

Jessica Sayles West

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Education

- 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

- 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

Medical Sociology
Life Course and Aging

Public Health
Demography

Disability
Hearing Loss

Publications

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*. 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*. 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 (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/3mP9Z15>)
- 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/lio2.382

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

West, Jessica S., Sherri L. Smith, & Matthew E. Dupre. "The Impact of Hearing Loss on Trajectories of Depressive Symptoms in Married Couples." *Under review, May 25, 2022.*

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, June 6, 2022.*

Research in Progress

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."

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

- 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

- 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 *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>
- 2018 *Guest Lecture, Audiology Department, Massachusetts Eye and Ear. Boston, MA.*
 Continuing Medical Education lecture: “Birth Outcomes among Women with Hearing Loss.”
- 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

- 2022 *Gerontological Society of America. November 2-6. Indianapolis, IN.*
- “Hearing Loss and Its Consequences for Spousal Mental Health: Evidence from the Health and Retirement Study.”
- REVES Network on Health Expectancy. Halifax, Canada. September 21-23.*
- “Hearing and Cognitively Impaired Life Expectancies in the U.S.”
- 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

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

- 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

International Journal of Population
Studies

Affiliations

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