

# Michael H. Esposito

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## Research Interests

population health; race; statistical methodology; social/spatial context

## Appointments

<b>University of Minnesota</b>	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Assistant Professor	2023 – now
<i>Don A. Martindale Endowed Chair in Sociology</i>	

<b>Washington University in St. Louis</b>	St. Louis, Missouri
Assistant Professor	2021 – 2023

<b>University of Michigan</b>	Ann Arbor, Michigan
Postdoctoral Fellow	2018 – 2021

## Education

<b>University of Washington</b>	Seattle, Washington
PhD in Sociology	2013 – 2018
Certificates in Demography and Statistics	
Committee: Drs. Hedwig Lee, Jerald Herting, Stewart Tolnay, Anjum Hajat	

<b>University of Washington</b>	Seattle, Washington
MA in Sociology	2011–2013

<b>University of Missouri</b>	Columbia, Missouri
BA in Sociology	2007–2011

## Journal Articles

[27] **Incarceration and psychiatric emergency department visits among Black Americans**

Abhery Das, Michael Esposito, Hedwig Lee, Tim Bruckner  
*Milbank Quarterly*, Forthcoming

[26] **A National Data Set of Historical US Sundown Towns for Quantitative Analysis**

David Rigby, Michael H. Esposito, Hedwig Lee, David Van Riper, Margaret Hicken, Stephen Berrey  
*Scientific Data*, 2025.

[25] **The U.S. Criminal Legal System and Population Health**

Michael Cao, Michael H. Esposito, Hedwig Lee  
*Current Epidemiology Reports*, 2025.

[24] **Racial Capitalism and Firearm Violence: Developing a theoertical model for firearm violence research examining structural racism**

Mudia Uzzi; Shannon Whittaker; Michael Esposito; Lorraine Dean; Shani Buggs; Keshia Pollack-Porter.  
*Social Science and Medicine*, 2024.

**[23] Influence of Structural Racism on Cancer Health Disparities: Tailoring Measures Relevant to Multiple Myeloma**

Hugh Roland, Cydney McGuire, Monica Baskin, Michael Esposito, Elizabeth Baker, Elizabeth Brown  
*Cancer*, 2024.

**[22] Bodily Harm: The Health Consequences of Policing in the United States**

Abhery Das, Michael Esposito, Hedwig Lee  
*California Law Review*, 2024.

**[21] Segregated Patterns of Hospital Care Delivery and Health Outcomes**

Sunny Lin, Gmerice Hammond, Michael Esposito, Cassandra Majewski, Randi Foraker, Karen Joynt Maddox  
*JAMA Health Fourm*, 2024.

**[20] Historical redlining and contemporary racial disparities in neighborhood life expectancy.**

Nick Graetz, Michael H. Esposito\*  
*Social Forces*, 2023.

**[19] Policing and Population Health: Past, Present, and Future**

Hedwig Lee, Savannah Larimore, Michael Esposito\*  
*Milbank Quarterly*, 2023.

**[18] Neighborhood “Disamenities:” local barriers and cognitive function among Black and white aging adults**

Wenshan Yu, Michael Esposito, Mao Li, Philippa Clarke, Suzanne Judd, Jessica Finlay  
*BMC Public Health*, 2023.

**[17] Cognability: An Ecological Theory of Neighborhoods and Cognitive Aging.**

Jessica Finlay, Michael Esposito\*, Ken Langa, Suzanne Judd, Phillipa Clarke  
*Social Science and Medicine*, 2022.

NIH MATILDA WHITE RILEY EARLY STAGE INVESTIGATOR PAPER AWARD

**[16] Structural Racism and Quantitative Causal inference: A Life-Course Mediation Framework for Decomposing Racial Health Disparities.**

Nick Graetz, Courtney Boen, Michael H. Esposito.  
*Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, 2022.

**[15] Walkable neighborhoods and cognition: implications for the design of health promoting communities.**

Dominique L. Sylvers, Margaret Hicken, Michael Esposito, Jennifer Manly, Suzanne Judd, Phillipa Clarke.  
*Journal of Aging and Health*, 2022.

[14] **“My neighbourhood is fuzzy, not hard and fast:” Individual and contextual associations with perceived residential neighbourhood boundaries among ageing Americans.**

Jessica Finlay, Joy Jang, Michael Esposito, Leslie McClure, Suzanne Judd, Phillipa Clarke.  
*Urban Studies*, 2022.

[13] **Beholding Inequality: Race, Gender, Physical Attractiveness, and SES in the United States**

Ellis Monk, Michael H. Esposito, Hedwig Lee.

*American Journal of Sociology*, 2021.

ASA RACE, GENDER, CLASS DISTINGUISHED CONTRIBUTION TO SCHOLARSHIP ARTICLE AWARD

ASA SECTION ON THE SOCIOLOGY OF BODY AND EMBODIMENT: BEST ARTICLE AWARD

ASA INEQUALITY, POVERTY AND MOBILITY DEVAH PAGER AWARD: HONORABLE MENTION

[12] **Aggressive Policing, Population Health, and Health Equity**

Michael H. Esposito, Savannah Larimore, Hedwig Lee.

*Health Affairs*, 2021.

[11] **White Health Benefits of Histories of Enslavement: The Case of Opioid Deaths**

Ryan Gabriel, Michael H. Esposito\*, Geoff Ward, Hedwig Lee, Margaret Hicken, David Cunningham.

*The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences*, 2021.

[10] **Neighborhood Active Aging Infrastructure and Cognitive Function: A Mixed-Methods Study of Older Americans**

Jessica Finlay, Michael H. Esposito\*, Mao Li, Natalie Colabianchi, Huajun Zhou, Suzanne Judd, Phillipa Clarke.

*Preventive Medicine*, 2021.

[9] **Linking History to Contemporary State-Sanctioned Slow Violence through Cultural and Structural Racism**

Margaret T. Hicken, Regan Patterson, Lewis Miles, Solome Haile, Michael Esposito.

*The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences*, 2021.

[8] **Can Neighborhood Social Infrastructure Modify Cognitive Function? A Mixed-Methods Study of Urban-Dwelling Aging Americans**

Jessica Finlay, Michael H. Esposito\*, Mao Lee, Lindsay Kobayashi, Anam Khan, Iris Gomez-Lopez, Robert Melendez, Natalie Colabianchi, Suzanne Judd, Phillipa Clarke.

*Journal of Aging and Health*, 2021.

[7] **Racial segregation and cognitive function among older adults in the United States: Findings from the Reasons for Geographic and Racial Differences in Stroke (REGARDS) study**

Joy Jang, Margaret T. Hicken, Megan Mullins, Michael H. Esposito, Ketlyne Sol, Jennifer Manly Suzanne Judd, Phillipa Clarke.

*The Journals of Gerontology: Series B*, 2021.

[6] **Retail Food Environments as Resources for Cognitive Health and Wellbeing Among Aging Americans**

Jessica Finlay, Michael H. Esposito\*, Sandra Tang, Iris Gomez-Lopez, Dominique Sylvers, Suzanne Judd, and Phillipa Clarke.  
*Health & Place*, 2020.

**[5] Inequality in Process: Income and Heterogeneous Educational Health Gradients among Blacks and Whites in the U.S**

Michael H. Esposito  
*Race and Social Problems*, 2019.

**[4] Risk of Being Killed by Police Use-of-Force in the U.S. by Age, Race and Sex**

Frank Edwards, Hedwig Lee, Michael H. Esposito  
*Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 2019.

**[3] Closure of Third-Places? Exploring Potential Consequences for Collective Health and Wellbeing.**

Jessica Finlay, Michael H. Esposito\*, Min Hee Kim, Iris Gomez-Lopez, Phillipa Clarke.  
*Health & Place*, 2019.

**[2] Risk of Police-Involved Death by Race/Ethnicity and Place, United States, 2012–2018.**

Frank Edwards, Michael H. Esposito\*, Hedwig Lee.  
*The American Journal of Public Health*, 2018.

**[1] The Consequences of Contact with the Criminal Justice System for Health in the Transition to Adulthood.**

Michael H. Esposito, Hedwig E. Lee, Margret Hicken, Lauren Porter, and Jerald Herting.  
*Longitudinal and Life Course Studies*, 2017.

Peer Reviewed Reports  
& Other Publications

**[5] Identifying Midlife Social Exposures That Might Modify Risks of Cognitive Impairment Associated with Early Life Disadvantage: Proceedings of a Workshop**

(Contributing Presenter.) Rapporteur: Bradford Chaney.  
[National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine](#), 2025.

**[4] Shared Fates: A Housing Resilience Policy Vision for the Home Insurance Crisis**

Moir Briss, Alex Casey, Michael Esposito, Nick Graetz, Sarah Knuth, C.S. Ponder, Zac J. Taylor  
[Climate and Community Institute Research Series](#), 2024.

**[3] The Past, Present, and Future of Racial Health Disparities in the US**

Michael Esposito, Nick Graetz, Margaret Hicken, Hedwig Lee  
[Uncovering Inequality](#), edited by Jelani Cobb, 2023.

**[2] The demographics of racial inequality in the United States**

Hedwig Lee, Michael Esposito, Frank Edwards, Yung Chun, Michal Grinstein-Weiss  
[Brooking Institute](#), 2020.

**[1] Police kill about 3 men per day in the US, according to new study**

Frank Edwards, Michael Esposito

[The Conversation, 2018.](#)

Manuscripts-in-  
Progress

*includes 5 projects closest  
to publication*

**[5] American Eco-Apartheid: Mapping the links between racial disparities in longevity with political economy, state violence, and environmental exposure**

Daniel Aldana Cohen, Nick Graetz, Seth J. Prins, Michael Esposito.

*Revise and Resubmit.*

**[4] Sundown Towns and the Contemporary, Racialized Organization of Space**

David Rigby, Sierra Clark, Michael H. Esposito\*, Hedwig E. Lee, Tyson Brown.

*Under review.*

**[4] Neighborhood Exposure to Police Violence: A Racialized Geography of Fatal Encounters”**

Carmen Guterrez, Robert Melendez, Michael Esposito, Lindsay Gypin, Grace Noppert

*In preparation.*

**[2] Professional Football Players and Mortality Consequences Over Time.**

Nadia Jackson-Fitch, John R. Warren, Gina Rumore, Michael Esposito, Douglas Hartmann

*In preparation.*

**[1] Covenanted-Policing: How does historical spatial racism shape contemporary policing practices?**

Christopher Robertson, Michael Esposito

*In preparation.*

Recent Presentations

*from (2023-2024)*

**[15] Neighborhoods and Cognitive Function among Older Adults**

National Academies of Sciences: Identifying Midlife Social Exposures that might Modify Risk for Cognitive Impairment Associated with Early Life Disadvantage

(August 2024; *Invited*)

**[14] Differences in Police Contact, Trust, and Accountability by Race and Ethnicity: Findings from Focus Groups in St. Louis and Milwaukee**

Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science Annual Meeting

(September 2024)

**[13] Fatal Police Violence and the Maintenance of Racialized Space**

American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Quebec

(August 2024)

**[12] The durable consequences of policy: lessons from redlining in designing for an equitable future**

School of Science and Technology Policy Seminar, Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Technology  
(July 2024; *Invited*)

[11] **Fatal Police Violence and the Maintenance of Racialized Space**  
Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Columbus, OH  
(April 2024)

[10] **Restrictive Covenants and Police Territoriality**  
Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Columbus, OH  
(April 2024)

[9] **Historical redlining and contemporary racial disparities in neighborhood life expectancy**  
Institute for Population Research, The Ohio State University.  
(February 2024; *Invited*)

[8] **Historical redlining and contemporary racial disparities in neighborhood life expectancy**  
Donald J Bouge Demography Workshop, University of Chicago.  
(October 2023; *Invited*)

[7] **Challenges of Measuring Structural Racism: A Case Study of Redlining**  
Methods Matter Conference: Understanding and Measuring Race and Racism in Health Research Conference, University of Pennsylvania.  
(September 2023; *Invited*)

[6] **Legacies of Historical Racism**  
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Pennsylvania, PA.  
(August 2023)

[5] **Political Determinants of Health: The Case of Policing**  
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Pennsylvania, PA.  
(August 2023)

[4] **Sundown Towns and the Contemporary, Racialized Organization of Space**  
Population Association of America Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA  
(April 2023)

[3] **Historical redlining and contemporary racial disparities in neighborhood life expectancy**  
CDHA Demography Seminar, University of Wisconsin.  
(April 2023; *Invited*)

[2] **The Past Present, and Future of Racial Health Disparities in the United States**  
Uncovering Inequality Symposium, Columbia University.  
(March 2023; *Invited*)

[1] **Historical redlining and contemporary racial disparities in neighborhood life expectancy**

Duke Population Research Seminar, Duke University.  
(February 2023; *Invited*)

## Teaching

### **Sociology of Health and Illness**

*University of Minnesota, Spring 2024.*

### **Social Statistics**

*University of Minnesota, Fall 2023.*

### **Sick Society**

*Washington University in St. Louis, Spring 2022 + 2023.*

### **Statistics for Sociology**

*Washington University in St. Louis, Fall 2021 + 2022.*

### **Introduction To Racial And Ethnic Health Disparities In The United States.**

*University of Washington, Summer 2018.*

## Fellowships & Grants

### **Life Course Cognability: A Mixed Methods Study of The Place-Based Determinants of Late-Age Cognitive Health Outcomes (Co-PI)**

PIs: Jessica Finlay; Michael Esposito *University of Minnesota Life Course Center Pilot Grant* (2023-2024)

### **The Relationship Between State Violence, Trust in Government, and Vaccine Uptake (Co-PI)**

PIs: Caitlin McMurtry; Michael Esposito; Matthew Gabel; Darrell Hudson; *Washington University Transdisciplinary Institute in Applied Data Sciences Seed Grant* (2023-2024)

### **The St. Louis Policy Initiative: Segregation, Public Health, and Environmental Policy (Co-PI)**

PIs: Michael Esposito, Matthew Gabel, Elizabeth Korver-Glenn, Scott Krummenacher, Andrew Reeves; *Washington University Incubator for Transdisciplinary Futures* (2022-2025).

### **Trust and Public Health Incubator (Co-PI)**

PIs: David Carter; Michael Esposito; Matthew Gabel; Jimin Ding; Mark Huffman *Washington University Incubator for Transdisciplinary Futures* (2022-2025).

### **Estimating the impact of the school-to-prison pipeline on adolescent health: racialized, spatial disparities in policing, school discipline, substance use, and mental illness (Co-PI)**

PI: Seth Prins, Columbia University; *NIH* (2024-2028).

### **DNA methylation in context: Racial inequities in social adversity and vulnerability to the health impact of air pollution (Co-PI)**

PI: Margaret Hicken, University of Michigan; *NIH* (2021-2026).

**Examining racial segregation and underlying mechanisms related to VCID and incident stroke in the REGARDS study (Co-PI)**

PI: Natalie Colabianchi, University of Michigan; *NINDS* (2022-2026).

**LRP Health Disparities Award**

NIH National Institute on Minority Health (2019-2021).

**Dissertation Fellowship**

UW Graduate Opportunities and Minority Achievement Program (2017-2018).

**NICHD Training Fellowship**

University of Washington Center for Demography and Ecology (2015-2017).

Editorial Service

**Demography** (deputy editor)

2025 - now.

**Social Forces** (editorial board)

2023 - now.

**Socius** (editorial board)

2021 - 2024

Professional-  
Affiliations

Population Association of America; American Sociological Association; Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science; Association of Black Sociologist; The Institute in Critical Quantitative, Computational, and Mixed Methodologies.

Skills

R; Git;  $\LaTeX$ ; RMarkdown