

Kaylee T. Matheny

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APPOINTMENTS

Georgetown University — McCourt School of Public Policy Assistant Professor of Public Policy	2024–
Johns Hopkins University — Department of Sociology Postdoctoral Fellow in the Poverty and Inequality Research Lab	2023–24

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Sociology of Education, Education Policy Certificate in Quantitative Research in Education Stanford University	2023
M.A., Sociology Stanford University	2020
B.A., Sociology, English-Creative Writing Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha Kappa Delta Emory University	2015

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

*Equal authorship

Publications

Matheny, Kaylee T. 2023. "A Seat at the Table: Lessons from Tennessee's Rapid Achievement and Equity Gains." *Education Policy Analysis Archives* 31(43).

Matheny, Kaylee T.,* Marissa E. Thompson,* Carrie Townley-Flores,* and sean f. reardon. 2023. "Uneven Progress: Recent Trends in Academic Performance Among U.S. School Districts." *American Educational Research Journal*. OnlineFirst. <https://doi.org/10.3102/0002831222113476>
Media Coverage: [EdSource](#)

Bettinger, Eric P.,* Amanda Lu,* **Kaylee T. Matheny**,* and Gregory S. Kienzl. 2022. "Unmet Need: Evaluating Pell as a Lever for Equitable Dual Enrollment Participation and Outcomes." *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*. OnlineFirst. <https://doi.org/10.3102/01623737221091574> [PDF]
Media Coverage: [Brookings Institute](#), [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#)

Horwitz, Ilana M., **Kaylee T. Matheny**, Krystal Laryea, and Landon Schnabel. 2022. "From Bat Mitzvah to the Bar: Religious Habitus, Self-Concept, and Women's Educational Outcomes." *American Sociological Review* 87(2):336–372. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00031224221076487> [PDF]
Media Coverage: [The Washington Post](#), [Tulane News](#), [Cornell Chronicle](#), [NewsWise](#), [Phys.org](#), [Futurity](#), [The Jewish Press](#), [The Jerusalem Post](#), [Reddit](#) (Homepage), [Jewish Telegraphic Agency](#), [Religion News Service](#)

Under Review

Lu, Amanda* and **Kaylee T. Matheny**.* "Equal Inputs, Unequal Outputs: How Capacity Constrains Policy Implementation." *Under Review*.

In Preparation

Matheny, Kaylee T., Ilana M. Horwitz, and Natalie Milan. "Education, Interrupted: Social Class, Gender, and Interrupted College-Going Trajectories." [Dissertation Chapter]
Media Coverage: [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#), [Inside Higher Ed](#), [Times Higher Education](#)

Matheny, Kaylee T. “SES Inequality in District Funding and Achievement.” [Grant Funded] [Dissertation Chapter]

Matheny, Kaylee T. “A Means to an End or an End in Itself: How Socioeconomic Status Shapes Parents’ Orientations Toward College.” [Dissertation Chapter]

Matheny, Kaylee T., Sonia X. Giebel, Philip Hernandez, and Ilana M. Horwitz. “How First-Generation, Low-Income Students at an Elite College Navigate Major Selection.”

Matheny, Kaylee T. “Equity Compromises in Opportunity Provision.”

Matheny, Kaylee T. “An Empowerment Lens: Unpacking Class-Normative Paradigms in Education Inequality.”

BOOKS

*Equal authorship

Horwitz, Ilana M.* & **Kaylee T. Matheny.*** *False Promise: How the American Dream Became Out of Reach for Millennials.* Proposal submitted.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

*Equal authorship

Matheny, Kaylee T. 2022. University readiness assessments and equity in college admissions. [Report, Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness] [[Link](#)]

Matheny, Kaylee T., Amanda Lu, Eric P. Bettinger, and Gregory S. Kienzl. 2022. Do Pell Grants increase dual enrollment for low-income students? [Brown Center Chalkboard Blog Post, Brookings Institute] [[Link](#)]

Natalie Milan, **Kaylee T. Matheny,** and Ilana M. Horwitz. 2022. The motherhood penalty begins in college. [Article, Inside Higher Ed] [[Link](#)]

Matheny, Kaylee T.,* Marissa E. Thompson,* Carrie Townley-Flores,* and sean f. reardon. 2021. Increasing school segregation widens White-Black achievement gaps. [Data Discovery, The Educational Opportunity Monitoring Project] [[Link](#)]

Matheny, Kaylee T.,* Marissa E. Thompson,* Carrie Townley-Flores,* and sean f. reardon. 2021. Racial socioeconomic inequality predicts growing racial academic inequality. [Data Discovery, The Educational Opportunity Monitoring Project] [[Link](#)]

Horwitz, Ilana M., **Kaylee T. Matheny,** and Natalie Milan. 2021. “Abortion Bans and College Drop-outs.” *Contexts* 20(4):76. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15365042211058133> [[PDF](#)]
Media Coverage: [The Society Pages](#)

GRANTS

*Externally competitive

*Ascendium Education Group. “Fast Track to Success? A Mixed Methods Study of Accelerated Course Formats.” (Co-Author, *with* Eric P. Bettinger, Russ Deaton, Madison Dell, and Amy Moreland) \$730,000 2022-24

*Russell Sage Targeted Competition Grant on Equal Opportunity Monitoring [[Link](#)] \$9,885 2021–22

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

*Externally competitive

*Provost’s Distinguished Faculty Fellowship at Georgetown University 2024–25

*American Education Research Association (AERA) Dissertation Fellowship [[Link](#)] \$27,500 2022–23

Computational Social Science Fellowship [[Link](#)] \$5,000 2022–23

*Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE) Summer Fellowship [[Link](#)] \$8,000 2022

Gerald J. Lieberman Fellowship [[Link](#)] \$48,000 2021–22

Stanford Community Impact Award 2021

*Institute of Education Sciences Doctoral Training Fellowship [Link]	\$120,000	2017–21
Karr Fellowship	\$19,370	2020
I. James and Viola Quillen Fellowship	\$12,441	2017–18
Solomon and Sara Sutker Outstanding Student Award [Link]		2015

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

American Sociological Association Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA (<i>accepted</i>) "Drivers of Despair: An Examination of the Despair Among Low-SES Populations Across the Early Life Course."		2023
Association for Education Finance and Policy, Denver, CO "The Motherhood Penalty Begins in College."		2023
Sociology of Education Association Annual Conference, Pacific Grove, CA "Persisting Barriers: SES and Gender Inequality in College Pathways."		2023
American Educational Research Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL "Socioeconomic Inequality in School District Funding and Achievement." "Monitored Mobility: How Social Class and Gender Shape Mobility Projects." "Persisting Barriers: SES and Gender Inequality in College-Going Pathways."		2023
Society for Research in Educational Effectiveness, Arlington, VA "University Readiness Assessments and Equity in College Admissions."		2022
American Sociological Association Annual Conference, Los Angeles, CA "Education, Interrupted: How Class and Gender Shape Postsecondary Trajectories." "How First-Generation, Low-Income Students at an Elite College Navigate Major Selection."		2022
Chicago Ethnography Conference, Virtual "A Means to an End or an End in Itself: How SES Shapes Parents' Orientations Toward College."		2022
Association for Education Finance and Policy, Denver, CO "Trends in Funding Inequality, Achievement Inequality, and the Relationship Between Them."		2022
American Sociological Association Annual Conference, Virtual "'Not for Everybody' or 'The Only Way': Competing Perspectives on the Purpose of College."		2021
Sociology of Education Association Annual Conference, Virtual "Unpacking the Aspiration Gap: Cross-Class Perspectives on the Purpose of College."		2021
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Annual Meeting, Virtual "A Seat at the Table: How Tennessee Attained Rapid Achievement Gains While Advancing Equity across Student Groups." "Everyone's Own Good Reason: Evaluating the Implementation of a Federal Experiment for Pell Grants to Fund Dual Enrollment."		2020
Association for Education Finance and Policy Annual Conference, Virtual "Tennessee's Patterns in Achievement and Equity: A Mixed Methods Study." "Experimental Evidence for the Impact of Federal Need-Based Aid on Dual Enrollment."		2020
Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Meeting, Portland, OR "The Role of Religion in Status Attainment: A Comparison of Jewish and non-Jewish Adolescents." "Optimizing Opportunity: Patterns in College Matching and Financial Aid."		2019
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Denver, CO		2019

<p>“Uneven Progress: Trends in District-Level Opportunity.”</p> <p>American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY</p> <p>“Uneven Progress: Trends in Academic Performance Among U.S. School Districts.”</p> <p>“Religious Stratification in Higher Education: The Case of American Jews.”</p>	2019
<p>Association for Education Finance and Policy Annual Conference, Kansas City, MO</p> <p>“Variation in District-level Trends in Test Performance.”</p>	2019
<p>Sociology of Education Association Annual Conference, Pacific Grove, CA</p> <p>“Variation in District-Level Trends in Achievement and Achievement Disparities, 2009-2016.”</p>	2019
<p>Scholarly Inquiry and Research at Emory Undergraduate Symposium, Atlanta, GA</p> <p>“Impact of Reader on Successful Knowledge Formation in Children.”</p>	2013

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

<p>Russell Sage Foundation and William T. Grant Foundation: Improving Education and Reducing Inequality, New York City, NY</p> <p>“Does Equalizing School Funding Lead to More Equitable Outcomes?”</p>	2022
<p>National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships, Salt Lake City, UT</p> <p>“Evaluating the ExSites Pell Experiment.”</p>	2019

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

<p>Educational Opportunity Monitoring Project Stanford University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principal Investigator: sean f. reardon Overview: Home of the Stanford Education Data Archive (SEDA), with population-level achievement data for all public school districts in the United States since 2009 Role: PhD Student [Link]. Used STATA to clean, merge, analyze, and craft visualizations of large datasets, including SEDA and the Common Core of Data. Conducted analyses using HLM software. Presented results at conferences. Prepared and revised public-facing materials as well as an academic manuscript for publication. Collaborated with graduate students. 	2017–Present
<p>American Voices Project Stanford University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principal Investigator: David B. Grusky Overview: Nationally representative qualitative interview project and follow-up text message intervention examining the lived experience of poverty in America Role: Project Manager [Link]. Primary liaison with text message vendor for intervention. Drafted contract and data use agreement, documented workflow procedures, generated reports on attrition and contact statistics, managed a research assistant, identified and corrected data errors, tested and proposed improvements to the data intake system, onboarded new team members, managed a research assistant, and coordinated text and postcard campaigns. Interviewed participants, coded transcripts using NVIVO, and wrote analytic memos. 	2019–2021
<p>Emory College Honors Program Emory University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee: Tracy Scott (Chair), Richard Rubinson, Christine Ristaino Role: Honors Student [Link]. I conducted a qualitative interview study with 22 Emory University undergraduates about their transitions to college. I wrote the IRB, recruited participants, conducted and transcribed interviews, conducted inductive 	2015

and deductive analyses using MAXQDA, and wrote a research paper. Earned highest honors for my thesis, “Forging Ahead: A Study of Socioeconomic Status as It Relates to the College Transitions of Emory University Undergraduate Students.”

- Research in Sociology at Emory (RISE) | Emory University 2014
- Advisor: Tracy Scott
 - Role: Undergraduate Research Assistant. I conducted and transcribed interviews for research on the career interests of undergraduates.
- Scholarly Inquiry and Research at Emory (SIRE) | Emory University 2013
- Advisor: Patricia Bauer, Bauer Memory at Emory Lab
 - Role: Undergraduate Research Assistant. Conducted psychology assessments with children to understand how reading modality impacted their memory. Conducted quantitative analyses using Microsoft Excel. Presented findings at a symposium.

ACADEMIC TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Note: Skyline College does not administer course evaluations

Instructor of Record — Sociology — Skyline College

Undergraduate Courses

Introduction to Sociology [Syllabus]	Spring 2020–Summer 2023
Introduction to Research Methods [Syllabus]	Spring 2021– Spring 2023
Contemporary Social Problems [Syllabus]	Fall 2020–Fall 2022

Teaching Assistant — Education/Sociology — Stanford University

Undergraduate Courses

Education and Inequality: Big Data for Large-Scale Problems [EDUC/SOC] [Syllabus] [Evals] — TA for sean f. reardon	Fall 2022
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Graduate Courses

Using Data to Describe the World: Descriptive Social Science Research Techniques [EDUC/SOC] [Syllabus] [Evals] — TA for sean f. reardon	Spring 2022
Education Policy in the United States [EDUC] [Syllabus] [Evals] — TA for Jon Valant	Spring 2021
Statistical Analysis in Education [EDUC] [Syllabus] [Evals] — TA for Eric P. Bettinger	Winter 2021
Introduction to Data Analysis and Interpretation [EDUC] [Syllabus] [Evals] — TA for Ann Porteus and Sanne Smith	Fall 2020
Sociology of Education [EDUC/SOC] [Syllabus] [Evals] — TA for Mitchell L. Stevens	Fall 2019

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

To the Profession

Journal Reviewer <i>AERA Open, American Behavioral Scientist</i>	2021–22
Conference Chair Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Annual Meeting	2019
Conference Discussant American Sociological Association Annual Meeting	2023
Association for Education Finance and Policy Annual Meeting	2022

To the Institution

Stanford University

Student Representative, Target of Opportunity Faculty Hiring Committee 2022-23
Student Member, Associate Vice Provost for Graduate Education (VPGE) Evaluation Committee 2022
Student Representative, VPGE Graduate Student and Postdoc Strategic Vision Team 2021-22

Skyline College

Faculty Panelist, Undergraduate Symposium of Academic Research 2021

To the Community

Committee Lead, Center for Education Policy Analysis Race and Research Group 2020-21
Co-Author on a grant for organizational funding (\$3,000)
Co-President, Stanford Graduate School of Education Student Guild 2019-21
Mentor, IDEAS Fellowship 2020
Mentor, Policy, Organizations, and Leadership Studies Master's Program 2020
MA Student Representative, Association of Sociology Graduate Students 2019-20
Co-Director, Sociology and Education Network, Stanford University 2019-20
Co-Author on a grant for organizational funding (\$2,300)
Mentor, Stanford Graduate School of Education Mentorship Program 2018-19
Academic Chair, Stanford Graduate School of Education Student Guild 2018-19
Lead Author on a grant for organizational funding (\$2,790)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Educational Research Association
SIGs: Sociology of Education
American Sociological Association
Committees: First Generation/Working Class Sociologists
Sections: Sociology of Education; Poverty, Inequality, & Mobility; Family; Children & Youth
Association for Education Finance and Policy
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
Association for the Study of Higher Education
Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness
Sociology of Education Association

SELECTED PRE-ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

World Literature Teacher & 10th Grade Content Lead, Griffin High School 2015-17
Waitress, Waffle House, Inc. (Unit 1772) 2009-14