

Amelia R. Branigan

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(Revised Sept 2015)

POSTDOCTORAL TRAINING

2014-present	Frank H. T. Rhodes Postdoctoral Fellow Cornell Population Center, Cornell University
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EDUCATION

2014	Ph.D.	Sociology, Northwestern University <i>Dissertation: The Social Relevance of Visible Physical Characteristics for Educational Outcomes</i> I use educational performance outcomes to assess the sociological relevance of two visible physical characteristics—skin color and body fat— addressing challenges of accurate measurement and of variation in the salience of these characteristics across cohorts. I argue that the visible body is itself a social fact, and that by omitting physical variation from quantitative analysis of inequality, social scientists render invisible systems of inequality that persist within categories such as sex and race, seeing only disparities between them. Through three studies using large national datasets, I demonstrate such within-sex and within-race variation in educational attainment and achievement by phenotype, and offer suggestions for better engaging the visible body in sociological research on inequality. <i>Committee: Jeremy Freese (chair), Lincoln Quillian, Quincy Thomas Stewart, Dalton Conley (NYU)</i>
2009	M.A.	Sociology, Northwestern University
2004	B.A.	History and Journalism, New York University, <i>magna cum laude</i>

AREAS OF INTEREST

Social Inequality; Education; Health and Illness; Crime and Deviance; Race and Ethnicity

PUBLICATIONS

Branigan, Amelia R., Jeremy Freese, Assaf Patir, Thomas W. McDade, Kiang Liu, and Catarina I. Kiefe. 2013. "Skin Color, Sex, and Educational Attainment in the Post-Civil-Rights Era." *Social Science Research*. 42(6): 1659-1674. ([link](#))

Branigan, Amelia R., Kenneth J. McCallum, and Jeremy Freese. 2013. "Variation in the Heritability of Educational Attainment: An International Meta-Analysis." *Social Forces*. 92(1): 109-140. ([link](#))

Freese, Jeremy and Amelia R. Branigan. 2012. "Cognitive Skills and Survey Nonresponse: Evidence from Two Longitudinal Studies in the United States." *EurAmerica*. 42(2): 221-247.

PAPERS IN PROGRESS

Branigan, Amelia R., Christopher Wildeman, Jeremy Freese, and Catarina I. Kiefe. "A Revision of Colorism: Race, Skin Color, and Interactions with the Criminal Justice System." *Under Review*.

Branigan, Amelia R. “(How) Does Obesity Harm GPA? Stratification at the Intersection of Race, Gender, and Body Size.” *Under Review*.

Branigan, Amelia R. “Ideal Body Weight and Weight Misreporting Among Adult Americans, 2007-2012.” *Under Review*.

Branigan, Amelia R. and Jonas Helgertz. “Parental Infertility and Children’s Educational Achievement.” *Working Paper*.

PRESENTATIONS

- 2015 “(How) Does Obesity Harm GPA? Stratification at the Intersection of Race, Gender, and Body Size.” Presentation, Meeting of the American Sociological Association, New York, NY, August 23
- 2015 “Parental Infertility and Children’s Educational Achievement.” Presentation, Meeting of the Research Committee on Social Stratification and Mobility (RC28) of the International Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA, August 18
- 2015 “Time Trends by Sex in the Misreporting of Body Weight.” Poster, Meeting of the Population Association of America, San Diego, CA, May 1
- 2014 “The Penalty of Obesity on GPA.” Round Table Presentation, Meeting of the American Sociological Association, San Francisco, CA, August 17
- 2013 “Obesity and Grade Point Average: Variation by Course Subject” Round Table Presentation, Meeting of the American Sociological Association, New York, NY, August 10
- 2013 “Obesity and Grade Point Average: Variation by Course Subject, Sex, and Race” Poster, Meeting of the Population Association of America, New Orleans, LA, April 11
- 2012 “Skin Color, Educational Attainment and Occupational Prestige in the Post-Civil-Rights Era” Presentation, Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Denver, CO, August 19
- 2012 “Variation by Nation in the Heritability of Educational Attainment: An International Meta-analysis” Presentation, Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Denver, CO, August 19
- 2012 “Social Mobility and the Heritability of Educational Attainment: An International Meta-Analysis” Presentation, Meeting of the Research Committee on Social Stratification and Mobility (RC28) of the International Sociological Association, Hong Kong SAR, China, May 11
- 2011 “Skin Color, Sex, and Educational Attainment in the Post-Civil-Rights Era” Presentation, Meeting of the Research Committee on Social Stratification and Mobility (RC28) of the International Sociological Association, Colchester, UK, April 15
- 2010 “Gene-environment Interaction and the Heritability of Educational Attainment” Poster, Institute of Education Sciences Annual Conference, Washington DC, June 29
- 2009 “Assessing Belief Structures in Educational Research: A Web-Based Factorial Survey Approach” Poster, Institute of Education Sciences Annual Conference, Washington DC, June 7

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2009-2011 Research Assistant to Jeremy Freese, Northwestern University
- 2008-2009 Research Assistant to Lincoln Quillian, Northwestern University
- 2007 Research and Editing Assistant to Dalton Conley, New York University
Project: *You May Ask Yourself: An Introduction to Thinking Like a Sociologist*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2012-2014 Stata Support Specialist, Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University
- *Instructed seminars on Stata statistical software; worked one-on-one with MBA students learning Stata*
- 2012 Teaching Assistant, *Social Problems: Norms and Deviance*, Northwestern University
- 2008 Teaching Assistant, *Introduction to Sociology*, Northwestern University

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

- 2014 Frank H. T. Rhodes Postdoctoral Fellowship, Cornell Population Center, Cornell University
- 2012 Student Travel Grant, Research Committee on Social Stratification and Mobility (RC28) of the International Sociological Association
- 2011 & 2012 Conference Travel Grant, Northwestern University Graduate School
Meeting of the Research Committee on Social Stratification and Mobility (RC28) of the International Sociological Association
- 2008-2011 Institute of Education Sciences' Multidisciplinary Program in Education Sciences Fellowship
- 2007-2012 Graduate Fellowship, Northwestern University

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2013 Robert Winch Award for Best Graduate Student Presented Paper: "*The Penalty of Obesity on Grade Point Average: Evaluating Mechanisms through Variation by Gender, Race, and School Subject.*"
Northwestern University Department of Sociology
- 2008 & 2009 Honorable Mention, National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship
- 2004 Kappa Tau Alpha Valedictory Award, New York University Department of Journalism
- 2004 Award for Excellence in American History, New York University Department of History
- 2004 Phi Beta Kappa; Kappa Tau Alpha (Journalism); Phi Alpha Theta (History), New York University

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

- 2008-2011 Institute of Education Sciences' Multidisciplinary Program in Education Sciences Fellow
Certificate in Education Sciences, June 2011
- 2009-2014 Cells To Society: The Center on Social Disparities and Health, Graduate Student Affiliate
Completed *Society, Biology and Health* Certificate Program, June 2010
- 2010 Summer Biomarker Workshop, Northwestern University, June 9-11

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE / AFFILIATIONS

- 2009-2012 Applied Quantitative Methods Workshop, Northwestern University Department of Sociology
Student Organizer
- 2007-2009 Social Inequality Workshop, Northwestern University Department of Sociology
Participant, 2007-2008; Student Organizer, 2008-2009
- 2007-2013 Undergraduate Affairs Committee, Northwestern University Department of Sociology
Graduate Student Representative

2011-present Research Committee 28 on Social Stratification and Mobility (RC28) of the International Sociological Association, Member
2009-present Population Association of America, Member
2007-present American Sociological Association, Member
2013-present Occasional reviewer, *Social Science Research* and *Social Forces*

REFERENCES

Jeremy Freese
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