

RACHEL ELIZABETH FISH

Department of Teaching & Learning
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EMPLOYMENT AND AFFILIATIONS

- 2016- Assistant Professor of Special Education, Department of Teaching & Learning, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, New York University
Affiliations: Sociology of Education Program, Department of Applied Statistics, Social Science, and Humanities; Metropolitan Center for Research on Equity and the Transformation of Schools
- 2015-2016 Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Research on Educational Opportunity
University of Notre Dame

EDUCATION

- Ph.D., Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2015
- M.S., Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2012
- M.A.T., Special Education, Western New Mexico University, 2007
- B.A., Sociology, Bryn Mawr College, 2003, Cum Laude

GRANTS

External Awards

- 2018 Spencer Foundation Small Research Grant (\$50,000)
The Emergence of Exceptionality: Race, School Context, and the Perception of Student Needs
- 2013 National Science Foundation: Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (\$12,000)

Internal Awards

- 2019 Seed Grant, Institute of Human Development and Social Change (\$15,000)
Peer Professionals to Increase Capacity to treat ADHD, with Anil Chacko, Lisa Gennetian, and Gabriele Oettingen
- 2016 Steinhardt Professional Development Fund (\$3,000)
- 2014 University of Wisconsin-Madison: Educational Innovation Mini-Grant

FELLOWSHIPS

- 2014-2015 National Academy of Education/Spencer Dissertation Fellowship
- 2014 Mellon-Wisconsin Summer Fellowship
- 2009-2014 University of Wisconsin-Madison, Wisconsin Center for Education Research: Interdisciplinary Training Program in Education Sciences Fellowship
- 2010 Social Science Research Council: Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship

RECOGNITIONS

- 2019 Outstanding Reviewer, American Educational Research Association and the American Educational Research Journal
- 2014 Ford Foundation: Dissertation Fellowship Honorable Mention
- 2010 National Science Foundation: Graduate Research Fellowship Honorable Mention
- 2008 National Science Foundation: Graduate Research Fellowship Honorable Mention

PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Fish, Rachel. 2019. "Standing out and sorting in: Exploring the role of racial composition in racial disparities in special education." *American Educational Research Journal*. Advanced online publication.

Shifrer, Dara and **Rachel Fish.** 2019. "A Multilevel Investigation into Contextual Reliability in the Designation of Cognitive Health Conditions among US Children." *Society and Mental Health*. Advanced online publication.

Fish, Rachel. 2019. "Teacher race and racial disparities in special education." *Remedial and Special Education* 40, 213-224.

Fish, Rachel. 2017. "The racialized construction of exceptionality: Experimental evidence of race/ethnicity effects on teachers' interventions." *Social Science Research* 62, 317-334.

Turley, Ruth N.L., Adam Gamoran, Alyn T. McCartney, and **Rachel Fish.** 2017. "Reducing children's behavior problems through social capital: A causal assessment." *Social Science Research* 61, 206-217.

Bal, Aydin, Jennifer Betters-Bubon, and **Rachel Fish.** 2017. "A multilevel analysis of statewide disproportionality in exclusionary discipline and the identification of emotional disturbance." *Education and Urban Society*. Advanced online publication.

Miller, Hannah, Jessa Valentine, **Rachel Fish** and Michelle Robinson. 2016. "Is the feeling mutual?: Effects of a family engagement program on parent-teacher relationships in low-income, predominantly Latino schools." *American Journal of Education* 123, 37-67.

Gamoran, Adam, Ruth N.L. Turley, Alyn Turner, and **Rachel Fish**. 2012. "Differences between Hispanic and non-Hispanic families in social capital and child development: First-year findings from an experimental study." *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*, 30, 97-112.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Shifrer, Dara, and **Rachel Fish**. 2016. Variation across schools in disability classifications process, 2006-07 to 2011-12. Houston Education Research Consortium.

Miller, Hannah, Jessa Valentine, **Rachel Fish**, and Michelle Robinson. 2016. Is the feeling mutual? Examining parent-teacher relationships in low-income, predominantly Latino schools. *AJE Forum*.

Shifrer, Dara, and **Rachel Fish**. 2014. Racial disproportionality in special education largely explained by correlates of race rather than racially biased categorizations. Houston Education Research Consortium.

Fish, Rachel. 2007. Reducing the stigma of special education: An action research inquiry. *Action Research in the Classroom*: 74-80.

INVITED TALKS

2019 **Rachel Fish**. "Racialized Sorting into Special Education: Exploring Student Race, School Racial Composition, and Disability in Wisconsin Public Schools." Paper presented to Interdisciplinary Training Program Seminar and the Madison Education Partnership.

2015 **Rachel Fish**. "Teacher referrals to special education testing: The roles of race/ethnicity, gender, and school context." Paper presented at Interdisciplinary Training Program Seminar at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

PAPERS PRESENTED AT PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS

2019 **Rachel Fish**. "Making Race Salient: School Racial Composition as a Moderator of Teachers' Racial and Gender Bias." Paper accepted for presentation at the American Sociological Association annual conference in New York.

2019 **Rachel Fish** and Evan Johnston. "'Like nailing Jello to a wall:' Constructing disability and giftedness." Paper presented at the American Education Research Association annual conference in Toronto.

2018 **Rachel Fish**. "(Dis)ability for Whom?" Invited panelist in *Disability, Intersectionality and Microaggressions* panel at the American Sociological Association annual conference in Philadelphia.

- 2018 **Rachel Fish.** “Standing out and Sorting in: Exploring the role of racial composition in racial disparities in special education.” Paper presented at the American Sociological Association annual conference in Philadelphia.
- 2018 **Rachel Fish.** “Disability is not Black and White: School context and student status shape teachers’ perceptions of disability.” Paper presented at the Society for the Study of Social Problems annual conference in Philadelphia.
- 2017 **Rachel Fish.** “The Racialized Construction of Exceptionality.” Invited panelist in *Critical Dialogue: Social Construction of Race, Class, and Gender Stratification in Schools* at the Society for the Study of Social Problems annual conference in Montreal.
- 2016 **Rachel Fish.** “Experimental Evidence of Race/Ethnicity and Gender Effects on Teachers’ Referrals to Special and Gifted Education.” Paper presented at the American Education Research Association annual conference in Washington, D.C.
- 2015 **Rachel Fish.** “Where is the Disability?: The Role of School Context in the Relationship between Race/Ethnicity and Disability Category.” Paper presented at the Midwest Sociology of Education Research Symposium.
- 2015 Dara Shifrer and **Rachel Fish.** “Differences across Schools in Otherwise Similar Students’ Likelihood of Placement into Special Education.” Paper presented at the American Sociological Association annual conference in Chicago.
- 2015 **Rachel Fish.** “The Intersection of Race, Ethnicity, and Exceptionality: Mechanisms of the Racialized Construction of Educational Exceptionalities.” Invited poster session presented at the American Education Research Association annual conference in Chicago.
- 2015 Dara Shifrer and **Rachel Fish.** “School Level Predictors of Placement into Special Education.” Paper presented at the American Education Research Association annual conference in Chicago.
- 2014 **Rachel Fish.** “Institutional Context of Racial Bias in Perception of Educational Disability.” Paper presented at the American Sociological Association annual conference in San Francisco.
- 2014 Dara Shifrer and **Rachel Fish.** “Evidence for the Social Roots of Special Education Labels within a Large Urban School District.” Paper presented at the Society for the Study of Social Problems annual conference in San Francisco.
- 2013 Hannah Miller, **Rachel Fish**, Jessa Valentine, and Michelle Robinson. “Parent-Teacher Relationships Over Time: Engagement Efforts in Low-Income Latino Communities.” Paper presented at the American Education Research Association annual conference in San Francisco.
- 2013 Aydin Bal, Jennifer Betters-Bubon, and **Rachel Fish.** “Disproportionate Representation of Minority Students in Emotional/Behavioral Disorders and in Expulsions and

- Suspensions.” Paper presented at the American Education Research Association annual conference in San Francisco.
- 2013 Aydin Bal, Kathleen King-Thorius, Elizabeth Kozleski, Alfredo Artiles, **Rachel Fish**, Elizabeth Schrader, Scott Pelton, Hye-Jung Kim, and Esmerelda Rodriguez. (2013, April). *Local to global justice for systems change: The Wisconsin culturally responsive positive behavioral interventions and supports*. Paper presented at the meeting of the Center for Culturally Responsive Evaluation and Assessment (CREA) Conference, Chicago, IL.
- 2012 Aydin Bal, Jennifer Betters-Bubon, and **Rachel Fish**. “Disproportionate Representation of Minority Students in Emotional/Behavioral Disorders and in Expulsions and Suspensions.” Paper presented at the annual conference of the Teacher Educators for Children with Behavior Disorders in Tempe, AZ.
- 2012 **Rachel Fish**. “The Intersection of Race, Ethnicity, and Disability: Testing Racial/Ethnic Bias in Referrals to Special Education.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association in Denver, CO.
- 2012 Ruth N. López Turley, Adam Gamoran, Alyn Turner and **Rachel Fish**. “Causal Effects of Social Capital on Child Outcomes.” Paper presented at the International Sociological Association Research Committee on Social Stratification bi-annual conference in Hong Kong.
- 2012 **Rachel Fish**, David Rangel, Megan Shoji, and Jessa Valentine. “The Effects of School Language Composition and Social Capital on Behavioral Outcomes for Latino Children.” Paper presented at the conference of the Society for Research on Child Development in Tampa, FL.
- 2011 **Rachel Fish**, Monique Mills, and David Rangel. “Social Capital, Ethnicity, and Child Outcomes.” Paper presented at the biennial conference of the Society for Research on Child Development in Montreal, Canada.
- 2011 Adam Gamoran, Ruth N. López Turley, Alyn Turner and **Rachel Fish**. “Effects of a Multi-Family Intervention on Social Capital and Child Outcomes.” Paper presented at the bi-annual conference of the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness in Washington, D.C.
- 2010 Adam Gamoran, Ruth N. López Turley, Alyn Turner and **Rachel Fish**. “Social Capital and Inequality in Child Development: First-Year Findings from an Experimental Study.” Paper presented at the International Sociological Association Research Committee on Social Stratification bi-annual conference in Haifa, Israel.
- 2010 Adam Gamoran, Ruth Turley, Alyn Turner, and **Rachel Fish**. “Social Capital and Child Outcomes.” Paper presented at the American Education Research Association annual conference in Denver, CO.
- 2010 Adam Gamoran, Ruth Turley, Alyn Turner, and **Rachel Fish**. “Parent Involvement and Child Development: First-Year Results from a School-Randomized Trial in Latino

Communities.” Paper presented at Society for Research on Educational Evaluation annual conference in Washington, D.C.

2007 **Rachel Fish**. “Reducing the Stigma of Special Education.” Paper presented at Action Research Conference in Taos, NM.

2006 Corine Frankland, **Rachel Fish**, and Kristina Smith. “The Families as Faculty Project: Uniting Teacher Educators with Families Who Have Children with Exceptionalities.” Paper presented at National Institute for People with Disabilities in New York, NY.

TEACHING AND ADVISING

New York University

Foundations of Curriculum for Diverse Learners (F’19, F’18, graduate)

Teaching Students with Low-Incidence Disabilities (S’19, graduate teacher residency)

Integrating Seminar/Action Research (S’17, undergraduate)

Teaching Content to Students with Disabilities (S’18, graduate teacher residency)

Principles and Practices for Students with Low-Incidence Disabilities (S’18, S’17, undergraduate)

Foundations of Special Education (F’17, undergraduate)

Dissertation Committees: Evan Johnston (in progress), Daniel Olson (in progress), Desiree Villaroel Chachula (PhD 2018), Alexandra Freidus (outside reader; PhD 2018)

Masters Thesis Advisement: Sarah Part (in progress)

Undergraduate Research Supervision: Eleanor Lee (2017)

University of Wisconsin

Graduate Mentor (2014-2015)

Teaching Fellow: Research Practicum in Sociology (F’14, undergraduate)

Lecturer: How Race and Ethnicity Shape American Social Life (S’14, F’13)

Reader/Grader: Classical Sociological Theory, American Racial and Ethnic Minorities, Sociology of Gender

Tutor: Statistics for Sociologists

Teach for America Summer Institute, 2008: Corps Member Advisor

University of New Mexico-Gallup

Adjunct Instructor: Introduction to Social Sciences (S’07, F’06)

PK-12 Teaching

Special Education Teacher, Indian Hills Elementary School, Gallup, NM (2003-2008)

Corps Member, Teach For America, New Mexico Region (2003-2005)

SERVICE

Professional Service

2016-Present Editorial Board Member, American Educational Research Journal

2018-2019 Discussant, American Sociological Association 2018 conference, Sociology of Education session

2019 Session Chair, American Education Research Association 2019 Conference, Sociology of Education session

Public Service

External Reviewer Independent Budget Office, Education Policy, New York City

Institutional Service

2019-2020 Committee Member, Curriculum Committee, NYU Steinhardt Department of Teaching & Learning

2019-2020 Committee Member, Teacher Residency Program in Childhood and Special Education, NYU Steinhardt Department of Teaching & Learning

2018-2019 Committee Member, Assistant Professor Search Committee, Sociology of Education Program, NYU Steinhardt Department of Applied Statistics, Social Science and Humanities

2017-2018 Committee Member, Steinhardt Teacher Residency Program in Special Education, NYU Steinhardt Department of Teaching & Learning

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Education Research Association, American Sociological Association, Society for the Study of Social Problems, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Council for Exceptional Children, Society for Research on Child Development, Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness

REVIEWER

American Educational Research Journal, American Sociological Review, Educational Researcher, Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, Remedial and Special Education, Sociology of Education, Social Forces, Social Science Research, Review of Research in Education

MEDIA CITATIONS

Education Week, 6/12/19, "Schools' Racial Makeup Can Sway Disability Diagnoses"

BYU Radio, 6/11/19, "The Standards by which Educational Disabilities Are Judged Can Vary Between Schools"

Education Dive, 5/31/19, “Study: School socioeconomics affect special education placement”

Vice, 5/30/19, “Black Children at White Schools Are More Likely to Be Told They Have a Learning Disability”

Chalkbeat, 5/28/19, “How school segregation affects whether a black student gets labeled as having a disability”

New York Times, 3/1/19, “I Had Finally Found the Right Place for My Son”

Ozy, 1/13/17, “Is Your Kid 'Gifted'? It Might Depend On Their Race”

Huffington Post, 11/1/16, “Why Some Kids Are Put In Special Education And Others In Gifted Programs”

Atlanta Black Star, 10/26/16, “Study Finds Black Children Are Less Likely to Be Labeled Gifted by Teachers”

Chalkbeat, 10/20/16, “When is a student ‘gifted’ or ‘disabled’? A new study shows racial bias plays a role in deciding”

Colorlines, 10/20/16, “Study: Race Impacts Student Referrals for Gifted, Special Education”