

EVELINA T. AKIMOVA

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Google Scholar

September 2026

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor Since August 2024
Sociology Department, Purdue University

Assistant Professor (by courtesy) Since April 2025
Department of Statistics, Purdue University

Faculty Associate Since June 2026
Interdisciplinary Genomics Research Center (IGRC), Purdue University

Faculty Associate Since April 2025
The Methodology Center at Purdue (MCAP), Purdue University

Faculty Associate Since September 2025
Center on Aging and the Life Course (CALC), Purdue University

Associate Member Since September 2024
Nuffield College, University of Oxford

Postdoctoral Researcher in Biosocial Research June 2021– August 2024
Sociology Department, LCDS & Nuffield College, University of Oxford

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Sociology, University of Oxford 2016–2021

Visiting student, Stanford University Spring 2019

M.Sc. in Sociology, University of Oxford 2015–2016

B.Sc. in Sociology, Lomonosov Moscow State University 2010–2015

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Social demography & genomics; family demography; gene–environment interplay; sleep & mental well-being; social stratification; life course; causal inference

PUBLICATIONS

2026

Evelina T. Akimova, Agnes Fauske, Ruth Eva Jørgensen, Alexandra Havdahl, Elizabeth C. Corfield, Melinda C. Mills, Torkild Hovde Lyngstad. “When children shape their families: Evocative effects analysis of 40,000 trios from the Norwegian Mother, Father and Child Cohort Study.” *PNAS*, 123 (30) e2532642123. doi: 10.1073/pnas.2532642123

- *Coverage*: Purdue University, CLA College News, “When Children Shape Families”. University of Oxford, LCDS News, “Can children shape their parents’ lives? New study reveals influence may flow both ways”.

Dederichs, Kasimir, **Evelina T. Akimova**, and Nan Dirk de Graaf. “Who Remains Single? Educational Gradients in Long-Term Singlehood Across Ethnic Groups.” *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 88, no. 2: 505–521. doi: 10.1111/jomf.70017

Jiewei Wesley Wang,* **Evelina T. Akimova**. “Timing of adverse childhood experiences shapes epigenetic ageing and life-history outcomes.” *Scientific Reports*. doi: 10.1038/s41598-026-58459-1 *Graduate student

2025

Akimova, Evelina T.,* Tobias Wolfram,* Xuejie Ding, Felix C. Tropf, and Melinda C. Mills. Polygenic prediction of occupational status GWAS elucidates genetic and environmental interplay in intergenerational transmission, careers and health in UK Biobank. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 9, 391–405. doi: 10.1038/s41562-024-02076-3 *Denotes joint lead authorship

- *Coverage*: University of Oxford, “Genetics, childhood aspirations and family background work together to shape status, career and health”.

Ding, Xuejie, **Evelina T. Akimova**, Bo Zhao, and Melinda C. Mills. Night Shift Work and Sleep Duration among Middle and Older Age Adults: The Role of Individual, Social, and Environmental Moderators. *Social Science & Medicine*. 118443. doi: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2025.118443

Rafael Geurgas, Katherine N. Thompson, Saul J. Newman, **Evelina T. Akimova**, and Robbee Wedow. What machine learning teaches us about depression prediction across the life course: An exploratory comparison of predictive models. *SSM - Population Health*. 101886. doi: 10.1016/j.ssmph.2025.101886

2024

Praeg, Patrick, Lewis Anderson, **Evelina T. Akimova**, and Christiaan Monden. The Total Effect of Social Origins on Educational Attainment. Meta-Analysis of Sibling Correlations from 18 Countries. *Demography*, 61 (5): 1637–1666. doi: 10.1215/00703370-

11579806

Tilstra, Andrea, Antonino Polizzi,* Sander Wagner, and **Evelina T. Akimova**. The Long-term Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on US Population Structure. *Nature Communications*, 15(1), 2409. doi: 10.1038/s41467-024-46582-4 *Graduate student

Ding, Xuejie, **Evelina T. Akimova**, Bo Zhao, Kasimir Dederichs,* and Melinda C. Mills. Prepayment meters strongly associated with multiple types of deprivation and emergency respiratory hospital admissions: an observational, cross-sectional study. *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, 78(1): 54–60. doi: 10.1136/jech-2023-220793 *Graduate student

Overview: Nuffield Department of Population Health news page.

Liu, Aoxing, **Evelina T. Akimova**, Xuejie Ding, Sakari Jukarainen, Pekka Vartiainen, Tuomo Kiiskinen, Sara Koskelainen et al. Evidence from Finland and Sweden on the relationship between early-life diseases and lifetime childlessness in men and women. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 1–12. doi: 10.1038/s41562-023-01763-x

- Coverage: University of Oxford, “Early-life diseases linked to lifelong childlessness”. Media: BBC Radio 1 (interview with Prof. Melinda Mills).

2023

Leasure, Douglas R., Ridhi Kashyap, Francesco Rampazzo, Claire A. Dooley, Benjamin Elbers, Maksym Bondarenko, Mark Verhagen, **Evelina T. Akimova** et al. Nowcasting daily population displacement in Ukraine through social media advertising data. *Population and Development Review*. doi: 10.1111/padr.12558

- Coverage: University of Oxford, “Using social media activity to monitor and respond to population displacement in Ukraine”. Media: *The Big Questions* podcast with Dr Douglas Leasure.

Evelina T. Akimova, Riley Taiji, Xuejie Ding, Melinda C. Mills. Gene-x-environment analysis supports protective effects of eveningness chronotype on self-reported and actigraphy-derived sleep duration among those who always work night shifts in the UK Biobank. *Sleep*, zsad023. doi: 10.1093/sleep/zsad023

- Coverage: University of Oxford, “Having the genetics of a night owl protects night shift workers against sleep loss”. Media: Technology Networks, *Mirror*, MyScience, others.

Iain Mathieson, Felix R. Day, Nicola Barban, Felix C. Tropf, David M. Brazel, ... **Evelina T. Akimova** ... , Ken K. Ong, Melinda C. Mills, and John R. B. Perry. Genome-wide analysis identifies genetic effects on reproductive success and ongoing natural selection at the FADS locus. *Nature Human Behaviour*. doi: 10.1038/s41562-023-01528-6

2021

Akimova, Evelina T., Richard Breen, David M. Brazel, and Melinda C. Mills. “Gene-environment dependencies lead to collider bias in models with polygenic scores.” *Scientific Reports*, 11, 9457. doi: 10.1038/s41598-021-89020-x

Melinda C. Mills, Felix C. Tropf, David M. Brazel, Human Reproductive Behaviour

Consortium (... **Evelina T. Akimova** ...), eQTLGen Consortium, BIOS Consortium, Ken K. Ong, Marcel den Hoed, Nicola Barban, and Felix R. Day. “Identification of 371 genetic variants for age at first sex and birth linked to externalising behaviour.” *Nature Human Behaviour*. doi: 10.1038/s41562-021-01135-3

- *Coverage*: International media including *Daily Mail*, Scienmag, Genetic Literacy Project; featured in *Behavioural & Social Sciences by Nature*.

2020

Melinda C. Mills, Charles Rahal, and **Evelina T. Akimova**. “Face masks and coverings for the general public: Behavioural knowledge, effectiveness of cloth coverings and public messaging.” Report for the SET-C Group. *The Royal Society*. [link]

Policy & Award: Led to UK policy response (July 2020) on face masks for the general public; featured in SPI-B behavioural NPI report by SAGE; featured in *Excellence in Impact Award*.

Jennifer B. Dowd, Xuejie Ding, **Evelina T. Akimova**, and Melinda C. Mills. “Health and inequality: The implications of the COVID-19 pandemic.” *The British Academy*. [link]

Policy: Featured in SPI-B behavioural NPI report by SAGE.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Evelina T. Akimova. “When Genes and Environments Become Entangled: A Genomic Perspective.” In *The Cambridge Handbook of Developmental Gene-Environment Interplay: A Lifespan Perspective*, edited by Kristine Marceau and Christopher R. Beam. Cambridge University Press. *Under review*.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Evelina T. Akimova, Jiewei Wesley Wang,* Melinda C. Mills. “Changing Polygenic Prediction of Depression in the UK: The Role of Historical Contexts and Birth Cohorts.” *Revise & Resubmit, SSM - Population Health* *Graduate student

Katherine N Thompson, Shawn Bauldry, Elisabeth S Noland, **Evelina T. Akimova**, Erin C. Dunn, Yeongmi Jeong, Geyu Zhou, Moritz Herle, and Robbee Wedow. “Social connection mitigates disparities in depression symptoms: Evidence from a counterfactual model.” *Under Review, Nature Human Behaviour*

GRANTS & RESEARCH FUNDING

2025

CLARA Research Award, Purdue University

P.I.: E. T. Akimova

Competitive faculty research funding with graduate research assistant support

2022 – 2023

Genomic Diversity Monitor £22,650

ESRC Impact Acceleration Account (IAA) Grant

P.I.: M. Mills, Co-A.s: E. T. Akimova, D. Leisure, C. Rahal

2022 – 2026

European Social Science Genetics Network Σ £2,860,700

European Commission, Horizon Europe Framework Programme (HORIZON)

P.I.: S. von Hinke, Co-A.s (University of Oxford): M. Mills, A. Kong, E. T. Akimova, X. Ding

2021

Oxford Summer Institute in Computational Social Science, SICCS £34,450

P.I.: E. T. Akimova, R. Kashyap, C. Rahal, F. Rampazzo, T. Ruttenauer

HONOURS & AWARDS

2021 Excellence in Impact Award — UK Economic and Social Research Council

2016 – 2020 ESRC Advanced Quantitative Methods (AQM) DPhil Stipend

2015 – 2016 Oxford Hill Foundation MSc Stipend

2012 – 2014 MSU High Achievement State Scholar Award

TEACHING

08/2026 – SOC581 Introduction to Quantitative Social Science (Graduate Course)
present Sociology Department, College of Liberal Arts, Purdue University

08/2024 – SOC319 Genes & Society (BA & BSc)
present Sociology Department, College of Liberal Arts, Purdue University

08/2024 – SCLA 102 Transformative Texts: Critical Thinking and Communication
present (BA & BSc)
Sociology Department, College of Liberal Arts, Purdue University

10/2022 – Tutor & Guest Lecturer (Biodemography)
01/2025 Demography & Population (BSc Human Sciences, BSc PPE), University of Oxford, UK

06/2022 – UNIQ+ Supervisor
08/2022 Research Design (designed 6-week summer course and research project), Nuffield College, University of Oxford, UK

09/2021 – Oxford Summer School in Computational Social Science, Co-convenor
07/2022 Teaching and project syllabus, Nuffield College, University of Oxford, UK

01/2019 – Seminar Leader / Examiner
03/2020 Evidence and Public Policy Module (MA Public Policy), Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford, UK

09/2019 – Teaching Assistant / Seminar Leader
12/2019 Sociological Analysis (MSc Sociology), Sociology Department, University of Oxford

01/2019 – Teaching Assistant / Seminar Leader
03/2019 Advanced Quantitative Methods (MSc Sociology), Sociology Department, University of Oxford

STUDENT MENTORSHIP

08/2024 – Wesley Wang, Graduate student, Sociology Department, Princeton
present University
03/2025 – Nasser Sanwari, Undergraduate student, Biomedical Engineering, Purdue
present University

INVITED TALKS & SEMINARS

2025: Department of Economics, New Uzbekistan University; Sociology Department, University of Oxford; Leverhulme Centre for Demographic Science, University of Oxford; Social Inequality and Population Dynamics Symposium, Norwegian Academy of Science; Sociology Department, University of Oslo; ISG Group Meeting, University of Wisconsin–Madison.

2024: Social Science Genomics Workshop (keynote), University of Oslo; Leverhulme Centre for Demographic Science, University of Oxford; Biosocial Lab Meeting, Princeton University; Division of Psychiatry, University of Edinburgh.

CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

2026: ISA RC28 Summer & Spring Meetings; ASA Annual Meeting; European Population Conference (EPC); Mechanisms of Social Mobility Workshop, University of Zurich; Behaviour Genetics Association Meeting (BGA).

2025: ASA Annual Meeting; Integrating Genetics and Social Sciences (IGSS), Stanford University.

2024: European Population Conference (EPC); Integrating Genetics and Social Sciences (IGSS), Stanford University; European Social Science Genetics Network Conference.

2023: PAA Annual Meeting; European Social Science Genetics Network Conference; Advances in Social Genomics Conference, University of Wisconsin–Madison; ASA Annual Meeting.

2022: ISA RC28 Spring Meeting; European Social Science Genetics Network Conference; European Population Conference (EPC); ASA Annual Meeting; American Society of Human Genetics Annual Meeting.

2021–2020: Integrating Genetics and Social Sciences, University of Colorado-Boulder; ISA RC28 Spring Meeting

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Refereeing: *Nature Human Behaviour*; *Nature Communications*; *American Sociological Review*; *European Sociological Review*; *Demography*; *Sociological Methods & Research*;

Sociological Science; Sociology of Education; Research in Social Stratification and Mobility; Behaviour Genetics; BMC Medicine; Journal of Health and Social Behaviour; Global Challenges; Phenomics; Schizophrenia Bulletin; Social Sciences & Humanities Open; Social Science & Medicine; SSM - Population Health; Molecular Psychiatry; Scientific Reports; BMC Genomics.

Memberships: American Human Genetics Society; International Sociological Association; American Sociological Association; Population Association of America; European Association of Population Studies; European Social Science Genomics Network (ESSGN).

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Purdue University

2025 – 2026 Colloquium Committee, Sociology Department

2024 – 2025 Hiring Committee, Broad Area of Social Genomics, Behavioral Genomics and Related Fields

2025 – present Academic Advisor, Research Discussion Club (Student Organisation)

University of Oxford

2023 – 2024 SOCGEN Reading Group Seminars — Co-convenor

2019 – 2020 Sociology Department Athena SWAN Self-Assessment Team (SAT)

2017 – 2020 Senior Common Room Treasurer, St. Anthony's College

2018 – 2020 SOCGEN Reading Group Seminars — Convenor

2017 – 2019 Sociology Department Graduate Research Seminars Series — Co-convenor

2017 – 2018 Population Festival 2018 at Nuffield College — Co-convenor

Lomonosov Moscow State University

2013 – 2015 Student Council President

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION SERVICE

2025 – present Secretary & Treasurer, Biology & Society Section, American Sociological Association

STATISTICAL SOFTWARE

Unix (data and computational cluster management); Python (plink, genetic data QC and imputation, PC analyses, polygenic scores, social media analyses); R (data management and statistical analyses, social media analyses, meta-analyses); Stata (data management and statistical analyses)