

JOÃO M. SOUTO-MAIOR

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2023 - 2024 Postdoctoral Scholar. Stanford Center on Longevity, Stanford University.

- Project: “The Futures Project: Education and Learning for Longer Lives.”
- Project coordinator: Mitchell Stevens.

2023 - 2024 Postdoctoral Associate. The Institute of Human Development and Social Change, New York University.

- Project: “Evaluating the Quality of Evidence on Racial Disproportionality in Special Education.”
- Project coordinators: Rachel Fish and Kenneth Shores.

EDUCATION

2018 - 2023 Ph.D. Sociology of Education. Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, New York University.

- Dissertation: “Essays on the dynamics of Black-White advanced course-taking inequalities.”
- Committee: L’Heureux Lewis-McCoy (chair); Samuel Lucas; Erez Hatna; Ravi Shroff.

2018 - 2021 M.Phil. Sociology of Education. New York University.

2017 - 2018 Ph.D. student, Economics. The Graduate Center, City University of New York.

2014 - 2017 B.A. Economics with Mathematical Emphasis. University of Wisconsin-Madison.

AREAS OF RESEARCH

Topics: education; organizations; social stratification; racial inequality.

Approaches: quantitative/computational methods; mathematical sociology.

RESEARCH PAPERS

Peer-reviewed publications

João Souto-Maior & Ravi Shroff. 2024 “Differences in academic preparedness do not fully explain Black-White enrollment disparities in advanced high school coursework.” *Sociological Science*.
[[pdf](#)] [[code](#)]

Manuscripts under review

João Souto-Maior. “The share of White students and the emergence of Black-White within-school inequalities: network-based foundations.” *Revise and Resubmit at The Journal of Mathematical Sociology.* [[preprint](#)]

João Souto-Maior. “Hoarding without hoarders: unpacking the emergence of opportunity hoarding within schools.” *Under Review.* [[preprint](#)]

Rachel Fish, Kenneth Shores & **João Souto-Maior.** “Critical appraisal of the evidence on racial disproportionality in special education.” *Under review.* [[preprint](#)]

Manuscripts in preparation

João Souto-Maior, Kenneth Shores & Rachel Fish. “What to control for? The correlated proxy problem when measuring categorical disproportionality.” *Draft available upon request.*

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

João Souto-Maior. “The usefulness of agent-based modeling approaches to school organization research.” *Draft available upon request.*

João Souto-Maior, Kenneth Shores & Rachel Fish. “The use of unrepresentative national samples and the misestimation of racial disproportionality in special education.”

OTHER WRITING

Book reviews

João Souto-Maior. Forthcoming. “Book review: Laboratories of Learning: Social Movements, Education, and Knowledge-Making in the Global South by Mario Novelli, Birguul Kutan, Patrick Kane, Adnan Çelik, Tejendra Pherali, and Saranel Benjamin.” *Journal on Education in Emergencies.*

RESEARCH GRANTS

Under Review

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).*

Rachel Fish, Kenneth Shores and **João Souto-Maior.** “Improving the Quality of Evidence on Racial Disproportionately in Special Education: Fundamental Limitations from Current Approaches and the Application of New Methods towards Proper Identification.” *Spencer Foundation (Large Grants Program).*

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Conference presentations

- 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

- 2020 “Opportunity hoarding and Black-White inequalities in advanced enrollment: a simulation-based approach.” *NYU’s Race and Ethnicity Workshop (virtual)*.

TEACHING

Laboratory instructor

- 2019 - 2021 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).

Seminar leader

2016 - 2017 Research, Creative Work and the Public Good. UW-Madison (Fall and Spring).
2015 - 2016 Research, Creative Work and Society. UW-Madison (Fall and Spring).

EXTRACURRICULAR TRAINING

2023 Selected participant. American Mathematical Society's Summer program on Complex Social Systems. [[details](#)]
2022 Selected participant. Summer Institute in Computational Social Sciences, Duke University. [[details](#)]

SELECTED WORK EXPERIENCES

2021 - 2023 Technical Reviewer. Journal on Education in Emergencies.
2018 - 2019 Research Assistant. Prof. Arun Sundararajan, NYU Stern School of Business.
2015 - 2018 Research Assistant. Prof. Kathryn Moeller, UW-Madison School of Education.

FUNDING AND AWARDS

2024 - 2026 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 - 2022 NYU Steinhardt Doctoral Fellowship.
2017 - 2018 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

Mathematical Sociology Section, American Sociological Association.
Sociology of Education Section, American Sociological Association.
Organizations, Occupations, and Work Section, American Sociological Association.

REVIEWER

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

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Quantitative analysis: R (primary); Python; Stata
Agent-based modeling: NetLogo (primary); Python.

REFERENCES

R. L’Heureux Lewis-McCoy

Associate Professor of Sociology of Education
New York University
(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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