

September 2020

MARISSA RURKA

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Present Position

PhD Candidate in Sociology and Gerontology
Purdue University
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Education

- (2021) Dual-Title Ph.D. in Sociology and Gerontology, Purdue University
Dissertation Title: "The Caregiver Identity in Context: Consequences of Identity Threat from Siblings"
- (2020) Advanced Methods in the Behavioral, Social, and Health Sciences Certificate, Purdue University
- 2016 M.S. in Sociology, Purdue University
- 2014 B.A. in Sociology, Elon University
Minors, Spanish and Business Administration

Awards, Honors, and Fellowships

- 2019–2021 Purdue Research Foundation Research Grant, Purdue University (\$61,314)
- 2019–2020 Eichhorn Fellowship, Purdue University (\$5,000)
- 2019 Summer Research Training Grant, Purdue University (\$1,200)
- 2017–2019 Promoting Research Opportunities to Maximize Innovation and Scholarly Excellence (PROMISE) Awards, Purdue University (\$2,500)
- 2014–2015 Ross Fellowship, Purdue University (\$16,400)
- 2015 Certificate of Excellence in Research Award, Office of Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs, Purdue University
- 2014 Phi Beta Kappa
- 2014 Academic Research of the Year Award, LGBTQIA Center, Elon University
- 2013 Sinclair Scholarship, Elon University
- 2013 SURE (Student Undergraduate Research Experiences) Fellowship, Elon University
- 2010–2014 Honors Fellowship, Elon University

Research Interests

Aging and the Life Course; Family Caregiving; Family Relationships and Health; Long-term Care; Person- and Family-Centered Care; Identity

Teaching Interests

Medical Sociology; Social Gerontology; Introduction to Social Science Research Methods; Sociology of Marriage and Family; Social Psychology; Social Problems

Publications

Refereed Journal Publications

Rurka, Marissa, J. Jill Suitor, and Megan Gilligan. In press. "The Caregiver Identity in Context: The Consequences of Identity Threat from Siblings." *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*. doi: 10.1093/geronb/gbaa099

Suitor, J. Jill, Megan Gilligan, **Marissa Rurka**, and Yifei Hou. In press. "Roles of egos' and siblings' perceptions of maternal favoritism in adult children's depressive symptoms: A within-family network approach." *Network Science*. doi: 10.1017/nws.2019.31

Suitor, J. Jill, Megan Gilligan, **Marissa Rurka**, Siyun Peng, Jordan Meyer, Karl Pillemer. 2019. "Accuracy of Adult Children's Perceptions of Mothers' Caregiver Preferences." *The Gerontologist*, 59(3): 528–537. doi:10.1093/geront/gny064

Con, G., J. Jill Suitor, **Marissa Rurka**, and Megan Gilligan. 2019. "Adult children's perceptions of maternal favoritism during caregiving: Comparisons between Turkey and the U.S." *Research on Aging*, 41(2): 139–162. doi: 10.1177/0164027518785407.

Suitor, J. Jill, Megan Gilligan, **Marissa Rurka**, Siyun Peng, Gulcin Con, and Karl Pillemer. (2018). "Conflict with Mothers and Siblings During Caregiving: Differential Costs for Black and White Adult Children?" *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, 73(7): e86–e97. doi:10.1093/geronb/gbx149

Gilligan, Megan, J. Jill Suitor, Sangbo Nam, Brianna N. Routh, **Marissa Rurka**, and Gulcin Con. 2017. "Family Networks and Psychological Well-Being in Midlife." *Social Sciences* 6(3): 1–14. doi:10.1093/geronb/gbx149

Gilligan, Megan, J. Jill Suitor, **Marissa Rurka**, Gulcin Con, and Karl Pillemer. 2017. "Adult Children's Serious Health Conditions and the Flow of Support between the Generations." *The Gerontologist* 57: 179–190. doi:10.1093/geront/gnv075

Suitor, J. Jill, Megan Gilligan, Siyun Peng, Gulcin Con, **Marissa Rurka**, and Karl Pillemer. 2016. "My Pride and Joy? Predicting Favoritism and Disfavoritism in Mother-Adult Child Relations." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 78: 908–925.

Book Chapters in Edited Volumes

Rurka, Marissa, J. Jill Suitor, Siyun Peng, Gulcin Con, Megan Gilligan, and Yifei Hou. (2018). "Continuity and change in adult children's perceptions of maternal favoritism: Consequences for relationships with siblings in midlife." in *The Psychology of Rivalry*. Sybil Hart and Nancy Aaron Jones (Eds.) NY: Nova Press.

Suitor, J. Jill, Megan Gilligan, Siyun Peng, and **Marissa Rurka**. 2018. "How Much Can Be Expected of One Child? Consequences of Multiplexity of Mothers' Favoritism on Adult Children's Psychological Well-Being." Pp. 263–281 in *Together Through Time: Social Networks and the Life Course*. Duane F. Alwin, Diane H. Felmlee, Derek A. Kreager (eds.). NY: Springer.

Encyclopedia Contributions

Suitor, J. Jill, Megan Gilligan, **Marissa Rurka**, Gulcin Con, and Yifei Hou. 2018. "Theories of Aging." *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Psychology*.

Suitor, J. Jill, **Marissa Rurka**, and Gulcin Con. 2018. "Adult Children." In *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Lifespan Human Development*. CA: Thousand Oaks.

Franzese, Alexis and **Marissa Rurka**. 2016. "Theories of Aging." *Encyclopedia of Family Studies*, C. Shehan (Eds.). MA: Wiley-Blackwell.

Manuscripts Under Review

Gilligan, Megan, J. Jill Suitor, **Marissa Rurka**, & Merrill Silverstein. "Multigenerational Ties in the Face of the COVID-19 Pandemic." R&R at the Journal of Family Theory and Review.

Franzese, Alexis T., Josh M. Kaufmann, & **Marissa Rurka**. "Gender, Sexual Orientation and Life Course Perspectives on LGBTQ Status." R&R for *Advances in Gender Research*.

Kincaid, Reilly, **Marissa Rurka**, J. Jill Suitor, Megan Gilligan, Lana Mohebbi, Nicholas Mundell, and Karl Pillemer. "Prodigal Children: How Reformed Deviants Become Older Mothers' Favorite Children."

Manuscripts in Preparation

Rurka, Marissa, J. Jill Suitor, Megan Gilligan, Yifei Hou, Karl Pillemer, and Catherine Stepniak. "Predicting Which Adult Children Become Primary and Secondary Caregivers to Their Mothers: A Within-Family Panel Study."

Hou, Yifei, **Marissa Rurka**, & Siyun Peng. "Giving Time to Non-Coresidential Parents in China: The Interplay of Own Gender and Siblings' Gender."

Suitor, J. Jill, Megan Gilligan, Robert Frase, Yifei Hou, Reilly Kincaid, Destiny Ogle, **Marissa Rurka**, and Catherine Stepniak. "Changing Patterns of Caregiving in the Face of a Pandemic: A Mixed-Method Panel Study of Later-Life Families."

Presentations at Scholarly Meetings

Rurka, Marissa, J. Jill Suitor, & Megan Gilligan. 2020. "The Caregiver Identity in Context: The Consequences of Identity Threat from Siblings." Presented virtually at the American

Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August.

Rurka, Marissa, Carly P. Khan, Rachel Witsaman, Steven Susana-Castillo, Sindhura Gummi, Gyasi Moscou-Jackson, Steven B. Clauser, Neeraj K. Arora. 2019. "Caregivers of Older Adults: An Analysis of the PCORI Funded Research Portfolio." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Austin, TX, November.

Suitor, J. Jill, Megan Gilligan, **Marissa Rurka**, Yifei Hou, and Catherine Stepniak. 2019. "Changes in the Psychological Costs of Maternal Favoritism for Daughters and Sons as Mothers Age." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Austin, TX, November.

Stepniak, Catherine, J. Jill Suitor, Megan Gilligan, Karl Pillemer, and **Marissa Rurka**. 2019. "Race Differences in the Consequences of Adult Children's Problems on Mothers' Psychological Well-being." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Austin, TX, November.

Rurka, Marissa, J. Jill Suitor, Megan Gilligan, Yifei Hou, Karl Pillemer, and Catherine Stepniak. 2019. "Predicting Which Adult Children Become Primary and Secondary Caregivers to Their Mothers: A Within-Family Panel Study." Presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY, August.

Suitor, J. Jill, Megan Gilligan, Catherine Stepniak, **Marissa Rurka**, and Yifei Hou. 2019. "Effects of Immediate Family Members' Death on Relationships Among Siblings in Adulthood: A Within-Family Mixed-Methods Approach." Presented at the Sunbelt Social Networks Conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis, Montreal, QC, June.

Hou, Yifei, **Marissa Rurka**, and Siyun Peng. 2018. "Giving Time to Non-Coresidential Parents in China: The Interplay of Own Gender and Siblings' Gender." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, MA, November.

Suitor, J. Jill, Megan Gilligan, Catherine Stepniak, **Marissa Rurka**, Yifei Hou, Karl Pillemer. 2018. "The Roles of Gender and Mothers' Care Preferences in the Impact of Caregiving on Adult Children's Marital Quality." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, MA, November.

Suitor, J. Jill, Megan Gilligan, Siyun Peng, **Marissa Rurka**, Jordan Meyer, and Karl Pillemer. 2018. "Do Kids Know Who Mom Wants? Accuracy of Adult Children's Perceptions of Mothers' Caregiver Preferences." Presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, August.

Suitor, J. Jill, Megan Gilligan, Jordan Meyer, **Marissa Rurka**, Siyun Peng, and Karl Pillemer. 2017. "It's Really Not Me? Adult Children's Misperceptions of Mothers' Favoritism and Disfavoritism." Presented at the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics World Congress, San Francisco, CA, July.

Gilligan, Megan, J. Jill Suitor, **Marissa Rurka**, and Marissa Holst. 2017. "Consequences of

Sibling Death on Psychological and Relational Well-being in Adulthood.” Presented at the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics World Congress, San Francisco, CA, July.

Rurka, Marissa, J. Jill Sutor, Megan Gilligan, Siyun Peng, and Karl Pillemer, 2016. “When Adult Children are ‘On the Same Page’ Regarding their Mother’s Care Needs: A Within-Family Approach.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, New Orleans, LA, November.

Rurka, Marissa, J. Jill Sutor, Megan Gilligan, Lana Mohebbi, Nick Mundell, Christine Nutt, and Karl Pillemer, 2016. “Prodigal Children: How Reformed Deviants Become Mothers’ Favorite Children.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, New Orleans, LA, November.

Sutor, J. Jill, Megan Gilligan, Siyun Peng, **Marissa Rurka**, Gulcin Con, and Karl Pillemer, 2016. “Conflict with Mothers and Siblings During Caregiving: Differential Costs for Black and White Adult Children?” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, New Orleans, LA, November.

Sutor, J. Jill, Megan Gilligan, Siyun Peng, Gulcin Con, **Marissa Rurka**, and Karl Pillemer, 2015. “Race and Caregiving from Adult Children’s Perspectives.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Orlando, FL, November.

Gilligan, Megan, J. Jill Sutor, **Marissa Rurka**, Gulcin Con, and Karl Pillemer, 2015. “Adult Children’s Serious Health Conditions and the Flow of Support between the Generations.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, August.

Sutor, J. Jill Megan Gilligan, Siyun Peng, Gulcin Con, **Marissa Rurka**, and Karl Pillemer, 2015. “Race Differences in Mothers’ and Children’s Experiences When Mothers Need Care.” Aging Families, Changing Families: An International Conference, Syracuse, NY, June.

Sutor, J. Jill, Megan Gilligan, **Marissa Rurka**, and Karl Pillemer. 2014. “Using Within-Family Data to Address 1960s Concerns Regarding the Generation Gap between Parents and Adult Children.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Washington, DC, November.

Rurka, Marissa. 2014. “Authenticity, Older Adults, and Sexual Orientation: Implications for Mental Health.” Presented at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, Lexington, KY, April.

Franzese, Alexis and **Marissa Rurka**. 2014. “Narratives of Identity: The Intersection of Authenticity and Sexual Orientation of Older Adults.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society, Baltimore, MD, February.

Research Experience

Research Assistant. 2020. "Evaluation of Department of Human Services Continuing Care Policy Initiatives." Minnesota Department of Human Services, University of Minnesota School of Public Health, & Purdue University.

I conduct quantitative analyses to evaluate care quality measures and identify patterns in nursing facility processes and outcomes. I present and interpret research findings for public health stakeholders. I prepare reports and other deliverables outlining policy recommendations based on research findings.

Research Assistant & Graduate Project Coordinator. 2014–2020. "Parent-Child Relations: Within Family Differences II" and "Within-Family Differences Study—Bereavement." Funded by the National Institute on Aging (2RO1 AG18869-04; 1R56AG062767-01), J. Jill Suitor, PI.

I train and supervise junior research assistants regarding data management and analysis. I conduct quantitative and qualitative analyses, prepare manuscripts for dissemination in peer-reviewed journals and at conferences, and assist with the preparation of National Institute on Aging grant applications.

Healthcare Delivery and Disparities Research Intern. Summer 2019. Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), Washington, D.C.

I analyzed PCORI's portfolios of comparative effectiveness research (CER) studies related to advanced illness and caregiving for older adults, conducting descriptive analyses as well as synthesizing and visualizing the findings.

Honors Research Fellow. 2012-2014. Elon University, N.C.

I initiated a qualitative study exploring the implications of sexual orientation and authenticity for the mental health of older adults. I designed the study, secured research funding, conducted interviews, analyzed qualitative data, and presented the research at regional and national conferences.

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record

Social Problems, Summer 2016

Introduction to Research Methods in Sociology, Summer 2017, Summer 2018

Sociology of Marriage and Family, Fall 2017

Teaching Assistant

Advanced Social Research Methods (Graduate Level), Spring 2019

Introduction to Statistics in Sociology, Spring 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2018

Introduction to Research Methods in Sociology, Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2016
Introduction to Sociology, Spring 2016

Additional Training

- ***Programming in R: Tools and Tricks for Applied Analysis***, Stuti Magar, Cluster in Advanced Methodologies for the Social, Behavioral, and Health Sciences, Purdue University (2019)
- ***Methods for Clinical and Translational Research***, Kunihiro Matsushita, Graduate Summer Institute of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (2019)
- ***Fundamentals of Research Organization and Data Management Workshop***. Trent D. Mize. Cluster in Advanced Methodologies for the Social, Behavioral, and Health Sciences, Purdue University (2018)
- ***Critical Online Data & Communication Tool Use Training session***. Mike Reilley, Google News Lab (2018)
- ***Missing Data: Best Practices for Analyzing Incomplete Data Workshop***. Trent D. Mize. Cluster in Advanced Methodologies for the Social, Behavioral, and Health Sciences, Purdue University (2017)
- ***Seminar in Teaching Sociology***, Purdue University (2016)

Service

Mentoring Committee Emerging Scholars Professional Organization (ESPO) Representative, Gerontological Society of America, 2017–2019.
Health Center Activities Volunteer, Westminster Village, West Lafayette, IN, 2015–2019.
Undergraduate Committee Graduate Student Representative, Purdue Sociology Department, 2018-2019
Facebook Administrator, Center on Aging and the Life Course at Purdue University, 2015–2019.
Opening Minds Through Art (OMA) Volunteer, Westminster Village, West Lafayette, 2017–2018.
Treasurer, Purdue Student Graduate Organization, 2016–2017.

Membership in Professional Organizations

Gerontological Society of America
American Sociological Association (Section membership: Aging and the Life Course)
International Network for Social Network Analysis
Eastern Sociological Society

Certifications

Opening Minds Through Art (OMA) Certification