

May, 2025

RRITA ZEJNULLAHI

University of Illinois Chicago
School of Public Health
College of Applied Health Sciences
1603 W Taylor Street, Chicago, IL 60612
<https://rrita-zejnullahi.netlify.app/>

email: rritaz@uic.edu
office: (312) 355-3692

EMPLOYMENT

2023 -	University of Illinois Chicago <i>Clinical Assistant Professor of Biostatistics</i> School of Public Health, Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics (primary) College of Applied Health Sciences (joint) <i>Statistician</i> , College of Applied Health Sciences, Office of Research
2021 - 2023	University of Washington <i>Postdoctoral Researcher</i> Department of Statistics

EDUCATION

2021	Ph.D., Northwestern University, Statistics
2018	M.S., Northwestern University, Statistics
2015	M.A., Eastern Michigan University, Mathematics
2011	B.S., Rochester Institute of Technology

HONORS

2024	Award for Best Early Career Research Article for AY 2023 - 2024, School of Public Health & Institute for Health Research and Policy, University of Illinois Chicago
2020 - 2021; 2016 - 2017	University Fellowship, Northwestern University
2015	Outstanding Mathematics Achievement Award for Excellence in Graduate Studies, Eastern Michigan University (<i>top departmental award</i>)
2010 - 2011	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Award for Senior Capstone Project, Rochester Institute of Technology

EDITORIAL ACTIVITIES

2025 - 2026	Statistical Reviewer, <i>JAMA Network Open</i>
-------------	--

GRANT FUNDING

2025 - 2026 **Co-Investigator.** *Toward inclusive mobile brain-body imaging for post-stroke gait.* EXITO Pilot Grant, College of Applied Health Sciences, University of Illinois Chicago, with Chang Liu (PI, UIC) and Lucinda Williamson (Co-PI, UIC). Funding: \$50,000.

PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 **Zejnullahi, R.**, Hedges, L.V. Robust variance estimation in small meta-analysis with the standardized mean difference. *Research Synthesis Methods*. 1-17. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jrsm.1668>
- 2023 Hedges, L.V., Tipton, E., **Zejnullahi, R.**, Diaz, K.G. (2023). Effect sizes in ANCOVA and difference-in-differences designs. *British Journal of Mathematical and Statistical Psychology*, 76 (2), 259-282.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/bmsp.12296>
(Corresponding Author)
- 2021 Schauer, J.M., Fitzgerald, K.G., Peko-Spicer, S., Whalen, M.C.R., **Zejnullahi, R.**, Hedges, L.V. An evaluation of statistical methods for aggregate patterns of replication failure. *Annals of Applied Statistics*, 15 (1) 208-229.
<https://doi.org/10.1214/20-AOAS1387>
- 2015 Casey, S.A., Ross, A.M., Groth, R.E., **Zejnullahi, R.** Developing teachers' knowledge for content and students for teaching categorical association. In Bartell, T.G., Bieda, K.N., Putnman, R.T., Bradfield, K., Dominguez, H. (Eds.), *Proceedings of the thirty-seventh annual meeting of the North American Chapter of the International Group for the Psychology of Mathematics Education*, pp. 872-875.

UNDER REVIEW / WORKING PAPERS

- 2024 Hamstra-Wright, K.L., Gasso, E., **Zejnullahi, R.**, Coumbe-Lilley, J.E. Suicide rates in National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) student-athletes: An 11-year analysis. Under review.
- 2024 Lima, N., Jackson, R., Hibner, B., Sherman, S., Fernhall, B., Baynard, T., Crandall, C., Phillips, S., **Zejnullahi, R.**, and Clifford, P. Mechanisms of exercise-induced reduction in peripheral arterial stiffness. Under review.
- 2024 **Zejnullahi, R.**, Hedges, L.V. A modified random-effects method for combining effect sizes based on binary data and few studies. Working paper.

INVITED TALKS

- 2025 Statistical methods for counting refugees during an influx. Invited talk at the Data Science for Refugee Populations Conference hosted by Duke University. April 2025.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 A modified random-effects method for combining effect sizes based on binary data and few studies (with Larry V. Hedges). Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Research Synthesis Methodology (SRSM). Amsterdam, Netherlands. July 2024.
- 2023 Small meta-analysis with the standardized mean difference (with Larry V. Hedges). Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Research Synthesis Methodology (SRSM). Paris, France. July 2023.
- 2021 Fixed-effect and random-effects meta-analysis of randomized trials when the outcome is continuous and the number of studies is small (with Larry V. Hedges). Paper presented at the Fall Meeting of the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE). Washington, DC. September 2021. (Virtual)
- 2018 Prioritizing statistical knowledge for teaching: designing and testing a curriculum module on categorical association (with Stephanie A. Casey, Andrew M. Ross, Jim H. Albert and Randy E. Groth). Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Mathematical Society (JMM). San Diego, CA. January 2018.
- 2015 Developing teachers' knowledge of content and students for teaching categorical association (with Stephanie A. Casey and Andrew M. Ross). Presented at the North American Chapter of the International Group for the Psychology of Mathematics Education (PME-NA). East Lansing, MI. November 2015.
- 2015 Preparing teachers to teach statistics – pilot study. Presented at the Graduate Research Conference, Eastern Michigan University. Ypsilanti, MI. November 2015.
- 2015 Preparing to teach statistics: Connecting subject matter and pedagogical content knowledge (with Stephanie A. Casey, Joe Champion and Nick Wasserman) Breakout Session at the United States Conference on Teaching Statistics (USCOTS), Pennsylvania State University. State College, PA. May 2015.

RESEARCH & CONSULTING

2023 -	Consultant, Statistics Walk-in Clinic, UIC College of Applied Health Sciences
2021 – 2023	Researcher, Center for Statistics and the Social Sciences (CSSS), University of Washington
2021	Consultant / Facilitator, NSF Summer Research Training Institute on Improving Evaluations of R&D in STEM Education, Northwestern University (Summer 2021)
2018 - 2019	Consultant / Facilitator, IES Summer Research Training Institute on Cluster Randomized Trials, Northwestern University (Summer 2018, 2019)
2019 – 2021	Member, Statistics for Evidence Based Policy and Practice (STEPP) Center, Northwestern University
2019 – 2021	Graduate Research Assistant, Institute for Policy Research (IPR), Northwestern University
2014 – 2015	Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Eastern Michigan University

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Illinois Chicago

School of Public Health, Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

IPHS 402: Analytic and Research Methods in Public Health (Fall 2023, 2024)

IPHS 405: Analytic and Research Methods in Population Health Part II (Winter 2025)

College of Applied Health Sciences

AHS 511 Biostatistics I (Fall 2023, 2024)

AHS 512 Biostatistics II (Winter 2024, 2025)

Northwestern University, Teaching Assistant

STAT 301-3 Data Science III (Spring 2020)

STAT 301-2: Data Science II (Winter 2020)

STAT 301-1: Data Science I (Fall 2019)

STAT 383: Probability and Statistics for the Integrated Science Program (Winter 2019)

STAT 210: Introductory Statistics for the Social Sciences (Winter 2018, Spring 2019)

STAT 202: Introduction to Statistics (Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2019)

Eastern Michigan University, Instructor of Record

STAT 179: Introduction to Statistics (Winter 2016)

MATH 105: College Algebra (Winter 2016)

MATH 107: Plane Trigonometry (Winter 2016)

MATH 110: Mathematical Reasoning (Fall 2015)
MATH 104: Intermediate Algebra (Fall 2014, Winter 2015, Fall 2015)

ADVISING

UIC School of Public Health

ILE Committee, Member

2024 Kelley Bauman (MPH - Biostatistics); Han Quoc Luu (MPH - Biostatistics)

UIC College of Applied Health Sciences

Dissertation Proposal Committee, Member

2025 Miguel Negrete (PhD in Rehabilitation Sciences)

2023 Vered Arbel (PhD in Kinesiology and Nutrition)

Preliminary Exam Committee, Member

2025 Joy Itodo (PhD in Kinesiology and Nutrition)

2024 Miguel Negrete (PhD in Rehabilitation Sciences)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Professional Development

2024 Inclusive Education Scholar, Center for the Advancement of Teaching Excellence (CATE) and the Office of Diversity, Equity and Engagement (ODEE), University of Illinois Chicago

Service to the Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

2024 - 2025 Advisor, MPH - Biostatistics
Executive Member, Data Science in Health Camp
Co-Organizer, Epidemiology / Biostatistics Seminar Series (Winter 2024)
Admissions Committee, MPH - Biostatistics

Service to the UIC School of Public Health

2024 - 2026 Epidemiology / Biostatistics Representative, Teaching and Learning (T&L) Workgroup
2024 Reviewer, AY 2023 - 2024 School of Public Health / Institute for Health Research and Policy Research Article Award
2023 Reviewer, Seed Funding

Service to the Profession / Other

2023 RStudio Mentor, Increasing Statistical Preparation in Research Education for Underrepresented Undergraduates (INSPIRE U2) Program, Spelman College (Summer 2023)
2023 RStudio trainer for public case-level datasets from the Cook County State's Attorney, Hacking 4 Justice (H4J)

2022, 2023	Judge, Undergraduate Student Project Competition (USPROC), Consortium for the Advancement of Undergraduate Statistics Education (CAUSE) and the American Statistical Association (ASA)
2021 - 2022	First Round Reviewer, 2023 and 2023 PhD Admissions, Department of Statistics, University of Washington Volunteer Reviewer, Pre-application Review Service (PARS), Department of Statistics, University of Washington
2019 - 2021	Speaker Series Coordinator, Women in Statistics (WIST), Northwestern University

Ad-hoc referee service

Journals: Research Synthesis Methods, BMJ Open, JAMA Network Open
Conferences: Society for Causal Inference

Professional Society Memberships

American Statistical Association (ASA)
Society for Research Synthesis Methodology (SRSM)

REFERENCES

Available upon request