

## Jessica Sayles West

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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.

### Positions Held

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- 2021-present      Postdoctoral Fellow, *Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development, Duke University*  
*Mentors:* Matthew E. Dupre & 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

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Medical Sociology  
Life Course and Aging

Public Health  
Demography

Disability  
Hearing Loss

### Publications

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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*. 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*. 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/liv.2.382

**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/3mP9Z15>)
- 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

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**West, Jessica S.,** Sherri L. Smith, & Matthew E. Dupre. "Self-Reported Hearing Loss, Hearing Aid Use, and Cognitive Function among U.S. Older Adults." Under review at *International Journal of Population Studies*, March 2022.

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." Under Review at *Ear & Hearing*, March 2022.

## Research in Progress

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

**West, Jessica S.,** Sherri L. Smith, & Matthew E. Dupre. "The Impact of Hearing Loss on Trajectories of Depressive Symptoms in Married Couples."

**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."

## Fellowships and Funding

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

## Awards and Distinctions

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| 2020 | <i>Graduate Student Paper Award Honorable Mention.</i><br>American Sociological Association Section on Aging and the Life Course, "Hearing Impairment and Mental Health among Married Couples."  |
| 2017 | <i>Competitive Workshop Sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.</i><br>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 | <i>Robert Cooley Angell Honors Thesis Award, University of Michigan.</i><br>Awarded for the best honors thesis in Sociology, "The Everyday Management of a Hard of Hearing Identity."  |

## 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)  
  
*Guest Lecture, Geriatrics Grand Rounds, Duke University.*  
“Health and Well-Being of People with Hearing Loss and Their Spouses.”
- 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.*  
“Impact of Face Covering on Patient Communication and Health Outcomes”  
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 Lectures

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- 2022 *American Sociological Association. August 5-9. Los Angeles, California.*
  - “The Impact of Hearing Loss on Trajectories of Depressive Symptoms in Married Couples.”*Population Association of America. April 6-9. Atlanta, Georgia.*
  - Discussant, “Social Relationships and Health Disparities”*International Sensory Aging Research Network. February 22. Held virtually.*
  - Flash talk on racial/ethnic differences in hearing loss.
- 2021 *Gerontological Society of America. November 10-14. Held virtually (COVID-19).*
  - “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.”
  - “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. Cancelled (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.”
- 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.”
  - “The Consequences of Hearing Impairment on Spousal Mental Health.”
- 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.”
- 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.”
- Population Association of America. Denver, CO. April 26-28.*
- “Diversity in Disability among Non-Hispanic Whites: Evidence from the 2008-2016 American Community Survey.”
- 2017
- ACCESS Research Initiative Convening. Dearborn, MI. September 21-22.*
- American Sociological Association. Montreal, Canada. August 12-15.*
- “Depression and Hearing Loss: Demographic Diversity among U.S. Adults.”

*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."

*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."

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 Activities

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2021-Present *Duke Geriatrics/Aging Center Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee*

2021 *Aging Center and Division of Geriatrics' Internal Grant Review*

- Invited to review and provide feedback on internal grant submissions by Duke University researchers prior to submission.

2019-Present *Consultant, Lancet Commission on Hearing Loss (LCHL)*

- Invited by Drs. Debara Tucci and Blake Wilson (Commission Co-Chairs).
- Stigma Working Group: to explore current hearing loss stigma and opportunities to address it.
- COVID-19 Working Group: to explore the impact of and lessons from COVID-19.

2019-2020 *American Sociological Association, Section on Medical Sociology, Section Nominations Committee Student Member.*

2018-2021 *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*

Ear and Hearing

Journals of Gerontology: Series B

Social Science & Medicine

Journal of Aging & Health

PLOS One

Population Research & Policy Review

International Journal of Audiology

Clinical Interventions in Aging

Aging & Mental Health

Geriatrics

Applied Research in Quality of Life

## **Affiliations**

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