

Margaret L. Ralston

Department of Sociology
P.O. Box C
207 Bowen Hall
Mississippi State, MS 39762

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2021- Present Associate Professor of Sociology and Affiliate Faculty of Gender Studies, Mississippi State University

 Affiliated Research Associate with the Center for Population Studies, University of Mississippi

 Affiliate Faculty of Myrlie Evers-Williams Institute for the Elimination of Health Disparities, University of Mississippi Medical Center
- 2014–2021 Assistant Professor of Sociology and Affiliate Faculty of Gender Studies, Mississippi State University

EDUCATION

- 2014 Ph.D. Sociology
 Concentrations: Health, Aging, and Environment; Social Inequalities
 Graduate Minor: Psychological Statistics & Methods
 University of Missouri, Columbia, MO
- 2009 M.A. Sociology
 University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA
- 2007 B.A. Sociology & International Studies, cum laude
 Loras College, Dubuque, IA

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Aging and the Life Course	Gender
Health and Wellbeing	Social Inequalities
Families	Quantitative Methods

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

*Denotes graduate/undergraduate student

Nadorff, Danielle K., **Margaret Ralston**, Laura A. Shillingsburg,* & Amara L. Mason.* 2026. It Takes a Village (or a City): Perceived Economic Strain, Caregiver Ambivalence, and Quality of Life Among Caregiving Grandparents Across Perceived Residential Area Types. *Healthcare*, 14(18), 2972. <https://doi.org/10.3390/healthcare14182972>

- Brock, Madeline,* Nicole E. Rader, & **Margaret Ralston**. 2026. Vote, Pray, and Fear: Politics, Religion, and Fear of Crime in Today's United States. *Social Science Quarterly*, 107(5), e70191. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ssqu.70191>
- Imlay, Aimee, & **Margaret Ralston**. 2026. "Marginal Food Security and Depressive Symptoms: NHANES 2009 – 2020." *Social Science Quarterly*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/ssqu.70129>
- Ralston, Margaret**, Madeline Brock,* & Nicole E. Rader. 2025. "A gendered investigation of predictor's of fear of crime: the role of age and subjective health." *Journal of Crime and Justice*, 1–20. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0735648X.2025.2570703>
- Ralston, Margaret**, and Mikayla Herndon.* 2025. "Racial and Ethnic Differences in the Influence of Parental Incarceration on Adult Children's Depression Over Time: Does Social Support Matter?" *American Journal of Criminal Justice*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12103-025-09821-y>
- Ralston, Margaret**, Elyse Jennings, and Enid Schatz. 2021. "Who is at Risk? Social Support, Relationship Dissolution, and Illness in a Rural Context." *Sociological Inquiry*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/soin.12456>
- Jennings, Elyse, **Margaret Ralston**, and Enid Schatz. 2020. "Support in Times of Need: How Aging Adults with Depressive Symptoms Fare in Receipt of Social Support in Rural South Africa." *SSM- Population Health* 12:100666. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmph.2020.100666>
- Adams-Price, Carolyn, Joshua J. Turner,* and **Margaret Ralston**. 2020. "Well-being among Older Adults in Mississippi: Exploring Differences between Metropolitan, Micropolitan, and Noncore Rural Settings." *Journal of Rural Social Sciences* 35(2), Article 4. <https://egrove.olemiss.edu/jrss/vol35/iss2/4>
- Ralston, Margaret**, Enid Schatz, Sangeetha Madhavan, Mark Collinson, and Xavier Gómez-Olivé. 2019. "Perceived quality of Life and Living Arrangements among Older Rural South Africans: Do All Households Fare the Same?" *Aging and Society* 39(12), 2735-2755. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0144686X18000831>
- Ralston, Margaret**, Kecia Johnson, Leslie Hossfeld, and Bettina Beech. 2019. "Examining the Nexus of Obesity, Mental Health and Rural County Level Food Access: Testing the Enduring Role of Persistent Poverty." *The Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare* 46(2), 101-124. <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/jssw/vol46/iss2/4>
- Ralston, Margaret**, Enid Schatz, Jane Menken, F. Xavier Gómez-Olivé, and Stephen Tollman. 2019. "Policy Shift: South Africa's Old-Age Pensions' Influence on Perceived Quality of Life." *Journal of Aging & Social Policy* 31(2), 138-154. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/08959420.2018.1542243>
- Peterson, Lindsey and **Margaret Ralston**. 2019. "Aging Well in an Aging World: The Impact of Material Conditions, Culture, and Societal Disruptions." *Social Science & Medicine* 220, 245-253. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2018.11.025>
- Ralston, Margaret**. 2018. "The Role of Older Persons' Environment in Aging Well: Quality of Life, Illness, and Community Context in South Africa." *The Gerontologist* 58(1), 111–120. <https://doi.org/10.1093/geront/gnx091>

- Allison, Rachel and **Margaret Ralston**. 2018. "Opportune Romance: How College Campuses Shape Students' Hookups, Dates, and Relationships." *The Sociological Quarterly* 59(3), 495–518. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00380253.2018.1479200>
 *Authors are listed alphabetically and were equal contributors
- Ralston, Margaret**, Enid Schatz, Nirmala Naidoo, and Paul Kowal. 2018. "Including Older Adults in Development Goals: Is Subjective Wellbeing the Answer? A Case Study of Older South Africans." *The Journal of Development Studies* 54(4), 702–718. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00220388.2017.1311406>
- Allison, Rachel and **Margaret Ralston**. 2018. "Gender, Anticipated Family Formation, and Graduate School Expectations among Undergraduates." *Sociological Forum* 33(1), 95–117. <https://doi.org/10.1111/socf.12400>
- Peterson, Lindsey and **Margaret Ralston**. 2017. "Valued Elders or Societal Burden: Cross-National Attitudes toward Older Adults." *International Sociology* 32(6), 731–754. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0268580917726943>
 *Authors are listed alphabetically and were equal contributors
 *Article selected for "Topic of the Month" by journal editors for January 2019
- Schatz, Enid, **Margaret Ralston**, Sangeetha Madhavan, Mark Collinson, and Xavier Gómez-Olivé. 2017. "Living Arrangements & Disability of Older Adults in Rural South Africa." *The Journals of Gerontology: Series B*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/geronb/gbx081>.
- Lumutenga, Naomi, Margaret Loy Khaitisa, Ruth Muwazi, Florence Wakoko-Studstill, Irene Naigaga, Lesslie Hossfeld, **Margaret Ralston**. 2017. "HERS-East Africa and the Scholarship of Engagement through Outreach, Community Engagement and Research: Women Empowering Women through Reusable Sanitary Pads." *Journal of Community Engagement and Scholarship* 10(1), 141–151. <https://digitalcommons.northgeorgia.edu/jces/vol10/iss1/15>
- Ralston, Margaret**, Enid Schatz, Xavier Gómez-Olivé, Jane Menken, and Stephen Tollman. 2015. "Who Benefits—Or Does Not—from South Africa's Old Age Pension? Evidence from Characteristics of Rural Pensioners and Non-Pensioners." *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 13(1), 85. <http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/ijerph13010085>
- Schatz, Enid, Sangeetha Madhavan, Mark Collinson, F. Xavier Gómez-Olivé, and **Margaret Ralston**. 2015. "Dependent or Productive? A New Approach to Understanding the Social Positioning of Older South Africans through Living Arrangements." *Research on Aging* 37(6), 581–605. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/0164027514545976>
- Bjornstrom, Eileen and **Margaret Ralston**. 2014. "Neighborhood Built Environment, Perceived Danger and Perceived Social Cohesion." *Environment & Behavior* 46(6), 718–744. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/0013916513503833>
- Bjornstrom, Eileen, **Margaret Ralston**, and Danielle Kuhl. 2013. "Social Cohesion and Self-Rated Health: The Moderating Effect of Neighborhood Physical Disorder." *American Journal of Community Psychology* 52(3–4), 302–312. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10464-013-9595-1>
- Ralston, Margaret** and Xavier Escandell. 2012. "Networks Matter: Male Mexican Migrants' Use of Hospitals." *Population Research and Policy Review* 31(3), 321–337. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11113-012-9233-x>
- Schatz, Enid, Xavier Gómez-Olivé, **Margaret Ralston**, Jane Menken, and Stephen Tollman. 2012. "The Impact of Pensions on Health and Wellbeing in Rural South Africa: Does Gender Matter?" *Social Science & Medicine* 75(10), 1864–1873. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2012.07.004>

BOOK CHAPTER

Ralston, Margaret and Enid Schatz. 2020. "Social Pensions and Health and Wellbeing: A Focus on South Africa." In *Health and Care in Old Age in Africa*. Maharaj, Pranitha (Ed.) London, Routledge. ISBN 9780367074388

BOOK REVIEW

Ralston, Margaret. 2020. "Book review of *Aging in the Global South: Challenges and Opportunities*." In *The International Journal of Aging and Human Development* 91(4): 464-466.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0091415019896209>

GRANTS

Funded

- 2026 Undergraduate Research Program: *An Investigation Of The Long-Term Consequences of School Suspension and Expulsion on Mental Health*. **Margaret Ralston** (PI) and Sanna King (Co-PI), awarded \$2,000 from Office of Research and Economic Development, Mississippi State University
- 2024 May, David C. (PI), Stacy Haynes, Megan Stubbs-Richardson, Raymond E. Barranco (Co-PIs), (Senior Personal) **Margaret Ralston**. 2024. "Updating Law Enforcement Data in Mississippi." Byrne Discretionary Community Project Grants. (Funded at \$1,799,999)
- 2022 Strategic Research Initiative Faculty Seed Funding Race and Racism Program: Racial Differences in the Long-Term Impact of Parental Incarceration on Depression. **Margaret Ralston** (PI) and Kecia Johnson (Co-PI) , awarded \$ 9,987 from College of Arts and Science, Mississippi State University.
- 2022 Undergraduate Research Program: *Racial differences in the effect of parental incarceration and depression among mid-life adults*. **Margaret Ralston** (PI) and Kecia Johnson (Co-PI), awarded \$2,000 from Office of Research and Economic Development, Mississippi State University.
- 2021 Undergraduate Research Program: *Linked Lives: The role of intergenerational support and health in middle and later life*. **Margaret Ralston** (PI), awarded \$2,000 from Office of Research and Economic Development, Mississippi State University.
- 2020 Strategic Research Initiative Faculty Seed Funding Program: *Intergenerational Support and Well-Being: The Impact of Place on Midlife and Older Adults' Relationships*. **Margaret Ralston** (PI), awarded \$ 9,995 from College of Arts and Science, Mississippi State University.
- 2020 Undergraduate Research Program: *Intergenerational support and health in later life*. **Margaret Ralston** (PI), awarded \$2,000 from Office of Research and Economic Development, Mississippi State University.
- 2019 Planning Grant: Engineering Research Center for Empathetically Engineered Profitable Housing (CEEPH). Sponsor: National Science Foundation. Role: Contributor with PI, Todd French, CO-I Gnaneswar Gude, Contributors: Brains Shoup, Alexis Gregory, **Margaret Ralston**, Amanda Ross, Carlos Carrero, Charles Freeman, Courtney Crist,

Daniel Wells, David Blersch, Dawid Duvenhage, Junbo Zhao, Kalyan Srinivasan, Kristen Parrish, Mario Eden, Mary Love Tagert, Mike Highfield, Nalini Chhetri, O. Alan Tidwell, Oladiran Fasina, Oswald Chong, Patrick Phelan, Richard Harkness, Santanu Kundu, Selen Cremaschi, Seungdeog Choi, Shuguang Deng, Sundar Krishnan, Sushil Adhikari, Treavor Boyer, Yu Gan, David Hinson, David Perkes, and Eric Hill.
Amount: \$99,935 Dates: Sept. 1, 2019 – Aug. 31, 2020.

- 2017 Undergraduate Research Program: Health and Well-Being in Older Rural African Americans in Mississippi. Carolyn Adams-Price (PI), **Margaret Ralston**, and Antonio Gardner awarded \$2,000 from Office of Research and Economic Development, Mississippi State University.
- 2016 International Working Group: Social Capital in South Africa. **Margaret Ralston** (PI), Leslie Hossfeld, Stacy Haynes, Lindsey Peterson, Somya Mohanty, and Gina Mendez awarded \$4,000 from the International Institute, Mississippi State University.
- 2013 ICPSR Tuition Grant (\$750), Institute of Behavioral Science, University of Colorado

HONORS & AWARDS

- 2023 Travel Award (\$750), Academic Excellence Program, Mississippi State University
- 2020 Social and Behavioral Science Research Award, College of Arts and Sciences, Mississippi State University
- 2020 Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award, Department of Sociology, Mississippi State University
- 2020 Travel Award (\$1250), Academic Excellence Program, Mississippi State University
- 2019 Travel Award (\$1250), Academic Excellence Program, Mississippi State University
- 2018 Travel Award (\$750), Academic Excellence Program, Mississippi State University
- 2017 Competitive MCCTR Community-Engaged Research Summer Institute, University of Mississippi Medical Center, Tougaloo College, and the University of Southern Mississippi
- 2017 Travel Award (accommodation), International Union for the Scientific Study of Population
- 2017 Travel Award (\$1,000), Academic Excellence Program, Mississippi State University
- 2016 Travel Award (\$400), Academic Excellence Program, Mississippi State University
- 2012 Travel Award (\$500), Institute of Behavioral Science, University of Colorado
- 2013 Dissertation Travel Award (\$1,800), John Bies International Travel Scholarship, University of Missouri
- 2013 Graduate Research & Training Award (\$500), Department of Sociology, University of Missouri
- 2011, 2013 Nominated for Anderson Graduate Research Assistantship Award, University of Missouri
- 2011–2013 Travel Award (\$400), Graduate Professional Council (GPC), University of Missouri
- 2009 Supplemental Graduate Fellowship (\$5,000), University of Missouri
- 2008–Present Alpha Kappa Delta, the International Sociology Honor Society

- 2008–2009 Graduate Assistantship, Center for Social and Behavioral Research, University of Northern Iowa
- 2007–2008 Graduate Scholarship, Sociology Graduate Program, University of Northern Iowa

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- Ralston, Margaret**, “A Boomer, a Gen Xer and a Millennial Walk into a Room: How Generation Shapes Work Culture.” Faculty and Staff Workshop, Division of Access, Opportunity and Success, Mississippi State University, September 2024.
- Ralston, Margaret**, “Gen Z vs Boomers vs Millennials: Working Effectively Across Generational Divides.” Student Workshop, Division of Access, Opportunity and Success, Mississippi State University, April 2024.
- Ralston, Margaret**, “Aging in America: Intergenerational Support and Wellbeing.” Cultural event for Department of Sociology, Criminology, & Anthropology at Winthrop University, Rock Hill, South Carolina, November 2022.
- Ralston, Margaret**, “Aging in America: Intergenerational Support and Wellbeing.” Public Health Program at Wingate University, Wingate, North Carolina, November 2022.
- Ralston, Margaret**, “Aging in America: Intergenerational Support and Wellbeing.” Department of Sociology Brown Bag Series, Mississippi State University, October 2022.
- Ralston, Margaret**, “Health and Wellbeing of Aging Populations in the Global South.” Center for Population Studies, University of Mississippi, October 2018.
- Ralston, Margaret**. “What Influences Older Adult’s Perceived Quality of Life?” *Sociology Colloquia*, Mississippi State University, September 2017.
- Ralston, Margaret**, and Joel Negin. “Is Subjective Wellbeing and Social Capital Always Protective of Health? The Case of Older South Africans with HIV.” *Population, Education and Health Seminar Series*, University of Missouri, March 2016.

PRESENTATIONS AT SCHOLARLY MEETINGS

*Denotes student

- Robertson, Ian*. Faculty Mentors, **Margaret Ralston** and Sanna King. “Does School Punishment Have Long-Term Effects on Mental Health.” Undergraduate Research Symposium, Mississippi State University, August 2026
- Ralston, Margaret**, Laren Etheredge,* Megan Richardson and Stacy Haynes. “Demographics of Victimization and Fear of Crime in Mississippi.” The Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, March 2026.
- Ralston, Margaret**, Aimee Imlay, Julie Stepp.* “Reconsidering Food Security: The Physical Health Risks of Marginal Food Security.” The Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Jacksonville, FL, April 2026.
- Brock, Madeline*, **Margaret Ralston**, and Nicole Rader. “Politics, Religion, and Fear of Crime.” American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, November 2025.
- Ralston, Margaret**, Megan Phillips,* and Rachel Allison. “A Gradient of Single Life: An Investigation into Midlife Singlehood and Wellbeing Using a Nationally Representative Sample of Women.” The Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Charlotte, NC, April 2025.

- Imlay, Aimee and **Margaret Ralston**. “Depression in Marginally Food Secure Households.” Mid-South Sociological Association Annual Conference, Nashville, TN, October 2024.
- David Buys, Christine Jackson, Ra’Sheda Boddie-Forbes, Jamie Dyer, Brent Fountain, Gary Jackson, **Margaret Ralston**, and Susan Seal. “Mississippi State University Leverages Land-Grant Mission to Pursue Age-Friendly Status.” Gerontological Society of America Annual Conference, Seattle WA, November 2024.
- Brock, Madeline,* **Margaret Ralston**, and Nicole Rader. “Another link between physical health and fear of crime? Examining the relationship between chronic pain, feelings of physical vulnerability, and fear of crime among older persons.” The Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, April 2024.
- Herndon, Mikayla,* and **Margaret Ralston**. “Are Black women the most depressed? The long-term impact of parental incarceration on mental health.” The Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, April 2024.
- Herndon, Mikayla*, Faculty Mentor: **Margaret Ralston**. “Racial Differences in the Long-Term Impact of Parental Incarceration on Depression.” Undergraduate Research Symposium, Mississippi State University, August 2023
- Welch, Destiny,* Faculty Mentor: **Margaret Ralston**. “Later Life Depression Among Older Women and its Relationship to Early-on Domestic Violence by Social Class.” Undergraduate Research Symposium, Mississippi State University, August 2022
- Ralston, Margaret** and Kecia Johnson. “Racial and Gender differences in the effect of parental incarceration and depression among mid-life adults: Does social support matter?” The Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Birmingham, AL, April 2022.
- Gaddy, Caitlyn* and **Margaret Ralston**. “Marriage, Depression, and Intergenerational Support among Older Americans.” The Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Birmingham, AL, April 2022.
- Brock, Madeline*. Faculty Mentor, **Margaret Ralston**. “The Effects of Parental Incarceration on Depression in Midlife Adults.” Undergraduate Research Symposium, Mississippi State University, August 2021.
- Caitlyn, Gaddy*. Faculty Mentor, **Margaret Ralston**. “Depression and Social Support I Older adults through a Gendered Perspective.” Undergraduate Research Symposium, Mississippi State University, August 2021.
- Ralston, Margaret**. “Social Support and Well-being: The Impact of Gender and Race on Midlife and Older Adults.” The Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Online. April, 2021.
- Adams-Price, Carolyn, Muhammed Riaz*, **Margaret Ralston**, and Antonio Gardner. “Attachment to Home and Community in Older Rural African American in Mississippi.” The Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, November, 2020.
- Ralston, Margaret**, Enid Schatz, and Elyse Jennings. (Poster). “Social Context, Disability and the Relationship to Happiness: Evidence from Rural South Africa.” Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., April 2020. (Prepared but not presented)

- Ralston, Margaret** and Lindsey Peterson. "Health and Happiness: The influence of marriage across gender, age and place." Southern Sociological Society, Jackson, FL, April 2020. (Prepared but not presented)
- Ralston, Margaret**, Joseph Mugisha, Janet Seeley, and David Singleton*. (Poster) "Understanding the effect of caregiving to children and adults on older adults' perceived quality of life in Uganda." Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Austin, TX, April 2019.
- Peterson, Lindsey, and **Margaret Ralston**. "Aging Well in an Aging World: Inequalities in Health and Wellbeing across the Life Course." Aging Populations and Intergeneration Connections Section. American Sociological Society Annual Meetings, Boston, MA, August 2018.
- Ralston, Margaret**, Elyse Jennings, and Enid Schatz. (Poster). "Health Outcomes Associated with Marriage and Marital Dissolution in Rural South Africa: The Role of Financial Support." Population Association of America Annual Meetings, Denver, CO, April 2018.
- Adams-Price, Carolyn, and **Margaret Ralston**. "The Impact of Fear of Dependency, Life-Space, and Health on Life Satisfaction in Mid-to-Late Life." The Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, November, 2018.
- Ralston, Margaret**, Enid Schatz, Jane Menken, F. Xavier Gómez-Olivé, and Stephen Tollman. (Poster) . "Does a Guaranteed Income in Old Age Increase Health and Happiness for Men and Women? A Panel Study of South Africa's Old Age Pension Program." IUSSP XXVIII 2017 International Population Conference, Cape Town, October 29–November 4, 2017.
- Ralston, Margaret**, Enid Schatz, Sangeetha Madhavan, Mark Collinson, and F. Xavier Gómez-Olivé. "Are Elderly Rural Female Headed Households Disadvantaged or Resilient? An Investigation of Household Structure, Spending, and Support." IUSSP XXVIII 2017 International Population Conference, Cape Town, October 29–November 4, 2017.
- Ralston, Margaret**, Enid Schatz, Sangeetha Madhavan, Mark Collinson, and Xavier Gómez-Olivé. (Poster). "Quality of Life and Living Arrangements among Elderly Rural South Africans: The Role of Gender and Age." Population Association of America Annual Meetings, Chicago, IL, April 2017.
- Allison, Rachel, and **Margaret Ralston**. "Meeting and Matching: How College Campuses Shape Students' Hookups, Dates, and Relationships." Alabama Mississippi Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Jackson, MS, February 2017.
- Ralston, Margaret**, Kecia Johnson, Leslie Hossfeld, and Bettina Beech. "Obesity, Mental Health and County Level Food Access: The Influence of Persistent Poverty in a Rural State." Southern Demographic Society Annual Meetings, Athens, GA, October 2016.
- Schatz, Enid, **Margaret Ralston**, Sangeetha Madhavan, Mark Collinson, and F. Xavier Gómez-Olivé. (Poster). "Older Person's Living Arrangements and Health in Rural South Africa: Confirming Social Positioning?" Population Association of America Annual Meetings, Washington D.C., March 2016.
- Haynes, Stacy, and **Margaret Ralston**. "The Role of Household and Community Characteristics on South Africans' Self-Reported Health." Southern Sociological Society Annual Meetings, Atlanta, GA, April 2016.
- Ralston, Margaret**, and Joel Negin. "Quality of Life of Older South Africans: The Role of HIV/AIDS and Social Capital." American Public Health Association Annual Meetings, Chicago, IL, November 2015.
- Schatz, Enid, **Margaret Ralston**, Sangeetha Madhavan, Mark Collinson, and F. Xavier Gómez-Olivé. "Older Person's Living Arrangements and Health in Rural South Africa: Confirming Social

- Positioning?” Union for African Population Studies 7th African Population Conference, Johannesburg, South Africa, November 2015.
- Ralston, Margaret.** “Cohabiting with Children: Happiness and Social Roles of Older South Africans.” Population Association of American Annual Meetings, San Diego, CA, May 2015.
- Schatz, Enid, **Margaret Ralston**, Xavier Gómez-Olivé, Jane Menken, and Stephen Tollman. (Poster). “Profile of Old Age Pensioners and Non-Pensioners: Evidence from Rural South Africa.” Population Association of America Annual Meetings, Boston, MA, May 2014.
- Ralston, Margaret.** “A Contextual Analysis of Health and Wellbeing of Older Persons in South Africa: Do District Conditions Matter?” Southern Demographic Association Annual Meetings, Montgomery, AL, October 2013.
- Schatz, Enid, **Margaret Ralston**, Jane Menken, Xavier Gómez-Olivé, and Stephen Tollman. “Pensions, Gender and Health: An Analysis of Pension Effects Over Time in Rural South Africa.” Population Association of America Annual Meetings, New Orleans, LA, April 2013.
- Ralston, Margaret.** (Poster). “A Contextual Analysis of Health and Wellbeing of Older Persons in South Africa: Do District Conditions Matter?” Population Association of America Annual Meetings, New Orleans, LA, April 2013.
- Ralston, Margaret.** “A Contextual Analysis of Health and Wellbeing of Older Persons in South Africa: Do District Conditions Matter?” Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meetings, Chicago, IL, March 2013.
- Ralston, Margaret**, Enid Schatz, Paul Kowal, and Nirmala Naidoo. “Aging, Pensions, and Wellbeing in South Africa: What Factors Matter?” Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meetings, Minneapolis, MN, March 2012.
- Bjornstrom, Eileen, and **Margaret Ralston.** (Round table). “Neighborhood Commercial Activity, Social Resources and Health: The Effect of Physical Disorder.” American Sociological Association Annual Meetings, Denver, CO, August 2012.
- Schatz, Enid, Xavier Gómez-Olivé, **Margaret Ralston**, Jane Menken, and Stephen Tollman. “Men, Pensions and Wellbeing in Rural South Africa: Tracking Effects through Policy Shifts.” Population Association of America Annual Meetings, San Francisco, CA, May 2012.
- Schatz, Enid, Xavier Gómez-Olivé, **Margaret Ralston**, Jane Menken, and Stephen Tollman. “Gender, Pensions, and Social Wellbeing in Rural South Africa.” Population Association of America Annual Meetings, Washington D.C., March 2011.
- Ralston, Margaret.** “Wellbeing among Female Heads of Household in South Africa.” Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meetings, St. Louis, MO, March 2011.
- Ralston, Margaret.** “When Social Networks Matter: Mexican Migrants’ Access to Welfare State Programs through Social Tie.” Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meetings, Chicago, IL, March 2010.
- Ralston, Margaret.** “Mexican Migrants’ Access to the Welfare State through Social Networks” Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meetings, Des Moines, IA, March 2009.
- Ralston, Margaret.** “Why Do People Volunteer?: An Examination of Volunteerism.” Graduate Research Symposium, University of Northern Iowa, April 2008.
- Ralston, Margaret.** “Why Do People Volunteer?: An Examination of Volunteerism.” Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meetings, St. Louis, MO, March 2008.

Ralston, Margaret. "Feminist Mentoring Panel." Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meetings, St. Louis, MO, March 2008.

TEACHING

Courses

Social Statistics II (Graduate)
Seminar in Life Course (Graduate)
Seminar of Marriage and Families (Graduate)
Seminar in Population Health (Graduate)
Population Problems (Graduate/Undergraduate- online and face-to-face)
Social Research Practice
Introduction to Social Research Methods
Sociology of Aging
Sociology of Families (online and face-to-face)
Sociology of Gender
Introduction to Sociology (online and face-to-face)
Sociology of Health (online)

Advising

Master Students

Major Professor:

Jordan Parker, Department of Sociology, MS, (Exit Exam) May 2023
Sarah Caylor, Department of Sociology, MS, (Exit Exam), May 2021

Committee member:

Campbell Carter, Department of Sociology, MS
Lauren Etheredge, Department of Sociology, MS
Julie Stepp, Department of Sociology, MS, May 2026
Bishop Noble, Department of Sociology, MS, August 2025
Erin King, Department of Sociology, MS, August 2020
Brent Lee, Department of Sociology, MS, December 2017
Kentse Radebe, Department of Sociology, MS, May 2016
Jennifer Carruth, Department of Sociology, MS, May 2015

External Reviewer:

Master of Public Health (MPH), External Thesis Reviewer University of Cape Town,
South Africa, May 2026

Master of Social Work (MSW), External Thesis Reviewer, University of Fort Hare,
Alice, South Africa, May 2021

Dissertation Committees

Chair:

John The Baptist Anodjo, Department of Sociology, Ph.D.

Greg Marcus, Department of Sociology, Ph.D.

Robert Kolbila, Department of Sociology, Ph.D., May 2025

Committee member:

David O. Ademule, Department of Sociology, Ph.D., expected May 2026
 Laura Jean Kerr, Department of Sociology, Ph.D., May 2023
 Ben Walker, Department of Sociology, Ph.D., December 2021
 Ismail Yigit, Department of Sociology, Ph.D., May 2020
 Xuan Zhou, Department of Sociology, Ph.D., May 2016

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR): Applied Multilevel Models for Longitudinal Data, University of Colorado, July 2013.

Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR): Introduction to Spatial Demography: Geospatial Data and Spatial Regression workshop, University of Colorado, May 2012.

Advanced Methodological Training

Multilevel Modeling, Categorical Data Analysis, Structural Equation Modeling, Survey Data Management and Analysis

Software Proficiency

STATA, HLM, SPSS, Microsoft Excel

Teaching

2026 completed *Supporting Student Learning in Class and Online* course with the Maroon Academy at Mississippi State University

2026 completed *Inclusive Teaching to Welcome All Learners* course with the Maroon Academy at Mississippi State University

2025 completed *Active Learning for Student Engagement* course with the Maroon Academy at Mississippi State University

2025 completed *Intentional Course Design & Assessment* course with the Maroon Academy at Mississippi State University

2023 completed *Diversity Education Certification* by attending three or more sessions from the Faculty and Staff Diversity Education Series and completing assessments at Mississippi State University

2018 completed *Maroon Institute for Writing Excellence* learning modules for the inclusion of writing into undergraduate courses at Mississippi State University

2017 completed Certification for Online Teaching learning modules through the Center for Teaching and Learning at Mississippi State University

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

College & University

2024	Co-organized and hosted scholar, Ethlyn McQueen-Gibson, President of Southern Gerontological Society, for public talk on campus
2024	Facilitator, Staff Workshop, Office of Inclusive Excellence
2024	Facilitator, Student Workshop, Office of Inclusive Excellence
2023	Panelists, Tenth Annual Feminist Film Fest
2023 –present	Age-Friendly University Committee, member
2023-present	Chair, Gerontology certificate/minor committee, Mississippi State University

2023-2026	College of Arts & Science representative, University International Programs Committee
2022-2024	Mentor, New Faculty Mentorship Program, College of Arts & Science, Mississippi State University
2020	Judge, Cowbell Classic Speech and Debate Tournament, Mississippi State University
2019-2022	Library committee, College of Arts & Sciences representative, Mississippi State University
2019	Organized and hosted scholar, John Green-University of Mississippi, for public talk on campus
2018–2021	Scholarship committee, College of Arts & Sciences, Mississippi State University
2018	Organized and hosted international scholar, Grace Mukwaya- Executive Director for Platform for Labour Action Uganda, for public talk on campus
2017	Maroon Edition Panelist, Mississippi State University
2017	Completed <i>Safe Zone Training</i> , Mississippi State University
2015–2018	College of Arts & Science Faculty Senate, Senator, Gender Studies, Mississippi State University
2015–2023	Member , Gerontology certificate/minor committee, Mississippi State University

Department

2026-present	Sociology and Criminology Undergraduate Program Coordinator
2025-present	Undergraduate Research and Experiential Learning Coordinator
2024	Co-organized lunch for students to meet Dr. Ethyn McQueen-Gibson, Eastern Virginia Medical School
2021- Present	Tenure and Promotion Committee
2019, 2021-2025	Graduate Student Teaching Evaluator, Department of Sociology
2022	Graduate Appeals Committee, Department of Sociology, Mississippi State University
2023-2024	Member, Assistant Professor search committee, Sociology Department and gender Studies Program, Mississippi State University
2022	Chair, Assistant Professor search committee, Sociology Department, Mississippi State University
2021-2023	Ad-hoc Undergraduate Sociology program committee
2021-2022	Mentor, Department of Sociology Faculty Mentor Program.
2020-2021, 2023-2025	Undergraduate policies and curriculum committee, Sociology Department, Mississippi State University
2020-2021	Clinical Assistant Professor search committee, Sociology Department, Mississippi State University
2019-2020	Advisory committee, Sociology Department, Mississippi State University

2019-2020, 2023-2025	Loftin Fund committee, Sociology Department, Mississippi State University
2018-2019	Department head search committee, Sociology Department, Mississippi State University
2016-2019	Data committee, Sociology Department, Mississippi State University
2015-2019	Ad hoc globalization of the curriculum committee, Sociology Department, Mississippi State University
2015	Distance education graduate coordinator, Sociology Department, Mississippi State University
2015-2019, 2025-2026	Qualifying examination committee, Sociology Department, Mississippi State University
2014-2019, 2022	Graduate policies and curriculum committee, Sociology Department, Mississippi State University
2014-2025	Graduate Demography/ Communities, Environment, and Health preliminary examination committee, Sociology Department, Mississippi State University
2014	Assistant professor search committee, Sociology Department, Mississippi State University

Discipline

2026	Presider and Organizer, Sociology at Work Exploring Applied Career Paths, Southern Sociological Society Annual Conference
2024	Presider and Organizer, Professional Mentorship and CV Review, Southern Sociological Society Annual Conference
2024	Presider, Panel on Research Grants, Southern Sociological Society Annual Conference
2024	Organizer, Volunteer as Panelist: Finding a Job that Matters to you, Southern Sociological Society Annual Conference
2024-2027	Member, Editorial Board, <i>Journal of Aging and Social Policy</i>
2023-2026	Review Editor, Editorial Board, <i>Frontiers in Public Health</i>
2024-2026	Member, Southern Sociological Society, Committee on Professions
2023-2024	Chair, Southern Sociological Society, Committee on Professions
2022-2027	Associate Editor, <i>Journal of Family Studies</i>
2022	Session Presider, Southern Sociological Society, Annual Meeting
2021	Session Moderator, Interdisciplinary Network on Rural Population Health and Aging
2021	External Thesis Reviewer, University of Fort Hare, Alice, South Africa.
2021	Discussant, Population Association of America Annual Meeting
2020	Discussant, Population Association of America Annual Meeting
2018	Chair of session, Population Association of America Annual Meeting
2017	Discussant, Higher Education Resource Services–East Africa (HERS–EA) Academy, Makerere University Uganda
2017	Discussant, IAGG World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics Meeting
2016	Session presider, Southern Demographic Association Annual Meeting
2016	Judge, Population Young Author Award, European Population Society
2015	Discussant, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting
2013-2014	Assistant to chair of International Outreach Committee, Population Association of America

2013 Judge, Undergraduate Paper Award, Midwest Sociological Society
2012 Session Organizer, Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting

Reviewer *The Lancet, Journal of Marriage and Family, Social Problems, Social Forces, Journal of Health and Social Behavior, Social Science & Medicine, The Gerontologist, Research on Aging, Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology, Sociological Forum, The Sociological Quarterly, Ageing and Society, Journal of Aging and Health, Innovation in Aging, Ethnicity and Health, Journal of Aging and Social Policy, Obesity Reviews, Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, Social Indicators Research, Africa Today, Journal of Poverty Alleviation and International Development, BMJ, Population Aging, Geoforum*

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association
Population Association of America
Southern Sociological Society
Interdisciplinary Network on Rural Population Health and Aging
Health Equity Scholar Program- Scholars Strategy Network
