

## RACHEL L. BEHLER

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CONTACT INFORMATION	365 Uris Hall Department of Sociology Cornell University Ithaca, NY 14853	(603) 930-3874 rlb296@cornell.edu  Updated September 13, 2015
RESEARCH INTERESTS	Social Networks – Health – Urban Sociology – Inequality	
EDUCATION	<p><b>Cornell University</b>, Ithaca, NY Ph.D., Sociology, Expected: May 2016 Dissertation: Socio-spatial Network Approaches to HIV Risk Committee: Benjamin Cornwell (Chair), Matthew Brashears, Daniel Lichter, John Schneider, Erin York Cornwell</p> <p><i>ABSTRACT:</i> Recent work in sociology and public health has emphasized the role of social networks in health disparities. However, what is less known, is how the contexts in which these social networks are formed and maintained influence their effects on health behaviors and outcomes. This dissertation examines how the interconnected social contexts in which vulnerable populations meet their friends and sex partners influence their risk of HIV. Using UConnect, a novel dataset of the affiliations, social networks, and health behaviors of young, black men who have sex with men in Chicago (n = 618), I integrate network analytical and urban sociological approaches to understand how the contexts in which these men live and socialize act as opportunity structures for sexual tie formation and sites of exposure to risk behaviors and health protective resources. I find that individuals' affiliations are strongly related to their risky sexual behaviors and health outcomes. This trend is echoed by separate analyses that investigate access to care at the neighborhood and social network levels. These results underscore the importance of "placing networks," e.g. accounting for the contexts that shape social network formation and structure, to understand their impact on health inequalities.</p> <p><b>University of Chicago</b>, Chicago, IL Exchange Scholar, 2014 Department of Sociology, Department of Health Studies (Epidemiology), National Opinion Research Center (NORC)</p> <p><b>Wellesley College</b>, Wellesley, MA B.A., Sociology, May 2010 <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>, Honors in Sociology, Phi Beta Kappa</p>	
PUBLICATIONS	<p>York Cornwell, Erin and <b>Rachel Behler</b>. In Press. "Neighborhood Context and Social Networks." <i>City and Community</i>.</p> <p>Cornwell, Benjamin and <b>Rachel Behler</b>. 2015. "Sexual Behavior and Social Networks". In <i>International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences</i> 2nd Edition, edited by James D. Wright. Elsevier.</p>	
MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW	<p><b>Behler, Rachel</b>. "You Can't Always Get What You Want: Network Determinants of Compromised Ideals in Intimate Behavior." – Recipient of the <i>Robin Williams Jr. Best Paper in Sociology</i> Award</p> <p><b>Behler, Rachel.</b>, Suh, Chan, Brashears, Matthew and Yongren Shi. "Familiar Faces, Familiar Spaces: Social Similarity and Co-presence in Non-relational Behavioral Convergence."</p> <p><b>Behler, Rachel</b>. "Neither Here nor There: Neighborhood Disadvantage, Organizational Context, and Spatial Mismatches in HIV Service Provision."</p>	

WORKING PAPERS	<b>Behler, Rachel.</b> “Placing Social Networks: Affiliational Networks, Social Context, and HIV Risk.”	
	<b>Behler, Rachel,</b> Cornwell, Benjamin, and John A. Schneider. “Sexual Affiliation Networks and HIV Service Utilization Among Black MSM in Chicago.”	
	<b>Behler, Rachel.</b> ”Too Much of Too Little: Unanticipated Consequences of Government Food Programs on Health ”	
	Currit, Alexander and <b>Rachel Behler.</b> “Neighborhood Incarceration Rates and Infectious Disease Prevalence in New York City: A Network Approach.”	
GRANTS	Principal Investigator: <b>Behler, Rachel L.</b>	2015
	”Healthcare in Context: Neighborhood and Organizational Network Effects on HIV Service Provision.” R36. Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research. (\$40,000)	
	Research Seed Grant, Center for the Study of Inequality, Cornell University (\$500)	2014
	Research Travel Grant, Cornell University Graduate School (\$1,840)	2014
	Conference Travel Grant, Cornell Population Center	2014
	Research Seed Grant, Center for the Study of Inequality, Cornell University (\$1,000)	2013
	Rapid Response Research Grant, Cornell Population Center (\$1,000)	2013
	Conference Travel Grant, Cornell University Graduate School	2011-2015
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS	<b>Behler, Rachel.</b> “Placing Healthcare Access: Neighborhoods, Community-Based Organizations and the Role of Spatial Mismatches” 2015 Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. Chicago, IL.	
	York Cornwell, Erin and <b>Rachel Behler.</b> “Neighborhood Context and Social Networks” 2015 Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. Chicago, IL.	
	<b>Behler, Rachel.</b> “You Cant Always Get What You Want: Structural Determinants of Compromised Ideals in Intimate Behavior.” 2014 Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America. Boston, MA.	
	<b>Behler, Rachel,</b> et al. “The Making of Fat Girls and Skinny Boys: How Social Similarity Influences Weight-Related Perceptions and Behaviors.” 2014 Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America. Boston, MA.	
	<b>Behler, Rachel,</b> et al. “The Influence of Similar Others: An Ecological Approach to Understanding Weight-Related Perceptions and Behaviors.” 2013 Sunbelt XXXIII, International Sunbelt Social Network Conference. Hamburg, Germany.	
	<b>Behler, Rachel.</b> “You Cant Always Get What You Want: Structural Determinants of Compromised Ideals in Intimate Behavior.” 2013 Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. New York, NY.	
	<b>Behler, Rachel.</b> “Too Much of Too Little: The Effect of SNAP Participation on Body Mass Index.” 2012 Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. Denver, CO.	
INVITED AND OTHER PRESENTATIONS	<b>Behler, Rachel.</b> “Neither Here nor There: Neighborhood Disadvantage, Organizational Context, and Spatial Mismatches in HIV Service Provision.” February 2014. Center for the Study of Inequality Workshop, Cornell University. Ithaca, NY.	
	York Cornwell, Erin and <b>Rachel Behler.</b> “Neighborhood Disadvantage, Disorder, and Social Disconnectedness in a National Sample of Older Adults.” November 2013. Center for the Study of Inequality Workshop, Cornell University. Ithaca, NY.	

AWARDS	Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Dissertation Award	2015
	John S. Knight Institute for Writing in the Disciplines Instructorship, Cornell University	2015
	Sage Fellowship, Cornell University	2010, 2014
	Robin Williams, Jr. Best Graduate Student Paper in Sociology, Cornell University	2013
	Alpha Kappa Delta Award for Distinction in Sociology, Wellesley College	2010
RESEARCH EXPERIENCE	<b>Covert Social Networks Project</b> (with Matthew Brashears) Research Assistant	2012 - present
	<b>Cornell University, Sociology</b> (with Erin York Cornwell) Research Assistant	2012 - present
	<b>Chicago Center for HIV Elimination</b> (with John Schneider) Research Assistant	2014
	<b>National Institute on Out-of-School Time</b> (with Wendy Surr) Research Assistant	2008 - 2010
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	Instructor, SOC 1100: Social Networks and Health Cornell University	Fall 2015
	Teaching Assistant, SOC 3010: Evaluating Statistical Evidence Cornell University, Lead Professor: Matthew Brashears	Fall 2014
	Teaching Assistant, SOC 1101: Introduction to Sociology Cornell University, Lead Professor: Benjamin Cornwell	2011 - 2013
MEMBERSHIPS	American Sociological Association International Network for Social Network Analysis Population Association of America	
TECHNICAL SKILLS	Skilled Computer Knowledge: STATA, R, SPSS, UCINET, Excel	
	Technical Knowledge: Social network analysis, sequence analysis (optimal matching algorithms), causal inference, hierarchical linear models, spatial analysis, multivariate regression, basic and advanced statistics, survey research methods	