

# JOÃO M. SOUTO MAIOR

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2023 - 2024 Postdoctoral Scholar in Education. 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. “Differences in academic preparedness do not fully explain Black-White enrollment disparities in advanced high school coursework.” *Sociological Science* (2024). [ [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.”

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

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

## 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).*

## 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)*.

### 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](#) ]

### 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).

### 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

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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### **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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### **Ravi Shroff**

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

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