

Hunter York

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Updated: 2025-July-18

Education

Princeton University - Department of Sociology

August 2020 - Present

PhD Candidate

Office of Population Research (Demography) Affiliate

MA in Sociology

Awarded June 2023

University of Washington - Department of Global Health

August 2017 - June 2020

MPH - Health Metrics and Evaluation, Advisor: Emmanuela Gakidou

Trainee in Demography in the Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology, Advisor: Sara Curran

Harvard University

August 2013 - May 2017

AB - Human Evolutionary Biology (Music Secondary), Advisor: Max Krasnow

Research Areas

Social Stratification, Work/Occupations, Organizations, Intergenerational Mobility, Job-to-Job Transitions, School-to-Work Transitions, Education

Peer-Reviewed Publications - Sociology & Education

York, H., Song, X., & Xie, Y. (2025 January). Gradationalism Revisited: Intergenerational Occupational Mobility Along Axes of Occupational Characteristics. *American Journal of Sociology*, 130(4):976–1027. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1086/733122>

Friedman, J., York, H., Mokdad, A.H., & Gakidou, E. (2021 January). U.S. Children “Learning Online” during COVID-19 without the Internet or a Computer: Visualizing the Gradient by Race/Ethnicity and Parental Educational Attainment. *Socius*, 7:2378023121992607. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/2378023121992607>

Works Under Review - Sociology & Education

Climbing the Ladder or Falling Behind? Gender and Race Diversity in Work Teams and Its Influence on Career Trajectories in the Federal Workforce - In the second chapter of my dissertation, I use a novel dataset of federal worker human resource records combined with information on team composition to determine the effect of the demographics of one’s peers on promotion outcomes.

Higher Education, Higher Earnings? The Uneven Evolution of Institution- and Major-Based Wage Premiums - This study examines how the intersection of educational institutions and fields of study shapes wage inequality in the U.S., revealing through analysis of linked academic and labor market data that credential specificity and school-to-work linkages increasingly drive wage stratification and amplify disparities over time.

Works In Progress - Sociology & Education

Occupational Aspirations, Expectations, and Achievement Through Childhood and Early Adulthood - In my final chapter, I look at how individual's occupational and educational aspirations change throughout childhood and early adulthood, which then get mapped onto realized adult occupational attainment. In doing so, I theorize how children adjust expectations and aspirations in accordance with realized outcomes.

Peer-Reviewed Publications - Education & Public Health; Evolutionary Biology

Balaj, M., **York, H., Sripada, K., Besnier, E., Vonen, H.D., Aravkin, A., Friedman, J., *et al.* (2021 August). Parental education and inequalities in child mortality: a global systematic review and meta-analysis. *The Lancet*, 398(10300):608–620. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(21\)00534-1](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(21)00534-1)

Friedman, J., **York, H.**, Graetz, N., Woyczynski, L., Whisnant, J., Hay, S.I., & Gakidou, E. (2020 April). Measuring and Forecasting Progress towards the Education-Related SDG Targets. *Nature*, 580(7805):636–639. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/s41586-020-2198-8>

Foreman, K.J., Marquez, N., Dolgert, A., Fukutaki, K., Fullman, N., McGaughey, M., Pletcher, M.A., *et al.* (2018 November). Forecasting Life Expectancy, Years of Life Lost, and All-Cause and Cause-Specific Mortality for 250 Causes of Death: Reference and Alternative Scenarios for 2016–40 for 195 Countries and Territories. *The Lancet*, 392(10159):2052–2090. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(18\)31694-5](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(18)31694-5)

Lim, S.S., Updike, R.L., Kaldjian, A.S., Barber, R.M., Cowling, K., **York, H.**, Friedman, J., *et al.* (2018 October). Measuring Human Capital: A Systematic Analysis of 195 Countries and Territories, 1990–2016. *The Lancet*, 392(10154):1217–1234. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(18\)31941-X](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(18)31941-X)

Mehr, S.A., Singh, M., **York, H.**, Glowacki, L., & Krasnow, M.M. (2018 February). Form and Function in Human Song. *Current Biology*, 28(3):356–368.e5. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2017.12.042>

Awards and Fellowships

Dodd's Fellowship AY 2025–2026, Princeton University – Honorific fellowship in recognition of “outstanding performance and professional promise, and representing a high commendation from the Princeton University Graduate School.”

Data-Driven Social Science Initiative Grant, \$5,000, “Vertical and Horizontal Mobility in Organizations”

Princeton University Dean's Fund for Scholarly Travel (2022, 2023, 2025)

PAA Best Poster Award, Family Demography, Population Development and Environment Poster Session Winner: “Joint Physical Custody's Role in the Heterogeneous Effects of Divorce on Child Educational Outcomes” (2022)

CSDE PAA Travel Award, University of Washington Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology for the Population Association of America annual meeting (2020)

Lancet Poster Competition Finalist, Consortium for Universities in Global Health Annual Conference (2019)

** Indicates equal first authorship.

Graduate Student Travel Award, University of Washington (2019)

Dudley House Book Prize, Harvard (2017)

Harvard College Research Program Summer Research Award, Harvard (2016)

Program for Research in Science and Engineering (PRISE) Summer Research Award, Harvard (2016) - Declined

Mindich Service Fellowship, Center for Public Interest Careers, Harvard (2015)

Conference Presentations

York, H. (2025 April). Climbing the Ladder or Falling Behind? Gender Diversity in Work Teams and Its Influence on Career Trajectories in the Federal Workforce. In *Oral Presentation - PAA Annual Meeting*. Washington, DC, USA

York, H. (2025 August). Degrees of Inequality: Horizontal Stratification in Earnings by Educational Institutions and Fields of Study in the 21st Century. In *Oral Presentation - ASA Annual Meeting*. Chicago, IL, USA

York, H. (2025 August). Degrees of Inequality: Horizontal Stratification in Earnings by Educational Institutions and Fields of Study in the 21st Century. In *Oral Presentation - RC28 Annual Meeting*. Los Angeles, CA, USA

York, H. (2024 May). Climbing the Ladder or Falling Behind? Gender Diversity in Work Teams and Its Influence on Career Trajectories in the Federal Workforce. In *Oral Presentation - RC28 Annual Meeting*. Shanghai, China

York, H., Xie, Y., & Song, X. (2023 April). Gradationalism Revisited: Intergenerational Occupational Mobility Along Axes of Occupational Characteristics. In *Oral Presentation - Recent Developments in Intergenerational Mobility*. New Orleans, LA, USA

York, H., Xie, Y., & Song, X. (2023 February). Gradationalism Revisited: Intergenerational Occupational Mobility Along Axes of Occupational Characteristics. In *Oral Presentation - Workshop on Intergenerational Mobility and Income Inequality - Longitudinal Research of Income Inequality*. Haifa, Israel

York, H., Xie, Y., & Song, X. (2022 August). Gradationalism Revisited: Intergenerational Occupational Mobility Along Axes of Occupational Characteristics. In *Social Mobility Regular Session Presentation at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting 2022*. Los Angeles, CA, USA

York, H. & Gakidou, E. (2019 April). The Impact of Maternal Education on Late Childhood and Early Adolescent Mortality in 56 Countries: A Pooled Survival Analysis of Demographic and Health Survey Data from 2003 to 2016. In *Determinants of Adolescent Mortality Session at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting*. Austin, TX, USA

Conference Posters

York, H. (2023 February). Heterogeneous Returns to Tenure Based on Team Gender Composition. In *Poster - Workshop on Intergenerational Mobility and Income Inequality - Longitudinal Research of Income Inequality*. Haifa, Israel

York, H. (2022 April). Joint Physical Custody's Role in the Heterogeneous Effects of Divorce on Child Educational Outcomes. In *Population Association of America Annual Meeting*. Atlanta, GA, USA

York, H. & Gakidou, E. (2019 April). The Impact of Maternal Education on Late Childhood and Early Adolescent Mortality in 56 Countries: A Pooled Survival Analysis of Demographic and

Health Survey Data from 2003 to 2016. In *Determinants of Adolescent Mortality Session at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting*. Austin, TX, USA

York, H. & Gakidou, E. (2019 April). Trends of Education Inequality and Gender Disparities: Mean Education Levels, Distributions, and Metrics of Inequality for 195 Countries. In *Population Association of America Annual Meeting*. Austin, TX, USA

Workshops and Invited Talks

York, H. (2026 January). Degrees of Inequality: Horizontal Stratification by Educational Institutions and Fields of Study in the 21st Century. In *SciencesPo CRIS (Centre de Recherche sur les Inégalités Sociales) Weekly Seminar*. Paris, France

York, H. (2023 October). Measuring the Impacts of Technology on Workers and Agencies in the United States Public Sector. In *NYU Inequality Working Group*. New York City, NY

York, H. (2023 June). Measuring the Impacts of Technology on Workers and Agencies in the United States Public Sector. In *SciencesPo PoliEconSoc Seminar*. Paris, France

York, H. (2022 January). Data Management With R - Project Design, Code Optimization, Parallelization. In *SOCI 612-401 Categorical Data Analysis, Taught by Xi Song at the University of Pennsylvania*. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

York, H. (2022 June). Introduction to Git and GitHub for Social Science Research. In *UPenn Methodology Working Group*. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. <https://web.sas.upenn.edu/methodology-working-group/>

York, H. (2020 February). Estimating and Forecasting Population-Level Distributions of Educational Attainment/Quantifying the Burden of Health Loss Due to Inequalities in Educational Attainment/Quantifying Expected Human Capital. In *Meetings between the President of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation*. Seattle, WA, USA

York, H. & Friedman, J. (2020 February). Innovations in Modelling the Distributions of Education/Global Trends and Forecasts of Educational Inequality. In *Center for Global Health Inequalities Research (CHAIN) Kick-Off Meeting*. Norges Teknisk-Naturvitenskapelige Universitet (NTNU), Trondheim, Norway

Other Research Experience

Post-Bachelor Fellow, Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, Seattle, WA 2017 - 2020

Socio-economic exposures and determinants team

Lead researcher on educational attainment and inequality

PI: Dr. Chris Murray, Advisor: Dr. Emmanuela Gakidou

Affiliate, Centre for Global Health Inequality Research (CHAIN), NTNU, Norway 2019 - 2021

Collaborator on several research projects relating socioeconomic indicators, inequality, and health, including an attempt to quantify the total burden of health around the world due to educational inequalities.

PI: Dr. Terje Eikemo

Visiting Fellow, Ethiopian Public Health Institute, Addis Ababa Sept. 2019

National Data Management Center Fellow

PI: Dr. Awoke Temesgen

Research Assistant, the Natural History of Song Project, Harvard University 2015 - 2017

Ethnography and discography projects contributor

Honors Thesis: *Ethnographic and Perceptual Evidence for an Evolved Function of Music as a Coalition Signaling System*

PI: Dr. Max Krasnow, Advisor: Dr. Sam Mehr

Languages

English - Native Fluency

French - C1 Fluency

Research Skills

Programming: R, Python, Git, L^AT_EX

Analytical: Causal inference, big data, linked data, human subjects laboratory research, survey design, demographic methods, quantitative epidemiology.