

JOÃO M. SOUTO-MAIOR

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AREAS OF RESEARCH

Topics: organizations, within-school inequality, career trajectories, life-long learning.
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

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

Manuscripts under review

João Souto-Maior. [Hoarding without hoarders: opportunity hoarding in the absence of exclusionary behaviors.](#) (R&R)
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

A skill-dependent Heckman Curve (with Mitchell Stevens).

Early-adult trajectories and later-life outcomes (with Chandra Muller, Bernardo Mackenna and Katie Spoon).

The collateral effects of within-school tracking on school racial segregation (invited submission to the *American Behavioral Scientist* special issue on “Social Networks, Mechanisms & Social Inequalities”).

Intergenerational dependence and the rate of return to human capital investment across the life course.

Beyond compliance: a critical review of Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) in addressing the racialization of disability (with Dosun Ko, Saili Kulkarni, Dian Mawene, Gabrielle Bernal and Alfredo Artiles).

OTHER WRITING

Research reports (in preparation)

Quantifying the cost of employment pauses and charting paths back (with *The Burning Glass Institute* and Mitchell Stevens).

The intersection of special education and english learner classifications and its implications for multilingual learner’s educational opportunities (with Alfredo Artiles).

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 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 Graduate colloquium: Education and Learning for Longer Lives. Stanford (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.

REVIEWER

American Sociological Review
Sociological Science
Sociology of Education
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

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Stanford University

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R. L’Heureux Lewis-McCoy

Associate Professor of Sociology of Education
New York University

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Kenneth Shores

Associate Professor of Education Policy
University of Delaware

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Rachel Fish

Associate Professor of Education & Child Study
Smith College

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