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EDUCATION

2013 **Duke University**, Ph.D. Sociology
2008 **Duke University**, M.A. Sociology
2006 **University of Central Florida**, B.A. Sociology and Anthropology

EMPLOYMENT

2019-Current **Louisiana State University**, Associate Professor of Sociology
2013-2019 **Louisiana State University**, Assistant Professor of Sociology

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

- Forthcoming. Williams, Courtney, and Rackin, Heather. "Racial and Educational Disparities in Severe Maternal Morbidity: Accounting for Diminished Health Returns among Black Mothers." *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*.
2026. Rackin, Heather, Marshall, Emily. and Behrman, Julia. "Do Survey Respondents Distinguish between Ideal, Desired, and Expected Fertility? An Empirical Test of Survey Design Effects." *Population and Development Review* 52 (3). <https://doi.org/10.1111/padr.70081>
2026. Slack, Tim, Pal, Arijita* and Rackin, Heather. "Labor Force Nonparticipation in Rural and Urban America: An Examination of Prime-Working-Age Men and Women, 2000–2024." *Rural Sociology* 91 (3). <https://doi.org/10.1111/ruso.70062>
2026. Rackin, Heather. "Fertility Desires among Gender Minority and Cisgender Youth." *Population Research and Policy Review*. 45(23). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11113-026-10001-x>
2025. Jayasinghe, Naduni*, and Rackin, Heather. "Dimensions of Environmental Attitudes and General Fertility Ideals." *Population and Development Review*. 51 (4): 1279–1313. <https://doi.org/10.1111/padr.70019>—invited blog piece: December 15, 2025. "[Dimensions of Environmental Attitudes and General Fertility Ideals](#)." Population Council.
2025. Rackin, Heather, and Gibson-Davis, Christina, Williams, Courtney*, Hughes, Dustin*, and Yoo, Seunghwan*. "Polarized Partisan Baby Bust? Effect of Trump Vote Share on Changes in

- Fertility in Florida during and before the Covid-19 Pandemic." *Population Research and Policy Review*. 44(52). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11113-025-09972-0>
2024. Rackin, Heather, and Gibson-Davis, Christina. "Youth's Political Identity and Fertility Desires." *Journal of Marriage and Family*. 86(4): 1132-1148. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jomf.13000>
2023. Rackin, Heather, Gemmill, Alison, and Hartnet, Caroline Sten. "Environmental Attitudes and Fertility Desires among U.S. Adolescents from 2005-2019." *Journal of Marriage and Family*. Vol. 85 (2), pp. 631-644. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jomf.12885>
2023. Williams, Courtney*, Berkowitz, Dana, and Rackin, Heather. "Exploring the Experiences of Pregnant Women in the U.S. During the First Year of the Covid-19 Pandemic." *Journal of Social Issues*. Vol. 79, pp. 617-645. <https://doi.org/10.1111/josi.12567>
2022. Rackin, Heather and Gibson-Davis, Christina. "Familial Deaths and First Birth Timing." *Population and Development Review*. 48(4): 1027-1059. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/48762590>
2021. Stroope, Samuel, Rackin, Heather, and Froese, Paul. "Christian Nationalism and Views of Immigrants in the United States: Is the Relationship Stronger for the Religiously Inactive?" *Socius*. 7.
2021. Stroope, Samuel, Froese, Paul, Rackin, Heather, and Delehanty, Jack. "Unchurched Christian Nationalism and the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election." *Sociological Forum*. 36(2): 405-425.
2021. Weil, Frederick, Barton, Michael, Rackin, Heather, Valasik, Matthew, and Maddox, David. "Collective Resources and Violent Crime Reconsidered: New Orleans before and after Hurricane Katrina." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. 36(13-14): NP7045-NP7069.
2020. Barton, Michael, Weil, Frederick, Valasik, Matthew, Rackin, Heather, and Coto, Lynnette*. "What was Washed Away and What Was Not: An Assessment of the Impact of Hurricane Katrina on Index Crimes." *Journal of Crime and Justice*, 43(5), 640-658.
2018. Rackin, Heather, and Gibson-Davis, Christina. "Social Class Divergence in Family Transitions: The Importance of Cohabitation." *Journal of Marriage and Family*. Vol. 80 (5), pp. 1271-1286.
2018. Rackin, Heather and Morgan, Philip S. "Prospective Versus Retrospective Measurement of Unwanted Fertility." *Demographic Research*. Vol. 39 (3), pp. 61-94. —invited news piece: August 22, 2018. "[How Many Babies in the US are Wanted? Why it's so Hard to Count Unintended Pregnancy](#)." The Conversation.
2018. Stroope, Samuel, Rackin, Heather, Stroope, Jessica L., and Uecker, Jeremy E. "Breastfeeding and Maternal Religion in the United States: Results from the National Prospective Cohort Study." *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*. Vol. 52(4), pp. 319-330.
2018. Weil, Frederick, Rackin, Heather, and Maddox, David. "Social Capital and the Repopulation of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina." *Natural Hazards*. 94: 927-952.

2017. Rackin, Heather, and Gibson-Davis, Christina. "Low-income Childless Young Adults' Marriage and Fertility Frameworks." *Journal of Marriage and Family*. Vol. 79 (4), pp. 1096-1110.
2017. Rackin, Heather. "Comparing Veteran and Non-veteran Racial Disparities in Health and Well-being." *Population Research and Policy Review*. Vol. 36 (3), pp. 331-356.
2017. Shrum, Wesley, Palackal, Antony, Dzorgbo, Dan-Bright, Mbatia, Paul, Schafer, Mark, Miller, Paige, and Rackin, Heather. "Has the Internet Changed Social Relations? Friendship and Collaboration in Ghana, Kenya, and India, 1994-2010." *Science, Technology, and Human Values*. Vol. 42 (3), pp. 491-519.
2016. Rackin, Heather and Brasher, Melanie. "Is Baby a Blessing? Wantedness, Age at First Birth, and Later-life Depression." *Journal of Marriage and Family*. Vol. 78 (5), pp. 1269-1284.
2016. Rackin, Heather and Bachrach, Christine. "Assessing the Predictive Value of Fertility Expectations through a Social-cognitive Model." *Population Research and Policy Review*. Vol. 35 (4), pp. 527-551. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11113-016-9395-z>
2016. Shrum, Wesley, Palackal, Antony, Dzorgbo, Dan-Bright, Mbatia, Paul, Schafer, Mark, Miller, Paige, and Rackin, Heather. "Network Decline in the Internet Era: Evidence from Ghana, Kenya, and India, 1994-2010." *International Journal of Social Research*. Vol. 6 (4), pp. 163-171.
2015. Miller, Paige, Rackin, Heather, Shrum, Wesley, Schafer, Mark, and Palackal, Antony. "Perceptions of the Research Climate in Universities and National Research Institutes: The Role of Gender and Bureaucracy in Three Low-Income Countries." *The Great Plains Sociologist*. Vol. 25.
2014. Gibson-Davis, Christina, and Rackin, Heather. "Marriage or Carriage? Trends in Union Context Birth Type by Education." *Journal of Marriage and Family*. Vol. 76 (3), pp. 506-519.
2014. Rackin, Heather, Palackal, Antony, Miller Paige, and Shrum, Wesley. "Social Structure and the Internet: An Organizational Network Analysis of Kerala Science, 2000-2010." *Kerala Sociologist*. Vol. 42 (2), pp. 135-152.
2012. Rackin, Heather, and Gibson-Davis, Christina. 2012. "The Role of Pre- and Postconception Relationships for First-Time Parents." *Journal of Marriage and Family*. Vol. 74 (3), pp. 526-539.
2010. Morgan, Philip S., and Rackin, Heather. "The Correspondence of U.S. Fertility Intentions and Behavior." *Population and Development Review*. Vol. 36 (1), pp. 91-118.
2010. Morgan, Philip S., and Rackin, Heather. 2010. "A Half Century of Fertility Change." *Journal of Comparative Family Studies*. Vol. 41 (4), pp. 515-535.

**indicates co-author was a graduate student at the time of research.*

Articles Under Review

Rackin, Heather. “Beyond Numeric Norms: The Rise and Relevance of Nonnumeric Ideal Family Size.” Revise & Resubmit at *Population and Development Review*.

Xinying Zou*, Rackin, Heather, and Stroope, Samuel. “Mental Health and Religious Attendance: Does the Association Differ for Asian Americans?” Revise & Resubmit at *Population Research and Policy Review*.

Yoo, Seunghwan* and Rackin, Heather. Beyond Material Conditions: How Subjective Perceptions Shape Fertility Intentions in South Korea. Revise & Resubmit at *Population Research and Policy Review*.

Hughes, Dustin*, and Rackin, Heather. “Religious Family Regimes: Effects on Timing to and Union Context at First Birth.” Revise & Resubmit at *Population Research and Policy Review*.

Rackin, Heather, Yoo, Seunghwan*, and Noel, Alexandra. “From Smoking to Vaping: Pregnancy Intentions and Birth Outcomes in Louisiana.” Submitted to *Maternal and Child Health Journal*.

Manuscripts in Progress

Rackin, Heather, and Yoo, Seunghwan*. “Fertility For(k)gone: The Changing Fertility Fork from Replacement versus Below to Low versus Lowest-low.” Full draft available.

Rackin, Heather. “When Becoming Becomes Endless, Are You Ever Ready? Changing Cultural Models of Selfhood and Parenthood in American Television.” Full draft available.

Rackin, Heather, and Marshall, Emily. “Priming and Fertility Intention Reports.” Full draft available.

Rackin, Heather, and Gibson-Davis, Christina. “Effects of witnessing a shooting as a child on first birth risk over the reproductive life course.” Full draft available.

Jayasinghe, Naduni*, and Rackin, Heather. “Religiosity, Political Ideology and Climate Change Risk Perceptions in the United States.” Full draft available.

Seunghwan, Yoo*, and Rackin, Heather. “Political Orientation, Gender Conflict, and Fertility Intentions: Convergence Among Men, Divergence Among Women in South Korea.” Full draft available.

Rackin, Heather, Marshall, Emily, and Nitsche, Natalie. “Love versus Logic: How Bonding and Rationality Priming Shape Fertility Preferences.” Draft in progress: Extended abstract available.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

2024-2025	Collaboration in Action Program , LSU & Our Lady of the Lake Health, \$250,000 Awarded
2024	R03 Grant , NIH-NICHD, Applied
2023	Manship Grant , LSU Office of Research & Economic Development, Received

2022	R03 Grant, NIH-NICHD, Applied
2021	Manship Grant, LSU Office of Research & Economic Development, Received
2017	CAREER Grant, NSF, Applied
2017	Young Scholars Grant, William T. Grant Foundation, Applied
2017	Manship Grant, LSU Office of Research & Economic Development, Received
2017	Presidential Grant, Russell Sage Foundation: Social Inequality Program, Applied
2016	Young Scholars Grant, William T. Grant Foundation, Applied
2016	Project Grant, Russell Sage Foundation: Social Inequality Program, Applied
2015	Manship Grant, LSU Office of Research & Economic Development, Short Listed.
2015	Student Excellence Fee Grant. Funded Supplemental Instruction for Statistics, Received
2014	Summer Stipend Program, LSU Office of Research & Economic Development, Received
2012	PARISS Fellowship, Duke University Social Science Research Institute
2012	Graduate Summer Research Fellowship, Duke University
2011-2013	Fertility Intentions Over the Life Course, NIH R03, P.I. S. Philip Morgan.
2010-2011	The Vorsanger-Smith Scholar Award, Duke University Sociology Department
2009-2010	Sulzberger Family and Dan Levitan Social Policy Graduate Research Fellowship, Duke University
2006-2009	Graduate School Conference Travel Fellowship, Duke University
2006-2008	University Tuition Fellowship, Duke University
2006-2007	Graduate Award Fellowship, Graduate School, Duke University

INVITED TALKS

Rackin, Heather. “Why it’s so Hard to Count Unintended Pregnancy.” Sponsored by Alpha Kappa Delta at Louisiana State University. September 6, 2018.

Rackin, Heather. “Networks of Notions: Measuring Meanings from In-depth Interviews Using Network Text Analysis.” Maryland Population Research Center. April 16, 2014.

Rackin, Heather. “Using Network Methodology on Interview Text.” Demography Daze at Carolina Population Center. June 13, 2013.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Rackin, Heather, Marshall, Emily, and Nitsche, Natalie. “Love versus Logic: How Bonding and Rationality Priming Shape Fertility Preferences.” Population Association of America. May, 2026. St. Louis.

Rackin, Heather, and Yoo, Seunghwan*. “Fertility For(k)gone: The Changing Fertility Fork from Replacement versus Below to Low versus Lowest-low.” Population Association of America. May, 2026. St. Louis.

Seunghwan, Yoo*, and Rackin, Heather. “Political Orientation, Gender Conflict, and Fertility Intentions: Convergence Among Men, Divergence Among Women in South Korea.” Population Association of America. May, 2026. St. Louis.

Yang, Xiaoxu*, Yan, Hope, and Rackin, Heather. “Locating the Link of Depression With Fertility: Testing the Traits-Desires-Intentions-Behavior Framework.” Population Association of America. May, 2026. St. Louis.

Rackin, Heather, Seunghwan, Yoo*, and Noel, Alexandra. “Social Determinants of Tobacco and E-cigarette Use During Pregnancy: Trajectories and Birth Outcomes in Louisiana.” Population Association of America. May, 2026. St. Louis.

Rackin, Heather, Seunghwan, Yoo*, and Noel, Alexandra. “From Smoking to Vaping: Pregnancy Intentions and Birth Outcomes in Louisiana.” OLOL Conference. May, 2025. Baton Rouge, LA.

Jayasinghe, Naduni*, and Rackin, Heather. “Dimensions of Environmental Attitudes and General Fertility Ideals.” Population Association of America. April, 2025. Washington, DC.

Williams, Courtney*, and Rackin, Heather. “Black–White Divergence in Self-rated Health: The Significance of Pregnancy Loss and Social Context.” Population Association of America. April, 2025. Washington, DC.

Seunghwan, Yoo*, and Rackin, Heather. “Beyond Material Conditions: How Subjective Perceptions Shape Fertility Intentions in South Korea.” Population Association of America. April, 2025. Washington, DC.

Jayasinghe, Naduni*, Rackin, Heather. “Examining the Links between Religiosity, Political Ideology and Climate Change Risk Perceptions in the United States.” Southwestern Social Science Association. April 2024. New Orleans, Louisiana.

Rackin, Heather. “Beyond Numeric Norms: The Rise and Relevance of Nonnumeric Ideal Family Size.” Population Association of America. April, 2024. New Orleans, Louisiana.

Rackin, Heather, Marshall, Emily, and Behrman, Julia. “Do Survey Respondents Distinguish Between Ideal, Desired, and Expected Fertility? An Empirical Test of Survey Design Effects.” Population Association of America. April, 2024. New Orleans, Louisiana.

Seunghwan, Yoo*, and Rackin, Heather. “Women in Focus: A Word-Network Analysis of Abortion Discourse Amidst Polarized Media and Judicial Transitions, 2009-2022.” Population Association of America. April, 2024. New Orleans, Louisiana.

Khan, Tarikat*, and Rackin, Heather. “Colorism and the whitening cream dilemma of Pakistani women.” Southern Sociological Society. April, 2024.

Rackin, Heather, and Marshall, Emily. “Priming and Ideal Family Size in the NLSY79.” American Sociological Association. August, 2023.

Rackin, Heather, and Walker, Mark. “Gendered Effects of Remote Schooling on Mental Health Changes by Household Employment Context during the Pandemic.” American Sociological Association. August, 2023.

Rackin, Heather, and Gibson-Davis, Christina. “Effects of witnessing a shooting as a child on first birth risk over the reproductive life course.” Population Association of America. April, 2023.

Rackin, Heather, and Gibson-Davis, Christina. “The Increasing Importance of Political Identity on Fertility Desires for Youth from 1989-2019.” Population Association of America. April, 2023.

Seunghwan, Yoo*, and Rackin, Heather. “When It Comes to Abortion, Who Is a Person? The Opposing Depictions of Women and Babies in Fox News and MSNBC Media From 2009 to 2020.” Population Association of America. April, 2023.

Hughes, Dustin*, and Rackin, Heather. “Effects of Religion over the Reproductive Life Course.” Population Association of America. April, 2023.

Rackin, Heather, and Gibson-Davis, Christina. “Trump Voting and Fertility Change during the Pandemic in Florida.” Population Association of America. April, 2022.

Rackin, Heather, and Gibson-Davis, Christina. “Familial Death and First Birth Timing.” Population Association of America. April, 2021.

Rackin, Heather, and Gibson-Davis, Christina. “Parental Bankruptcy and Children’s Outcomes.” Population Association of America. April, 2021.

Rackin, Heather. “Priming and Fertility Intentions.” Population Association of America. 2020. Cancelled due to COVID-19.

Rackin, Heather, and Gibson-Davis, Christina. “Early-life and Recent Mortality and Fertility Timing.” American Sociological Association. August 11, 2019.

McDonald, Marett*, Rackin, Heather, and Davis, Ifeyinwa*. “Dad! Are you ok?: The Impact of Child Support Enforcement Anxiety on Paternal Depression.” Population Association of America. April 2, 2019.

Rackin, Heather, and Gibson-Davis, Christina. “Diverging Trends in Family Instability by Socioeconomic Status.” American Sociological Association. August 11, 2018.

Rackin, Heather, and Gibson-Davis, Christina. “The Kids are All Right: Trends in Family Instability.” Population Association of America. April 2, 2016.

Marshall, Emily, Bachrach, Christina, Rackin, Heather, and Shepherd, Hana. “Representations, Associations, and Behavior.” Population Association of America. April 30, 2015.

- Rackin, Heather, and Weil, Frederick. "Social Capital and the Repopulation of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina." Population Association of America. April 30, 2015.
- Rackin, Heather, Bachrach, Christina, and Morgan, Philip S. "When do Fertility Expectations Predict Fertility?." Population Association of America. May 1, 2014.
- Rackin, Heather. "Using New Methods with Qualitative Data." Population Association of America. May 1, 2014.
- Rackin, Heather, Bachrach, Christina, and Morgan, Philip S. "When do Fertility Expectations Predict Fertility?." Population Association of America. May 1, 2014.
- Rackin, Heather. "Social Structure and the Internet: An Organizational Network Analysis of Kerala Science, 2000-2010." International Sunbelt Social Network Conference. February 19, 2014.
- Rackin, Heather. "Ties that Bind: The Strong Ties Between Marriage and Fertility." Population Association of America. May 3, 2012.
- Rackin, Heather. "Using Network Text Analysis with Qualitative Data." International Sunbelt Social Network Conference. March 14, 2012.
- Rackin, Heather, and Gibson-Davis, Christina. "Changes in Union Formation from 1980-2008." American Sociological Association. August 20, 2011.
- Rackin, Heather. "Mapping Schemas with Qualitative Data." International Sunbelt Social Network Conference. February 13, 2011.
- Rackin, Heather and Gibson-Davis, Christina. "In Search of a New Family Form: The Distribution and Duration of Shotgun Cohabitation." American Sociological Association. August 14, 2010.
- Rackin, Heather and Morgan, Philip S. "Comparing Prospective and Retrospective Measures of Unwanted Fertility." Population Association of America. April 15, 2010.
- Rackin, Heather and Sereny, Melanie. "A Baby is Always a Blessing? The Effects of Unintended Childbearing on Health throughout the Life Course." Population Association of America. April 15, 2010.
- Morgan, Philip S. and Rackin, Heather. "Revisiting "Missing the Target": Correspondence of Fertility Intentions and Behavior in the U.S." Population Association of America. April 30, 2009.
- Gibson-Davis, Christina, Rackin, Heather and Geeta Swamy. "On the Home Front: Stress and Adverse Birth Outcomes for Military Families." Population Association of America. April 30, 2009.
- Rackin, Heather. "Where Race Doesn't Matter: The Black-White Health Gap in the Military Context." American Sociological Association. August 2009.

Smith, Jeffrey, and Rackin, Heather. "Perceived Old Age and Network Alters." The 71st Annual Meeting of Southern Sociological Society, Richmond, Virginia. April 10, 2008.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate

Demographic Methods (Spring 2022)
Fertility (Spring 2020, Spring 2024, Spring 2026)
Family (Spring 2018)
Fundamentals of Statistics (Fall 2013-2026)
Social Networks (Fall 2015)
Proseminar in Sociology (Fall 2014)

Undergraduate

Introduction to Statistical Analysis (Spring 2014-2025, Fall 2015-2026)
The Family (Spring 2015-2016, Spring 2025)

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Chair for the Pronatalism, Antinatalism, and Reproductive Control Session at the 2024 Population Association of America

Discussant for the Life Course Perspectives on Fertility and Reproductive Health Session at the 2024 Population Association of America

Session Organizer for Fertility Intentions at the 2023 Population Association of America

Discussant for the Union Formation Session at the 2018 Population Association of America

Session Organizer for Fertility Intentions: Causes and Consequences at the 2018 Population Association of America

Editorial Board Member for Journal of Marriage and Family

Reviewer for Journal of Marriage and Family, Social Forces, American Sociological Review, Demography, Demographic Research, Population Development Review, Socius, and Journal of Social Structure

DEPARTMENTAL/UNIVERSITY SERVICE

2023-present	AI Working Group on Education, Curriculum, Workforce Readiness, Accessibility, and Inclusivity
2021-2024	Institutional Effectiveness Council
2019-present	Graduate Student Association Faculty Advisor
2014-present	Dean's Representative on Dissertation Defense Committees
2023	Faculty Search Committee

2015-2023	Center for Academic Success Faculty Partner
2019-2021	Graduate Committee
2018-2019	Rolland Pellegrin Outstanding Student Awards Selection Committee
2018	Dissertation Fellowship Nomination Committee
2016-2017	Undergraduate Committee
2015-2016	Graduate Committee
2014-2015	Faculty Search Committee
2013-2014	Faculty Search Committee
2011-2013	Duke Population Research Institute (DuPRI), Sociology Coordinator
2008-2009	Duke Graduate Policy Committee Faculty Representative

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Sociological Society
Southern Sociological Society
Population Association of America

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Demography, Family, Fertility, Statistics, Health Disparities, Research Methods