

Aleksei Opacic

Email: aopacic@g.harvard.edu

EDUCATION

Harvard University

PhD Sociology

Expected June 2026

AM Statistics

2024

University of Oxford

MSc. Sociology *Distinction (Ranked First)*

2019

University of Cambridge

BA Social and Political Science *Starred First Class (Ranked First)*

2018

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Quantitative and Computational Methods, Educational Inequality, Economic Sociology, Organizations

PUBLICATIONS

- 2025 **Opacic, Aleksei**, Lai Wei, and Xiang Zhou. “[Disparity Analysis: A Tale of Two Approaches](#)”. *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society Series A: Statistics in Society*, 2025, 00, 1–29
- 2024 Bloome, Deirdre and **Aleksei Opacic**. “[Absolute Income Mobility Obscures Marginalized Children’s Disadvantages](#)”. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 121 (25)
- 2022 Evans, Geoffrey, and **Aleksei Opacic**. “[How Social Class Influences Political Choices](#)”. *The Cambridge Handbook of Political Psychology* eds. Danny Osborne and Chris G. Sibley. Cambridge University Press. pp. 382–398.

WORKING PAPERS

- 2025 **Opacic, Aleksei**. “[Monotonic Path-Specific Effects: Application to Estimating Educational Returns](#)”. Revise and Resubmit. *Annals of Applied Statistics*
- 2025 Zhou, Xiang, and **Aleksei Opacic**. “[Marginal Interventional Effects](#)”. Reject and Resubmit. *Statistical Science*
- 2025 Blackwell, Matthew, Ruofan Ma and **Aleksei Opacic**. “[Assumption Smuggling in Tests of Causal Mechanisms](#)”.
- 2025 **Opacic, Aleksei**. “From Flagship to Firm: Gatekeeping, Employer Sorting, and the Returns to College”.
- 2025 **Opacic, Aleksei**. “Pipeline Disparities and the BA Attainment Gap”.

SOFTWARE

- 2025 **Opacic, Aleksei**, Lai Wei and Xiang Zhou. “disparity: Estimation of Descriptive and Prescriptive Disparity Estimands.” <https://github.com/alekseiopacic/disparity>

OTHER WRITING

- 2024 Atticus Bolyard, Sue Dynarski, Jon Fullerton, Miriam Greenberg, Julia Lubner, **Aleksei Opacic**, Eric Taylor, and Rachel Worsham. “[Education to Workforce Pathways Diagnostic Toolkit: Analysis Narrative](#)”
- 2024 Atticus Bolyard, Sue Dynarski, Jon Fullerton, Miriam Greenberg, Julia Lubner, **Aleksei Opacic**, Eric Taylor, and Rachel Worsham. “[Education to Workforce Pathways Diagnostic Toolkit: Technical Guide](#)”

COURSES TAUGHT

Harvard University

- 2022, 2023 Teaching Fellow, Intermediate Quantitative Methods. *Certificate of Distinction in Teaching*
- 2025 Teaching Fellow, Advanced Quantitative Methods.

RESEARCH AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2025 IQSS Research Grant (\$2,000)
- 2025 James M. and Cathleen D. Stone Research Grant (\$5,000)
- 2024 IQSS Research Grant (\$3,000)
- 2024 Russell Sage Foundation Dissertation Research Grant (\$10,000)
- 2024 Center for American Political Studies Seed Grant, Harvard University (\$1,000)
- 2024 Jeanne Humphrey Block Dissertation Award, Harvard University (\$2,500)
- 2024 Population Center Dissertation Research Award, Harvard University (\$2,000)
- 2023 Linda G. Hammett Ory Fellowship, Harvard Graduate School of Education (\$15,000)
- 2020 Kennedy Scholarship, Harvard University (\$20,000)
- 2019 The A.H. Halsey Prize, University of Oxford
- 2018 The Polity Prize, The Pollard Memorial Prize, and King’s College Scholarship, University of Cambridge

INVITED TALKS

- 2025 Workshop on Economic Sociology, Harvard University/MIT
- 2024 Applied Statistics Workshop, Harvard University
- 2023 Inequality Workshop, Stanford University
- 2022 Social Demography Seminar, Harvard University

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 Aleksei Opacic. “From Flagship to Firm: Gatekeeping, Employer Sorting, and the Returns to College”. Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Chicago, IL (August).
- 2024 Matthew Blackwell, Ruofan Ma and Aleksei Opacic. “Assumption Smuggling in Tests of Causal Mechanisms”. Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA (August).
- 2024 Deirdre Bloome and Aleksei Opacic. “Absolute Income Mobility Obscures Marginalized Children’s Disadvantages”. Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Montreal, CA (August).
- 2024 Aleksei Opacic. “Cumulative Disadvantage and the BA Attainment Gap”. Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Montreal, CA (August).
- 2024 Deirdre Bloome and Aleksei Opacic. “Absolute Income Mobility Obscures Marginalized Children’s Disadvantages”. Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America, Columbus, OH (April).
- 2024 Aleksei Opacic. “Path-Specific Effects under Monotonic Mediation”. Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America, Columbus (April).
- 2023 Aleksei Opacic. “Path-Specific Effects under Monotonic Mediation”. Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA (August).

- 2023 Aleksei Opacic, Lai Wei and Xiang Zhou. “Disparity Analysis: A Tale of Two Approaches”. Annual Meeting of the International Sociological Association, Melbourne, Australia (June, Declined).
- 2023 Aleksei Opacic. “Does Higher Education Tend Towards Egalitarianism? Evidence from a Population Transitions Model”. Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America, New Orleans, LA (April).
- 2022 Aleksei Opacic. “An Interventional Approach to Primary and Secondary Effects in Intergenerational Mobility”. Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Los Angeles, CA (August).
- 2022 Zhou, Xiang and Aleksei Opacic. “Marginal Interventional Effects”. Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Los Angeles, CA (August).

EXPERIENCE

Netflix

Experimentation & Causal Inference Intern

2025

SERVICE

- Sociology Tenure-Track Faculty Search Committee, Harvard University. 2024-2025
- Sociology Graduate Admissions Committee, Harvard University. 2021-2022
- *Occasional Reviewer*: American Sociological Review, Social Forces, Sociology of Education, Political Behavior, Research in Social Stratification and Mobility, Sociological Methods and Research

AFFILIATIONS

American Sociological Association; Population Association of America; American Statistical Association; Institute for Quantitative Social Science, Harvard; Center for Population and Development Studies, Harvard School of Public Health; EdRedesign, Harvard Graduate School of Education

REFERENCES

Xiang Zhou

Professor of Sociology
Harvard University

xiang_zhou@fas.harvard.edu

Christina Ciocca Eller

Assistant Professor of Sociology
Harvard University

cceller@fas.harvard.edu

Christopher Winship

Diker-Tishman Research Professor of Sociology
Harvard University

cwinship@wjh.harvard.edu

Luke Miratrix

Professor of Education
Harvard University

luke_miratrix@gse.harvard.edu