

# MARISSA E. THOMPSON

Department of Sociology | Columbia University | 606 W. 122nd Street | New York, NY  
marissa.thompson@columbia.edu | MarissaEThompson.com

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

---

Stratification & Inequality • Sociology of Education • Race & Ethnicity • Social Policy

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

---

<b>Columbia University</b> Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology Co-Director, Center for the Study of Wealth and Inequality Faculty Affiliate, Columbia Population Research Center	2022-
<b>University of Michigan</b> Postdoctoral Fellow, Education Policy Initiative, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy Research Affiliate, Stone Center for Inequality Dynamics	2021-2022

## EDUCATION

---

<b>Ph.D., Sociology of Education &amp; Education Policy</b> Stanford University	2021
<b>M.A., Sociology</b> Stanford University	2019
<b>B.S.E., Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering</b> <i>magna cum laude</i> University of Pennsylvania	2016

## PUBLICATIONS

---

\* denotes equal authorship

### Peer-Reviewed Publications:

- 2024 **Marissa E. Thompson.** “The Effect of Academic Outcomes, Equity, and Student Demographics on Parental Preferences for Schools: Evidence from a Survey Experiment.” *Social Forces*. [Paper] [Data/Code] [Pre-Registration]
- 2024 **Marissa E. Thompson\*** and Sam Trejo\*. “My School District Isn’t Segregated: Experimental Evidence on the Effect of Information on Parental Preferences Regarding School Segregation.” *Sociology of Education*. [Paper] [Data/Code] [Pre-Registration]
- 2024 **Marissa E. Thompson.** “Examining the Black Gender Gap in Educational Attainment: The Role of Exclusionary School Discipline & Criminal Justice Contact.” *Social Forces*. [Paper]
- 2023 **Marissa E. Thompson,** Christina Weiland, Meghan P. McCormick, Catherine Snow, and Jason Sachs. “The Role of Early Schooling in Shaping Inequality in Academic, Executive Functioning, and Social-Emotional Skills.” *Socius*. [Paper]
- 2023 René F. Kizilcec, Rachel B. Baker, Elizabeth Bruch, Kalena E. Cortes, Laura T. Hamilton, David

Nathan Lang, Zachary A. Pardos, **Marissa E. Thompson**, and Mitchell L. Stevens. “From Pipelines to Pathways in the Study of Academic Progress.” *Science* (Policy Forum). [Paper]

- 2023 Kaylee T. Matheny\*, **Marissa E. Thompson**\*, Carrie Townley-Flores\*, and Sean F. Reardon. “Uneven Progress: Recent Trends in Academic Performance Among U.S. School Districts.” *American Education Research Journal*. [Paper]
- 2021 **Marissa E. Thompson**. “Grade Expectations: The Role of First-Year Grades in Predicting the Pursuit of STEM Majors for First- and Continuing-Generation Students.” *The Journal of Higher Education*. [Paper]
- 2021 Sorathan Chaturapruek, Tobias Dalberg, **Marissa E. Thompson**, Sonia Giebel, Monique H. Harrison, Ramesh Johari, Mitchell L. Stevens, and René Kizilcec. “Studying Undergraduate Course Consideration at Scale.” *AERA Open*. [Paper] [Data/Code]
- 2020 Adina D. Sterling, **Marissa E. Thompson**, Shiya Wang, Abisola Kusimo, Shannon Gilmartin, and Sheri Sheppard. “The Confidence Gap Predicts the Gender Pay Gap Among STEM Graduates.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. [Paper]
- 2019 Shannon Gilmartin, **Marissa E. Thompson**, Emily Morton, Helen Chen, Anne Colby, and Sheri Sheppard. “Entrepreneurial Intent of Engineering and Business Undergraduate Students.” *Journal of Engineering Education*. [Paper]
- 2016 Ki Jun Yu, Duygu Kuzum, Suk Won Hwang, Bong Hoon Kim, Halvor Juul, Nam Heon Kim, Sang Min Won, Ken Chiang, Michael Trumpis, Andrew G. Richardson, Huanyu Cheng, Hui Fang, **Marissa E. Thompson**, Hank Bink, Delia Talos, Kyung Jin Seo, Hee Nam Lee, Seung Kyun Kang, Jae Hwan Kim, Jung Yup Lee, Younggang Huang, Frances E. Jensen, Marc A. Dichter, Timothy H. Lucas, Jonathan Viventi, Brian Litt, and John A. Rogers. “Bioresorbable Silicon Electronics for Transient Spatiotemporal Mapping of Electrical Activity from the Cerebral Cortex.” *Nature Materials*. [Paper]

#### Under Review:

**Marissa E. Thompson**, Tobias Dalberg, and Elizabeth E. Bruch. “Gender Segregation and Decision-Making in Undergraduate Course-Taking.” Conditionally accepted, *Sociological Science*.

**Marissa E. Thompson**, Sam Trejo, AJ Alvero, and Daphne O. Martschenko. “‘They have Black in their Blood’: Exploring how Genetic Ancestry Tests affect Conceptions of Race.” Revise & resubmit, *American Journal of Sociology*. [Preprint] [Pre-Registration]

**Marissa E. Thompson**. “*Paper, Practice, Ancestry, Culture*: Contesting Census Categories and Framing Racial Boundaries.” Under Review.

Adina D. Sterling, **Marissa E. Thompson**, and Devon Rojas. “The Price of Entry? Race, Internships and Good Jobs in Early Careers.” Under Review. [Pre-Registration]

#### Other Publications:

- 2021 **Marissa E. Thompson**. “Who’s getting pulled in weed-out courses for STEM majors?” Brown Center Chalkboard, Brookings Institution. [Link]

#### GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

---

Postdoctoral Fellowship, National Academy of Education & Spencer Foundation – \$70,000 2024-2025

Russell Sage Foundation & Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Pipeline Grant – \$35,000 2024

for “*What is fair? Disentangling public conceptions of merit and equity in the age of inequality*”  
P.I. Marissa Thompson

Alliance Joint Projects Grant, Columbia University & Sciences Po (Paris) – \$15,000 2023  
for “*A Columbia-Sciences Po Joint Course: Race, Discrimination, and Racial Inequalities on Both Sides of the Atlantic*”  
P.I.s Thomas DiPrete, Mirna Safi & Marissa Thompson

Columbia Population Research Center Seed Grant, Columbia University – \$20,000 2022  
for “*Race, Genetic Ancestry, and Context: Exploring How Genetic Ancestry Tests Influence Conceptions of Race*”  
P.I.s Marissa Thompson, Sam Trejo, Daphne Martschenko, & AJ Alvero

Institute of Education Sciences (IES) Grant – \$2,702,034 2022-2026  
for “*Early First-Dollar Categorical Need-Based Aid: A New Model for Making College Affordable?*”  
P.I. Kevin Stange

Postdoctoral Training Fellowship, Institute of Education Sciences (IES) – \$55,000 2021-2022

Center for American Democracy Grant, Stanford University – \$2,000 2020-2021  
for “*Understanding Parental Attitudes Towards School Segregation*”  
P.I.s Marissa Thompson and Sam Trejo

Karr Family Fellowship, Stanford University – \$19,000 2018-2019

Predocctoral Training Fellowship, Institute of Education Sciences (IES) – \$60,000 2017-2019

Graduate Fellowship in Science and Engineering, Stanford University – \$125,100 2016-2021

Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education Fellowship, Stanford University – \$12,800 2016-2021

## HONORS & AWARDS

---

Outstanding Predocctoral Fellow Award, Institute of Education Sciences (IES) 2021  
Zeisberg Best Research Award in Chemical Engineering, American Institute of Chemical Engineers 2017  
Melvin C. Molstad Prize in Chemical Engineering, University of Pennsylvania 2016  
Exceptional Service Award, University of Pennsylvania 2016

## RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS

---

**University of Chicago**  
Affiliate, Stone Center for Research on Wealth Inequality and Mobility 2023-2027

**Stanford University**  
Affiliate, Pathways Network 2021-

## TEACHING

---

**Columbia University**  
Education and Inequality (Undergraduate) Spring 2024

Race, Discrimination, and Racial Inequalities on Both Sides of the Atlantic (Undergraduate)*	Fall 2023
<i>*cross-listed with Sciences Po (Paris)</i>	
Sociology of Education (Graduate)	Fall 2022
Workshop on Wealth and Inequality (Graduate)	Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Spring 2024

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

---

(includes scheduled presentations)

- 2025 University of California Los Angeles, California Center for Population Research  
Princeton University, Office of Population Research  
Princeton University, Education Research Section
  
- 2024 University of Pennsylvania, Population Studies Center  
ENSAE Paris, Center for Research in Economics and Statistics  
Sciences Po Paris, Centre for Research on Social Inequalities  
University of Chicago, Stone Center for Research on Wealth Inequality and Mobility  
University of Oxford, Classical and Computational Social Science Working Group  
Stanford University, Center for Education Policy Analysis  
Stanford University, Educational Opportunity Project & Institute for Advancing Just Societies
  
- 2023 University of Michigan, Center for Academic Innovation  
University of Houston, Identity & Academic Motivation Lab  
Columbia University, Population Research Center  
Pennsylvania State University, Population Research Institute  
Yale University, Center for Empirical Research on Stratification and Inequality  
University of Wisconsin - Madison, Wisconsin Center for Educational Research  
University of Wisconsin - Madison, Experimental Methods in Sociology Workshop
  
- 2022 Columbia University, Center for the Study of Wealth and Inequality  
Drexel University, Pennoni Honors College (Panel)  
Pennsylvania State University, College of Education  
Columbia University, Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences Research Seminar
  
- 2021 University of Michigan, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy  
Howard University, School of Education  
University of Florida, College of Education  
Columbia University, Department of Sociology
  
- 2020 École Normale Supérieure, Département d'Études Cognitives

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & PROCEEDINGS

---

(includes scheduled presentations)

- 2024 Sociology of Education Association  
American Sociological Association
  
- 2023 Sociology of Education Association  
Population Association of America  
RC-28: Research Committee on Social Stratification and Mobility  
American Sociological Association
  
- 2022 American Sociological Association

Association of Black Sociologists

- 2021 American Sociological Association  
Association for Education Finance and Policy  
Empowering Learners in AI
- 2020 Association for the Study of Higher Education
- 2019 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management  
Sociology of Education Association  
Association for Education Finance and Policy  
American Sociological Association
- 2018 American Society of Engineering Education  
American Sociological Association

## DEPARTMENTAL & UNIVERSITY SERVICE

---

Graduate Admissions Committee, Columbia University 2023

### Student Advising:

#### *PhD Dissertation Committee*

- Elizabeth Adetiba (Sociology, Columbia University, *exp.* 2025)  
Dominic Walker (Sociology, Columbia University, *exp.* 2024)  
Asya Tsaturyan (Sociology, Columbia University, 2024)  
Abbey Keener (Education, Columbia University, 2024)  
Taylor Alexander (Education, University of Houston, 2023)

#### *MA Thesis Advising*

- Amita Khurana (Sociology, Columbia University, 2024)

#### *Undergraduate Advising*

- Kelly Yoshimura (Laidlaw Summer Program, Columbia University, 2023 & 2024)

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & MEMBERSHIPS

---

Fall Conference Program Chair, Sociology of Education Association 2024  
Session Organizer, PAA Annual Meeting 2024  
Board of Directors, Sociology of Education Association 2023-2025  
Outstanding Publication Award Committee, ASA Section on Methodology 2023  
Program Committee, ABS Annual Meeting 2023  
Clifford Clogg Award Committee, ASA Section on Methodology 2022  
Council Member (Student), ASA Section on Methodology 2021-2023

### Professional Association Memberships:

American Sociological Association (ASA)  
Association of Black Sociologists (ABS)  
Population Association of America (PAA)  
RC-28: Research Committee on Social Stratification and Mobility  
Sociology of Education Association (SEA)

### Occasional Reviewer:

*AERA Open, American Educational Research Journal, American Journal of Sociology, American Sociological Review, European Sociological Review, International Journal of Comparative Sociology, Peabody Journal of Education, Social Currents, Social Forces, Sociological Focus, Sociology of Education, Socius, The Journal of Higher Education, Time-Sharing Experiments in the Social Sciences (TESS)*