

Jessica Sayles West

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Education

- 2015-present Ph.D., Sociology, Duke University
Dissertation Committee: 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.
- 2012 B.A., Social Anthropology, University of Michigan
Dual concentration in Sociology and Anthropology with a focus in Medical Anthropology.
Graduated with Distinction and High Honors.
- 5/2011-7/2011 Boston University, Department of Deaf Studies
Studied American Sign Language and Deaf Literature.

Research Interests

Medical Sociology, Life Course and Aging, Public Health, Demography, Disability

Theses

- M.P.H. Thesis, 2015: “Exploring Strategies for Telling Others About Hearing Loss”
Advisors: Corinne Kirchner, Ph.D. and Konstantina M. Stankovic, M.D., Ph.D.
- Undergraduate Honors Thesis, 2012: “The Everyday Management of a Hard of Hearing Identity”
Advisors: Elizabeth A. Armstrong, Ph.D. and Karin Martin, Ph.D.
Winner: Robert Cooley Angell Honors Thesis Award for the best Sociology honors thesis

Publications (*denotes graduate student co-author)

Read, Jen'nan G., Kristine J. Ajrouch, and **Jessica S. West**. "Disparities in Disability among Arab Americans by Nativity, Immigrant Arrival Cohort, and Country of Birth."
- *Accepted for publication at Social Science & Medicine-Population Health, November 14, 2018 (in production)*

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

West, Jessica S., Jacob C.M. Low*, and Konstantina M. Stankovic. 2016. "Revealing Hearing Loss: A Survey of How People Verbally Disclose Their Hearing Loss." *Ear and Hearing* 37(2):194-205.
- Featured in *Reuters Health News* and *AARP*.

Manuscripts in Progress or Under Review

Read, Jen'nan G., **Jessica S. West**, and Christina Kamis*. "Immigration and Health among Non-Hispanic Whites: The Impact of Arrival Cohort and Region of Birth."
- *Under review at the Journal of Health and Social Behavior, September 22, 2018*

West, Jessica S. "The Consequences of Hearing Impairment on Spousal Mental Health."

West, Jessica S., Scott M. Lynch, and Emma Zang*. "Sociodemographic Variation in Life Expectancy with Hearing Impairment in the U.S."

Read, Jen'nan G., Scott M. Lynch, and **Jessica S. West**. "Diversity in Disability among Non-Hispanic Whites: Evidence from the 2008-2016 American Community Survey."

Presentations and Meetings

2018 Invited presentation to the Audiology Leadership Advisory Council of the Massachusetts Eye and Ear in Boston, MA. "Birth Outcomes among Women with Hearing Loss."

Read, Jen'nan G., Scott M. Lynch, and Jessica S. West. "Disaggregating Diversity in the Non-Hispanic White Population: Evidence for Disability among U.S. Adults." Presented at the General Topics in Applied Public Health Statistics panel at the Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association in San Diego, CA.

Served as the discussant for the Section on Methodology session, "New Data and Methods," at the 2018 ASA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA.

Presented a manuscript, "The consequences of hearing impairment on spousal mental Health," at the Section on Medical Sociology Refereed Roundtables at the 2018 ASA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA.

Read, Jen'nan G., Scott M. Lynch, and Jessica S. West. "Diversity in Disability among Non-Hispanic Whites: Evidence from the 2008-2016 American Community Survey." Presented at the Social and Spatial Disparities in Disability panel at the Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America in Denver, CO.

- 2017 Assisted in the presentation of a grant report on Arab American health using the American Community Survey to the ACCESS Research Initiative Convening in Dearborn, MI.

Presented a manuscript, "Depression and Hearing Loss: Demographic Diversity among U.S. Adults," at the Section on Disability and Society Refereed Roundtables at the 2017 ASA Annual Meeting in August in Montreal, Canada.

Attended an invited workshop on the Role of Data Disaggregation hosted by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in Washington, D.C.

Invited presentation at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear in Boston, MA. "Hearing Impairment, Social Support, and Depressive Symptoms Among U.S. Adults: A Test of the Stress Process Paradigm."

- 2016 West, Jessica S. and Konstantina M. Stankovic. "Exploring Strategies for Telling Others About Hearing Loss." Presented in a Student Forum Paper Session at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association in Seattle, WA.

West, Jessica S. and Konstantina M. Stankovic. "Exploring Strategies for Telling Others About Hearing Loss." Presented in poster format at the 2016 Hearing Across the Lifespan conference in Lake Como, Italy.

West, Jessica S. and Konstantina M. Stankovic. "Exploring Strategies for Telling Others About Hearing Loss." Presented on the panel, "To Stink or Not to Stink: Working with Labeled, Stigmatized, and Discredited Bodies," at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society in Boston, MA.

- 2014 West, Jessica S., Jacob C.M. Low, and Konstantina M. Stankovic. "Revealing Hearing Loss: A Survey-Based Study of How People Talk About Their Hearing Loss." Presented in poster format at the 2014 Scientific and Technology Meeting of the American Auditory Society in Scottsdale, AZ.

- 2013 West, Jessica S. "The Everyday Management of a Hard of Hearing Identity." Presented in poster format at the 2013 Scientific and Technology Meeting of the American Auditory Society in Scottsdale, AZ.

- 2012 West, Jessica S. "The Everyday Management of a Hard of Hearing Identity." Presented a Continuing Medical Education lecture to the Audiology Department of the Massachusetts Eye and Ear in Boston, MA.

West, Jessica S. "The Everyday Management of a Hard of Hearing Identity." Invited presentation in poster format at the Disability Studies Mini-Conference hosted by the

Allies for Disability Awareness Community Organizing (ADACO) at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, MI.

Research Experience

2016-Present Research assistant for Dr. Jen'nan Read, Duke University Department of Sociology on three projects detailed below. Tasks included data extraction and analysis, manuscript preparation, presentation preparation, and attendance at national meetings.

- 2017-18: "Disaggregating Ethnic Diversity in the Non-Hispanic White and Black Populations: Implications for Disability across the Life Course." Seed grant from the Duke Center for Population Health and Aging awarded to Dr. Read under a P30 grant from the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute of Aging (NIH/NIA) (PI Dr. Angela O'Rand).

- 2016-17: "Disaggregating Health Data among Whites: Implications for Research and Policy." Grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) awarded to Dr. Read.

- 2016-17: "The Demography of Arabs in America: An Historical Analysis of U.S. Census Data." Grant from the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS) awarded to Dr. Read.

6/14-8/14 Public Health Practicum, Massachusetts Eye and Ear Department of Otolaryngology and Harvard Medical School Department of Otolaryngology

2012-2014 Visiting Post Baccalaureate Research Fellow, Harvard Medical School

2012-2014 Research Fellow, Eaton-Peabody Laboratories, Massachusetts Eye and Ear

Awards

Duke Graduate School Summer Research Fellowship, 2016, 2017, 2018, \$5,500.

Accepted to attend "Health Disparities, Health Inequities, and Vulnerable Populations: Research Examining and Understanding Complexity," a workshop sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research's (ICPSR) Health and Medical Care Archive during the University of Michigan's ICPSR summer program in Ann Arbor, Michigan, 2017.

Robert Cooley Angell Honors Thesis Award, 2012.

Award given to the writer of the best honors thesis in Sociology at the University of Michigan. Received the award for thesis, "The Everyday Management of a Hard of Hearing Identity."

Beverly J. Waterman Scholarship, 2011.

Scholarship awarded to a student who has made a positive contribution to the University of

Michigan community and who has been certified as hearing impaired.

Service to the Profession

- 2018-Present Member of the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Audiology Leadership Advisory Council. Role includes lending expertise in research to division issues and opportunities. Invited by Dr. Kevin Franck, Director of Audiology.
- 2016-Present Teaching assistant for Dr. Jen'nan Read, Duke University Department of Sociology. Tasks include updating syllabi, updating presentation slides, and grading examinations and research projects.
- "Immigration and Health"
- "Social Determinants of U.S. Health Disparities"
- 2018-Present Reviewer for:
Journal of Aging and Health; Geriatrics; Applied Research in Quality of Life
- 2016-Present American Sociological Association
Member of the Section on Aging and the Lifecourse, Medical Sociology, Population, and Disability and Society.
- 2016-Present American Auditory Society
- 2014-Present American Public Health Association
Member of the Disability Section and the Aging and Public Health Section.
- 2018-2019 Graduate Student Forum (GSF), Department of Sociology, Duke University
Graduate Student Forum Co-Chair
- 2017-2018 Faculty Committee Representative
- 2016-2017 Social Chair