

# JOÃO M. SOUTO-MAIOR

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2024 - 2025 Postdoctoral Scholar. Stanford Center on Longevity, Stanford University.  
- Project: “Education and Learning for Longer Lives.” [ [details](#) ]  
- Project coordinator: Mitchell Stevens.
- 2023 - 2024 Postdoctoral Associate. Institute of Human Development and Social Change, New York University.  
- Project: “Evaluating the Quality of Evidence on Racial Disproportionality in Special Ed.”  
- Project coordinators: Rachel Fish and Kenneth Shores.

## EDUCATION

- 2018 - 2023 Ph.D. Sociology of Education. Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, New York University.  
- Dissertation: “Essays on the dynamics of Black-White advanced course-taking inequalities.”  
- Committee: L’Heureux Lewis-McCoy (chair); Samuel Lucas; Erez Hatna; Ravi Shroff.
- 2018 - 2021 M.Phil. Sociology of Education. New York University.
- 2017 - 2018 Ph.D. student, Economics. The Graduate Center, City University of New York.
- 2014 - 2017 B.A. Economics. University of Wisconsin-Madison.

## AREAS OF RESEARCH

Topics: educational organizations; education policy and evaluation; social and racial inequality.  
Approaches: quantitative and computational methods.

## RESEARCH PAPERS

### Peer-reviewed publications

- João Souto-Maior** & Ravi Shroff. 2024. “Differences in academic preparedness do not fully explain Black-White enrollment disparities in advanced high school coursework.” *Sociological Science*. [ [pdf](#) ] [ [code](#) ]
- João Souto-Maior**. Forthcoming. “School racial composition the emergence of Black-White within-school inequalities: network-based foundations.” *The Journal of Mathematical Sociology*. [ [preprint](#) ]

## Manuscripts under review

**João Souto-Maior.** “Hoarding without hoarders: unpacking the emergence of opportunity hoarding within schools.” *Under Review*. [ [preprint](#) ]

**João Souto-Maior**, Kenneth Shores & Rachel Fish. “The correlated proxy problem: why control variables can obscure the contribution of selection processes to group-level inequality” *Draft available upon request*.

Rachel Fish, Kenneth Shores & **João Souto-Maior**. “Critical appraisal of the evidence on racial disproportionality in special education.” *Under review*. [ [preprint](#) ]

## Manuscripts in preparation

**João Souto-Maior.** “The collateral effects of within-school tracking on school racial segregation.” *Draft available upon request*.

**João Souto-Maior.** “The usefulness of agent-based modeling approaches to school organization research.” *Draft available upon request*.

**João Souto-Maior.** “Investment in human capital across the life course: an overlapping-generations perspective”

**João Souto-Maior**, Kenneth Shores & Rachel Fish. “The use of unrepresentative national samples and the misestimation of racial disproportionality in special education.”

## OTHER WRITING

### Book reviews

**João Souto-Maior.** Forthcoming. “Book review: Laboratories of Learning: Social Movements, Education, and Knowledge-Making in the Global South by Mario Novelli, Birguul Kutun, Patrick Kane, Adnan Çelik, Tejendra Pherali, and Saranel Benjamin.” *Journal on Education in Emergencies*.

## RESEARCH GRANTS

### Under Review

Rachel Fish, Kenneth Shores, **João Souto-Maior**, Eric Grodsky, Nancy Molfenter. “MTSS/RTI as a system-level reform in special education: Exploring equity and accuracy in disability identification and effects of special education services on student learning.” *Institute of Education Sciences (Special Education Research Grants Program)*.

## RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

### Conference presentations

- 2024 “Selection- and demand-based explanations for curriculum differentiation policies within American schools: an agent-based model.” *American Sociological Association, Session on Open Topics in Mathematical Sociology (Montreal, Canada)*.
- 2024 “Selection- and demand-based explanations for curriculum differentiation policies within American schools: an agent-based model.” *Annual Conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis (Edinburgh, Scotland)*.
- 2024 “Differences in academic preparedness do not fully explain Black-White enrollment disparities in advanced high school coursework.” *Sociological Science Conference (Durham, NC)*.
- 2023 “Unpacking the emergence of opportunity hoarding: an agent-based model of Black-White educational disparities within schools.” *Annual Conference of the International Network of Analytical Sociologists (Princeton, PA)*.
- 2023 “From individual- to group-level educational advantages: unpacking the emergence of opportunity hoarding within Schools.” *Annual Group Processes Conference (Philadelphia, PA)*.
- 2023 “Hoarding without hoarders: collateral effects of information diffusion on Black-White educational inequalities within schools.” *American Sociological Association, Sociology of Education Roundtables (Philadelphia, PA)*.
- 2022 “Black-White advanced enrollment inequalities and the racial composition of schools: an agent-based modeling investigation.” *American Sociological Association, Session on Mathematical and Computational Approaches to Studying Inequality (Los Angeles, CA)*.
- 2022 “Black-White advanced enrollment inequalities and the racial composition of schools: an agent-based modeling investigation.” *Joint US-Japan Conference on Mathematical Sociology and Rational Choice (Los Angeles, CA)*.

### Other presentations

- 2020 “Opportunity hoarding and Black-White inequalities in advanced enrollment: a simulation-based approach.” *NYU’s Race and Ethnicity Workshop (virtual)*.

## TEACHING

### Laboratory instructor

2019 - 2021 Undergraduate Basic Statistics. NYU (5 semesters).

### Teaching Assistant

2022 Why Does College Cost So Much? NYU (Fall).

2022 Intro to US Education: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives. NYU (Fall).  
2022 Qualitative Methods in International Education. NYU (Spring).

#### Seminar leader

2016 - 2017 Research, Creative Work and the Public Good. UW-Madison (Fall and Spring).  
2015 - 2016 Research, Creative Work and Society. UW-Madison (Fall and Spring).

#### EXTRACURRICULAR TRAINING

2023 Selected participant. American Mathematical Society's Summer program on Complex Social Systems. [ [details](#) ]  
2022 Selected participant. Summer Institute in Computational Social Sciences, Duke University. [ [details](#) ]

#### SELECTED WORK EXPERIENCES

2021 - 2023 Technical Reviewer. Journal on Education in Emergencies.  
2018 - 2019 Research Assistant. Prof. Arun Sundararajan, NYU Stern School of Business.  
2015 - 2018 Research Assistant. Prof. Kathryn Moeller, UW-Madison School of Education.

#### FUNDING AND AWARDS

2024 - 2026 New Map of Life Fellowship, Stanford Center on Longevity.  
2023 NYU Steinhardt Dissertation Finishing Award.  
2023 NYU Steinhardt Research & Travel Grant.  
2023 American Mathematical Society, Summer program on Complex Social Systems.  
2022 NYU Steinhardt Dissertation Writing Grant.  
2022 NYU Steinhardt Research & Travel Grant.  
2022 Russell Sage Foundation, Summer Institute in Computational Social Sciences  
2018 - 2022 NYU Steinhardt Doctoral Fellowship.  
2017 - 2018 CUNY Graduate Center Doctoral Fellowship.  
2016 UW-Madison Margaret E. and Allard Smith Scholarship.

#### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Pathways Network, Stanford University.  
New Books Network.

#### PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

American Sociological Association, sections on Mathematical Sociology; Sociology of Education; Organizations, Occupations, and Work.

#### REVIEWER

American Sociological Review; Sociological Science; Urban Affairs Review; Learning and Individual

Differences; Journal on Education in Emergencies.

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

Quantitative analysis: R (primary); Python; Stata  
Agent-based modeling: NetLogo (primary); Python.

## REFERENCES

### **R. L’Heureux Lewis-McCoy**

Associate Professor of Sociology of Education  
New York University  
(relationship: doctoral advisor)

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### **Ravi Shroff**

Associate Professor of Applied Statistics  
New York University  
(relationship: co-author and  
dissertation committee member)

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### **Kenneth Shores**

Associate Professor of Education Policy  
University of Delaware  
(relationship: postdoctoral mentor)

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### **Rachel Fish**

Associate Professor of Education & Child Study  
Smith College  
(relationship: postdoctoral mentor)

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### **Mitchell Stevens**

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