

JOÃO M. SOUTO-MAIOR

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AREAS OF RESEARCH

Topics: education policy, within-school inequality, adult education, career transitions.
Methods: social simulation, education data science.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2024- Postdoc. Stanford Center on Longevity, Stanford University.
2023-24 Postdoc. Institute of Human Development & Social Change, New York University.

EDUCATION

2023 Ph.D. Sociology of Education. New York University.
2021 M.Phil. Sociology of Education. New York University.
2017 B.A. Economics. University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Selected extracurricular training

2023 American Mathematical Society's Summer program on Complex Social Systems.
2022 Summer Institute in Computational Social Sciences, Duke University.
2017-18 First-year Economics Ph.D. student, The Graduate Center at CUNY.

RESEARCH PAPERS

Peer-reviewed publications

Forth. Rachel Fish, Kenneth Shores & **João Souto-Maior**. [A critical appraisal of the evidence on racial disproportionality in special education.](#) *Exceptional Children*.
João Souto-Maior. [School racial composition and the emergence of Black-White within-school inequalities: network-based foundations.](#) *The Journal of Mathematical Sociology*.
2025
João Souto-Maior & Ravi Shroff. [Differences in academic preparedness do not fully explain Black-White enrollment disparities in advanced high school coursework.](#)
2024 *Sociological Science*. [[code](#)]

Manuscripts under review

João Souto-Maior. [Conceptualizing educational opportunity hoarding: the emergence of hoarding without hoarders.](#)
João Souto-Maior, Kenneth Shores & Rachel Fish. [The correlated proxy problem: why control variables can obscure the contribution of selection processes to group-level inequality.](#)

Manuscripts in preparation

João Souto-Maior. The structure of tracking systems and the emergence of within-school racial inequalities.

João Souto-Maior. The collateral effects of within-school tracking on school racial segregation. *Draft available upon request.*

João Souto-Maior. Intergenerational dependence and the rate of return to human capital investment across the life course.

OTHER WRITING

Book reviews

- 2025 **João Souto-Maior.** [Book review: Laboratories of Learning: Social Movements, Education, and Knowledge-Making in the Global South by Mario Novelli, Birguul Kutun, Patrick Kane, Adnan Çelik, Tejendra Pherali, and Saranel Benjamin.](#) *Journal on Education in Emergencies.*

RESEARCH GRANTS

Under Review

- 2025 Rachel Fish, Kenneth Shores, **João Souto-Maior**, Eric Grodsky, Nancy Molfenter. MTSS/RTI as a system-level reform in special education: Exploring equity and accuracy in disability identification and effects of special education services on student learning. *Institute of Education Sciences (Special Education Research Grants Program).*

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Conference presentations

- 2025 Intergenerational dependence and the rate of return to human capital investment across the life course. *Annual Conference of the International Network of Analytical Sociologists* (New York, NY).
- 2025 Intergenerational dependence and the rate of return to human capital investment across the life course. *Sociological Science Conference* (Ithaca, NY).
- 2025 The structure of tracking systems and the emergence of within-school racial inequalities (2025). *Sociology of Education Association Annual Meeting* (Asilomar, CA).
- 2024 Selection- and demand-based explanations for curriculum differentiation policies within American schools: an agent-based model. *American Sociological Association, Session on Open Topics in Mathematical Sociology* (Montreal, Canada).
- 2024 Selection- and demand-based explanations for curriculum differentiation policies within American schools: an agent-based model. *Annual Conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis* (Edinburgh, Scotland).

- 2024 Differences in academic preparedness do not fully explain Black-White enrollment disparities in advanced high school coursework. *Sociological Science Conference* (Durham, NC).
- 2023 Unpacking the emergence of opportunity hoarding: an agent-based model of Black-White educational disparities within schools. *Annual Conference of the International Network of Analytical Sociologists* (Princeton, PA).
- 2023 From individual- to group-level educational advantages: unpacking the emergence of opportunity hoarding within Schools. *Annual Group Processes Conference* (Philadelphia, PA).
- 2023 Hoarding without hoarders: collateral effects of information diffusion on Black-White educational inequalities within schools. *American Sociological Association, Sociology of Education Roundtables* (Philadelphia, PA).
- 2022 Black-White advanced enrollment inequalities and the racial composition of schools: an agent-based modeling investigation. *American Sociological Association, Session on Mathematical and Computational Approaches to Studying Inequality* (Los Angeles, CA).
- 2022 Black-White advanced enrollment inequalities and the racial composition of schools: an agent-based modeling investigation. *Joint US-Japan Conference on Mathematical Sociology and Rational Choice* (Los Angeles, CA).

Other presentations

- 2025 Intergenerational dependence and the rate of return to human capital investment across the life course. *Inequality Workshop, Stanford Department of Sociology* (Stanford, CA)
- 2025 Intergenerational dependence and the rate of return to human capital investment across the life course. *Stanford Pathways Network Seminar (virtual)*
- 2020 Opportunity hoarding and Black-White inequalities in advanced enrollment: a simulation-based approach. *Race and Ethnicity Workshop, NYU Department of Sociology (virtual)*.

TEACHING [see [my website](#) for syllabus and course notes]

Seminar leader

- 2025 Stanford Center on Longevity Graduate Colloquium: Education and Learning for Longer Lives. Stanford University (Winter).
- 2015-17 Undergraduate Research Scholars Seminar, UW-Madison (4 semesters).

Laboratory instructor

- 2019-21 Undergraduate Basic Statistics. NYU (5 semesters).

Teaching Assistant

- 2022 Why Does College Cost So Much? NYU (Fall).

2022 Intro to US Education: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives. NYU (Fall).
2022 Qualitative Methods in International Education. NYU (Spring).

SELECTED WORK EXPERIENCES

2021-23 Technical Reviewer. Journal on Education in Emergencies.
2018-19 Research Assistant. Prof. Arun Sundararajan, NYU Stern School of Business.
2015-18 Research Assistant. Prof. Kathryn Moeller, UW-Madison School of Education.

FUNDING AND AWARDS

2024-26 New Map of Life Fellowship, Stanford Center on Longevity.
2023 NYU Steinhardt Dissertation Finishing Award.
2023 NYU Steinhardt Research & Travel Grant.
2023 American Mathematical Society, Summer program on Complex Social Systems.
2022 NYU Steinhardt Dissertation Writing Grant.
2022 NYU Steinhardt Research & Travel Grant.
2022 Russell Sage Foundation, Summer Institute in Computational Social Sciences
2018-22 NYU Steinhardt Doctoral Fellowship.
2017-18 CUNY Graduate Center Doctoral Fellowship.
2016 UW-Madison Margaret E. and Allard Smith Scholarship.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Pathways Network, Stanford University.
New Books Network.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

American Sociological Association, sections on Mathematical Sociology; Sociology of Education; Organizations, Occupations, and Work.

REVIEWER

American Sociological Review
Sociological Science
Urban Affairs Review
PLOS One
Learning and Individual Differences
Journal on Education in Emergencies

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Quantitative analysis: R; SQL; Python.
Agent-based modeling: NetLogo; R; Python.

REFERENCES

Mitchell Stevens

Professor of Education
Stanford University
(relationship: postdoctoral mentor)

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R. L’Heureux Lewis-McCoy

Associate Professor of Sociology of Education
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(relationship: doctoral advisor)

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Ravi Shroff

Associate Professor of Applied Statistics
New York University
(relationship: co-author and
dissertation committee member)

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Kenneth Shores

Associate Professor of Education Policy
University of Delaware
(relationship: postdoctoral mentor)

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Rachel Fish

Associate Professor of Education & Child Study
Smith College
(relationship: postdoctoral mentor)

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