

# Rachael D. Weaver

University of Georgia  
Department of Sociology  
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## EDUCATION

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- In progress    Ph.D.    Sociology, University of Georgia, Athens, GA
- In progress    Graduate Certificate in Gerontology, University of Georgia, Athens, GA
- 2023            B.S.    Psychology, University of Georgia, Athens, GA  
                  Area of Emphasis: Neuroscience  
                  Minor: Criminal Justice Studies  
                  Certificate in Legal Disparities and Equity  
                  *Magna Cum Laude*

## AREAS OF INTEREST

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Medical Sociology; Family, Life Course, and Aging; Quantitative Methods

## PUBLICATIONS

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### *Peer-Reviewed Publications*

- Weaver, Rachael**, Man-Kit Lei (2026). “Comorbid Diabetes and Hypertension in Early Adulthood Predict Neurodegeneration in Midlife: Insights Across Racial/Ethnic Groups Using a Blood-Based Biomarker of Dementia Risk.” *Alzheimer’s & Dementia: Behavior & Socioeconomics of Aging*, e70069. <https://doi.org/10.1002/bsa3.70069>
- Lei, Man-Kit, **Rachael Weaver** (2025). “The Buffering Effect of Social Support on the Link between Biologically Embedded Childhood Maltreatment and Adult Cardiovascular Disease.” *Social Science and Medicine*, 384, 118530. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2025.118530>
- Simons, Ronald L., Mei Ling Ong, Man-Kit Lei, Steven R.H. Beach, Yu-Wen Lu, **Rachael Weaver**, and Michelle M. Mielke (2025). “Diabetes and Hypertension at Midlife Predict Increases in Biomarkers of Dementia among Black Americans.” *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40615-025-02310-2>
- Interviewed for coverage in UGA Today, WSB Atlanta
- Rigg, Khary K., **Rachael Weaver**, and Ethan Kusiak (2023). “Attitudes toward Methadone Treatment among Black/African Americans: Implications for Engagement and

Retention.” *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 93(6), 476-485.  
<https://doi.org/10.1037/ort0000692>.

*Forthcoming*

Lei, Man-Kit, **Rachael Weaver**, Steven R.H. Beach, and Michelle M. Mielke (in press). “Racial Discrimination Accelerates Age-Related Increases in Serum Neurofilament Light Chain among African American Women: Examination of Change from Midlife to Older Adulthood.” *The Journals of Gerontology: Series B*.

*Manuscripts Under Review*

Lei, Man-Kit, **Rachael Weaver**. “Protecting the Digital Generation: Parental Involvement as a Buffer Against Cyberbullying and Depressive Symptoms.”

*Manuscripts in Preparation*

Lei, Man-Kit, **Rachael Weaver**, Katelyn Austin, Steven R.H. Beach. “Economic Hardship Across the Great Recession and Accelerated Age-Related Increases in Serum Neurofilament Light (sNFL).”

**Weaver, Rachael**. “Aging in the Shadow of the Great Recession: Pathways Linking Cumulative SES Risk Across Midlife to Accelerated Epigenetic Aging among Black-American Women.”

*Books in Preparation*

Lei, Man-Kit, **Rachael Weaver**, Mei Ling Ong. *Understanding the Social Determinants of Health*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

**PRESENTATIONS**

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- 2026      **Weaver, Rachael**. “Mastery as a Double-Edged Sword: The Limits of Control Under Structural Strain in the Epigenetic Aging of Black-American Women.” Southern Sociological Society, Jacksonville, FL (Upcoming, April).
- 2025      **Weaver, Rachael**. “Interpreting and Analyzing Quantitative Data.” Invited Guest Lecture for Undergraduate Research Methods in Sociology Course, University of Georgia, Athens, GA (October).
- Weaver, Rachael**. “Racial/Ethnic Health Disparities in Aging: Understanding Social Determinants, Key Theoretical Frameworks, and Innovative Research Techniques.” Invited Guest Lecture for Undergraduate Introductory Sociology Course, University of Georgia, Athens, GA (April).

- 2023 **Weaver, Rachael.** “Media Portrayals and Research: Mitigating Aggressive Intentions through Stimulation of the Dorsolateral Prefrontal Cortex.” Cognitive Neuroscience Course, University of Georgia, Athens, GA (December).
- 2022 **Weaver, Rachael.** “Attitudes toward Methadone Maintenance Treatment among Black/African Americans.” Symposium on Substance Use Research, Rural Drug Addiction Resource Center, University of Nebraska, Remote (November).
- Weaver, Rachael.** “Attitudes toward Methadone Maintenance Treatment among Black/African Americans.” Summer Research Institute Symposium, Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL (August).

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

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- 2025-Present Research Assistant  
Center for Family Research, University of Georgia  
PI: Dr. Steven R.H. Beach
- 2024-Present Research Assistant  
Families, Communities, and Health Workshop, Department of Sociology, University of Georgia  
PI: Dr. Ron Simons, Dr. Man-Kit Lei
- 2022 – 2024 Research Assistant  
National Cannabis Legalization Research Study (NCLRS) Lab, Owens Institute for Behavioral Research, University of Georgia  
PI: Dr. Lydia Aletraris
- 2022 Research Assistant  
Summer Research Institute, Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, University of South Florida  
PI: Dr. Khary Rigg
- 2020 – 2021 Research Mentee  
Google Computer Science Research Mentorship Program, Kennesaw State University

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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- 2024-Present *Teaching Assistant, Department of Sociology, University of Georgia*  
Research Methods in Sociology  
Introductory Sociology (online)

## The Science of Happiness

### PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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#### *Ad hoc Journal Reviewing*

Genes & Nutrition  
Psychological Reports  
Public Health  
Journal of Gerontology: Biological Sciences

#### *Department of Sociology, University of Georgia*

2025-Present UGA-CARMA (Consortium for the Advancement of Research Methods & Analysis)  
PhD Representative

2025 Graduate Student Recruitment Committee Member/Host Coordinator

2024-Present Sociology Graduate Student Society Member

#### *University of Georgia*

2022 – 2023 American Society of Law, Medicine, & Ethics Social Media Manager/Co-Vice  
President  
Students for Psychedelic Advocacy, Research, & Connection Member

2021 – 2022 Doctors Without Borders/Friends of MSF Member

#### *Kennesaw State University*

2019 – 2020 Honors College Member

### PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

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#### *American Sociological Association*

Sections: Medical Sociology; Aging and the Life Course; Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility

### TRAINING

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2024 Elevate & Excite: Designing Meaningful Learning Experiences, Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Georgia

2022 Research Ethics & IRB Practices, Summer Research Institute, University of South Florida  
Social & Behavioral Research, CITI Program