

Rachael D. Weaver

University of Georgia
Department of Sociology
401 Baldwin Hall
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EDUCATION

In progress Ph.D. Sociology, 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

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

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Publications

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>.

Manuscripts Under Review

Lei, Man-Kit, **Rachael Weaver**, Steven R.H. Beach, Ronald L. Simons, and Michelle M. Mielke. "Change in Racial Discrimination Increases the Slope of Age-Related Change in Serum Neurofilament Light Chain Levels among African American Adults."

Lei, Man-Kit, **Rachael Weaver**. "The Buffering Effect of Social Support on the Link between Biologically Embedded Childhood Maltreatment and Adult Cardiovascular Disease."

Manuscripts in Preparation

Weaver, Rachael, Man-Kit Lei. "Early Adulthood Diabetes and Hypertension Predict Neurodegeneration in Early Midlife: Exploring Racial Variation in a Blood-Based Biomarker of Dementia Risk."

Weaver, Rachael. "The Long Shadow of the Great Recession: The Role of Cumulative Socioeconomic Status Risk and Social Mobility across Middle Age in the Epigenetic Aging of Black-American Women."

Weaver, Rachael. "Mastery as a Double-Edged Sword: The Limits of Control Under Structural Disadvantage in the Epigenetic Aging of Black-American Women."

Books in Preparation

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

PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 **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

- 2024-Present Research Assistant
Families, Communities, and Health Workshop, Department of Sociology, University of Georgia
PI: Dr. Ron Simons, Dr. Karlo 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

- 2024-Present *Teaching Assistant, Department of Sociology, University of Georgia*
Introductory Sociology (online)
The Science of Happiness

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Department of Sociology, University of Georgia

- 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

American Sociological Association

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

TRAINING

- 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

NON-ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

- 2021 – 2024 Patient Care Assistant, Acumen Fiscal Agency
- 2020 Companion, Papa: Companion Care for Older Adults and Families

SERVICE

- 2021 – 2023 Crisis Counselor, Crisis Text Line