

## Alec P. Rhodes

---

Institute for Research on Poverty  
University of Wisconsin–Madison  
1180 Observatory Drive  
Madison, WI 53706-1320

Mobile: (330) 671-9984  
[aprhodes@wisc.edu](mailto:aprhodes@wisc.edu)  
<https://alecprhodes.com/>  
Last update: July 25, 2024

---

### ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2023-Present      Postdoctoral Scholar, Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin–Madison, Madison, Wisconsin  
Mentor: Lawrence M. Berger

### EDUCATION

2023      Ph.D., Sociology, The Ohio State University  
Committee: Rachel E. Dwyer (Chair), Stephanie Moulton, Vincent Roscigno, Mike Vuolo

2020      M.A., Sociology, The Ohio State University

2018      B.A., Sociology, Hobart and William Smith Colleges  
B.A., Economics, Hobart and William Smith Colleges  
Phi Beta Kappa, summa cum laude, honors in sociology

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

Inequality, poverty, and mobility; economic sociology; credit, wealth, and debt; work and labor markets; social policy; rural and urban sociology; demography; life course; health and illness.

### PUBLICATIONS

2024      **Rhodes, Alec P.** and Rachel E. Dwyer. “Labor Unions, Debt, and Financial Advantage in Young Adulthood in the United States.” Forthcoming in *Work and Occupations*.

Phillips, Lora and **Alec P. Rhodes**. “Racial-Ethnic Poverty Gaps in Later Life: A Role for Late Career Employment Quality?” Forthcoming in *Social Problems*.

**Rhodes, Alec P.**, Rachel E. Dwyer, and Jason Houle. “Debt Collection Pressure and Mental Health: Evidence from a Cohort of U.S. Young Adults.” Forthcoming in *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*.

**Rhodes, Alec P.**, Stephanie Moulton, Căzilia Loibl, Donald Haurin, and Joshua Joseph. "Housing Wealth, Mortgage Borrowing, and Health Outcomes in Older Age: Evidence from Biomarker Data." *The Journals of Gerontology Series B* 79(7).

<https://doi.org/10.1093/geronb/gbae066>

- Editor's Choice, The Journals of Gerontology Series B
- Academic Research Colloquium Best Paper Award, Certified Financial Planner Board
- Featured in [Squared Away Blog](#)

Berger, Lawrence., Meta Brown, J. Michael Collins, Rachel E. Dwyer, Jason Houle, Stephanie Moulton, Davon Norris, and **Alec P. Rhodes**. "State Unemployment Generosity and High-Cost Borrowing during the COVID Pandemic." *Nature Human Behavior*.

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-024-01922-8>

2023 **Rhodes, Alec P.** "Labor Market Inequality, Debt, and the Consequences of Sub-Baccalaureate Credentials." *The Sociological Quarterly* 65(1):11-37. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00380253.2023.2253315>

2022 Moulton, Stephanie, **Alec P. Rhodes**, Donald Haurin, and Căzilia Loibl. "Managing the Onset of a New Disease in Older Age: Housing Wealth, Mortgage Borrowing, and Medication Adherence." *Social Science & Medicine* 314: 115437. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2022.115437>

- Financial Planning Paper Award, American Council on Consumer Interests
- Featured in [Squared Away Blog](#)

Loibl, Căzilia, **Alec P. Rhodes**, Stephanie Moulton, Donald Haurin, and Chrisse Edmunds. "Food Insecurity among Older Adults in the U.S.: The Role of Mortgage Borrowing." *Applied Economic Perspectives & Policy* 44(2):549-574. <https://doi.org/10.1002/aep.13219>

**Rhodes, Alec P.** "Student Debt and Geographic Disadvantage: Disparities by Urban, Suburban, and Rural Background." *Rural Sociology* 87(1):231-263. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ruso.12403>

- Olaf Larson Graduate Student Paper Award, Rural Sociological Society
- Featured in [The Rural Review](#), [The Daily Yonder](#), Consortium for Policy Research in Education's *Research Minutes* podcast

## MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS (DRAFTS AVAILABLE)

**Rhodes, Alec P.** “The Wealth Returns to a Unionized Career.”

**Rhodes, Alec P.** “Structure, Association, and Compensation: A Contingent Theory of Worker Power.”

Berger, Lawrence, Sarah Bruch, Rachel E. Dwyer, Jason Houle, Davon Norris, and **Alec P. Rhodes**. “Does State Safety Net Support Influence Unsecured Consumer Credit Use? Evidence from National Credit Report Data.”

**Rhodes, Alec P** and Tom VanHeuvelen. “Right to Work Laws and Economic Dynamism in U.S. Counties, 1946-2019.”

## AWARDS AND HONORS

2023	Aage B. Sørensen Travel Award, RC28 Social Stratification and Mobility, International Sociological Association
2022	Academic Research Colloquium Best Paper Award, Certified Financial Planner Board Financial Planning Paper Award, American Council on Consumer Interests
2021	Olaf Larson Graduate Student Paper Award, Rural Sociological Society
2020	Graduate Research Fellowship (Honorable Mention), National Science Foundation
2019-2020	Sociology Stipend Supplement Award, The Ohio State University
2018-2019	University Fellowship, The Ohio State University
2018	Blair C. Currie Prize in Economics, Hobart and William Smith Colleges Omicron Delta Epsilon, International Honors Society in Economics
2015-2018	John Visger van Ingen Named Scholar, Hobart and William Smith Colleges
2014-2015	Hobart Heritage Scholar, Hobart and William Smith Colleges

## PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY AND REPORTS

2022	Loibl, Căzilia, Donald Haurin, Stephanie Moulton, <b>Alec P. Rhodes</b> , and Chrisse Edmunds. <a href="#"><u>“Food Insecurity among Older Adults in the US: The Role of Mortgage Borrowing.”</u></a> <i>University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research Discussion Paper Series</i> , DP2022-01.
------	--

- 2021 **Rhodes, Alec P.** (September 9). ["Geographic Disparities in Student Debt by Rural, Suburban, and Urban Background."](#) Work in Progress: Sociology on the Economy, Work and Inequality.

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 "The Wealth Returns to a Unionized Career." Household Finance Seminar, University of Wisconsin–Madison
- 2023 "Debt Collection Pressure and Mental Health: Evidence from a Cohort of U.S. Young Adults." Sociology Colloquium Series, University at Buffalo.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 **Rhodes, Alec P.** and Tom VanHeuvelen. "Do Right-to-Work Laws Lead to Economic Dynamism? Evidence from U.S. Counties, 1946-2019." To be presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Montreal, Aug. 9-13.
- Berger, Lawrence M., Sarah Bruch, Rachel E. Dwyer, Jason Houle, Davon Norris, and **Alec P. Rhodes**. "Does State Safety Net Support Influence Unsecured Consumer Credit? Evidence from National Credit Report Data." Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America, Columbus, OH, April 17-20.
- Rhodes, Alec P.**, Rachel E. Dwyer, and Jason Houle. "Debt Collection Pressure and Mental Health: Evidence from a Cohort of U.S. Young Adults." Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America, Columbus, OH, April 17-20.
- 2023 **Rhodes, Alec P.** "Right to Work Laws, Marketplace Power, and Worker Compensation in the U.S." Fall Research Conference, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Atlanta, Nov. 9-11.
- Berger, Lawrence M., Sarah Bruch, J. Michael Collins, Rachel E. Dwyer, Jason Houle, Stephanie Moulton, and **Alec P. Rhodes**. "Do State Social Welfare Policies Influence Consumer Debt Holdings? Evidence from National Credit Report Data." Fall Research Conference, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Atlanta, Nov. 9-11.
- Norris, Davon and **Alec P. Rhodes**, and Rachel E. Dwyer. "Of Distribution and Translation: Credit Scores and Economic Mobility in the U.S." Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, Aug. 17-21.
- Berger, Lawrence M., Meta Brown, J. Michael Collins, Rachel E. Dwyer, Jason Houle, Stephanie Moulton, Davon Norris, and **Alec P. Rhodes**. "Inequality in High-Cost Borrowing and Unemployment Generosity in

U.S. States during the COVID-19 Pandemic.” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, Aug. 17-21.

**Rhodes, Alec P.** “Labor Unions and Wealth Inequality in the United States, 1985-2016.” Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America, New Orleans, Apr. 12-15.

2022 **Rhodes, Alec P.** and Rachel E. Dwyer. “Labor Unions, Debt, and Financial Inclusion in Young Adulthood.” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, LA, Aug. 5-9.

**Rhodes, Alec P.** and Simon Kolbeck. “Who Suffers Most from Prison? Heterogeneous Effects of Incarceration on Wage Inequality.” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, LA, Aug. 5-9.

Phillips, Lora A. and **Alec P. Rhodes.** “Late Career Precarious Work and Racial-Ethnic Poverty Gaps in Later Life.” Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America, Atlanta, Apr. 9-6.

2021 Phillips, Lora A. and **Alec P. Rhodes.** “Precarious Employment and Late Life Poverty among Older Workers.” Virtual Engagement Event of the American Sociological Association, Aug. 6-10.

Loibl, Căzilia, **Alec P. Rhodes**, Stephanie Moulton, Donald Haurin, and Chrisse Edmunds. Food insecurity among older adults in the U.S.: The role of mortgage borrowing. 2021 IAREP-SABE Virtual Conference, Jun. 11, <https://sabeconomics.org/iarep-sabe-2021/>

**Rhodes, Alec P.** “Sub-Baccalaureate Credentials and Economic Inequality in Young Adulthood.” Virtual Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America, May 5-8.

2020 **Rhodes, Alec P.** “Student Debt and the Reproduction of Geographic Disadvantage: Disparities by Rural, Suburban, and Urban Background.” Virtual Engagement Event of the American Sociological Association, Aug. 8-11.

2019 **Rhodes, Alec P.** “Exploring Urban-Suburban-Rural Disparities in Student Debt.” Annual Meeting of the Rural Sociological Society, Richmond, VA, Aug. 9.

2018 **Rhodes, Alec P.** and Ervin Kosta. “Local Identity, Global Context: Symbolic Ethnicity and Barriers to Collective Refugee Action.” Annual Meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society, Baltimore, MD, Feb. 23.

2017 **Rhodes, Alec P.** “Bolstering Women’s Employment and Increasing Men’s Care through Parental Leave Policy Reform.” Annual Meeting of the New York State Sociological Association, Rochester, NY, Oct. 20.

**RESEARCH AND TRAINEE EXPERIENCE**

- 2023 *Department of Sociology, The Ohio State University*  
Role: Graduate Research Associate  
Team: Rachel Dwyer and Jason Houle  
“Debt and Insecurity among Vulnerable Communities during the COVID-19 Crisis.” Funding agency: National Science Foundation.
- 2021-2022 *Department of Sociology and John Glenn College of Public Affairs, The Ohio State University*  
Role: Graduate Research Associate  
Team: Lawrence Berger, Meta Brown, J. Michael Collins, Rachel Dwyer, Jason Houle, and Stephanie Moulton  
“Inequalities in Financial Coping During the COVID-19 Crisis: New Insights from Linked Credit Report, Alternative Financial Service, and State Administrative Data.” Funding agency: Russell Sage Foundation.
- 2020-2021 *John Glenn College of Public Affairs, The Ohio State University*  
Role: Graduate Research Associate  
Team: Stephanie Moulton (PI), Donald Haurin, Căzilia Loibl, and Joshua Joseph  
“Economic Security in Retirement: Does Borrowing from Home Equity Moderate the Impact of a Health Shock on Health Outcomes?” Funding agency: Social Security Administration Retirement and Disability Consortium, Center for Financial Security, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2020 *Ohio Department of Aging and Ohio Association of Gerontology and Education, Ohio Scholars in Aging Program*  
Role: Fellow and Trainee
- 2019-2020 *College of Education and Human Ecology, The Ohio State University*  
Role: Graduate Research Associate  
Team: Căzilia Loibl (PI), Donald Haurin, and Stephanie Moulton  
“Food Insecurity among Older Adults in the U.S.: The Role of Mortgage Borrowing” Funding agency: United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service, University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

- 2017-2018 Teaching Fellow, Department of Sociology, Hobart and William Smith Colleges

2015-2016                Writing Colleague, Hobart and William Smith Colleges

### **DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE**

2021-2022                President, Sociology Graduate Student Association, The Ohio State University

2019-2020                Cohort Representative, Sociology Graduate Student Association, The Ohio State University

### **DISCIPLINARY SERVICE**

2022                        Organizer, Mentoring Committee, Organizations, Occupations, and Work Section, American Sociological Association

2021                        Presider of Markets, Policy, and Economics Roundtable, BGSU-OSU Graduate Student Conference, Columbus, OH, October 29.

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Sociological Association, member  
Sections: Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility; Economic Sociology; Organizations, Occupations, and Work; Labor and Labor Movements.

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, member

Institute for Population Research, The Ohio State University, Graduate Affiliate

Population Association of America, member

RC28 Social Stratification and Mobility, International Sociological Association, member

### **OCCASIONAL REVIEWER**

*Journal of Consumer Affairs, Journal of Economic Psychology, Human Geography, Research in Social Stratification and Mobility, Social Currents, Social Science Research*

## REFERENCES

Rachel E. Dwyer  
Professor of Sociology and Faculty Affiliate of the Institute for Population Research  
The Ohio State University  
[dwyer.46@osu.edu](mailto:dwyer.46@osu.edu)

Lawrence M. Berger  
Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor and Associate Vice Chancellor for Research in  
the Social Sciences  
University of Wisconsin–Madison  
[lmberger@wisc.edu](mailto:lmberger@wisc.edu)

Stephanie Moulton  
Professor of Public Policy and Faculty Director of Research  
John Glenn College of Public Affairs  
The Ohio State University  
[moulton.23@osu.edu](mailto:moulton.23@osu.edu)

Vincent J. Roscigno  
Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor of Sociology  
The Ohio State University  
[roscigno.1@osu.edu](mailto:roscigno.1@osu.edu)