

HEATHER A. O'CONNELL

Curriculum Vitae

November 2025

20 Stubbs Hall
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Email: hoconnell@lsu.edu

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2023 Associate Professor, Sociology, Louisiana State University
2017 Assistant Professor, Sociology, Louisiana State University
2014 Postdoctoral Fellow, Kinder Institute for Urban Research, Rice University

EDUCATION

2014 Ph.D., Sociology, University of Wisconsin at Madison
Minor: Spatial Theory and Data Analysis
2009 M.S., Sociology, University of Wisconsin at Madison
2007 B.A., Sociology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Race/Ethnicity	Demography	Spatial Analysis
Stratification/Inequality	Migration	Urban/Community

PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

*Indicates a student co-author

Heather A. O'Connell, Marcus Venable*, and KayLynn Larrison*. Forthcoming.
"Neighborhood Disadvantage and the Geographic Distribution of Registered Sex Offender Concentration: Another Dimension of Racial Inequality?" *Race and Social Problems*

Heather A. O'Connell. 2025. "Confederate Monuments and Anti-Black Stereotypes in the US South." *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* 11(2): 221-236.

Heather A. O'Connell, Katherine J. Curtis, Alex Mikulas*, Jack DeWaard, and Junho Lee. 2024. "Spatiotemporal Changes in the Slavery-Inequality Relationship: The Diffusion of the Legacy of Slavery." *Demography* 61(3): 711-735.

Regina Baker and **Heather A. O'Connell**. 2022. "Structural Racism, Family Structure, and Black-White Inequality: The Differential Impact of the Legacy of Slavery on Poverty among Single Mother and Married Parent Households." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 84(5): 1341-1365.

Received the Aldi Award from the Luxemburg Income Survey.

Heather A. O'Connell. 2022. "More than Rocks and Stone: Confederate Monuments, Memory Movements, and Race." *Social Forces* 100(4): 1479-1502.

Heather A. O'Connell. 2022. "Racism and Confederate Monument Construction: Temporal Regimes distinguishing the 1900s, 1960s, and Contemporary Decades." *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* 8(1): 62-78.

Heather A. O'Connell, Jenifer L. Bratter, and Raul Casarez*. 2022. "One Drop on the Move: Historical Legal Context, Racial Classification, and Migration." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 45(5): 809-828.

Heather A. O'Connell and Danequa Forrest*. 2020. "Confederate Monument Inscriptions: Different Times, Different Places, Different Messages." *Du Bois Review* 17(1): 81-103.

Heather A. O'Connell, Katherine J. Curtis, and Jack DeWaard. 2020. "Population Change and the Persistence of the Legacy of Slavery." *Social Science Research* 87(1): 1-18.

Heather A. O'Connell and Christina Diaz. 2020. "Hispanic Migration and Black-White Inequality: Changing Demographics, Changing Social Positions?" *Spatial Demography* 8(1): 33-61.

Heather A. O'Connell. 2020. "Monuments Outlive History: Confederate Monuments, the Legacy of Slavery, and Black-White Inequality." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 43(3): 460-478.

Kiara Douds*, **Heather A. O'Connell**, and Jenifer L. Bratter. 2019. "The Racial Boundaries of Inequality: How Racial Hierarchies and Identity Shape Whites' Explanations for Racial Inequality." *Du Bois Review* 16(1): 83-106.

Heather A. O'Connell. 2019. "Historical Shadows: The Link between Sundown Towns and Contemporary Racial Inequality." *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* 5(3): 311-325.

Katherine J. Curtis, Junho Lee, **Heather A. O'Connell**, and Jun Zhu. 2019. "The Spatial Distribution of Poverty and the Long Reach of the Industrial Makeup of Places: New Evidence on Spatial Temporal Regimes." *Rural Sociology* 84(1): 28-65.

Heather A. O'Connell and Ethan J. Raker*. 2018. "Converging or Diverging? How Shifting Ethnoracial Composition Shapes the Urban-Suburban Distinction in Attitudes towards Immigrants in Houston, 1994-2016." *Sociological Perspectives* 61(4): 573-591.

Megan Wisniewski* and **Heather A. O'Connell.** 2018. "Clinic Access and Teenage Birth Rates: Racial/Ethnic and Spatial Disparities in Houston." *Social Science & Medicine* 201(1): 87-94.

Heather A. O'Connell. 2018. "Linking Racial Composition, Black-White Inequality, and Regional Difference: The Role of Migration." *The Sociological Quarterly* 59(1): 128-144.

Jenifer L. Bratter and **Heather A. O'Connell**. 2017. "Multiracial Identities, Single Race History: Contemporary Consequences of Historical Race and Marriage Laws for Racial Classification." *Social Science Research* 68(1): 102-116.

Katherine J. Curtis and **Heather A. O'Connell**. 2017. "Historical Racial Contexts and Contemporary Spatial Differences in Racial Inequality." *Spatial Demography* 5(2): 73-97.

Adam Slez, **Heather A. O'Connell**, and Katherine J. Curtis. 2017. "A Note on the Identification of Common Geographies." *Sociological Methods & Research* 46(2): 288-299.

Heather A. O'Connell, Lester King, and Jenifer L. Bratter. 2016. "The Location of Resources in a Diverse City: Supermarkets and Emerging Racial Hierarchies." *Race and Social Problems* 8(4): 281-295.

Robert L. Reece and **Heather A. O'Connell**. 2016. "How the Legacy of Slavery and Racial Composition Shape Public School Enrollment in the American South." *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* 2(1):42-57.

Featured in several news outlets, including invitations to be a guest on one of WAOK-Atlanta's radio shows (a CBS affiliate), the *Academic Minute* on WAMC, and to write for [The Conversation](#) and [Teaching Tolerance](#).

Heather A. O'Connell. 2015. "Where there's Smoke: Cigarette Use, Social Acceptability, and Spatial Approaches to Hierarchical Linear Modeling." *Social Science & Medicine* 140(1):18-26.

Heather A. O'Connell and Carla Shoff. 2014. "Spatial Variation in the Relationship between Hispanic Concentration and County Poverty: A Migration Perspective." *Spatial Demography* 2(1):30-54.

Katherine J. Curtis, Perla Reyes, **Heather A. O'Connell**, and Jun Zhu. 2013. "Disentangling the Spatial Concentration and Temporal Persistence of Poverty: Industrial Structure, Racial/Ethnic Composition, and the Complex Links to Poverty." *Spatial Demography* 1(2):178-194.

Heather A. O'Connell. 2012. "The Impact of Slavery on Racial Inequality in Poverty in the Contemporary US South." *Social Forces* 90(3):713-734.

UNDER REVIEW

*Indicates a student co-author

Zara Houser*, **Heather A. O'Connell**, and Nikita Carney. "Beyond 280 Characters: Counterpublics and Black Women's Responses to the Overturning of Roe v. Wade on Twitter." Revise and resubmit at *Humanity and Society*

Yoon Jung Jeong*, **Heather A. O'Connell**, and Jiyoung Lee*. "The Effectiveness of Policy Aimed at Securing Women's Safety: A Spatial Analysis in Seoul Metropolitan City." Under review at *Population Research and Policy Review*

Heather A. O'Connell, Katherine J. Curtis, Adrian Haws*, Ryan Gabriel, Jack DeWaard, and Joseph Price. "Flows of Legacy: Black-White Inequality in Premature Mortality and Migration Flows from Slave-Dependent Counties." Under review at *Demography*

IN PREPARATION

*Indicates a student co-author

Whitney Hayes*, Ashley V. Reichelmann, and **Heather A. O'Connell**. "'It's Part of our History. It's not a Symbol of Racism': Cultural Frames, Confederate Symbolism, and Conversations about (Anything but) Race."

Heather A. O'Connell, Katherine J. Curtis, Ryan Gabriel, Adrian Haws*, and Jack DeWaard. "The Diffusion of the Legacy of Slavery throughout the United States: The Distinct Position of Rural Communities?"

Heather A. O'Connell and Kristina M. Plunkett. "North versus South: How Different are Union and Confederate Monuments?"

BOOK CHAPTERS, BOOK REVIEWS, and ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

Heather A. O'Connell. 2025. "The Monument that Racism Built: Putting Confederate Monuments into Ethical Perspective." In *Routledge Handbook of Heritage Ethics*. New York: Routledge.

Heather A. O'Connell. 2025. "Contested Confederate Monument Inscriptions." In *The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Cultural Heritage and Conflict*, Eds. Ihab Saloul and Britt Baillie. Springer.

Heather A. O'Connell. 2024. "Charles S. Johnson." In *Fifty Key Scholars in Black Social Thought*, Eds. Marie-Claude Jipguep-Akhtar and Nazneen M. Khan. New York: Routledge.

Heather A. O'Connell. 2023. "Race and Racism in Family Research." In *Family Socialization, Race, and Inequality in the United States*, Eds. Dawn P. Witherspoon, Susan M. McHale, and Valarie King. Springer.

Heather A. O'Connell. 2023. "(Re)Emerging from the Shadows: Charles S. Johnson and his Research on the Black Belt." In *Neglected Theorists of Color*, Eds. Korey Tillman, David R. Dickens, and C. C. Herbison. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.

Heather A. O'Connell. 2022. "Monuments, Movements, and Race." In *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Social & Political Movements*, Eds. David A. Snow, Donatella della Porta, Doug McAdam, and Bert Klandermans. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell.

Heather A. O'Connell. 2020. Review of *Immigration and the Remaking of Black America*, by Tod G. Hamilton, Russell Sage Foundation, *American Journal of Sociology* 126(1): 151-153.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS (selection)

*Indicates a student co-author

Heather A. O'Connell, Brooke Barrett*, Tiffany Pham*, Katherine J. Curtis, Alex Mikulas, Jack DeWaard, and Junho Lee. "Addressing Black-White Economic Inequality in Rural America: Structural Racism and the Legacy of Slavery." Rural Population Research Network, May 2025. https://rprn.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/RB_OConnell_2025-1.pdf

Heather A. O'Connell. 2021. "More than Just Independent Subfields: An Introduction to a Special Issue on Race and Space." *Spatial Demography* 9(1): 271-275.

Heather A. O'Connell and Jenifer L. Bratter. "Monumental Changes Require Removing Monuments to the Confederacy." Urban Edge, Kinder Institute for Urban Research, July 2020. <https://kinder.rice.edu/urbanedge/2020/07/08/racism-confederate-monuments-protests-Houston>

Heather A. O'Connell and Maretta McDonald*. "To Fix our Policing Problem, we have to Start with our Racism Problem." Urban Edge, Kinder Institute for Urban Research, June 2020. <https://kinder.rice.edu/urbanedge/2020/06/06/inequalities-racism-policing-reform-protests>

Heather A. O'Connell and Robert L. Reece. 2018. "Quantitative Studies of Place and Spatial Regression Analysis: A Study of the Legacy of Slavery in the U.S. South." *SAGE Research Methods Cases*. 10.4135/9781526441164

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

"Flows of Legacy: Historical Migration Flows from Slave-Dependent Counties and Black-White Inequality in Premature Mortality."

Center of Economic and Social Research Colloquium, University of Southern California, **2026, Mar. 9.**

Sociology Department Colloquium, Rice University, **2025, Jan. 28.**

Duke University Population Research Institute Colloquium, **2024, Feb. 1.**

"Measuring the Legacy of Slavery."

Race Workshop, Duke University, **2024, Jan. 31.**

"Legacies of Historical Racism." Panelist. Special Session, ASA. **2023.**

"Confederate Monuments and Racism: Historical and Contemporary Relationships."

Social Psychology Department Colloquium, UNC-Chapel Hill. **2023, March 20.**

"Race and Racism in Family Research."

Annual National Symposium on Family Issues, Pennsylvania State. **2022, Oct. 24.**

“More than Rocks and Stone: Confederate Monuments, Memory Movements, and Race.”
Center for Demography and Ecology, University of Wisconsin-Madison. **2021, Dec. 7.**
Sociology Department Colloquium, Northwestern University. **2021, Oct. 14.**

CONFERENCE PAPERS (selection)

*Indicates a student co-author

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- 2025** “Silent Monuments: Reactions to Confederate Monument Construction and Removal.”
Heather A. O’Connell. Paper to be presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society, Charlotte, NC.
- 2024** “The Diffusion of the Legacy of Slavery throughout the United States: The Distinct Position of Rural Communities?” **Heather A. O’Connell**, Katherine J. Curtis, Ryan Gabriel, Adrian Haws*, Jack DeWaard, and Joseph Price. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Rural Sociological Society, Madison, WI.
- 2024** “Flows of Legacy: Black-White Inequality in Premature Mortality and Migration Flows from Slave-Dependent Counties.” **Heather A. O’Connell**, Adrian Haws*, Ryan Gabriel, Katherine J. Curtis, Jack DeWaard, and Joseph Price. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America, Columbus, OH.
- 2024** “The Effectiveness of Policy Aimed at Securing Women’s Safety: A Spatial Analysis in Seoul Metropolitan City.” Yoon Jung Jeong*, **Heather A. O’Connell**, and Jiyoung Lee*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America, Columbus, OH; and the annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society, New Orleans, LA.
- 2023** “North versus South: How Different are Union and Confederate Monuments?” **Heather A. O’Connell.** Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society, Myrtle Beach, SC.
- 2023** “Individual Perceptions of the Legacy of Slavery and Support for Capital Punishment.” Katie Cali* and **Heather A. O’Connell.** Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society, Myrtle Beach, SC.
- 2021** “Racism and Confederate Monument Construction: Temporal Regimes distinguishing the 1900s, 1960s, and Contemporary Decades.” **Heather A. O’Connell.** Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, virtual.
- 2021** “Timing is Everything: Identifying how the Legacy of Slavery Relationship Changes over Time.” **Heather A. O’Connell**, Katherine J. Curtis, Alex Mikulas*, Jack DeWaard, and Junho Lee. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America, St Louis, MO.
Blue Ribbon Award for Outstanding Poster

- 2021** “More than Rocks and Stone: Confederate Monuments, Memory Movements, and Race.” **Heather A. O’Connell**. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America, St Louis, MO.
- 2019** “Hispanic Migration and Black-White Inequality: Changing Demographics, Changing Social Positions?” **Heather A. O’Connell** and Christina Diaz. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America, Austin, TX.
- 2018** “Population Change and the Persistence of the Legacy of Slavery.” **Heather A. O’Connell**, Katherine J. Curtis, and Jack DeWaard. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America, Denver, CO; the Rural Poverty Conference, Washington, D.C.; and the annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society, New Orleans, LA.
- 2018** “Migration and Exposure to Different Ideas about Race: Clarifying the Link between History and Contemporary Racial Classification among Black-White Households.” **Heather A. O’Connell**, Jenifer L. Bratter, and Raul Casarez*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America, Denver, CO.
- 2018** “Confederate Monument Inscriptions: Different Times, Different Messages.” **Heather A. O’Connell** and Danequa Forrest*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society, New Orleans, LA.

HONORS AND AWARDS (selection)

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- 2025** Faculty Research Travel Grant, Louisiana State University (\$1,000)
- 2025** Communication-Intensive Teaching Lab, Louisiana State University
- 2025** ASPIRE, Undergraduate Research Program, Louisiana State University (\$1,000)
- 2025** Manship Summer Research Fellowship, Louisiana State University (\$5,000)
- 2025** SEC Travel Grant, Louisiana State University (\$1,000)
- 2024** Exceptional Communicator Award (voted on by undergraduate students), Louisiana State University
- 2024** Special Collections Fellowship, Louisiana State University (\$2,500)
- 2024** Social Science Research Support, Underscore (KRW500,000, South Korea)
- 2023** Aldi Award, Best LIS Working Paper by Authors under 40, LIS Data Center (€750)
- 2023** Faculty Research Travel Grant, Louisiana State University (\$1,000)
- 2022** Strategic Excellence Fund, Department Colloquium, Louisiana State University (\$3,000)
- 2021** Strategic Excellence Fund, Department Colloquium, Louisiana State University (\$2,000)
- 2021** LSU Alumni Association Rising Faculty Research Award (\$5,000)
- 2021** Manship Summer Research Fellowship, Louisiana State University (\$5,000)
- 2021** Cohort Member of the NEH Institute for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities supported training program, “Building Capable Communities for Crowdsourced Transcription.”
- 2020** Strategic Excellence Fund, Department Colloquium, Louisiana State University (\$1,000)
- 2020** Manship Summer Research Fellowship, Louisiana State University (\$5,000)

- 2019** Strategic Excellence Fund, Department Colloquium, Louisiana State University (\$1,000)
2019 Annie E. Casey Foundation Rural Poverty Research Fellow
2018 Council on Research Summer Fellowship, Louisiana State University (\$5,000)
2017 Faculty Research Travel Grant, Louisiana State University (\$750)

TEACHING

SOCL 2001, Introduction to Sociology, Louisiana State University
 SOCL 2002, Honors Introduction to Sociology, Louisiana State University
 SOCL 4571, Racial Inequality, Louisiana State University
 SOCL 4701, Population, Louisiana State University
 SOCL 7203, Stats II (Regression), Louisiana State University
 SOCL 7211, Methods of Social Investigation, Louisiana State University
 SOCL 7213, Spatial Analysis, Louisiana State University

SERVICE (selection)

Discipline

- 2024** Member, Editorial Board, *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*
2024 Member, Editorial Board, *Demography*
2024 Associate Editor, *Population Research and Policy Review*
2024 Discussant, Racialized Spaces, Population Association of America
2024 Co-Chair, Local Arrangements Committee, Southern Sociological Society
2024 Session Co-Organizer, Historical Racist Violence, Southern Sociological Society
2020 Member, Editorial Board (4-year term), *The Sociological Quarterly*
2019 Member, Editorial Board (through to present), *Spatial Demography*

University

- 2024** Member, Faculty Senate Benefits Sub-Committee
2023 Member, Undergraduate Committee (2-years). Louisiana State University
2021 Member, Graduate Committee (2-years). Louisiana State University
2020 Member, Roland Pellegrin Outstanding Graduate Student Selection Committee. Louisiana State University
2019 Member, Undergraduate Committee (2-years). Louisiana State University
2019 Member, Dissertation Fellowship Nomination Committee. Louisiana State University
2018 Member, Graduate Committee. Louisiana State University
2018 Member, Hiring Committee. Louisiana State University
2017 Poster Judge, Undergraduate Research Conference. Louisiana State University

Recent Ad Hoc Reviewer for:

American Journal of Sociology
American Sociological Review
Journal of Crime and Justice
Journal of Historical Sociology

Justice Quarterly
Social Forces
Sociological Problems
Sociological Spectrum