

## Jessica Sayles West, Ph.D., M.P.H.

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### Education

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- 2021      **Ph.D. in Sociology, Duke University**  
*Dissertation:* “Stress Proliferation and Disability over the Life Course.”  
*Committee:* Scott Lynch (co-chair), Jen’nan Read (co-chair), Tyson Brown, & Matthew Dupre.  
*Areas of Specialization:* Medical Sociology, Demography.
- 2018      **M.A. in 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:* Corinne Kirchner & Konstantina Stankovic.
- 2012      **B.A. in Social Anthropology, University of Michigan**  
*Honors Thesis:* “The Everyday Management of a Hard of Hearing Identity.”  
*Supervisors:* Elizabeth Armstrong & 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

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- 2021-present      **NIH/T32 Postdoctoral Fellow, Duke University**  
*Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development*  
*Mentors:* Matthew E. Dupre & Sherri L. Smith
- 2012-2014      **Visiting Post Baccalaureate Research Fellow, Harvard Medical School**  
*Otology and Laryngology*
- 2012-2014      **Research Fellow, Massachusetts Eye and Ear**  
*Eaton-Peabody Laboratories*

### Research Interests

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Medical sociology; life course and aging; sociology of disability; hearing loss; public health; demography

## Publications

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\*indicates graduate student co-author, \*\*indicates undergraduate student co-author.

**West, Jessica S.**, Sherri L. Smith, & Matthew E. Dupre (2022) “Self-Reported Hearing Loss, Hearing Aid Use, and Cognitive Function among U.S. Older Adults.” *International Journal of Population Studies*, 8(1):17-26. DOI: 10.18063/ijps.v8i1.1308.

**West, Jessica S.** & Christina Kamis\* (2021) “The Long-Term Impact of Childhood Disability on Mental Health Trajectories in Mid- to Late-Life.” *Journal of Aging and Health*. DOI: 10.1177/08982643211066184.

Zang, Emma, **Jessica S. West**, Nathan Kim,\*\* & Christina Pao\*\* (2021) “U.S. Regional Disparities in Physical Distancing: Evaluating Racial and Socioeconomic Divides During the COVID-19 Pandemic.” *PLOS ONE*, 16(11): e0259665. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0259665.

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*, 43(2):487-494. 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 (2021) “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

**West, Jessica S.** (2021) “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

**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/liv.2.382

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

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

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**West, Jessica S.**, Sherri L. Smith, & Matthew E. Dupre. “The Impact of Hearing Loss on Trajectories of Depressive Symptoms in Married Couples.” *Under review at Social Science & Medicine*.

Copeland, Molly, Christina Kamis, & **Jessica S. West**. “To Make and Keep Friends: The Role of Physical Health in Adolescent Network Tie Formation and Persistence.” *Under review at Social Science Research*.

Wang, Nan, Hanzhang Xu, **Jessica S. West**, Truls Østbye, Bei Wu, Ying Xian, & Matthew E Dupre. “Perceived Risk of Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias and Cognitive Decline Among U.S. Older Adults.” *Under review at JAMA Internal Medicine*.

## Research in Progress

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Riska, Kristal M., Juliessa M. Pavon, **Jessica S. West**, Dana S. Guggenheim,\*\* Margaret Lim,\*\* Hannah Wessler,\* Ila Kaul,\*\* Bhavika Garg,\*\* Mikaela Matela,\* Matthew Bao,\*\* Kevin Wiafe,\*\* Howard W. Francis, & Sherri L. Smith. “A Pilot Study to Explore the Impact of Standard Surgical Masks and Clear Face Masks on Patient-Provider Communication.”

Oliva, Allison,\* **Jessica S. West**, Sherri L. Smith, Ryan J. Huang,\* & Kristal M. Riska. “Association Between Life Space Mobility and Hearing Handicap Using a Mail-In Format of the Life Space Questionnaire (LSQ).”

**West, Jessica S.**, Sherri L. Smith, & Matthew E. Dupre. “Racial Differences in Hearing Loss: Evidence from Electronic Health Records.”

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.”

**Jessica S. West** & Scott M. Lynch. “Hearing and Cognitively Impaired Life Expectancies in the U.S.”

### **Fellowships and Funding**

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- 2022      **NIA Diversity Supplement (Feb submission)**, “The Impact of Hearing Loss on Hospitalizations among Older Adults with Heart Failure.” (R01AG075210; PI: Dupre, M.E.). Role: PI.
- R01 (Oct submission)**, “Increasing Uptake of Hearing Screening and Hearing Healthcare Follow-Up: Barriers and Facilitators in Primary Care.” PI: Smith, SL; Role: Co-I.
- Pilot Grant (Sept submission)**, “Racial and Ethnic Differences in Age-Related Hearing Loss.” Duke Population Research Institute. PI: Dupre, M.E., Role: Co-I.
- 2021      **Data Expedition Award (\$1,500)**, Rhodes Information Initiative, Duke University. Two-day data analysis course for undergraduate students.
- 2019-2020      **Phillip Jackson Baugh Fellowship (\$23,850)**, Duke University Graduate School. Competitive fellowship providing an annual stipend, tuition, and fees.
- 2018      **Summer Research Fellowship (\$5,500)**, Duke University Graduate School.
- 2017      **Summer Research Fellowship (\$5,500)**, Duke University Graduate School.
- 2016      **Summer Research Fellowship (\$5,500)**, Duke University Graduate School.
- 2011      **Beverly J. Waterman Scholarship (\$1,500)**, University of Michigan.

### **Professional Awards and Honors**

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- 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.”
- 2021-Present      **Lancet Commission on Hearing Loss (LCHL), COVID-19 Working Group.**  
Invited by Dr. Gerard M. O’Donoghue (Chair) to join the COVID-19 working group, which is tasked with documenting the impact of COVID-19 and lessons learned from the pandemic in the context of hearing loss.
- 2019-Present      **Lancet Commission on Hearing Loss (LCHL), Stigma Working Group.**  
Invited by Drs. Howard Francis and Laura Nyblade (Co-Chairs) to join the stigma work group, which is tasked with exploring current hearing loss stigma and opportunities to address it.
- 2019-Present      **Lancet Commission on Hearing Loss (LCHL), Consultant.**  
Invited by Drs. Debara Tucci and Blake Wilson (Commission Co-Chairs).

- 2018-2021 **Massachusetts Eye and Ear Audiology Leadership Advisory Council.**  
Invited by Dr. Kevin Franck, Director of Audiology. Role included lending expertise in research and social determinants of health to division issues and opportunities.
- 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.
- 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.”

### **Invited Lectures**

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- “Racial/Ethnic Differences in Hearing Healthcare Utilization” (working title) (Upcoming Jan 2023) *Grand Rounds, Department of Head and Neck Surgery & Communication Sciences, Duke University.*
- “Racial/Ethnic Differences in Hearing Loss and Access to Hearing Healthcare” (working title) (Upcoming Dec 2022) *Grand Rounds, Department of Speech Pathology & Audiology, Duke University.*
- “Special Populations: People with Hearing Loss.” (Upcoming Nov 2022) *PHS 705: Topics in Population Health Sciences, Department of Population Health Sciences, Duke University.*
- “Health and Well-Being of People with Hearing Loss and Their Spouses.” (2022) *Grand Rounds, Geriatrics Department, Duke University.*
- “Flash Talk: Racial Differences in Hearing Loss.” (2022) *International Sensory Aging Research Network.*
- “Special Populations: People with Hearing Loss.” (2021) *PHS 705: Topics in Population Health Sciences, Department of Population Health Sciences, Duke University.*
- “Birth Outcomes among Women with Hearing Loss.” (2018) *Audiology Department Leadership Advisory Council Meeting, Massachusetts Eye and Ear. Boston, MA. Nov 19.*
- “Disparities in Disability among Arab Americans by Nativity Status and Immigrant Arrival Cohort.” (2017) *Research Initiative Convening, Arab Community Center for Economic & Social Services (ACCESS). Dearborn, MI. Sept 21-22.*
- “Disaggregating Health Data among Whites: Implications for Research and Policy.” (2017) *Invited workshop hosted by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, “The Role of Data Disaggregation.” Washington, D.C. June 28-29.*
- “Hearing Impairment, Social Support, and Depressive Symptoms Among U.S. Adults: A Test of the Stress Process Paradigm.” (2017) *Continuing Medical Education, Audiology Department, Massachusetts Eye and Ear. Boston, MA. June 19.*
- “The Everyday Management of a Hard of Hearing Identity.” (2012) *Continuing Medical Education, Audiology Department, Massachusetts Eye and Ear. Boston, MA.*

## Selected Presentations

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**West, Jessica S.,** Sherri L. Smith, & Matthew E. Dupre (2022) “Hearing Loss and Its Consequences for Spousal Mental Health: Evidence from the Health and Retirement Study.” *Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting*. Nov 2-6. Indianapolis, IN.

**West, Jessica S.** & Scott M. Lynch (2022) “Hearing and Cognitively Impaired Life Expectancies in the U.S.” *REVES Network on Health Expectancy*. Sept 21-23. Halifax, Canada.

**West, Jessica S.** (2022) “Applied Medical Sociology” (Discussant). *Sociological Research Jamboree*. Aug 2. Held virtually as an alternative to the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting.

**West, Jessica S.** (2022) “Social Relationships and Health Disparities” (Discussant). *Population Association of America Annual Meeting*. April 6-9. Atlanta, Georgia.

**West, Jessica S.** & Christina Kamis\* (2021) “The Long-Term Impact of Childhood Disability on Mental Health in Adulthood.” *Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting*. Nov 10-14. Held virtually (COVID-19).

**West, Jessica S.** & Christina Kamis\* (2021) “The Long-Term Impact of Childhood Disability on Mental Health in Adulthood.” *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*. Aug 6-10. Held virtually (COVID-19).

Molly Copeland, Christina Kamis,\* & **Jessica S. West** (2021) “To Make and Keep Friends: Physical Health in Adolescent Network Formation and Persistence.” *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*. Aug 6-10. Held virtually (COVID-19).

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?” *Population Association of America Annual Meeting*. May 5-8. Held virtually (COVID-19).

Zang, Emma, **Jessica S. West**, Nathan Kim,\*\* & Christina Pao\*\* (2021) “U.S. Regional Disparities in Physical Distancing: Evaluating Racial and Socioeconomic Divides During the COVID-19 Pandemic.” *Population Association of America Annual Meeting*. May 5-8. Held virtually (COVID-19).

**West, Jessica S.** & Scott M. Lynch (2020) “Hearing and Cognitively Impaired Life Expectancies in the U.S.” *Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting*. Nov 4-7. Held virtually (COVID-19).

Kamis, Christina\* & **Jessica S. West** (2020) “Depression and Metabolic Syndrome in the Marital Dyad: Is Social Participation a Key Mediator?” *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*. Aug 8-11. Held virtually (COVID-19).

**West, Jessica S.,** Christina Kamis,\* Miles Marsala,\* & Ruth Wygle\* (2020) “Early Adversity & Adult Outcomes: Unanswered Questions and Future Research” (Co-president, Research Working Group Roundtable, Section on Aging & the Life Course). *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*. Aug 8-11. Held virtually (COVID-19).

Copeland, Molly, Christina Kamis,\* & **Jessica S. West** (2020) “Health and Friendship: Physical Health Affects Adolescent Peer Network Structure.” *International Network for Social Network Analysis Sunbelt Conference*. Paris, France. June. Cancelled (COVID-19).

**West, Jessica S.** & Scott M. Lynch (2020) “Cognitive and Hearing Impairments in Older Adults: Evidence from the Health and Retirement Study.” *Population Association of America Annual Meeting*. April 22-25. Cancelled (COVID-19).

Kamis, Christina\* & **Jessica S. West** (2020) “Depression and Metabolic Syndrome in the Marital Dyad: Is Social Participation a Key Mediator?” *Population Association of America Annual Meeting*. April 22-25. Cancelled (COVID-19).

Zang, Emma, Scott M. Lynch, & **Jessica S. West** (2020) “Regional Differences in the Impact of Diabetes on Population Health in the United States.” *Population Association of America Annual Meeting*. April 22-25. Cancelled (COVID-19).

**West, Jessica S.** & Scott M. Lynch (2019) “Cognitive and Hearing Impairments in Older Adults: Evidence from the Health and Retirement Study.” *Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting*. Austin, TX. Nov 13-17.

**West, Jessica S.** (2019) “Hearing Impairment and Mental Health Among Married Couples.” *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*. New York, NY. Aug 10-13.

**West, Jessica S.** & Scott M. Lynch (2019) “Regional, Racial, and Sociodemographic Variation in Life Expectancy with Hearing Impairment in the U.S.” *REVES Network on Health Expectancy*. Barcelona, Spain. May 29-31.

**West, Jessica S.** & Scott M. Lynch (2019) “Sociodemographic Variation in Life Expectancy with Hearing Loss in the U.S.” *Population Association of America Annual Meeting*. Austin, TX. April 10-13.

**West, Jessica S.** (2019) “The Consequences of Hearing Impairment on Spousal Mental Health.” *Population Association of America Annual Meeting*. Austin, TX. April 10-13.

Read, Jen’nan G., Scott M. Lynch, & **Jessica S. West** (2018) “Disaggregating Diversity in the Non-Hispanic White Population: Evidence for Disability among U.S. Adults.” *American Public Health Association Annual Meeting*. San Diego, CA. Nov 10-14.

**West, Jessica S.** (2018) “New Data and Methods” (Discussant, Section on Methodology). *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*. Philadelphia, PA. Aug 11-14.

**West, Jessica S.** (2018) “The Consequences of Hearing Impairment on Spousal Mental Health.” *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*. Philadelphia, PA. Aug 11-14.

Read, Jen’nan G., Scott M. Lynch, & **Jessica S. West** (2018) “Diversity in Disability among Non-Hispanic Whites: Evidence from the 2008-2016 American Community Survey.” *Population Association of America Annual Meeting*. Denver, CO. April 26-28.

**West, Jessica S.** (2017) “Depression and Hearing Loss: Demographic Diversity among U.S. Adults.” *American Sociological Association*. Montreal, Canada. Aug 12-15.

**West, Jessica S.** & Konstantina M. Stankovic (2016) “Exploring Strategies for Telling Others About Hearing Loss.” *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*. Seattle, WA. Aug 20-23.

**West, Jessica S. & Konstantina M. Stankovic** (2016) “Exploring Strategies for Telling Others About Hearing Loss.” *Hearing Across the Lifespan Conference. Lake Como, Italy. June 2-4.*

**West, Jessica S. & Konstantina M. Stankovic** (2016) “Exploring Strategies for Telling Others About Hearing Loss.” *Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Boston, MA. March 17-20.*

**West, Jessica S., Jacob C.M. Low, & Konstantina M. Stankovic** (2014) “Revealing Hearing Loss: A Survey-Based Study of How People Talk About Their Hearing Loss.” *American Auditory Society Annual Meeting. Scottsdale, AZ. March 6-8.*

**West, Jessica S.** (2013) “The Everyday Management of a Hard of Hearing Identity.” *American Auditory Society Annual Meeting. Scottsdale, AZ. March 7-9.*

### **Teaching Experience**

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- 2022           **Faculty Team Contributor, Bass Connections Project Team, Duke University.**  
“Life After Stroke: A Sensory Health Initiative” (PI Bailliard and Hreha)
- 2020           **Graduate Student Member, Bass Connections Project Team, Duke University.**  
“Impact of Face Covering on Patient Communication and Health Outcomes”
- 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

### **Professional Activities**

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- 2021-2022     **Competitive Training, Duke Center for Research to Advance Healthcare Equity.**  
Accepted to complete the Health Disparities Research Curriculum.
- 2021-2022     **Competitive Training, Duke University School of Medicine.**  
Accepted to complete training in Clinical Research with Electronic Health Records.
- 2021-Present   **Duke Geriatrics/Aging Center Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.**
- 2021           **Aging Center/Division of Geriatrics’ Internal Grant Review, Duke University.**  
Invited to review and provide feedback on internal grant submissions by Duke University researchers prior to submission.
- 2019-2020     **Section Nominations Committee Student Member, Section on Medical Sociology, American Sociological Association.**
- 2018-2019     **Graduate Student Forum Co-Chair, Department of Sociology, Duke University.**
- 2017-2018     **Faculty Committee Representative, Graduate Student Forum, Department of Sociology, Duke University.**



2016-2017      **Social Chair**, Graduate Student Forum, Department of Sociology, Duke University.

Ad hoc Reviewer

Journals of Gerontology: Series B  
Social Science & Medicine  
Journal of Aging & Health  
Population Research & Policy Review  
PLOS One

Ear & Hearing  
International Journal of Audiology  
Circulation  
Geriatrics  
International Journal of Population Studies

Affiliations

American Sociological Association  
Gerontological Society of America  
Population Association of America

International Sensory Aging Research (SENSE) Network  
Association of Medical Professionals with Hearing Losses