

Nahrissa Rush

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Education

In Progress Ph.D., Sociology, The Ohio State University. *Expected Summer 2027*
Dissertation: Racial Identity and the Life Course
Committee: Korie Little (Chair), Rin Reczek, Townsend Price-Spratlen
May 2024 M.A., Sociology, The Ohio State University
May 2020 B.A., Sociology, University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

Areas of Concentration

Race; Family; Identity; Social identity theory; Black-white biracial identity;
Qualitative research methods

Qualifying Exams: Race, Ethnicity, and Identity; Family

Fellowships and Awards

2026	Honorable Mention, Beth B. Hess Memorial Dissertation Scholarship, Sociologists for Women in Society (\$5500)
2026	Graduate Teaching Excellence Award, Department of Sociology, The Ohio State University
2025	Distinguished University Fellow, Graduate School, The Ohio State University (\$32,184)
2025	G. Reginald Daniel Dissertation Fellowship, Critical Mixed Race Studies Association (\$1000)
2025, 2026	Outstanding Graduate Independent Instructor*, Sociology Graduate Student Association, Department of Sociology, The Ohio State University <i>*Based on undergraduate student nominations</i>
2020	University Fellowship, Graduate School, The Ohio State University (\$26,316)
2020	Outstanding Undergraduate Thesis, Department of Sociology, University of Minnesota
2019	Scholarly Excellence in Equity and Diversity Award (SEED), Office for Equity and Diversity, University of Minnesota

2019 Undergraduate Research Fellowship, Department of Sociology, University of Minnesota (\$250)

Presentations

- 2026 "At What Cost? The Loss of Precision in Research about Race." Critical Mixed Race Studies Association Bi-Annual Conference. Los Angeles, California. (Invited Presentation)
- 2025 "Legacy of Harm: Identity Directives, the Social Construction of Race, and the Consequences of the Fixed Racial Classification System in the United States for Those of Mixed Ancestry" Association of Black Sociologists Annual Meeting. Memphis, Tennessee. (Paper)
- "At What Cost? The Loss of Precision in the Pursuit of Generalizability and Reproducibility in Research about Race." Association for Humanist Sociology Annual Meeting. Columbus, Ohio. (Paper)
- 2024 "We need to talk about this 'mixed thing': Identity Formation and Experience for Black-white Biracial Adults." North Central Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Columbus, Ohio. (Paper)
- 2023 "We need to talk about this 'mixed thing': Identity Formation and Experience for Black-white Biracial Adults." Bowling Green State University and The Ohio State University Graduate Student Conference. Columbus, Ohio. (Paper)
- 2019 "Choices by Default? Opportunities and Constraints for Families of Color in Youth Activities." Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Chicago, Illinois. (Roundtable)
- 2018 "Choices by Default? Opportunities and Constraints for Families of Color in Youth Activities." National McNair Scholars Conference. Schaumburg, Illinois. (Paper)
- "Choices by Default? Opportunities and Constraints for Families of Color in Youth Activities" 2018 McNair Scholars Symposium. University of Minnesota (Poster)

Writing

Under Review

- 2026 Nzitara, Hollie, **Nahrissa Rush**, Rezwanul Karim, Merafe, Olivia DeCrane, Adrijana Miladnovic, Anneliese Schenk. "Using A Sociological Mindset: How Sociology Graduates Put Their Training to Work." *Contexts*.

Manuscripts in Progress

- 2026 Rush, Nahrissa. "Always Check that Box: Identity Directives, Familial Influence, and Racial Identity Experiences for Black-White Biracial Adults."
- Rush, Nahrissa. "No Longer a Tragedy: How Black-White Biracial Adults Navigate and Resist Racial Identity."

Public Sociology

- 2017 "Do Americans Care About Income Inequality?" *The Society Pages*
"Safe Spaces and Political Identities on Campus" *The Society Pages*
"Masculinity Threats and Mass Shootings" *The Society Pages*
"Latinx Immigrants Perceive Discrimination Differently" *The Society Pages*
- 2018 "Is Probation the Solution to High Conviction Rates?" *The Society Pages*
"Hollywood Diversity Pays Off" *The Society Pages*
"Why Poor Parents Say 'Yes' to Junk Food" *The Society Pages*

Research Experience

- 2025- **Research Team Member**
Department of Sociology, The Ohio State University
Project: Evaluation of OSU Department of Sociology's curriculum
Principal Investigator: Dr. Hollie Nzitara
- 2022- **Original Research for Thesis and Dissertation**
Department of Sociology, The Ohio State University
Project: Original qualitative research using interviews, focus groups, and participant observation to investigate the experiences of biracial adults with one Black parent and one white parent, focusing on themes related to racial identity.
Supervisor: Dr. Korie L. Little
- 2019-2020 **Undergraduate Thesis**
Department of Sociology, University of Minnesota
Thesis Title: "Organizational Conflict: A Case Study of a Food Cooperative"
Project: Exploration of conflict at a grocery co-op based on interviews with owners, staff (including high level management) and board members.
Award: Outstanding Undergraduate Thesis
Supervisor: Dr. Joachim Savelsberg
- 2019 **Research Assistant**
Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture, University of Minnesota

Project: Farmers' Market Metrics Project
Principal Investigator: Dr. Hikaru Peterson

- 2018 **McNair Scholar**
*McNair Scholars Program, College of Education and Human Development,
University of Minnesota*
*Title: "Choices by Default? Opportunities and Constraints for Families of
Color in Youth Activities"*
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Douglas Hartmann
- 2017-2018 **Undergraduate Research Assistant**
Department of Sociology, University of Minnesota
Project: "Kids Involvement and Diversity Study"
Principal Investigators: Dr. Doug Hartmann and Dr. Teresa Swartz

Teaching Experience

Graduate Teaching Associate – Instructor of Record

Department of Sociology, The Ohio State University

Course: Research Methods in Sociology (SOCIOL 3487)

Course type: Lecture based synchronous online course

Class size: 41 students

Term: Autumn 2024

Overall Evaluation Score: 4.94/5

Course: Research Methods in Sociology (SOCIOL 3487)

Course Type: Lecture and lab based in person course; supervised one graduate teaching associate who served as lab leader

Class size: 52 students

Term: Spring 2025

Overall Evaluation Score: 4.41/5

Course: Research Methods in Sociology (SOCIOL 3487)

Course type: 8-week asynchronous online course with synchronous lab; supervised one graduate teaching associate who served as lab leader

Class size: 44 students

Term: Summer 2025

Overall Evaluation Score: 4.92/5

Graduate Teaching Associate – Teaching Assistant

Department of Sociology, The Ohio State University

Course: Introduction to Sociology (SOCIOL 1101)

Role: Grader for two sections of large asynchronous online course

Section size: 111 students total

Professor: Dr. Eric Schoon

Guest Lecture: Public Sociology
Term: Autumn 2021

Course: Honors Introduction to Sociology (SOCIOL 1101H)
Role: Grader and discussion assistant for synchronous online course
Class size: 80 students
Professor: Dr. Laurenn Valentino
Term: Spring 2022

Course: Research Methods in Sociology (SOCIOL 3487)
Role: Lab leader for synchronous lab component of asynchronous online course
Section size: 28 students
Instructor of record: James Tompsett, M.A. (Graduate Student)
Term: Summer 2022

Course: Intro to Law & Society (SOCIOL 2309)
Role: Grader for asynchronous online course
Class size: 75 students
Instructor of Record: Jaclyn Bowe, JD
Term: Spring 2023

Course: Social Inequality (SOCIOL 2463)
Role: Grader for asynchronous online course
Class size: 74 students
Instructor of record: Sam Mitchell, M.A. (Graduate Teaching Associate)
Term: Summer 2023

Course: Research Methods in Sociology (SOCIOL 3487)
Role: Lab leader for in-person lecture and lab-based course
Instructor of record: Dr. Leslie MacColman
Class size: 58 students
Term: Autumn 2023

Course: Intro to Law & Society (SOCIOL 2309)
Role: Grader asynchronous online course
Class size: 107 students
Instructor of record: Jaclyn Bowe, JD
Term: Spring 2024

Course: Intro to Law & Society (SOCIOL 2309)
Role: Grader for asynchronous online course
Class size: 82 students
Instructor of record: Dr. Karen Lahm
Term: Summer 2024

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant

Department of Sociology, University of Minnesota

Course: Introduction to Sociology (SOC 1001)

Role: Discussion leader and grader
Section size: 30 students
Instructor of Record: Jacqui Frost, M.A. (Graduate Student)
Term: Fall 2018

Course: Social Problems (SOC 3003)
Role: Grader
Class size: 58 students
Professor: Dr. Enid Logan
Term: Spring 2019

Course: Race and Racism in the U.S. (SOC 3211W)
Role: Grader
Class size: 58 students
Instructor of record: Monica Jarvi, M.A. (Graduate Student)
Guest lecture: Microaggressions
Term: Fall 2019

Service and Engagement

Discipline

2026-	Manuscript Reviewer, Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion
2025-	Graduate Student Concerns Committee (Member), Section on Teaching and Learning, American Sociological Association
2024, 2026	Presider, Critical Mixed Race Studies Association Conference
2024	Presider, North Central Sociological Association Conference

Department & University

2026	Reviewer, The Denman Undergraduate Research Forum, The Ohio State University
2025-	Instructional Development Committee (Student Representative), Department of Sociology, The Ohio State University
2025-	Sociology of Population Working Group (Co-Chair), Department of Sociology and Institute for Population Research, The Ohio State University
2024	Facilitator, Graduate Teaching Orientation, The Drake Institute for Teaching and Learning, The Ohio State University
2022-2024	Vice President of Mentorship & Social Life, Sociology Graduate Student Association, The Ohio State University
2021-	Mentor: Incoming first year cohort graduate students and undergraduate students at The Ohio State University

- 2021-2022 Committee Member: Mentoring, Diversity, and Inclusion; Sociology Graduate Student Association, The Ohio State University
- 2021, 2023 Spring Awards Committee (Chair), Sociology Graduate Student Association, The Ohio State University
- 2020-2021 Cohort Representative, Sociology Graduate Student Association, The Ohio State University

Community

- 2022- Advisory support for the McNair Scholars Program based at the University of Minnesota.
- 2020 Spring 2020 Student Commencement Speaker, College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota. (Delivery via video recording due to cancellation of commencement in response to COVID-19.)
- 2019 Panelist “Think Like a Researcher”, Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, University of Minnesota.
- 2018-2019 Designated Employee Director, Board of Directors, Seward Community Co-op, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- 2017-2018 Board of Directors, University of Minnesota Sociological Association.
- 2016 Dane County Food Council (Vice Chair), Madison, Wisconsin.
- 2014-2016 Board of Directors (Vice President) & Volunteer Coordinator, Northside Farmers’ Market, Madison, Wisconsin.

Professional Association Memberships

Association for Humanist Sociology
 Association of Black Sociologists
 Critical Mixed-Race Studies Association
 North-Central Sociological Association
 Population Association of America
 Sociologists for Women in Society
 Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction
 Society for the Study of Social Problems

Division memberships: Critical Race and Ethnic Study, Teaching Social Problems

American Sociological Association

Section memberships: Family; History of Sociology and Social Thought; Racial and Ethnic Minorities; Social Psychology, Sociological Practice and Public Sociology; Teaching and Learning in Sociology; Theory

Endorsements and Training

Teaching Endorsements

- Meaningful Inquiry, OSU Drake Institute for Teaching & Learning
- Ethical Disagreement and Civil Discourse, OSU Center for Ethics and Human Values and the Drake Institute for Teaching & Learning

Service Endorsements

- International Student Experience, OSU Office of International Affairs

Research Endorsements

- Conversations about Research Ethics, OSU Center for Ethics and Human Values

Additional Training

- Building Students' AI Fluency, OSU Academic Affairs
- Digital Accessibility, OSU ADA Digital Accessibility Office