovic. (2016) "Revealing Hearing Loss: A Survey of How People Verbally Disclose Their Hearing Loss." *Ear and Hearing*, 37(2):194-205. DOI: 10.1097/AUD.0000000000000238

- Featured in *Reuters Health News* and *AARP*.

Under Review

Copeland, Molly, Christina Kamis,* & **Jessica S. West**. "To Make and Keep Friends: The Role of Physical Health in Adolescent Network Tie Formation and Persistence."

- Revise and resubmit at *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, July 30, 2021

Zang, Emma, **Jessica S. West**, Nathan Kim,** & Christina Pao.** "U.S. Regional Disparities in Physical Distancing: Evaluating Racial and Socioeconomic Divides During the COVID-19 Pandemic."

- Revise and resubmit at *PLOS ONE*, July 30, 2021
- Preprint available on *SocArXiv*, DOI: 10.31235/osf.io/e6msz

Ajrouch, Kristine J., **Jessica S. West**, & Jen'nan G. Read, &. "A Socio-Demographic Overview of Diverse Communities in Arab Detroit." *Book chapter*.

- Revising, June 2021

Research in Progress

West, Jessica S. & Christina Kamis*. "The Long-Term Impact of Childhood Disability on Mental Health Trajectories in Mid- to Late-Life."

Lynch, Scott M., J. Scott Brown, Miles G. Taylor, & **Jessica S. West**. "No Matter Where You Go, THERE You Were: Early versus Current Region of Residence and Health in Later Adulthood in the U.S."

West, Jessica S. & Scott M. Lynch. "Hearing and Cognitively Impaired Life Expectancies among Older Adults in the U.S."

Fellowships and Funding

- 2021 *Data Expedition Award, Rhodes Information Initiative, Duke University.*
Two-day data analysis course for undergraduate students (\$1,500).
- 2019-2020 *Phillip Jackson Baugh Fellowship, Duke University Graduate School.*
Competitive fellowship providing an annual stipend (\$23,850), tuition, and fees.
- 2016-2018 *Summer Research Fellowship, Duke University Graduate School.*
(\$5,500 per summer)
- 2011 *Beverly J. Waterman Scholarship, University of Michigan (\$1,500).*

Awards and Distinctions

- 2021 *Health Disparities Research Curriculum (HDRC), Duke University.*
Accepted to attend a 15-week course hosted by REACH Equity.
- 2020 *Graduate Student Paper Award Honorable Mention.*
American Sociological Association Section on Aging and the Life Course,
“Hearing Impairment and Mental Health among Married Couples.”
- 2017 *Competitive Workshop Sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.*
Accepted to attend “Health Disparities, Health Inequities, and Vulnerable
Populations: Research Examining and Understanding Complexity,” an ICPSR
workshop at the University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, Michigan. July 10-14, 2017.
- 2012 *Robert Cooley Angell Honors Thesis Award, University of Michigan.*
Awarded for the best honors thesis in Sociology, “The Everyday Management of
a Hard of Hearing Identity.”

Teaching Experience

- 2022 *Guest Lecture, Geriatrics Grand Rounds, Duke University.*
Expected February 21. Title TBD.
- 2021 *Guest Lecture, Department of Population Health Sciences, Duke University.*
PHS 705: Topics in Population Health Sciences (Dr. Matthew E. Dupre)
Lecture: “Special Populations: People with Hearing Loss.”
- 2020 *Graduate Student Member, Bass Connections Project Team, Duke University.*
Lecture: “Brief Introduction to Hearing Loss”
Lecture: “Introduction to Survey Research Design”

- 2019 *Co-Instructor, Data Expedition, Rhodes Information Initiative, Duke University.*
Two-day course data analysis course for undergraduate students taught in conjunction with SOC 257: Sociology of Mental Health. Link here: <https://bit.ly/3gZgq9f>
- 2016-2021 *Teaching Assistant, Department of Sociology, Duke University.*
SOC 250: Immigration and Health
SOC 361: Social Determinants of U.S. Health Disparities
- 2012 *Guest Lecture, Audiology Department, Massachusetts Eye and Ear. Boston, MA.*
Continuing Medical Education lecture: “The Everyday Management of a Hard of Hearing Identity.”

Selected Presentations and Meetings

- 2021 *Gerontological Society of America. November 10-14. Phoenix, Arizona.*
- “The Long-Term Impact of Childhood Disability on Mental Health in Adulthood.”
- American Sociological Association. August 6-10. Held virtually (COVID-19).*
- “The Long-Term Impact of Childhood Disability on Mental Health in Adulthood.” Disability and Society Regular Session.
 - “To Make and Keep Friends: Physical Health in Adolescent Network Formation and Persistence.”
- Population Association of America. May 5-8. Held virtually (COVID-19).*
- “Overcrowding and COVID-19 Mortality Across U.S. Counties: Are Disparities Growing Over Time?”
 - “U.S. Regional Disparities in Physical Distancing: Evaluating Racial and Socioeconomic Divides During the COVID-19 Pandemic.”
- 2020 *Gerontological Society of America. November 4-7. Held virtually (COVID-19).*
- “Hearing and Cognitively Impaired Life Expectancies in the U.S.”
- American Sociological Association. August 8-11. Held virtually (COVID-19).*
- Co-president, Research Working Group Roundtable, “Early Adversity and Adult Outcomes: Unanswered Questions and Future Research.” Section on Aging & the Life Course.
 - “Depression and Metabolic Syndrome in the Marital Dyad: Is Social Participation a Key Mediator?”
- International Network for Social Network Analysis Sunbelt Conference. Paris, France. June. Not held due to COVID-19.*

- “Health and Friendship: Physical Health Affects Adolescent Peer Network Structure.”

Population Association of America. April 22-25. Not held due to COVID-19.

- “Cognitive and Hearing Impairments in Older Adults: Evidence from the Health and Retirement Study.”
- “Depression and Metabolic Syndrome in the Marital Dyad: Is Social Participation a Key Mediator?”
- “Regional Differences in the Impact of Diabetes on Population Health in the United States”

2019

Gerontological Society of America. Austin, TX. November 13-17.

- “Cognitive and Hearing Impairments in Older Adults: Evidence from the Health and Retirement Study.”

American Sociological Association. New York, NY. August 10-13.

- “Hearing Impairment and Mental Health Among Married Couples.” Disability and Society Regular Session on Disability and Family.

REVES Network on Health Expectancy. Barcelona, Spain. May 29-31.

- “Regional, Racial, and Sociodemographic Variation in Life Expectancy with Hearing Impairment in the U.S.”

Population Association of America. Austin, TX. April 10-13.

- “Sociodemographic Variation in Life Expectancy with Hearing Impairment in the U.S.” Health & Mortality 2 Session.
- “The Consequences of Hearing Impairment on Spousal Mental Health.” Marriage, Family, Households, & Unions: Gender, Race, & Ethnicity Session.

2018

Invited presentation, Massachusetts Eye and Ear. Boston, MA. November 19.

- “Birth Outcomes among Women with Hearing Loss.”

American Public Health Association. San Diego, CA. November 10-14.

- “Disaggregating Diversity in the Non-Hispanic White Population: Evidence for Disability among U.S. Adults.” General Topics in Applied Public Health Statistics Panel.

American Sociological Association. Philadelphia, PA. August 11-14.

- Discussant, Section on Methodology session, “New Data and Methods.”
- “The Consequences of Hearing Impairment on Spousal Mental Health.” Section on Medical Sociology Refereed Roundtables.

Population Association of America. Denver, CO. April 26-28.

- “Diversity in Disability among Non-Hispanic Whites: Evidence from the 2008-2016 American Community Survey.” Social and Spatial Disparities in Disability Panel.
- 2017 *ACCESS Research Initiative Convening. Dearborn, MI. September 21-22.*
- Assisted in the presentation of a grant report on Arab American health.
- American Sociological Association. Montreal, Canada. August 12-15.*
- “Depression and Hearing Loss: Demographic Diversity among U.S. Adults.” Section on Disability and Society Refereed Roundtables.
- Invited workshop hosted by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, “The Role of Data Disaggregation.” Washington, D.C. June 28-29.*
- Invited presentation, Massachusetts Eye and Ear. Boston, MA. June 19.*
- “Hearing Impairment, Social Support, and Depressive Symptoms Among U.S. Adults: A Test of the Stress Process Paradigm.”
- 2016 *American Sociological Association. Seattle, WA. August 20-23.*
- “Exploring Strategies for Telling Others About Hearing Loss.” Student Forum Paper Session.
- Hearing Across the Lifespan Conference. Lake Como, Italy. June 2-4.*
- “Exploring Strategies for Telling Others About Hearing Loss.”
- Eastern Sociological Society. Boston, MA. March 17-20.*
- “Exploring Strategies for Telling Others About Hearing Loss.” Panel, “Working with Labeled, Stigmatized, and Discredited Bodies.”
- 2014 *American Auditory Society. Scottsdale, AZ. March 6-8.*
- “Revealing Hearing Loss: A Survey-Based Study of How People Talk About Their Hearing Loss.”
- 2013 *American Auditory Society. Scottsdale, AZ. March 7-9.*
- “The Everyday Management of a Hard of Hearing Identity.”

Professional Service

- 2019-Present *Consultant, Lancet Commission on Hearing Loss (LCHL).*
- Invited by Drs. Debara Tucci and Blake Wilson (Commission Co-Chairs).
 - Member of the Stigma Working Group: tasked with exploring current hearing loss stigma and opportunities for addressing stigma.
 - Member of the COVID-19 Working Group: tasked with exploring the impact of and less from COVID-19.

- 2019-2020 *American Sociological Association, Section on Medical Sociology, Section Nominations Committee Student Member.*
- 2018-2021 *Member, Massachusetts Eye and Ear Audiology Leadership Advisory Council.*
- Role included lending expertise in research to division issues and opportunities. Invited by Dr. Kevin Franck, Director of Audiology.
- 2016-2019 *Graduate Student Forum (GSF), Department of Sociology, Duke University.*
- 2018-19 Graduate Student Forum Co-Chair
 - 2017-18 Faculty Committee Representative
 - 2016-17 Social Chair

Ad-Hoc Reviewer:

Journals of Gerontology: Series B, Social Science & Medicine, Ear and Hearing, Journal of Aging & Health, PLOS One, International Journal of Audiology, Population Research & Policy Review, Clinical Interventions in Aging, Aging & Mental Health, Geriatrics, Applied Research in Quality of Life, Research in Developmental Disabilities

Affiliations

American Auditory Society
American Public Health Association
American Sociological Association
Association of Medical Professionals with Hearing Losses
Gerontological Society of America
International Sensory Aging Research Network (SENSE)
Population Association of America