

PATRICIA A. THOMAS

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STON 339

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Sociology, Duke University (2010)

- **Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies**, Duke University (2010)

M.A. Sociology, Duke University (2007)

Qualifying Exams: Medical Sociology and Stratification

B.A. Sociology and American Studies, California State University, Fullerton (2005)

Summa cum laude (and with University Honors)

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2019 – present Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Purdue University

2013 – present Faculty Associate, Center on Aging and the Life Course,
Purdue University

2013 – 2019 Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Purdue University

2010 – 2013 NICHD Postdoctoral Fellow
Population Research Center, University of Texas at Austin

PUBLICATIONS

(*denotes graduate student co-author)

Thomas, Patricia A. and Seoyoun Kim. 2021. "[Lost Touch? Implications of Physical Touch for Physical Health.](#)" *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, 76(3): e111–e115.

Gauthier, G. Robin, Jeffery Smith, Catherine García, Marc A. García, and **Patricia A. Thomas**. 2021. "[Exacerbating Inequalities: Social Networks, Racial/Ethnic Disparities, and the COVID-19 Pandemic.](#)" *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, 76(3): e88–e92.

Thomas, Patricia A., Amy Lodge, and Corinne Reczek. 2019. "[Do Support and Strain with Adult Children Affect Mothers' and Fathers' Physical Activity?](#)" *Research on Aging*, vol. 41(2): 164-185.

*Kim, Seoyoun and **Patricia A. Thomas**. 2019. "[Direct and Indirect Pathways from Social Support to Health?](#)" *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, vol. 74 (6):1072–1080.

[Recipient of *The Innovative Research on Aging Award Bronze Award*, Mather Institute]

Thomeer, Mieke Beth, Elaine Hernandez, Debra Umberson, and **Patricia A. Thomas**. 2019. "[Influence of Social Connections on Smoking Behavior across the Life Course.](#)" *Advances in Life Course Research*, vol. 42: 100294.

Thomas, Patricia A. and Mieke Beth Thomeer. 2019. "[Why Sons Hurt: Exploring Biological and Social Mechanisms Influencing Maternal Health.](#)" *Journal of Gerontology: Biological Sciences*, vol. 74(5): 652-654.

Richards, Elizabeth A., **Patricia A. Thomas**, *Anna K. Forster, Zachary Hass. 2019. "[A Longitudinal Examination of the Impact of Major Life Events on Physical Activity.](#)" *Health Education & Behavior*, vol. 46(3): 398-405.

Thomas, Patricia A. and Debra Umberson. 2018. "[Do Older Adults' Relationships with Their Adult Children Affect Cognitive Limitations, and Does this Differ for Mothers and Fathers?](#)" *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, vol. 73(6): 1133-1142.

[Recipient of the *Burkhart Award for Excellence in Research about Families*, Purdue University]

Thomas, Patricia A., Hui Liu, and Debra Umberson. 2017. "[Family Relationships and Well-Being.](#)" *Innovation in Aging*, vol. 1(3): 1-11, igx025.

Umberson, Debra, Mieke Beth Thomeer, Kristi Williams, **Patricia A. Thomas**, and Hui Liu. 2016. "[Childhood Adversity and Men's Relationships in Adulthood: Life Course Processes and Racial Disadvantage.](#)" *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, vol. 71(5): 902-913.

Thomas, Patricia A. 2016. "[The Impact of Relationship-Specific Support and Strain on Depressive Symptoms across the Life Course.](#)" *Journal of Aging & Health*, vol. 28(2): 363-382.

*Xu, Minle, **Patricia A. Thomas**, and Debra Umberson. 2016. "[Marital Quality and Cognitive Limitations in Late Life.](#)" *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, vol. 71(1): 165-176.

Umberson, Debra, Kristi Williams, **Patricia A. Thomas**, Hui Lui, and *Mieke Thomeer. 2014. "[Race, Gender, and Chains of Disadvantage: Childhood Adversity, Social Relationships, and Health.](#)" *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, vol. 55(1): 20-38.

Zheng, Hui and **Patricia A. Thomas**. 2013. "[Marital Status, Self-Rated Health, and Mortality: Overestimation of Health or Diminishing Protection of Marriage?](#)" *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, vol. 54(1): 128-143.

Thomas, Patricia A. 2012. "[Trajectories of Social Engagement and Mortality in Late Life.](#)" *Journal of Aging & Health*, vol. 24(4): 547-568.

Sautter, Jessica, **Patricia A. Thomas**, Matthew E. Dupre, and Linda K. George. 2012. "[Socioeconomic Status and the Black-White Mortality Crossover.](#)" *American Journal of Public Health*, vol. 102(8): 1566-1571.

*McFarland, Michael J., *Cheryl A. Smith, Loren L. Toussaint, and **Patricia A. Thomas**. 2012. "[The Relationship between Forgiveness of Others and Health: Do Race and Neighborhood Matter?](#)" *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, vol. 67B(1): 66-75.

Thomas, Patricia A. 2011. "[Trajectories of Social Engagement and Limitations in Late Life.](#)" *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, vol. 52(4): 430-443.

Thomas, Patricia A. 2011. "[Gender, Social Engagement, and Limitations in Late Life.](#)" *Social Science & Medicine*, vol. 73: 1428-1435.

Thomas, Patricia A. 2010. "[Is It Better to Give or to Receive? Social Support and the Well-Being of Older Adults.](#)" *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, vol. 65B(3): 351-357.

Thomas, Patricia A., Edythe M. Krampe, and Rae R. Newton. 2008. "[Father Presence, Family Structure, and Feelings of Closeness to the Father among Adult African American Children.](#)" *Journal of Black Studies*, vol. 38(4): 529-546.

BOOK CHAPTERS AND BOOK REVIEWS

Thomas, Patricia A. "[The Golden Years Are Not so Golden for Some.](#)" 2020. *The Gerontologist*, vol. 60(3): 588-589.

Thomas, Patricia A. 2008. "The Shifting Roles of Fathers and the Consequences of Father Absence and Presence." in *Battleground: The Family, vol. 1*, edited by Kimberly P. Brackets. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Thomeer, Mieke Beth, Elaine Hernandez, Debra Umberson, and Patricia A. Thomas. "Influence of Social Connections on Smoking Behavior across the Life Course." American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY, August 2019.

*Monica Williams-Farrelly, Patricia A. Thomas, and Kenneth Ferraro. "Does Social Support Mediate the Influence of Childhood Exposures on Cognition in Later Life?" Gerontological Association of America Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, November 2018.

Richards, Elizabeth A., Patricia A. Thomas, Anna K. Forster, and Zachary Hass. "A

- Longitudinal Examination of the Impact of Major Life Events on Physical Activity.” International Conference on Social Stress Research, Athens, Greece, June 2018.
- Thomas, Patricia A., Amy C. Lodge, and Corinne Reczek. “Do Support and Strain with Adult Children Affect Mothers’ and Fathers’ Physical Activity?” Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, April 2018.
- Thomas, Patricia A. “Can Relationship Strain Benefit Adult Health?” Invited talk for Sociology Department, Baylor University, Waco, TX, March 2017.
- Thomas, Patricia A. “Getting a Job: Hunting, Interviewing, and Early Career Planning.” Invited talk for ASA Section on Aging and the Life Course mentoring dinner, Seattle, Washington, August 2016.
- Thomas, Patricia A. and Debra Umberson. “Relationship Quality with Adult Children: Gender and Cognitive Limitations among Older Adults.” International Sociological Association. Vienna, Austria, July 2016.
- Thomas, Patricia A. “Does Relationship Strain Benefit Adult Health?” Invited talk for Human Development and Family Studies Department, Purdue University, February 2016.
- Thomas, Patricia A. “The Impact of Relationship-Specific Support and Strain on Depressive Symptoms across the Life Course.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, August 2015.
- Thomas, Patricia A. Student Forum Workshop. Ten Things I Wish I Knew in Graduate School: Advice from Assistant Professors. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, August 2015.
- Thomas, Patricia A. “Does Relationship Strain Benefit Adult Health?” Invited talk for Center on Aging and the Life Course, Purdue University, February 2015.
- Thomas, Patricia A. “Does Relationship Strain Benefit Adult Health?” Invited talk for Social Psychology, Purdue University, February 2015.
- Kim, Seoyoun and Patricia A. Thomas. “Social Support, Psychological Resources, Mental Health, and Inflammation: Potential Pathways?” The Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, November 2014.
- Xu, Minle, Patricia A. Thomas, and Debra Umberson. “The Effects of Marital Quality on Cognitive Decline among Older Adults.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, August 2014.
- Thomas, Patricia A. *Discussant*, “Demographic Processes and Mental Health.” Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, May 2014.
- Thomas, Patricia A. “Support and Strain in Social Relationships: Do They Matter for Health at

Different Stages of the Life Course?” Population Association of America Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, April 2013.

Zheng, Hui and Patricia A. Thomas. “Marital Status, Self-Rated Health, and Mortality: Overestimation of Health or Diminishing Protection of Marriage?” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, August 2012.

Thomas, Patricia A. *Discussant*, “Social Capital, Aging, and Well-Being.” Population Association of America Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, May 2012.

Thomas, Patricia A. “Trajectories of Social Engagement and Mortality.” Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., April 2011.

Thomas, Patricia A. “The Effects of Support Received on Support Older Adults Provide to Others.” Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting, Atlanta, November 2009.

Thomas, Patricia A. “Pathways between Social Engagement, Physical Impairment, and Cognitive Impairment among Older Adults Using Structural Equation Modeling.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, August 2009.

TEACHING

Purdue University Soc 581: Methods of Social Research II (Graduate-level Intro to Statistics)
Soc 571/461: Health and Social Behavior
Soc 402: Sociological Theory
Soc 100: Introduction to Sociology

Duke University Soc 129: Gender, Work, and Organizations

Pedagogical Training

2005 – 2009 Sociology Department teaching workshops, Duke University

Spring 2009 “Introduction to College Teaching” course taken, Duke University

Spring 2007 “Teaching Race, Teaching Gender” course taken, Duke University

Spring 2004 Peer Mentor/Service Learning Assistant for two Introduction to Sociology Courses, California State University, Fullerton

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2020 The Innovative Research on Aging Award Bronze Award, Mather Institute

2018 Burkhart Award for Excellence in Research about Families,
Purdue University

2017 Daryl P. Evans Outstanding Teaching Award, Department of Sociology, Purdue University

2016 – 2018 ASPIRE grants, Purdue University, \$2,500 (Summer 2016), \$1,500 (Fall 2016), \$2,500 (Summer 2017), \$1,500 (Fall 2017), \$1,500 (Spring 2018), \$1500 (Summer 2019), \$1500 (Fall 2019)

Summer 2014 RAND Summer Institute on Aging, Full Scholarship

2009 – 2010 Phillip Jackson Baugh Fellowship (for aging research), Duke University

Spring 2005 Outstanding Undergraduate Award, California State University, Fullerton

Spring 2005 Academic Achievement Award, California State University, Fullerton

Summer 2004 American Sociological Association Honors Program, San Francisco, CA

2001 – 2005 President’s Scholarship, California State University, Fullerton

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2020 – Membership Chair (elected), Medical Sociology section, American Sociological Association

2018 – Council Member (elected), Section on Aging and the Life Course, American Sociological Association

2017 – 2020 Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*

2009 – present Manuscript Referee: *American Sociological Review*, *Social Forces*, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, *Demography*, *Gender & Society*, *Journal of Aging & Health*, *Research on Aging*, *The Gerontologist*, *Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences*, *Innovation in Aging*, *Ageing & Society*, *Journal of Family Issues*, *Journal of Comparative Family Studies*, *Population Research and Policy Review*, *Journal of Social Structure*

2013 – present Dissertation Committee, Purdue University: Seoyoun Kim (defended April 2015), Li Miao (defended July 2015), Jong Hyun Jung (defended June 2017), and Yun Lu (defended July 2017), Monica Williams-Farrelly (defended July 2020), Abbey Nawrocki, Rob Frase

2013 – present Analytic Project (Master’s level) Committee, Purdue University: Kaitlin Johnson (defended April 2014), Siyun Peng (defended April 2015), Kia Hastings (defended April 2017), Robert Frase (defended April 2018),

Callie Zaborenko (defended April 2018), Reilly Kincaid (*Co-Chair*, defended March 2020), Madison Sauerteig (defended April 2020)

- 2019 Organizer, Section on Aging and the Life Course roundtables, American Sociological Association.
- 2018 Organized two sessions for Population Association of America (reviewed over 170 extended abstracts)
- 2017 Organizer and Presider, “Gender, Social Ties, and Health—A Double-Edged Sword?” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
- 2008 – 2009 Survey construction and data analysis consulting for the Executive Committee of the Graduate Faculty, Duke University
- 2007 – 2009 Editorial Assistant, *Demography*, for Kenneth C. Land (Editor)
- 2004 – 2005 President, Alpha Kappa Delta Sociology Honor Society, California State University, Fullerton

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

- American Sociological Association
 - Member, Aging & the Life Course Section
 - Member, Family Section
 - Member, Medical Sociology Section
 - Member, Race, Gender, and Class Section
- Gerontological Society of America
- Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science
- Population Association of America