

## VITA

DOUGLAS B. DOWNEY

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Professor of Sociology  
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### Professional Positions

Distinguished Professor of Sociology, College of Arts and Sciences, 2023--  
Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Sociology, Ohio State University, 2019-  
Professor, Ohio State University, 2006-present.  
Associate Professor, Ohio State University, 2000-2006.  
Assistant Professor, Ohio State University, 1994-2000.  
Assistant Professor, Wichita State University, 1992-1994.

### Education

#### Ph.D in Sociology

Indiana University, 1992.

#### M.A in Sociology

Indiana University, 1988.

#### B.A in History

Anderson University, 1985.

### Books

Downey, Douglas B. 2020. *How Schools Really Matter: How We Think About Schools and Inequality and Why It's Mostly Wrong*. University of Chicago Press.  
Bourdieu Book Award, Sociology of Education Section, American Sociological Association

### Journal Publications

Downey, Douglas B. Forthcoming. "How Does Schooling Affect Inequality in Cognitive Skills? The View from Seasonal Comparison Research." *Review of Educational Research*.

Downey, Douglas B., Yao Man, Joseph Merry. 2023. "The Inverse Association Between Number of Siblings and Divorce: New Evidence from China and Europe," *Journal of Family Issues*.

Downey, Douglas B., Kuhfeld, Megan, and Margriet van Hek. 2022. "Schools as a Relatively Standardizing Institution: The Case of Gender Gaps in Cognitive Skills," *Sociology of Education* 95(2):89-109.

Condrón, Dennis J., Kuhfeld, Megan, and Douglas B. Downey. 2021. "Schools as Refractors: Comparing Summertime and School-Year Skill Inequality Trajectories." *Sociology of Education* 94(1):316-340.

Kuhfeld, Megan, Condrón, Dennis J., and Douglas B. Downey. 2020. "When Does Inequality Grow? A Seasonal Analysis of Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Learning in Kindergarten through Eighth Grade" *Educational Researcher*.

Downey, Douglas B. And Benjamin Gibbs. 2020. "Kids These Days: Are Face-To-Face Social Skills Among American Children Declining?" *American Journal of Sociology* 125(4):1030-1083.

Gibbs, Benjamin, and Douglas B. Downey. 2020. "The Black/White Skill Gap in Early Childhood: The Role of Parenting." *Sociological Perspectives* 1-27.

Merry, Joseph, Bobbitt-Zeher, Donna, and Douglas B. Downey. 2020. "Number of Siblings in Childhood, Social Outcomes in Adulthood" *Journal of Family Issues* 41(2):212-234.

Downey, Douglas B., Quinn, David, Melissa Alcaraz. 2019. "The Distribution of School Quality: Do Schools Serving Mostly White and High-SES Children Produce the Most Learning?" *Sociology of Education*. 92(4):386-403.

Downey, Douglas B., Workman, Joseph, and Paul T. von Hippel. 2019. "Socioeconomic, Ethnic, Racial, and Gender Gaps in Children's Social/Behavioral Skills: Do They Grow Faster In School Or Out?" *Sociological Science* 6:446-466.

von Hippel, Paul T., Workman, Joseph, and Douglas B. Downey. 2018. "Most Inequality in Reading and Math Skills Forms Before Kindergarten: A Replication, and Partial Correction, of "Are Schools the Great Equalizer?" *Sociology of Education* 91(4):323-357.

Honorable mention, *James Coleman Award* from the Sociology of Education Section of the American Sociological Association for best article published in 2018-2019.

Downey, Douglas B. and Kammi Schmeer. 2017. "Healthy Eating and Perceived Social Acceptance among American Adolescents." *Journal of Family Medicine* 1(2):1012-1018.

Yucel, Deniz, Bobbitt-Zeher, Donna, and Douglas B. Downey. 2017. "Quality Matters: Sibling Relationships and Friendship Nominations Among Adolescents" *Child Indicators Research* 11(2):523-540.

Downey, Douglas B., Aimee Yoon, and Elizabeth Martin. 2017. "Achievement Gaps in Early Grades and Summer Learning" *Handbook of the Sociology of Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (Ed. Barbara Schneider).

Downey, Douglas B. 2017. "Schools as Great Distractors: Why Income-Based Achievement Gaps Persist" in *Education in a New Society* (Eds. Scott Davies and Jal Mehta).

Gibbs, Benjamin, Priyank Shah, Douglas B. Downey, Jonathan Jarvis. 2017. "The Asian-American Advantage in Math Among Young Children: The Complex Role of Parenting" *Sociological Perspectives* 60(2): 315-337.

Downey, Douglas B. 2016. "Schools and Socioeconomic-Based Achievement Gaps: Rethinking the Traditional Narrative" In *Summer Slide: What We Know and Can Do About Summer Learning Loss* (Eds. Karl Alexander, Sarah Pitcock, and Matthew Boulay). Teachers College Press.

Downey, Douglas B. and Dennis J. Condron. 2016. "Fifty Years Since the Coleman Report: Rethinking the Relationship Between Schools and Inequality" *Sociology of Education* 89(3):207-220.

Rejoinder—2016. "Two Questions for Sociologists of Education: A Rejoinder" *Sociology of Education* 89(3): 234-235.

Gibbs, Benjamin, Joseph Workman, and Douglas B. Downey. 2016. "The (Conditional) Resource Dilution Model: State- and Community-Level Modifications" *Demography*.

Douglas B. Downey. 2016. "How Schools Matter: The Need for a Contextual Perspective," in Grace Kao , Hyunjoon Park (ed.) *Family Environments, School Resources, and Educational Outcomes (Research in the Sociology of Education, Volume 19)* Emerald Group Publishing Limited, pp.1 – 18.

Downey, Douglas B., Condron, Dennis, and Deniz Yucel. 2015. Number of Siblings and Social Skills Revisited Among American Fifth Graders" *Journal of Family Issues* 36(2):273-296.

Yucel, Deniz, and Douglas B. Downey. 2014. "When Quality Trumps Quantity: Siblings and the Development of Peer Relationships" *Child Indicators Research* 7(3).

Bobbitt-Zeher, Donna, Downey, Douglas B., and Joe Merry. 2014. "Number of Siblings and Divorce" *Journal of Family Issues*.

Downey, Douglas B. 2013. "The Attitude-Achievement Paradox: Two Perspectives" *Sage Sociology of Education: An A-Z Guide* (James W. Ainsworth and J. Geoffrey Golson, Eds.)

Bobbitt-Zeher, Donna, and Douglas B. Downey. 2013. "Number of Siblings and Friendship Nominations Among Adolescents," *Journal of Family Issues* 34(9) 1175-1193.

Yucel, Deniz, and Douglas B. Downey. 2010. "Assessing the advantages of a multi-method approach: Measuring mothering with data from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study—Birth Cohort." *Social Science Research* 39:894-911.

Dufur, Mikaela J., Nyssa C. Howell, Douglas B. Downey, James W. Ainsworth, and Alice J. Lapray. 2010. "Sex Differences in Parenting Behaviors In Single-Mother and Single-Father Households." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 72:1092-1106.

Downey, Douglas B. and Benjamin G. Gibbs. 2010. "How Schools Really Matter" *Contexts* 9 (2):50-54.

Reprinted in the Context Reader, 2nd Edition Douglas Hartmann and Christopher Uggen Ed. W.W. Norton and Company 2011

Nominee, Claude S. Fischer Award for Excellence in *Contexts*, American Sociological Association, 2010-11

Downey, Douglas B., James Ainsworth, and Zhenchao Qian. 2009. "Rethinking the

Attitude/Achievement Paradox Among Blacks” *Sociology of Education* 82:1-19.

Downey, Douglas B., Paul T. vonHippel, and Melanie Hughes. 2008. “Are ‘Failing’ Schools Really Failing? Using Seasonal Comparison to Evaluate School Effectiveness” *Sociology of Education* 81: 242-270.

*James Coleman Award*, Best Article in 2007-09, Sociology of Education Section of the American Sociological Association.

Downey, Douglas B. 2008. “Black/White Differences in School Performance: The Oppositional Culture Explanation.” *Annual Review of Sociology* 34:107-126.

Downey, Douglas B. 2008. “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Confirming Oppositional Culture Theory.” Pp. 298-311 in *Minority Status, Oppositional Culture, & Schooling*. Edited by John Ogbu. New York, New York: Routledge.

Downey, Douglas B. and Heather Boughton. 2007. “Childhood Obesity in America: Do Schools Make it Better or Worse?” *New Directions in Youth Development* 114:33-43.

Von Hippel, Paul, Brian Powell, Douglas B. Downey, and Nicholas Rowland. 2007. “Changes in Children’s Body Mass Index (BMI) During School and Summer” *American Journal of Public Health* 97:696-702.

Downey, Douglas B. and Anastasia S. Vogt-Yuan. 2005. “Sex Differences in School Performance During High School: Puzzling Patterns and Possible Explanations.” *Sociological Quarterly*.

Downey, Douglas B., Paul von Hippel, and Beckett Broh. 2004. “Are Schools the Great Equalizer? Cognitive Inequality During the Summer Months and the School Year.” *American Sociological Review* 69:613-635.

*Willard Waller Award*, Best Education Article 2002-2004, Sociology of Education Section of the American Sociological Association.

Downey, Douglas B. and Shana Pribesh. 2004. “When Race Matters: Teachers’ Evaluations of Students’ Classroom Behavior.” *Sociology of Education* 77:267-282.

Downey, Douglas B. and Dennis J. Condron. 2004. “Playing Well With Others in Kindergarten: The Benefits of Siblings at Home.” *Journal of Marriage and Family* 66:333-350.

Downey, Douglas B. 2002. “Parental and Family Involvement in Education.” Pp. 113-134 in *School Reform Proposals: The Research Evidence*. Alex Molnar (Ed.). Greenwich, Conn: Information Age Publishing, Inc.

Downey, Douglas B. and James W. Ainsworth-Darnell. 2002. “The Search for Oppositional Culture Among Black Students.” *American Sociological Review* 67:156-164.

Downey, Douglas B. 2001. “Number of Siblings and Intellectual Development: The Resource Dilution Explanation.” *American Psychologist* 56:497-504.

Pribesh, Shana and Douglas B. Downey. 1999. "Why are Residential and School Moves Associated with Poor School Performance?" *Demography* 36:521-534.

Downey, Douglas B., Brian Powell, Lala Carr Steelman, and Shana Pribesh. 1999. "Much Ado About Siblings: Change Models, Sibship Size and Intellectual Development." *American Sociological Review* 64:193-198.

Downey, Douglas B., James W. Ainsworth-Darnell, and Mikaela Dufur. 1998. "Sex of Parent and Youths' Well-Being in Single-Parent Households." *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 60:878-893.

*Reuben Hill Award*, Best Family Article in Previous Year, National Council on Family Relations.

Ainsworth-Darnell, James W. and Douglas B. Downey. 1998. "Assessing the Oppositional Culture Explanation for Racial/Ethnic Differences in School Performance." *American Sociological Review* 63:536-553.

Powell, Brian and Douglas B. Downey. 1997. "Living in Single-Parent Households: An Investigation of the Same-Sex Hypothesis." *American Sociological Review* 62:521-539.

Downey, Douglas B. 1995. "When Bigger Is Not Better: Number of Siblings, Parental Resources, and Educational Performance." *American Sociological Review* 60:746-761.

Downey, Douglas B. 1995. "Understanding Academic Achievement Among Children in Stepparent Households: The Role of Parental Resources, Sex of Stepparent, and Sex of Child." *Social Forces* 73(3):875-894.

Downey, Douglas B., Jackson, Pamela Braboy, and Brian Powell. 1994. "Sons Versus Daughters: Sex Composition of Children and Maternal Views on Socialization." *The Sociological Quarterly* 35:33-50.

Downey, Douglas B. 1994. "The School Performance of Children from Single-Mother and Single-Father Families: Economic or Interpersonal Deprivation?" *Journal of Family Issues* 15:129-147.

Downey, Douglas B. and Brian Powell. 1993. "Do Children in Single-Parent Households Fare Better Living with Same-Sex Parents?" *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 55:55-71.

Downey, Douglas B. 1990. "Family Size and Occupational Opportunities in Indianapolis, 1860-1880." *Sociology and Social Research* 74:197-201.

Reprinted in *Social Science Research*. Robert F. Szafran (Ed.) Pyrczak Publishing.

## Book Reviews

*Passing the Torch: Does Higher Education for the Disadvantaged Pay Off Across the Generations?* By Paul Attewell and David E. Lavin. 2009. *American Journal of Sociology* 114: 1860-1862.

## Awards

*Fellow, Institute of Advanced Study, Durham University, 2021*

*Bourdieu Book Award, Best Book Published in 2019 or 2020, Sociology Section of the American*

*Sociological Association, 2021*

*Joan N. Huber Faculty Fellow, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Ohio State University, 2019-2022*

*Presidents' Excellence Award, Radboud University, The Netherlands, 2019—2020*

*Fellow, Center for Advanced Study in Behavioral Sciences, Stanford, 2017-2018*

*Outstanding Teacher Award, College of the Arts and Sciences, 2017 (Finalist)*

*Most Outstanding Faculty, Department of Sociology, 2013*

*Most Supportive Faculty Member, Ohio State University Graduate Student Association, 2013*

*Harlan Hatcher Arts and Sciences Distinguished Faculty Award, Ohio State University, 2011*

*Outstanding Faculty Service Award, Arts and Sciences, Ohio State University, 2010*

*Sociological Research Association 2007--present*

*Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching, Ohio State University, 2007*

*Faculty Teaching Award, Ohio State University Sociology Graduate Student Association, 1999*

*Excellence in Teaching Award, Ohio State Alumni of Greater Cleveland, 1998*

*Faculty Teaching Award, The Ohio State University Sociology Graduate Student Association, 1998*

## **Grants**

“Is the Link Between Skills and Stratification Outcomes Strengthening?” Social and Behavioral Sciences Seed Grant (\$20,000), May 1, 2023-April 30, 2024

“Which Schools are Most Compensatory? A New Tool for Identifying How Schools Affect Inequality” Spencer Foundation (\$49,765), January 1, 2019-May 30, 2020.

“Do Gaps in Test Scores, Behavioral Skills, and Health Grow Faster in School or Out? New Analyses Using the ECLS-K 2011” Russell Sage Foundation, (\$100,297), May 1, 2016-August 31, 2017.

“Are Schools Becoming the Great(er) Equalizer?” Spencer Foundation, (\$39,162), May 1, 2016-September 2, 2016.

“The Distribution of School Quality” Spencer Foundation, (\$43,452), June 1, 2014-May 30, 2016.

“How Big Are Summer Learning Gaps? Using Seasonal Comparisons to Understand Whether Schools or Other Settings Are the Primary Source of Test-Score Inequality” with Paul von Hippel, William T. Grant Foundation, (\$426,923), June 1, 2013-May 30, 2015.

“Siblings and Social Skills in Adulthood” with Donna Bobbitt-Zeher, Institute for Population Research, *Ohio State University*, (\$35,000), August 2012.

“Does NWEA Data Support the Provocative Claims from Seasonal Comparison Research?” with Paul von Hippel, Kingsbury Center Data Award, Northwest Evaluation Association, June 2010.

“Summer Learning Loss: Dissemination of Implications for Educational Accountability” *Nellie Mae Foundation* (\$20,557), June 1, 2009—May 30, 2010.

“Gender Gaps in Cognitive Skills Throughout Childhood” *American Education Research Association* (\$20,000), January 2009—June 2009. Co-Pi with Benjamin Gibbs.

“When and Why Does the Black/White Gap in Cognitive Skills Emerge?” *Spencer Foundation Small Grant* (\$39,471), June 2008-December 2008. Co-Pi with Benjamin Gibbs.

“Using Seasonal Comparisons to Measure School Effectiveness”, *Spencer Foundation Major Grant* (\$101,000), January 2006-December 2006. Co-Pi with Paul von Hippel.

“Early Childhood Development: A Working Group” *Initiative in Population Research*, Ohio State University (\$3,500), August 2005. Co-Pi with Claudia Buchmann.

“Measuring School Effectiveness” *P-12 Scholars Program*, Ohio State University (\$20,000), June 2004.

“School and Non-School Influences on Children’s Rates of Learning” *National Institute of Child Health and Human Development*, (\$147,500), June 2004.

“Measuring School Effectiveness: Implications for the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*,” *John Glenn Institute*, (\$25,000), December 2003.

“SPSS Missing Value Model for Education Research” Small Grant, *College of Social and Behavioral Sciences* (\$1,000), 2003

“Are School the Great Equalizer?” *The Spencer Foundation* (\$35,000), 2003

“When the Time is Right: Delayed Entry to Kindergarten and its Consequences for Stratification.” *American Education Research Association Grants Program* (\$24,350), 2000

“Are Schools the Great Equalizer? Gains in Cognitive Skills During the Kindergarten Year Across Racial and Socioeconomic Subgroups.” Special Grant, *College of Social and Behavior Sciences* (\$4,560), 2000

“Student/teacher racial matching and teachers’ evaluations of students’ classroom behavior.” *Spencer Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship* (\$40,000), 1995-97

## Invited Talks

University of Toronto, 2022  
Columbia University, 2022  
University of Durham, 2021  
University of Pittsburgh, 2020  
University of Chicago, 2020  
Radboud University, 2019  
Center for Advanced Study in Behavioral Sciences, Stanford, 2018  
Department of Sociology, Notre Dame, 2018  
Center for Education Policy Analysis, Stanford, 2018  
The Scandinavian Consortium for Organizational Research, Stanford, 2018  
WZB Berlin Social Science Center, 2017  
Indiana University, 2016  
Yale University, 2016  
Oxford University, 2015  
Duke University, 2015  
New York University, 2014  
Johns Hopkins University, 2013  
Harvard University, 2013  
University of Virginia, 2012  
Penn State University, 2012  
Yale University, 2011  
Emory University, 2010  
McMaster University, 2009  
University of Minnesota, 2008  
Florida State University, 2008

## **Professional Activities**

Consulting Editor, *American Journal of Sociology* 2020-2022

Fellow, Institute of Advanced Study, Durham University 2020-21

Excellence Scholar, Radboud University, The Netherlands 2019

Fellow, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University, 2017-18

International Editor, *Contemporary Educational Research Quarterly*, 2017-present

Editorial Board, *Sociology of Education* (2003-2006, 2015-present)

Chair, Sociology of Education Section, *American Sociological Association*, 2013-14

Chair, Pierre Bourdieu Book Award Committee, Sociology of Education Section, *American Sociological Association* 2009-2010

Distinguished Book Award Selection Committee, *American Sociological Association* 2007-2008 (Chair, 2008)

Deputy Editor, *American Sociological Review* 2006-2009



Chair, Willard Waller Sociology of Education Book Award Committee 2005-06

Council, Sociology of Education Section, *American Sociological Association* 2005-08.

Goode Book Award Committee, 1998

## Service

### Department:

Undergraduate Studies Committee Chair, 2019-  
Instructional Development Chair 2015  
Promotion and Tenure Chair, 2010--  
Search Committee, 2007-08, 13-14, 15-16  
Search Committee Chair, 2006, 2014  
Salary and Workload Committee, 2006, 2010-11  
Undergraduate Studies Committee 1996–2009  
Honors Coordinator 1997–2009  
Advisor, *Alpha Kappa Delta* Honor Society 2005–2009  
Executive Committee, 2003-04, 2019-2020  
Affirmative Action Representative, 2002-03  
Senior Search Committee 1997-98, 2002-03  
Brownbag Coordinator 2001-02  
Grade Grievance Committee 1996-97  
Graduate Admissions Committee 1995-96  
Salary/Workload Committee 1994-95

### College:

Investigation Committee (2019-)  
Salary Appeals Committee (2016-17)  
Faculty Advisory Committee 2016--  
Promotion and Tenure Committee 2010--2015  
Social and Behavioral Sciences Survey Research Committee  
Oversight Board, 2006--2012  
Public Policy Minor Oversight Committee 2007--2010  
Committee on Clinical Faculty, 2005-06  
Committee to Create a Minor in Public Policy 2005-06

### University:

Harlan Hatcher Awards Committee (2017)  
Distinguished Teaching Award Committee, 2009-12 (Chair 2010-2011)  
Honors Advisory Committee 2004-09, Chair 2006-09  
Battelle Scholars and Glenna Joyce Scholarship Interviewer 2004-05  
Report to President Holbrook, "High School Graduation Rates in the Columbus School Districts" 2005