

# Michael H. Esposito

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## Research Interests

population health; race; statistical methodology; social/spatial context

## Appointments

**University of Minnesota**    Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Associate Professor    2025 – now  
*Don A. Martindale Endowed Chair in Sociology*

**University of Minnesota**    Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Assistant Professor    2023 – 2025  
*Don A. Martindale Endowed Chair in Sociology*

**Washington University in St. Louis**    St. Louis, Missouri  
Assistant Professor    2021 – 2023

**University of Michigan**    Ann Arbor, Michigan  
Postdoctoral Fellow    2018 – 2021

## Education

**University of Washington**    Seattle, Washington  
PhD in Sociology    2013 – 2018  
Certificates in Demography and Statistics  
Committee: Drs. Hedwig Lee, Jerald Herting, Stewart Tolnay, Anjum Hajat

**University of Washington**    Seattle, Washington  
MA in Sociology    2011–2013

**University of Missouri**    Columbia, Missouri  
BA in Sociology    2007–2011

## Journal Articles

[27] **Incarceration and psychiatric emergency department visits among Black Americans**  
Abhery Das, Michael Esposito, Hedwig Lee, Tim Bruckner  
*Milbank Quarterly*, Forthcoming

[26] **A National Data Set of Historical US Sundown Towns for Quantitative Analysis**  
David Rigby, Michael H. Esposito, Hedwig Lee, David Van Riper, Margaret Hicken, Stephen Berrey  
*Scientific Data*, 2025.

[25] **The U.S. Criminal Legal System and Population Health**  
Michael Cao, Michael H. Esposito, Hedwig Lee

*Current Epidemiology Reports, 2025.*

**[24] Racial Capitalism and Firearm Violence: Developing a theoertical model for firearm violence research examining structural racism**

Mudia Uzzi; Shannon Whittaker; Michael Esposito; Lorraine Dean; Shani Buggs; Keshia Pollack-Porter.

*Social Science and Medicine, 2024.*

**[23] Influence of Structural Racism on Cancer Health Disparities: Tailoring Measures Relevant to Multiple Myeloma**

Hugh Roland, Cydney McGuire, Monica Baskin, Michael Esposito, Elizabeth Baker, Elizabeth Brown

*Cancer, 2024.*

**[22] Bodily Harm: The Health Consequences of Policing in the United States**

Abhery Das, Michael Esposito, Hedwig Lee

*California Law Review, 2024.*

**[21] Segregated Patterns of Hospital Care Delivery and Health Outcomes**

Sunny Lin, Gmerice Hammond, Michael Esposito, Cassandra Majewski, Randi Foraker, Karen Joynt Maddox

*JAMA Health Fourm, 2024.*

**[20] Historical redlining and contemporary racial disparities in neighborhood life expectancy.**

Nick Graetz, Michael H. Esposito\*

*Social Forces, 2023.*

**[19] Policing and Population Health: Past, Present, and Future**

Hedwig Lee, Savannah Larimore, Michael Esposito\*

*Milbank Quarterly, 2023.*

**[18] Neighborhood “Disamenities:” local barriers and cognitive function among Black and white aging adults**

Wenshan Yu, Michael Esposito, Mao Li, Philippa Clarke, Suzanne Judd, Jessica Finlay

*BMC Public Health, 2023.*

**[17] Cognability: An Ecological Theory of Neighborhoods and Cognitive Aging.**

Jessica Finlay, Michael Esposito\*, Ken Langa, Suzanne Judd, Phillipa Clarke

*Social Science and Medicine, 2022.*

NIH MATILDA WHITE RILEY EARLY STAGE INVESTIGATOR PAPER AWARD

**[16] Structural Racism and Quantitative Causal inference: A Life-Course Mediation Framework for Decomposing Racial Health Disparities.**

Nick Graetz, Courtney Boen, Michael H. Esposito.

*Journal of Health and Social Behavior, 2022.*

**[15] Walkable neighborhoods and cognition: implications for the design of health promoting communities.**

Dominique L. Sylvers, Margaret Hicken, Michael Esposito, Jennifer Manly, Suzanne Judd, Phillipa Clarke.  
*Journal of Aging and Health*, 2022.

[14] **“My neighbourhood is fuzzy, not hard and fast:” Individual and contextual associations with perceived residential neighbourhood boundaries among ageing Americans.**

Jessica Finlay, Joy Jang, Michael Esposito, Leslie McClure, Suzanne Judd, Phillipa Clarke.  
*Urban Studies*, 2022.

[13] **Beholding Inequality: Race, Gender, Physical Attractiveness, and SES in the United States**

Ellis Monk, Michael H. Esposito, Hedwig Lee.

*American Journal of Sociology*, 2021.

ASA RACE, GENDER, CLASS DISTINGUISHED CONTRIBUTION TO SCHOLARSHIP ARTICLE AWARD

ASA SECTION ON THE SOCIOLOGY OF BODY AND EMBODIMENT: BEST ARTICLE AWARD

ASA INEQUALITY, POVERTY AND MOBILITY DEVAH PAGER AWARD: HONORABLE MENTION

[12] **Aggressive Policing, Population Health, and Health Equity**

Michael H. Esposito, Savannah Larimore, Hedwig Lee.

*Health Affairs*, 2021.

[11] **White Health Benefits of Histories of Enslavement: The Case of Opioid Deaths**

Ryan Gabriel, Michael H. Esposito\*, Geoff Ward, Hedwig Lee, Margaret Hicken, David Cunningham.

*The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences*, 2021.

[10] **Neighborhood Active Aging Infrastructure and Cognitive Function: A Mixed-Methods Study of Older Americans**

Jessica Finlay, Michael H. Esposito\*, Mao Li, Natalie Colabianchi, Huajun Zhou, Suzanne Judd, Phillipa Clarke.

*Preventive Medicine*, 2021.

[9] **Linking History to Contemporary State-Sanctioned Slow Violence through Cultural and Structural Racism**

Margaret T. Hicken, Regan Patterson, Lewis Miles, Solome Haile, Michael Esposito.

*The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences*, 2021.

[8] **Can Neighborhood Social Infrastructure Modify Cognitive Function? A Mixed-Methods Study of Urban-Dwelling Aging Americans**

Jessica Finlay, Michael H. Esposito\*, Mao Lee, Lindsay Kobayashi, Anam Khan, Iris Gomez-Lopez, Robert Melendez, Natalie Colabianchi, Suzanne Judd, Phillipa Clarke.

*Journal of Aging and Health*, 2021.

[7] **Racial segregation and cognitive function among older adults in the United States: Findings from the Reasons for Geographic and Racial Differences in Stroke (REGARDS) study**

Joy Jang, Margret T. Hicken, Megan Mullins, Michael H. Esposito, Ketlyne Sol, Jenifer Manly Suzanne Judd, Phillipa Clarke.

*The Journals of Gerontology: Series B*, 2021.

**[6] Retail Food Environments as Resources for Cognitive Health and Wellbeing Among Aging Americans**

Jessica Finlay, Michael H. Esposito\*, Sandra Tang, Iris Gomez-Lopez, Dominique Sylvers, Suzanne Judd, and Phillipa Clarke.  
*Health & Place*, 2020.

**[5] Inequality in Process: Income and Heterogeneous Educational Health Gradients among Blacks and Whites in the U.S**

Michael H. Esposito  
*Race and Social Problems*, 2019.

**[4] Risk of Being Killed by Police Use-of-Force in the U.S. by Age, Race and Sex**

Frank Edwards, Hedwig Lee, Michael H. Esposito  
*Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 2019.

**[3] Closure of Third-Places? Exploring Potential Consequences for Collective Health and Wellbeing.**

Jessica Finlay, Michael H. Esposito\*, Min Hee Kim, Iris Gomez-Lopez, Phillipa Clarke.  
*Health & Place*, 2019.

**[2] Risk of Police-Involved Death by Race/Ethnicity and Place, United States, 2012–2018.**

Frank Edwards, Michael H. Esposito\*, Hedwig Lee.  
*The American Journal of Public Health*, 2018.

**[1] The Consequences of Contact with the Criminal Justice System for Health in the Transition to Adulthood.**

Michael H. Esposito, Hedwig E. Lee, Margret Hicken, Lauren Porter, and Jerald Herting.  
*Longitudinal and Life Course Studies*, 2017.

Peer Reviewed Reports  
& Other Publications

**[5] Identifying Midlife Social Exposures That Might Modify Risks of Cognitive Impairment Associated with Early Life Disadvantage: Proceedings of a Workshop**

(Contributing Presenter.) Rapporteur: Bradford Chaney.  
[National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine](#), 2025.

**[4] Shared Fates: A Housing Resilience Policy Vision for the Home Insurance Crisis**

Moir Briss, Alex Casey, Michael Esposito, Nick Graetz, Sarah Knuth, C.S. Ponder, Zac J. Taylor  
[Climate and Community Institute Research Series](#), 2024.

**[3] The Past, Present, and Future of Racial Health Disparities in the US**

Michael Esposito, Nick Graetz, Margaret Hicken, Hedwig Lee  
[Uncovering Inequality](#), edited by Jelani Cobb, 2023.

[2] **The demographics of racial inequality in the United States**  
Hedwig Lee, Michael Esposito, Frank Edwards, Yung Chun, Michal Grinstein-Weiss  
[Brooking Institute, 2020.](#)

[1] **Police kill about 3 men per day in the US, according to new study**  
Frank Edwards, Michael Esposito  
[The Conversation, 2018.](#)

Manuscripts-in-  
Progress  
*includes 5 projects closest  
to publication*

[5] **American Eco-Apartheid: Mapping the links between racial disparities in longevity with political economy, state violence, and environmental exposure**  
Daniel Aldana Cohen, Nick Graetz, Seth J. Prins, Michael Esposito.  
*Revise and Resubmit.*

[4] **Sundown Towns and the Contemporary, Racialized Organization of Space**  
David Rigby, Sierra Clark, Michael H. Esposito\*, Hedwig E. Lee, Tyson Brown.  
*Under review.*

[4] **Neighborhood Exposure to Police Violence: A Racialized Geography of Fatal Encounters”**  
Carmen Guterrez, Robert Melendez, Michael Esposito, Lindsay Gypin, Grace Noppert  
*In preparation.*

[2] **Professional Football Players and Mortality Consequences Over Time.**  
Nadia Jackson-Fitch, John R. Warren, Gina Rumore, Michael Esposito, Douglas Hartmann  
*In preparation.*

[1] **Covenanted-Policing: How does historical spatial racism shape contemporary policing practices?**  
Christopher Robertson, Michael Esposito  
*In preparation.*

Recent Presentations  
*from (2023-2024)*

[15] **Neighborhoods and Cognitive Function among Older Adults**  
National Academies of Sciences: Identifying Midlife Social Exposures that might Modify Risk for Cognitive Impairment Associated with Early Life Disadvantage  
(August 2024; *Invited*)

[14] **Differences in Police Contact, Trust, and Accountability by Race and Ethnicity: Findings from Focus Groups in St. Louis and Milwaukee**  
Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science Annual Meeting  
(September 2024)

[13] **Fatal Police Violence and the Maintenance of Racialized Space**  
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Quebec

(August 2024)

**[12] The durable consequences of policy: lessons from redlining in designing for an equitable future**

School of Science and Technology Policy Seminar, Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Technology

(July 2024; *Invited*)

**[11] Fatal Police Violence and the Maintenance of Racialized Space**

Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Columbus, OH

(April 2024)

**[10] Restrictive Covenants and Police Territoriality**

Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Columbus, OH

(April 2024)

**[9] Historical redlining and contemporary racial disparities in neighborhood life expectancy**

Institute for Population Research, The Ohio State University.

(February 2024; *Invited*)

**[8] Historical redlining and contemporary racial disparities in neighborhood life expectancy**

Donald J Bouge Demography Workshop, University of Chicago.

(October 2023; *Invited*)

**[7] Challenges of Measuring Structural Racism: A Case Study of Redlining**

Methods Matter Conference: Understanding and Measuring Race and Racism in Health Research Conference, University of Pennsylvania.

(September 2023; *Invited*)

**[6] Legacies of Historical Racism**

American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Pennsylvania, PA.

(August 2023)

**[5] Political Determinants of Health: The Case of Policing**

American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Pennsylvania, PA.

(August 2023)

**[4] Sundown Towns and the Contemporary, Racialized Organization of Space**

Population Association of America Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA

(April 2023)

**[3] Historical redlining and contemporary racial disparities in neighborhood life expectancy**

CDHA Demography Seminar, University of Wisconsin.

(April 2023; *Invited*)

**[2] The Past Present, and Future of Racial Health Disparities in the United States**

Uncovering Inequality Symposium, Columbia University.

(March 2023; *Invited*)

**[1] Historical redlining and contemporary racial disparities in neighborhood life expectancy**

Duke Population Research Seminar, Duke University.

(February 2023; *Invited*)

Teaching

**Sociology of Health and Illness**

*University of Minnesota, Spring 2024.*

**Social Statistics**

*University of Minnesota, Fall 2023.*

**Sick Society**

*Washington University in St. Louis, Spring 2022 + 2023.*

**Statistics for Sociology**

*Washington University in St. Louis, Fall 2021 + 2022.*

**Introduction To Racial And Ethnic Health Disparities In The United States.**

*University of Washington, Summer 2018.*

Fellowships & Grants

**Life Course Cognability: A Mixed Methods Study of The Place-Based Determinants of Late-Age Cognitive Health Outcomes (Co-PI)**

PIs: Jessica Finlay; Michael Esposito *University of Minnesota Life Course Center Pilot Grant* (2023-2024)

**The Relationship Between State Violence, Trust in Government, and Vaccine Uptake (Co-PI)**

PIs: Caitlin McMurtry; Michael Esposito; Matthew Gabel; Darrell Hudson; *Washington University Transdisciplinary Institute in Applied Data Sciences Seed Grant* (2023-2024)

**The St. Louis Policy Initiative: Segregation, Public Health, and Environmental Policy (Co-PI)**

PIs: Michael Esposito, Matthew Gabel, Elizabeth Korver-Glenn, Scott Krummenacher, Andrew Reeves; *Washington University Incubator for Transdisciplinary Futures* (2022-2025).

**Trust and Public Health Incubator (Co-PI)**

PIs: David Carter; Michael Esposito; Matthew Gabel; Jimin Ding; Mark Huffman *Washington University Incubator for Transdisciplinary Futures* (2022-2025).

**Estimating the impact of the school-to-prison pipeline on adolescent health: racialized, spatial disparities in policing, school discipline, substance use, and mental illness (Co-PI)**

PI: Seth Prins, Columbia University; *NIH* (2024-2028).

**DNA methylation in context: Racial inequities in social adversity and vulnerability to the health impact of air pollution** (Co-PI)  
PI: Margaret Hicken, University of Michigan; *NIH* (2021-2026).

**Examining racial segregation and underlying mechanisms related to VCID and incident stroke in the REGARDS study** (Co-PI)  
PI: Natalie Colabianchi, University of Michigan; *NINDS* (2022-2026).

**LRP Health Disparities Award**  
NIH National Institute on Minority Health (2019-2021).

**Dissertation Fellowship**  
UW Graduate Opportunities and Minority Achievement Program (2017-2018).

**NICHD Training Fellowship**  
University of Washington Center for Demography and Ecology (2015-2017).

### Editorial Service

**Demography** (deputy editor)  
*2025 - now.*

**Social Forces** (editorial board)  
*2023 - now.*

**Socius** (editorial board)  
*2021 - 2024*

### Professional-Affiliations

Population Association of America; American Sociological Association; Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science; Association of Black Sociologist; The Institute in Critical Quantitative, Computational, and Mixed Methodologies.

### Skills

R; Git;  $\LaTeX$ ; RMarkdown