

Megan Evans

Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research
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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- Aug 2025- PhD Training Chair, Social Demography Department
Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Rostock, Germany.
- Aug 2023- Research Scientist (Postdoctoral Researcher), Laboratory of Population Health
Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Rostock, Germany.
Research Affiliate, *University of Helsinki Center for Social Inequalities in Population Health (MaxHel Center)*, Rostock, Germany.

EDUCATION

- 2023 **Ph.D.** Sociology and Demography, *The Pennsylvania State University*,
Quantitative Methodology Certificate in Sociology
Social Network Analysis: Applications in Criminology and Sociology Certificate
- 2019 **M.A.** Sociology and Demography, *The Pennsylvania State University*
- 2017 **B.A.** English, Sociology, and Linguistics, *Youngstown State University*
Summa Cum Laude, with Honors

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Urban Sociology, Demography, Race and Ethnicity, Social Stratification and Inequality,
Quantitative Methods (social network analyses, spatial analyses, text and sentiment analysis)

PUBLICATIONS

* Indicates Equal Co-authorship; † Indicates student co-author

Peer Reviewed Publications

Evans, Megan. *Forth.* “Race, Crime, and Lending Risk in Chicago: The Relevance of Crime and Disorder for HOLC’s Neighborhood Assessments.” *Race and Social Problems*.

Evans, Megan, Corina Graif, and Anna Newell†. 2025. “Criminal Arrests and the Opioid Epidemic: An Investigation into the Spatial and Social Spillover of Opioid Overdoses in Chicago” *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10940-025-09612-y>

Evans, Megan, and Lauren Newmyer. 2025. “A State-Level Examination into Structural Racism and Racialized Disparities in Sexually Transmitted Infections.” *Spatial Demography*. 13(4). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40980-025-00136-4>

Updated July 2025

- Wirth, Bianca† and **Megan Evans**. 2024. “From an Election to and Insurrection: Comparing Sentiment Shifts in the #DefundthePolice and #DefendthePolice Networks on Twitter.” *PLoS ONE*. 19(3): e0289041. DOI: [10.1371/journal.pone.0289041](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0289041)
- Evans, Megan*** and Alexander Chapman*†. 2024. “Residential Immobility and Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Housing Quality.” *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*. 10(1): 31-50. DOI: [10.1177/23326492231207603](https://doi.org/10.1177/23326492231207603)
- Evans, Megan**, Corina Graif, and Stephen A. Matthews. 2023. “The Role of Infant Health Problems in Constraining Inter-Neighborhood Mobility: Implications for Citywide Employment Networks.” *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*. 64(4): 555-577. DOI: [10.1177/00221465231172176](https://doi.org/10.1177/00221465231172176)
- Newmyer, Lauren*†, **Megan Evans***, and Corina Graif. 2022. “Socially Connected Neighborhoods and the Spread of Sexually Transmitted Infections.” *Demography*. 59 (4): 1299-1323. DOI: [10.1215/00703370-10054898](https://doi.org/10.1215/00703370-10054898)
- Evans, Megan**, Jonathan Daw, and S. Michael Gaddis. 2021. “The Generational Boundaries of Educational Advantage: Does Great-Grandparent Educational Attainment Predict Great-Grandchild Early Academic Achievement?” *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World*. 7 DOI: [10.1177/23780231211060573](https://doi.org/10.1177/23780231211060573)
- Siskar, Thomas†, and **Megan Evans**. 2021. “Predicting Mobility: Who is Forced to Move.” *City & Community*. 20(2): 141-159. DOI: [10.1177/1535684120981010](https://doi.org/10.1177/1535684120981010)
- Evans, Megan**. 2020. “The Unequal Housing and Neighborhood Outcomes of Displaced Movers.” *Journal of Urban Affairs*. 43(9): 1214-1234. DOI: [10.1080/07352166.2020.1730697](https://doi.org/10.1080/07352166.2020.1730697)
- Evans, Megan** and Barrett A. Lee. 2020. “Neighborhood Reputations as Symbolic and Stratifying Mechanisms in the Urban Hierarchy.” *Sociology Compass*. 14(10): 1-15 e12831. DOI: [10.1111/soc4.12831](https://doi.org/10.1111/soc4.12831)
- Lee, Barrett A., and **Megan Evans**. 2020. “Forced to Move: Patterns and Predictors of Residential Displacement during an Era of Housing Insecurity.” *Social Science Research*, 87: 102415. DOI: [10.1016/j.ssresearch.2020.102415](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssresearch.2020.102415)
- Daw, Jonathan, Alexander Chapman†, and **Megan Evans**. 2018. “What Can Sociogenomics Learn from *Social by Nature*?” *Biodemography and Social Biology*. 64(3/4): 237-250. DOI: [10.1080/19485565.2019.1597622](https://doi.org/10.1080/19485565.2019.1597622)

Chapters and Book Reviews

- Evans, Megan***, and Ashley McDonald*†. 2023. “Reconsidering Family Ethnic-Racial Socialization: Challenges, Progress, and Directions for Future Research” In Witherspoon, Dawn P., Susan M. McHale, and Valarie King (Eds). *Family socialization, race, and inequality in the United States*. National Symposium on Family Issues, vol 14. New York City: Springer. DOI: [10.1007/978-3-031-44115-8_10](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-44115-8_10)
- Evans, Megan**. 2021. Book Review: Randy Shaw’s “Generation Priced Out: Who Gets to Live in the New Urban America.” *Housing and Society*. 48(3): 1-4. DOI: [10.1080/08882746.2021.1878719](https://doi.org/10.1080/08882746.2021.1878719)

AWARDS, HONORS, & SUPPORT

Awards

- 2023 Sociology Graduate Student Paper Competition, Best Published Paper, Honorable Mention, The Pennsylvania State University
- 2021 Alan Booth Graduate Student Award, The Pennsylvania State University
- 2021 Sociology Graduate Student Paper Competition, Best Working Paper, The Pennsylvania State University
- 2020 Sociology Graduate Student Paper Competition, Best Published Paper, Honorable Mention, The Pennsylvania State University
- 2017 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, Honorable Mention

Funding Support

- 2021 Research and Graduate Studies Office (RGSO) Dissertation Support Award, The Pennsylvania State University
- 2017-19 Predoctoral Family Demography Traineeship (T-32 Grant), Eunice Kennedy Shriver Institute of Child Health and Human Development
- 2017 Graduate Scholar Award, The Pennsylvania State University
Huber Form Scholarship, The Pennsylvania State University
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Incentive Award, The Pennsylvania State University
Mavrigian-Grimm Scholarship, Phi Kappa Phi, Chapter 143

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Presentations

- 2024 **Evans, Megan**, Corina Graif, and Anna Newell. “Diffusion and Displacement in the Opioid Epidemic: The Role of Criminal Justice Deterrence.” Demography Seminar Series hosted by the Demographic Research Area of the Center for Economic Studies at the U.S. Census Bureau. Virtual.
- Evans, Megan**, Corina Graif, and Anna Newell. “Criminal Arrests and the Opioid Epidemic: An Investigation into the Spatial and Social Spillover of Opioid Overdoses in Chicago.” International Max Planck Research School (IMPRS) for Population Health and Data Science (PHDS) – Population Health Course, Mini Conference. Rostock, Germany

Conference Presentations

- 2025 **Evans, Megan**, Corina Graif, and Anna Newell. “Criminal Arrests and the Opioid Epidemic: An Investigation into the Spatial and Social Spillover of Opioid Overdoses in Chicago.” 5th International Sociology Association Forum of Sociology. Rabat, Morocco.
- Evans, Megan**, Corina Graif, and Anna Newell. “Criminal Arrests and the Opioid Epidemic: An Investigation into the Spatial and Social Spillover of Opioid Overdoses in Chicago.” Giornate di Studio sulla Popolazione – Popdays 2025. Cagliari, Italy.

- Evans, Megan**, Sanny D. Afable, Kaarina Korhonen, Lasse Tarkiainen, Moritz Oberndorfer, Pekka Martikainen, Mikko Myrskylä. “Living Near Grandma: Spatial Proximity and the Intergenerational Transmission of Educational Advantage” IUSSP 30th International Population Conference. Brisbane, Australia
- Evans, Megan**, Corina Graif, and Anna Newell. “Criminal Arrests and the Opioid Epidemic: An Investigation into the Spatial and Social Spillover of Opioid Overdoses in Chicago.” Population Association of America. Washington D.C.
- Evans, Megan**, Sanny D. Afable, Kaarina Korhonen, Lasse Tarkiainen, Moritz Oberndorfer, Pekka Martikainen, Mikko Myrskylä. “Living Near Grandma: Spatial Proximity and the Intergenerational Transmission of Educational Advantage” Population Association of America. Washington D.C.
- 2024 Faytong-Haro, Marco, **Evans, Megan**, and Lauren Newmyer. “Dissecting Awareness and Misconceptions of STIs and HIV in Ecuador: A Demographic Analysis.” Annual Meeting of the Asociación Latinoamericana de Población (ALAP). Bogota, Colombia.
- Evans, Megan**, Corina Graif, and Anna Newell. “Diffusion and Displacement in the Opioid Epidemic: The Role of Criminal Justice Deterrence.” Annual Meeting of the European Society of Criminology. Bucharest, Romania.
- Evans, Megan**. “Racialized Perceptions of place and Lending Risk: A Historic Investigation of Institutionalized Racism in Chicago.” European Sociological Association. Porto, Portugal.
- Evans, Megan**, and Lauren Newmyer. “A State-Level Examination into Structural Racism and Racial Disparities in Sexually Transmitted Infections” European Population Conference. Edinburgh, Scotland
- Evans, Megan**, and Lauren Newmyer. “A State-Level Examination into Structural Racism and Racial Disparities in Sexually Transmitted Infections” Population Association of America. Columbus, OH.
- Yoon, Hesu, and **Megan Evans**. “Leveraging How Airbnb Hosts Use Neighborhood Names to Identify a Neighborhood Reputational Hierarchy in San Francisco” Population Association of America. Columbus, OH.
- 2023 **Evans, Megan**. “Racialized Perceptions of Crime and Redlining in Chicago.” Annual Meeting of the European Society for Criminology. Florence, Italy.
- Bader, Michael D. M., and **Megan Evans**. “Racial Variation in Community Cognizance and Taste.” Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America. New Orleans, LA.
- 2022 **Evans, Megan**. “A Historic Examination of the Link between Perceived Crime, Race, and Redlining in Chicago.” Annual Meeting for the American Society of Criminology. Atlanta, GA.
- Evans, Megan**. “Differentiating between Neighborhood Sentiment and Objective Neighborhood Characteristics in Determining Lending Risk.” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. Los Angeles, CA.

- Evans, Megan.** “Racialized Place-Making: An Investigation into the Creation of HOLC’s Residential Security Maps” Annual Meeting of Population Association of America. Atlanta, GA.
- 2021 **Evans, Megan,** and Bianca Wirth. “Electing the Chief of Police: How the Race of Elected Officials Affects Racial Disparities in Arrests.” Annual Meeting for the American Society of Criminology. Chicago, IL.
- Newmyer, Lauren*, **Megan Evans***, and Corina Graif. “Sexually Transmitted Infections and the Importance of Connected Neighborhoods.” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. Virtual.
- Evans, Megan,** Jonathan Daw, and S. Michael Gaddis. “The Generational Boundaries of Educational Advantage: Does Great-Grandparent Education Predict Great-Grandchild Early Academic Achievement?” Annual Meeting of Population Association of America. Virtual.
- 2020 **Evans, Megan.** “The Role of Neighborhood Reputations in Determining Where to Search for Work and Housing.” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. Virtual.
- Evans, Megan,** and Alexander Chapman. “Returns on Moving: Racial and Ethnic Differences in Who Moves and What They Get.” Annual Meeting of Population Association of America. Virtual.
- 2019 Barrett A. Lee, and **Megan Evans.** “Forced to Move: Patterns and Predictors of Residential Displacement during an Era of Housing Insecurity.” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. New York, NY.
- Evans, Megan,** and Alexander Chapman. “The Stickiness of Poverty: Adolescent Friendship Networks.” The International Sunbelt Social Network Conference, Annual Conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis. Montreal, Canada.
- Evans, Megan.** “The Unequal Housing and Neighborhood Outcomes of Displaced Movers.” Annual Meeting of the Urban Affairs Association. Los Angeles, CA.
- Evans, Megan.** “Defining Neighborhoods: How Spatial Contexts Matter for Educational Expectations.” Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers. Washington, D.C.

Other Presentations

- 2025 **Evans, Megan,** Corina Graif, and Anna Newell. “Criminal Arrests and the Opioid Epidemic: An Investigation into the Spatial and Social Spillover of Opioid Overdoses in Chicago.” Social Demography Lab Talk Series. Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research. Rostock, Germany.
- 2024 **Evans, Megan,** Sanny D. Afable, Kaarina Korhonen, Lasse Tarkiainen, Moritz Oberndorfer, Pekka Martikainen, and Mikko Myrskylä. “Living Near Grandma: Spatial Proximity and the Intergenerational Transmission of Educational Advantage.” Max Planck – University of Helsinki Center for Social Inequalities in Population Health (MaxHel Center) 2nd Annual Meeting. Rostock, Germany.

- 2023 **Evans, Megan** and Lauren Newmyer. “A State-Level Examination into Structural Racism and Racial Disparities in Sexually Transmitted Infections.” Social Demography Lab Talk Series. Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research. Rostock, Germany.
- Evans, Megan** and Lauren Newmyer. “Structural Racism and Rates of Sexually Transmitted Infections.” Max Planck – University of Helsinki Center for Social Inequalities in Population Health (MaxHel Center) Opening Event. Helsinki, Finland.
- 2022 **Evans, Megan**. “Visualization in R.” Presentation sponsored by the Coding and Data Committee, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA. Virtual.
- Evans, Megan**. “Racialized Place-Making: An Investigation of Race, Place, and Value.” Pennsylvania State University Graduate Exhibition. Virtual.
- 2020 **Evans, Megan**. “Cleaning your Data in STATA.” Presentation sponsored by the Coding and Data Committee, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA. Virtual.
- Evans, Megan**, and Alexander Chapman. “Returns on Moving: Racial and Ethnic Differences in Who Moves and What They Get.” Breakout Session Student Presentation. DemSemX, May 29th. Virtual.
- 2019 **Evans, Megan**. “Using Exponential Random Graph Models to Examine Inter-Neighborhood Commuting Networks in R.” Community Working Group, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA.

TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP

Instructor of Record

- 2019 Introductory Sociology (SOC 001), The Pennsylvania State University

Graduate-Level Lab Instructor

- 2021 Spatial Demography (SOC 579), led by Stephen Matthews, Graduate Course, The Pennsylvania State University
- 2020 Social Network Analysis (SOC 580), led by Diane Felmlee, The Pennsylvania State University

Guest Lecturer

- 2025 “Using ChatGPT to Make Research More Efficient” in Soft Skills Seminar: How to Make Your Work More Effective, International Max Planck Research School (IMPRS) for Population Health and Data Science (PHDS)
- 2022 “Racialized Place-Making and the Home Owners’ Loan Corporation” in Communities and Crime (led by Corina Graif), Graduate Course, The Pennsylvania State University
- 2021 “Producing Data Visualizations in STATA” and “Merging and Reshaping Data in STATA”, Introduction to Graduate Studies (led by Jennifer Van Hook and Tom Loughran) Graduate Course, The Pennsylvania State University
- 2020 “Applying Sociological Research Methods” in Introductory Sociology (led by Marco Faytong-Haro), Undergraduate Course, The Pennsylvania State University

Updated July 2025

2019 “Causes and Consequences of Residential Segregation” in Social Problems (led by Tori Thomas), Undergraduate Course, The Pennsylvania State University

The International Max Planck Research School for Population, Health and Data Science (IMPRS-PHDS)

Core MPIDR Advisor

Student	Joint Affiliation
2023- Afable, Sanny Boy	St. Andrews

Thesis Advisory Committee Member

Student	Primary Affiliation
2024- Dulout, Gauthier	St. Andrews
Evans-Lomayesva, Gwynne	University of Pennsylvania
Omija Korpela, Jessica	University of Helsinki

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

2021 STRIVE for Change Workshop Series, National Institute of Health (NIH), five-day workshop.

Assessing and Analyzing Census Data Using R Workshop, Social Science Data Analysis Network (SSDAN), taught by Kyle Walker, three-day workshop.

Making the Leap to Large, National Science Foundation (NSF), seven-day workshop.

2020 The Graduate Online Teaching Certificate, The Pennsylvania State University

2019 Social Networks: Statistical Approaches Workshop, Statistical Horizons, taught by John Skvoretz, two-day workshop.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

National

2021-23 Elected Student Representative. Population Section of the American Sociological Association

Conferences

2026 Session Organizer and Chair: Flash: Advances in Spatial Networks, Population Mobility, and Crime. Population Association of American, St. Louis, Missouri.

2024 Chair: Social Control and Criminal Justice/ Crime Prevention. Annual Meeting of the European Society of Criminology, Bucharest, Romania.

2024 Discussant: Demography of Place-Based Policies. Annual Meeting of the Population Association of American, Columbus, OH.

2023 Chair: Racial Residential Change and Stratification. Annual Meeting of the Population Association of American, New Orleans, LA.

Chair: Empirical Advances in Spatial Demography. Annual Meeting of the Population Association of American, New Orleans, LA.

Updated July 2025

- 2022 Roundtable Presider: Community and Urban Sociology Section Roundtables. Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Los Angeles, CA.
Discussant and Chair: Spatial Mobility and Neighborhood Change. Annual Meeting of the Population Association of American, Atlanta, GA.
Chair: Residential Mobility and Displacement. Annual Meeting of the Population Association of American, Atlanta, GA.
- 2019 Moderator: Housing and Services in Urban Spaces. Annual Meeting of the Urban Affairs Association, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2018 Chair: Applications, Health, and Human Capital. Annual Meeting of the Population Association of American, Denver, CO.

Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR)

- 2025 Social Committee, Member
- 2024 Max Planck – University of Helsinki Center for Social Inequalities in Population Health (MaxHel Center) 2nd Annual Meeting, MPIDR Coordinator
- 2024 MPIDR Prize for Best Paper by a Junior Researcher, in Honor of Jan M. Hoem Competition, Selection Committee Member
- 2024 Ringberg Retreat Social Committee, Chair

Pennsylvania State University

- 2017-23 Graduate Student Recruitment Committee, Chair (2020-22)
- 2017-22 PRI Graduate Student Methodology Workshop Committee, Co-Chair (2019-21)
- 2020-22 Coding & Data Committee, Member
- 2017-19 Mini-PAA Planning Committee, Member

Occasional Peer Reviewer

American Sociological Review; Asia Pacific Viewpoint; Biodemography and Social Biology; City and Community; Criminology; Demography; Deviant Behavior; Housing Studies; Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies; Journal of Health and Social Behavior; Journal of Quantitative Criminology; Journal of Race, Ethnicity & the City; Journal of Urbanism: International Research on Placemaking and Urban Sustainability; Population Research and Policy Review; Social Forces; Social Problems; Sociology of Race and Ethnicity; Social Science Research; Spatial Demography; Urban Affairs Review; Urban Studies

Professional Affiliations

Population Association of America (PAA); American Sociological Association (ASA); International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP); European Association for Population Studies (EAPS)

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Corina Graif
Associate Professor of Sociology and Criminology

Updated July 2025

Pennsylvania State University

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Stephen A. Matthews

Emeritus Professor of Sociology, Anthropology, and Demography

Pennsylvania State University

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