

# JOÃO M. SOUTO-MAIOR

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## AREAS OF RESEARCH

Topics: education inequality, organizations, social networks, career trajectories, life-long learning.  
Methods: applied statistics and social simulation.

## 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.  
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

### Published

- 2026 **João Souto-Maior.** [Hoarding without hoarders: opportunity hoarding in the absence of exclusionary behaviors.](#) *Rationality & Society*. [ [code](#) ]
- 2025 **João Souto-Maior.** [School racial composition and the emergence of Black-White within-school inequalities: network-based foundations.](#) *The Journal of Mathematical Sociology*. [ [code](#) ]
- 2025 Rachel Fish, Kenneth Shores & **João Souto-Maior.** [A critical appraisal of the evidence on racial disproportionality in special education.](#) *Exceptional Children*.
- 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](#) ]

### Under review

**João Souto-Maior**, Kenneth Shores & Rachel Fish. [IDEA-Aligned estimates of racial disproportionality in special education versus conventional approaches: A cautionary note on included-variable bias when achievement and socioeconomic status proxy for special education need](#)

## In preparation

**João Souto-Maior** and Mitchell Stevens. Bending the Heckman Curve: competing changes in learning capacity and skill content over the life course.

**João Souto-Maior**, Bernardo Mackenna, Katie Spoon and Chandra Muller. Long-term consequences of parenthood for mid-life credit scores.

**João Souto-Maior**. 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”]

Katie Spoon, **João Souto-Maior**, Bernardo Mackenna and others. Modeling trajectories of life events.

Dosun Ko, Saili Kulkarni, Dian Mawene, Gabrielle Bernal, **João Souto-Maior** and Alfredo Artiles. A review of research using Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) in addressing the racial disparities in disability identification.

## 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, in preparation for the Stanford *Getting Down to Facts III* Initiative).

## BOOK CHAPTERS, BOOK REVIEWS AND TECHNICAL COMMENTS

### Published

forth. Rachel Fish, Kenneth Shores & **João Souto-Maior**. [Technical Comment] Questioning findings of “under-representation” in racial disproportionality: the sticky problem of covariate adjustment practices. (conditionally accepted at *Educational Researcher*).

2025 **João Souto-Maior**. [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*.

### In preparation

**João Souto-Maior**. [Book Chapter] Network diffusion and Black-White disparities in advanced high school coursework (invited chapter for the book *Agent-Based Modeling for Research on Groups, Networks, and Organizations*).

## 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

### Seminar leader

- 2025 Graduate Seminar: 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: Mathematical Sociology; Sociology of Education.

## REVIEWER

American Sociological Review  
Sociological Science  
Sociology of Education  
Educational Researcher  
City & Community  
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

[mitchell.stevens@stanford.edu](mailto:mitchell.stevens@stanford.edu)

### **L’Heureux Lewis-McCoy**

Associate Professor of Sociology of Education  
New York University

[lewismccoy@nyu.edu](mailto:lewismccoy@nyu.edu)

### **Kenneth Shores**

Associate Professor of Education Policy  
University of Delaware

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### **Ravi Shroff**

Associate Professor of Applied Statistics  
New York University

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