

Kyler J. Sherman-Wilkins (He/him)
Missouri State University
Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Gerontology
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EDUCATION

- 2017 Ph.D., Sociology and Demography and Graduate Certificate in Quantitative Methods and Survey Methodology, The Pennsylvania State University
- 2015 M.A., Sociology and Demography, The Pennsylvania State University
- 2011 B.S., Human Development and Family Studies, Minor in Gerontology, Cornell University

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2023-Present Associate Professor of Sociology, Missouri State University
- 2017-Present Faculty Affiliate, Gerontology Program, Missouri State University
- 2017-2023 Assistant Professor of Sociology, Missouri State University

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

- 2025-Present Interim Head, Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Gerontology, Missouri State University
- Oversee and manage the departmental budget and authorize all departmental expenses.
 - Direct and oversee enrollment management initiatives (recruitment and retention).
 - Manage and evaluate departmental faculty and staff.
 - Negotiate with Dean and other Department Heads for departmental resources.
 - Develop charges and priorities for departmental committees in consultation with department faculty.
 - Establish and reevaluate departmental strategic plan in consultation with department faculty.
 - Work with department faculty to identify annual departmental priorities and goals.
 - Work with Program Coordinators to schedule departmental courses.
 - Facilitate evaluation of academic programs within the department.
 - Represent the department in college and university events.
- 2021-Present Director, Health Equity Research Collective, Missouri State University
- Oversee the operation of the Collective, coordinating meetings and assigning tasks to undergraduate research assistants.
 - Mentoring students in the Collective as they pursue research in the social determinants of health.
 - Coordinate and facilitate travel of the Collective to present research at conferences.

FORMER ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

- 2024-2025 Provost Fellow, National Science Foundation ADVANCE Project, Missouri State
- Serve as liaison between the NSF Advance Team and the Provost's Office.
 - Coordinate implementation teams' work in accomplishing grant goals.
 - Authorize all expenses made by administrative assistant.
 - Facilitate meetings with campus stakeholders

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Aging and the Life Course
- Racial Disparities in Health & Aging
- Social Integration and Health
- Intersectionality
- Cognitive Aging and Dementia
- Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (particularly teaching of policy and statistics)

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- 2024 Farmer, Heather R., Amy D. Thierry, **Kyler J. Sherman-Wilkins**, and Roland Thorpe. "Exploring How Neighborhood Characteristics and Psychosocial Resilience Influence Cognitive Functioning among Older Black Adults." *Ethnicity & Health* 29(6):597-619.
- 2024 Adkins-Jackson, Paris B... **Sherman-Wilkins, Kyler J.**, et al. "Hang Ups, Let Downs, Bad Breaks, & Setbacks: Impact of Structural Socioeconomic Racism & Resilience on Cognitive Change over Time for Persons Racialized as Black." *Health Equity* 8(1):254-268.
- 2021 Thierry, Amy D., **Kyler J. Sherman-Wilkins**, Marina Armendariz, Allison Sullivan and Heather R. Farmer. "Perceived Neighborhood Characteristics and Cognitive Functioning among Diverse Older Adults: An Intersectional Approach." *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 18:1-14 doi: 10.3390/ijerph18052661.
- 2019 **Sherman-Wilkins, Kyler J.** and Amy Thierry. "Education as the Great Equalizer? Racial and Ethnic Differences in Returns of Education on Cognitive Functioning in Later Life." *Geriatrics* 4(51):1-13.
- 2018 Alwin, Duane F., Jason R. Thomas, and **Kyler J. Sherman-Wilkins**. "Race, Social Relations and the Life Course." in *Social Networks and the Life Course*, edited by D. Alwin, D. Felmlee, and D. Kreager. New York, NY: Springer.
- 2014 Pudrovskaya, Tetyana, Eric Reither, *Ellis Logan, and ***Kyler J. Sherman-Wilkins**. "Gender and Reinforcing Associations between Socioeconomic Disadvantage and Body Mass over the Life Course." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 55(3):283-301.
- *Denotes equal contribution

COMMUNITY REPORTS AND BRIEFS

*Indicates undergraduate student co-author

- 2025 **Sherman-Wilkins, Kyler J.** "Analysis of Missouri Jobs with Justice Deep Listening Canvass, 2025." Qualitative analysis and report, *Missouri Jobs with Justice*.

- 2023 **Sherman-Wilkins, Kyler J.**, and Mackenzie Whitaker. “To Address the Black-White Health Gap in Missouri, Attention Must Be Paid to the Social Determinants of Health.” Issue Brief, *Reach Missouri*.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

**Indicates student co-author*

Sherman-Wilkins, Kyler J. “Addressing the Sociology to Policy Gap Through a Policy Brief Writing Assignment.”

Sherman-Wilkins, Kyler J., Jayden Echols,* and Jewel Robson.* “Adverse Childhood Experiences, Perception of Cognitive Impairment, and Risk of Stroke: An Intersectional Life Course Approach.”

Thierry, Amy D., and **Kyler J. Sherman-Wilkins**. “Perceived Neighborhood Characteristics and Cognitive Function among Black Older Adults: Importance of Regional Context.”

RELEVANT MEDIA AND PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY

- 2024 “The Science Behind Gratitude: How Practicing Gratitude Can Transform Your Mind and Body.” Interview on the *Missouri State Journal*.
- 2022 “Missourians are More 2x as Likely to Not Receive Medical Care.” Interview on KY3.
- 2022 “Are Numbers Really Neutral?” Article written for PRB.
- 2022 “Gun Violence in U.S. Has Clear Proximate Cause: Access to Firearms.” Opinion piece, *Springfield News-Leader*.
- 2022 “Attacks on Trans Community Very Real, But the Community is Resilient.” Opinion piece, *Springfield News-Leader*.
- 2022 “State of Black Folk in America, A Bleak Reality and Cause for Hope.” Opinion piece, *Springfield News-Leader*.
- 2022 “Black History Month: Dr. Kyler Sherman-Wilkins.” Spotlight and Interview, *KOLR10*.
- 2021 “Q&A with Kyler Sherman-Wilkins.” Interview with PRB.
- 2021 “Missouri’s 1st, 2nd Districts Could be Redistricting Targets.” Quoted in *Associated Press*.
- 2021 “Mandatory Vaccines Would End Pandemic but Further Erode Public Trust.” Opinion piece, *Springfield News-Leader*.
- 2020 “Remaining Connected While Distant.” Opinion piece, *Springfield News-Leader*.
- 2018 “Do You Control Your Health? What You Need to Know about Loneliness and Your Health.” Interview on the *Missouri State Journal*.

SELECT PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

**indicates undergraduate student co-author*

- 2025 Thierry, Amy D. and **Kyler J. Sherman-Wilkins**. “Geographic Variation in Neighborhood Stress, Discrimination, and Cognition in Black Midlife and Older Adults.” Paper to be presented at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, MA.

- 2025 **Sherman-Wilkins, Kyler** and Anthony Lam. “Sleep and Exercise Behaviors Among Asian Identified Adults at the Intersection of Race and Education: Results from the National Health Interview Study.” Paper to be presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society, Chicago, IL.
- 2025 **Sherman-Wilkins, Kyler**, Jayden Echols, Breanna Pace, and Gabriel Patino. “Long Arm of Adversity: Adverse Childhood Experiences and Later Life Physical and Cognitive Health among U.S. Adults. Paper to be presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society, Chicago, IL.
- 2023 **Sherman-Wilkins, Kyler J.**, Mark Meads,* Jackson Bassford,* Jarrett Brattin,* and Mackenzie Whitaker.* “Religiosity, Mastery, and Memory Declines among Older Adults: Results from the Health and Retirement Study.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society, Minneapolis, MN.
- 2023 **Sherman-Wilkins, Kyler J.**, Kayla L. Curry,* Sophie Arnold,* and Dominique Lowe.* “Sleep Inequities among U.S. Women at the Intersection of Race/Ethnicity, Class, Parenting and Marital Status.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society, Minneapolis, MN.
- 2022 **Sherman-Wilkins, Kyler J.**, Sophie Arnold,* Kayla Curry,* and Mark Meads.* “Daily Social Contact and Self-Rated Health among Older Adults: Does Race/Ethnicity and Gender Matter?: Results from a National Time Diary Study.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society, Chicago, IL.
- 2022 **Sherman-Wilkins, Kyler J.**, Jackson Bassford,* Jarrett Brattin,* and Austin Gomez.* “Disparities in Time for Exercise & Sport among College Students at the Intersection of Race & Gender.” Paper presented at annual meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society, Chicago, IL.
- 2021 Thierry, Amy D., **Kyler J. Sherman-Wilkins**, Marina Armendariz, and Heather Farmer. “Perceived Neighborhood Characteristics and Cognitive Functioning in Diverse Older Adults: An Intersectional Approach.” Paper presented at annual meeting of the Population Association of America, Virtual.
- 2021 Thierry, Amy D., Heather R. Farmer, Marina Armendariz, and **Kyler J. Sherman-Wilkins**. “Neighborhood Characteristics and Cognitive Functioning in Diverse Older U.S. Adults: The Moderating Effect of C-Reactive Protein.” Paper presented at annual meeting of the Society for Behavioral Medicine, Virtual.
- 2021 Templer Rodrigues, Abby, and **Kyler J. Sherman-Wilkins**. “Parenting and Artistic Career Pathways: A Life Course Approach to Tracing the Influence of Gender, Class, Relationship Status, & Age on the Career Paths of Parents in the Arts.” Paper presented at annual meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society, Virtual.
- 2020 **Sherman-Wilkins, Kyler J.**, Matthew Cline,* Courtney Cooper,* and Ericka Youngquist.* “Religious Involvement and Risk of Cognitive Impairment among Older Adults: Variations across Race/Ethnicity, Gender, and Cohort.” Paper accepted but not presented at annual meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society in Omaha, NE (meeting canceled due to COVID-19).

- 2020 **Sherman-Wilkins, Kyler J.** “Social Integration and Cognitive Functioning among Community Dwelling Older Adults: A Latent Class Analysis.” Paper accepted but not presented at annual meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society in Omaha, NE (meeting canceled due to COVID-19).
- 2019 **Sherman-Wilkins, Kyler J.** and Erica M. Houston. * “Depressive Symptom Trajectories across Race and Gender: Patterns and Explanations.” Paper presented at annual meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society in Chicago, IL.
- 2019 **Sherman-Wilkins, Kyler J.** and Austin J. Perkins. * “Early Life Adversity and Later Life Cognitive Functioning: Do Race and Gender Matter?” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society in Chicago, IL.
- 2019 **Sherman-Wilkins, Kyler J.** and Amy D. Thierry. “Education as the Great Equalizer? Racial and Ethnic Differences in Returns of Education on Cognitive Functioning in Later Life.” Poster presented at annual meeting of the Population Association of America in Austin, TX.
- 2017 **Sherman-Wilkins, Kyler J.** “Mind the Gap: An Analysis of Early Life Adversity and Race Disparities in Cognitive Aging in the U.S. Context.” Paper presented at International Union for the Scientific Study of Population’s International Population Conference, Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2017 **Sherman-Wilkins, Kyler J.** “Testing Life Course Patterns of Inequality in Cognitive Aging among Older Adults: An Integrated Person-Centered & Variable-Centered Approach.” Paper presented at International Union for the Scientific Study of Population’s Population Conference, Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2015 **Sherman-Wilkins, Kyler J.** “The Effect of Work and Parental Role Occupancy and Role Performance on Exercise Participation among U.S. Adults.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, Chicago, IL.
- 2015 Bleser, William K., **Kyler J. Sherman-Wilkins**, and Y Shi. “Determinants of Influenza Vaccination Disparities: An Intersectionality Approach.” Paper presented at annual meeting of the Population Association of America, San Diego, CA.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND COMPETITIVE TRAINING PROGRAMS

- 2024 Missouri Foundation for Health Research Grant, “Community-Driven Disruption to Save Lives.” **Role: Consultant**, with Francine Pratt (PI) (\$612,000).
- 2023 Missouri Foundation for Health Research Grant, “Exploring and Examining Firearm Violence in Missouri.” **Role: Consultant**, with Dr. Erin Kelly (PI) (\$199,987).
- 2021 Prener, Christopher, Michael Esposito, Sarah Gebauer, Keon L. Gilbert, **Kyler J. Sherman-Wilkins**, and Jane Tucker. “Evaluating the Connections Between Historic Racism and Contemporary Health Care Utilization.” National Institutes of Health (approximately \$1,200,000)- Not Funded.
- 2021 Mellon Foundation Emerging Faculty Leaders Award, Institute for Citizens & Scholars (\$17,500).

- 2020 Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning's Curriculum Innovation Grant, "Incorporating Anti-Racism into Undergraduate Methods and Statistics Courses in the Social Sciences." Missouri State University; **Role:** Principal Investigator, with Dr. Catherine Hoegeman (Co-PI) (\$3,750).
- 2020 National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (3U54MD007695-12S1) "Examining Associations between Neighborhood Conditions, C-Reactive Protein, and Psychosocial Resiliency Factors in Cognitive Impairment among Diverse US Older Adults." **Role: Consultant**, with Dr. Amy D. Thierry (PI) (\$250,000).
- 2019 National Institute on Aging's Butler-Williams Program, National Institutes of Health.
- 2019 Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center Research Internship
- 2018 Forming Science-Industry Collaborations Training Program, Stanford University
- 2016 U.S. Policy Communication Training Fellow, PRB, Washington, D.C.
- 2016 RAND's Mini-Medical School for Social Scientists, San Diego, CA.
- 2016 RAND's Demography, Economics, Psychology, and Epidemiology of Aging Workshop, San Diego, CA.
- 2013-2015 *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* NICHD Pre-Doctoral Traineeship (T-32HD007514), Population Research Institute, Penn State (\$44,508).
- 2013 Trainee, Fenway Center for Population Research in LGBT Health, MA
- 2012-2013 Bunton Waller Graduate Fellowship, Penn State (\$22,425 plus cost of tuition)
- 2007-2011 James Family Foundation Full Tuition Scholarship, Cornell University (\$260,000).

HONORS, AWARDS, AND CERTIFICATES

- 2023 Foundation Award for Excellence in Service, Missouri State University
- 2022 W.E.B DuBois Education Award, NAACP-Springfield MO Chapter
- 2021 Foundation Award for Excellence in Teaching, Missouri State University
- 2021 NACADA Certificate of Merit for Excellence in Academic Advising
- 2021 Curtis P. Lawrence Award for Excellence in Advising, Missouri State University
- 2019 Division of Student Affairs' Bridge Builder Award, Missouri State University
- 2018 Master Advisor Certificate, Missouri State University
- 2017 International Travel Award, Missouri State University
- 2017 Diversity Scholar Award, Missouri State University
- 2016 National Academy of Sciences' Ford Dissertation Fellowship (Honorable Mention)
- 2016 Certificate in Quantitative Methodology, Penn State

TEACHING INTERESTS

Sociology of Aging; Social Demography; Social Inequality in Health and Aging; Research Methods; Statistics for Social Science Research; Survey Research

COURSES TAUGHT

GEP 101: First-Year Foundations	SOC 397: Social Inequality in Health and Aging
SOC 150: Introduction to Society	
SOC 301: Research Methodology	SOC 450: Population, Society, and Public Policy
SOC 220: Statistics for Social Research	SOC 480: Health Inequities Across the Life Course
SOC 375: Social Forces and Aging	

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

2020 Perkins, Austin J., * and **Kyler J. Sherman-Wilkins**. 2020. "Gender Differences in the Effects of Education & Income on Episodic Memory among Older Adults: Results from the Health and Retirement Study." *LOGOS: A Journal of Undergraduate Research*.

INVITED TALKS, LECTURES, AND PANELS

2025	"What is Demography?" Presentation given to participants of the Population Association of America's Undergraduate Pipeline Program.
2025	"What do Sociologists Have to Say about Health?" Guest lecture for SOC 150: Introduction to Sociology, Missouri State University
2023	"Health Disparities Panel." Panel Organized by the Planning Committee for Missouri State University's Collaborative Diversity Conference.
2023	"Facts and Faux-Pas: Understanding the Dos and Do Nots of Communicating Scientific Research to Policymakers."
2022	"Teaching Writing for Policy Audiences through the Lens of Social Justice." Critical Dialogue: How to be More Solutions-oriented in the Classroom.
2022	"Early Career Research Panel." Panel Organized by the Planning Committee for the Alzheimer's Association's Addressing Health Disparities Conference.
2022	"Data and Democracy in the Age of Disinformation." Panel organized by PRB at the Population Association of America's annual meeting.
2022	"Measurement Matters: Challenges & Opportunities for Eliminating Health Disparities." Talk for the Ozarks Public Health Institute's Health Disparities Summit.
2022	"Is Education the Great Equalizer? Examining Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Returns of Education on Adult Health." Invited talk for the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Center for Demography of Health and Aging.
2021	"Incorporating Anti-racism into Undergraduate Methods and Statistics Courses in the Social Sciences." (w/Catherine Hoegeman). Critical Dialogue: Classroom Community Development: Fostering Healing, Hope, and Revolution in the Classroom. Society for the Study of Social Problems.

- 2021 “Critical Race Theory: What is It?” Panel organized by Drury University’s Humanities & Ethic Center and the Department of Behavioral Sciences.
- 2021 “Racism as a Public Health Crisis.” Guest lecture for AAS 100: Introduction to African American Studies, Missouri State University.
- 2021 “Numbers are not Neutral: How Journalists Can Detect Deep Bias & Avoid Hidden Traps.” Panel organized by the National Association of Science Writers.
- 2021 “Critical Race Theory- What is it? Why is Everyone Talking About it?” Presented to the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association.
- 2020 “Dissecting Discrimination: A Panel Discussion.” Panel organized by MSU Association of Black Collegians, MSU NAACP, and others.
- 2020 “Critical Conversations- After the Elections.” Presenter and moderator for event organized by Missouri State University’s Student Government Association.
- 2020 “Racism as a Public Health Crisis.” Presentation gave at The Emerging Church
- 2020 “Incorporating Anti-racism into Advising Practice.” Presentation given at October Academic Advising Forum, Missouri State University
- 2019 “Black-White Disparities in Physical and Mental Health.” Guest lecture for AAS 100: Introduction to African American Studies, Missouri State University
- 2018 Keynote Address delivered to Multicultural Services Fall Graduation Ceremony, Missouri State University
- 2018 “Advising Students of Color: Challenges and Opportunities.” Presentation given at October Academic Advisor Forum, Missouri State University
- 2018 “Building a University Community in a Divided Nation.” Presentation given at Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning’s Diversity Lunch & Learn, Missouri State.

SERVICE

Missouri State University Departmental Service

Current

- 2024-Present Faculty Advisor, Alpha Kappa Delta, International Honor Society of Sociology
- 2024-Present Certificate Coordinator, Health Equity
- 2023-Present Member, Sociology, Anthropology and Gerontology Personnel Committee
- 2024-Present Faculty Advisor, NAACP-Missouri State Chapter
- 2017-Present Member, Sociology Programming Committee

Former

- 2024-2025 Chair, Recruitment and Marketing Committee
- 2024-2025 Member, Scholarship Committee
- 2023-2025 Certificate Coordinator, Social Science Research

2023-2025 Course Coordinator, Introduction to Society
2021-2022 Member, Department Head Search Committee
2021-2022 Member, Tenure Track Faculty Search Committee

Missouri State University College and University Service

Current

2021-Present Pre-Medical Committee, Missouri State University

Former

2024-2025 Member, RCASH College Council
2022-2023 Member, Provost's Diversity Council
2021-2022 Member, Provost's Academic Advising Council
2020-2021 Faculty Senator for Department of Sociology and Anthropology
2018-2021 Member, Black History Month Planning Committee
2018-2021 Member, LGBTQ+ Heritage Month Planning Committee
2017-2023 Chair, Diversity Council, College of Humanities and Public Affairs
2017-2021 Member, Inclusive Excellence Scholarship Committee
2019-2020 Member, Subcommittee on High Ability Student Recruitment
2019 Member, Search Committee for Director of the Advising Center
2019 Member, Search Committee for Director of Multicultural Programs
2017-2023 Chair, College of Humanities and Public Affairs Diversity Council

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Current

2024-Present Governance Committee, Midwest Sociological Society
2024-Present Minority Scholars Committee, Midwest Sociological Society
2024-Present Committee Member, American Sociological Association Distinguished Teaching Award Committee
2024-Present Advisory Board, Inclusive Springfield
2023-Present Member, Health Equity Collaborative, Community Partnerships of the Ozarks
2023-Present Vice President, NAACP-Springfield Chapter
2022-Present Board of Directors, Missouri Foundation for Health, St. Louis, MO
2019-Present Board of Directors, PROMO, Missouri's Statewide LGBTQ+ Advocacy Organization

Former

2022 Member, Springfield Public Schools Discipline Review Work Team

2021-2023	President of the Board, GLO Center
2021-2024	Nomination Committee, Midwest Sociological Society
2020-2024	Board of Trustees, PRB, Washington, DC
2020-2023	Working Group Leader, Policy Communications Training Program, PRB
2019-2021	Member, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Population Association of America
2019-2021	Member, Government and Public Affairs Committee, Population Association of America
2018-2021	Congressional Lobbyist for PAA Advocacy Days, Population Association of America
2017	Discussant, LGBT Health Disparities, Population Association of America
2015	Discussant, LGBT Health Disparities, Population Association of America
2015	Session Organizer, LGBT Health Disparities, Section on Population, American Sociological Association

JOURNAL EDITORIAL AND REVIEW SERVICES

2023-Present Editorial Board, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*

Ad-Hoc Journal Reviewer

The Gerontologist; Journal of Health and Social Behavior; Social Science & Medicine; BMC Public Health

METHODS AND PROGRAMMING SKILLS

Quantitative Methods: OLS and Categorical/Limited Response Variable Regression Models; Imputation Methods for Missing Data; Survey Methodology; Growth Curve Analysis
Statistical Packages: STATA (proficient), SPSS (proficient), SAS (basic), R (basic)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association

Midwest Sociological Society

Population Society of America