

Nicholas C. Smith

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2023- Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Maryland, College Park
Affiliate Faculty, Maryland Population Research Center
Affiliate Faculty, Department of African American Studies

EDUCATION

2023 Ph.D., Sociology, Indiana University
2018 M.A., Sociology, Indiana University
2016 B.A., Sociology and Communication, University of Maryland, College Park

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Medical Sociology, Race-ethnicity, Neighborhoods, Social Networks, Quantitative Methods

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Smith, Nicholas C. Forthcoming. "Race, Network Socioeconomic Status, and Health: Are There Black-White Differences in the Health Returns of Having Higher-educated Network Ties?" *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*

Smith, Nicholas C. 2026. "Racial Residential Segregation, Social Networks, and Self-rated Health among Black Americans: The Moderating Roles of Social Leverage, Social Bridging, and Social Bonding Ties" *Social Problems* Online First <https://doi.org/10.1093/socpro/spag009>

Taylor, Terrill O., **Nicholas C. Smith**, Ty A. Robinson, and Kentiera Wood. 2025 "Racism and Health: Examining Pathways Influencing Health Outcomes among Justice-involved and Non-justice-involved Black and Latine Individuals." *Journal of Counseling Psychology* 73(1):17-32.
<https://doi.org/10.1037/cou0000843>

Smith, Nicholas C. and Max E. Coleman. 2024. "Beyond Empathy: Familial Incarceration, Stress Proliferation, and Depressive Symptoms among African Americans." *Social Forces* 102(4):1424-1445
<https://doi.org/10.1093/sf/soad151>

- Winner of the Graduate Student Paper Award, Social Psychology Section, American Sociological Association
- Honorable mention for the Devon T. Wade Graduate Student Paper Award, Association of Black Sociologists

Smith, Nicholas C. 2024. "Residential Segregation and Black-White Differences in Physical and Mental Health: Evidence of a Health Paradox?" *Social Science & Medicine* 340:116417.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2023.116417>

Perry, Brea L., **Nicholas C. Smith**, Max E. Coleman, and Bernice A. Pescosolido. 2024. "Social Networks,

the COVID-Pandemic, and Emerging Adults' Mental Health: Resiliency through Social Bonding and Cohesion." *American Journal of Public Health* 114(S3):S258-S267.

Smith, Nicholas C., Caroline V. Brooks, Emily A. Ekl, Denise Ambriz, Melissa J. García, Gerardo Maupomé, and Brea L. Perry. 2024. "The Informal Safety Net: Social Network Activation among Hispanic Immigrants during COVID-19." *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* 10(3):389-404
<https://doi.org/10.1177/23326492231162348>

Melissa J. García, Caroline V. Brooks, Denise Ambriz, Emily A. Ekl, **Nicholas C. Smith**, Gerardo Maupomé, and Brea L. Perry. 2023. "Pandemic Precarity: COVID-19's Impact on Mexican and Central American Immigrant Families." *Journal of Marriage and Family* Online First
<https://doi.org/10.1111/jomf.12930>

Nicholson Jr., Harvey L., Paris B. Wheeler, **Nicholas C. Smith**, and Oluwatobi A. Alawode A. 2022. "Examining the Relationship between Discrimination and Prescription Drug Misuse: Findings from a National Survey of Black Americans." *Substance Use and Misuse* 57(7):1014-1021.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10826084.2022.2052096>

Smith, Nicholas C. and Harvey L. Nicholson Jr. 2022. "Perceived Discrimination and Mental Health among African American and Caribbean Black Adolescents: Ethnic Differences in Processes and Effects." *Ethnicity and Health* 27(3):687-704. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13557858.2020.1814998>

Smith, Nicholas C. 2021. "Black-White Disparities in Women's Physical Health: The Role of Socioeconomic Status and Racism-related Stressors." *Social Science Research* Online First
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssresearch.2021.102593>

- Co-winner of the Devon T. Wade Graduate Student Paper Award, Association of Black Sociologists

Smith, Nicholas C. 2020. "How can Stigma Contribute to our Understanding of the Formation and Mobilization of Collective Identities in Health Social Movements?" *Sociology Compass* 14(6):1-11.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/soc4.12796>

Smith, Nicholas C. 2020. "Differential Vulnerability to Perceived Discrimination between African American and Caribbean Black Adolescents: The Role of Parental Nativity Status." *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities* 7(3):428-435. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40615-019-00671-z>

IN PROGRESS

Ekl, Emily A., Melissa J. García, Caroline V. Brooks, **Nicholas C. Smith**, Denise Ambriz, Brea L. Perry, and Gerardo Maupomé. "Trusted Sources of COVID-19 Information and Preventive Health Behaviors among Hispanic Immigrants: The Role of Gender." (Under review)

Lewis, Demar F., Lindsay S. Dieudonne, **Nicholas C. Smith**, Terrill O. Taylor, Muna Adem, and Jason Ashe. "Weathering the Storm: Vicarious Racism, Linked Fate, and Self-reported Health among Black Americans After the First Year of COVID-19." (Under review)

Smith, Nicholas C. and Onyekachukwu Arah. "Counterbalancing Mechanisms Underlying the Black-White Mental Health Paradox." (Full draft available)

Smith, Nicholas C. and Patricia Louie. "Race and Place in the Stress Process: Risk and Resource Pathways Linking Racial Residential Segregation to Depression among Black and White Americans." (Full draft available)

Perry, Brea L., **Nicholas C. Smith**, and Max E. Coleman. “Core Social Networks and Inequality in the American Heartland: Differences in Social Bonding, Social Bridging, and Social Leverage Ties by Race/Ethnicity and Educational Attainment” (In progress)

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

- 2025 Seed Grant: “Exploring Resilience as a Protective Factor in Black Justice-Involved Populations: A Focus on Post-Traumatic Growth and Flourishing.” (with Dr. Terrill Taylor) (award amount: \$25,000)
University of Maryland Anti-Black Racism Initiative
- 2024 Seed Grant: “Measuring Awareness and Stress Appraisals of Structural Racism: Manifestations and Impacts on Mental Health and Resilience.” (with Dr. Terrill Taylor) (award amount: \$20,000)
University of Maryland Vision Team for Faculty Success
- 2024 – 2025 National Science Foundation Fellow
Institute for Critical Quantitative Computational and Mixed Methodologies
- 2024 Sole Honorable Mention, Roberta G. Simmons Outstanding Dissertation Award
Medical Sociology Section, American Sociological Association
- 2023 Sole Honorable Mention, Devon T. Graduate Student Paper Award
Association of Black Sociologists
- 2023 Graduate Student Paper Award
Social Psychology Section, American Sociological Association
- 2022 Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy Dissertation Grant (award amount: \$7,500)
Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy
- 2022 Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship (award amount: \$28,000)
The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
- 2021 Devon T. Wade Graduate Student Paper Award
Association of Black Sociologists
- 2021 Conference Travel Award (award amount: \$1,215) (canceled due to COVID-19)
Health Policy Research Scholars Program, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- 2021 Alternate: Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship
The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
- 2021 Lindesmith-Mullins Dissertation Fellowship (award amount: \$10,000)
Indiana University, Department of Sociology
- 2020 Howard B. Kaplan Memorial Award (award amount: \$500)
American Sociological Association, Medical Sociology Section
- 2019 Culture of Health Award
Health Policy Research Scholars Program, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

2017 – 2021 Health Policy Research Scholars Program (award amount: \$120,000)
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

2017 Shining Soul Award
Indiana University, Department of Sociology

INVITED TALKS

Smith, Nicholas C. 2024. “Sick by Structure: Racial Residential Segregation, Social Networks, and Racial-ethnic Disparities in Health.” *U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development*

Smith, Nicholas C. 2023. “Sick by Structure: Racial Residential Segregation, Social Networks, and Health among Black Americans.” *Center for Research on Inequality and Health, Vanderbilt University*

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Smith, Nicholas C. and Onyekachukwu Arah. 2025. “Counterbalancing Mechanisms Underlying the Black-White Mental Health Paradox.” *American Sociological Association*. Chicago, IL

Smith, Nicholas C. and Lear Burton. 2025. “Black-White Differences in Social Networks: The Role of Racial Residential Segregation.” *Population Association of America*. Washington, DC

Smith, Nicholas C. and Jose Puente Puente. 2025. “Racial Residential Segregation and Mental Health among Black Americans: The Role of Neighborhood Poverty.” *Population Association of America*. Washington, DC

Smith, Nicholas C. 2025. “Are there Racial Differences in the Health Returns of Having Higher-educated Network Ties?” *Population Association of America*. Washington, DC

Taylor, Terrill O. and **Nicholas C. Smith**. 2025. “The Impact of Racism and Race-related Stress on Black and Latine Justice-involved and Non-justice-involved Individuals’ Mental Health.” *American Psychology-Law Society Research Conference*. San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Smith, Nicholas C. 2024. “Are there Racial Differences in the Health Returns of Having Higher-educated Network Ties?” *American Sociological Association*. Montreal, Canada.

Smith, Nicholas C. 2024. “Early Life Household Incarceration and Depression in Adulthood: An Evaluation of Psychosocial Risks and Resources.” *International Conference on Social Stress Research*. Portland, Oregon.

Smith, Nicholas C. 2024. “Sick by Structure: Racial Residential Segregation, Social Networks, and Health among Black Americans.” *Population Association of America*. Columbus, Ohio.

Smith, Nicholas C. 2023. “Residential Segregation and Black-White Differences in Physical and Mental Health: Evidence of a Health Paradox?” *American Sociological Association*. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Smith, Nicholas C. and Max E. Coleman. 2023. “Beyond Empathy: Familial Incarceration, Stress Proliferation, and Depressive Symptoms among African Americans.” *American Sociological Association*. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Smith, Nicholas C., Caroline V. Brooks, Emily A. Ekl, Denise Ambriz, Melissa J. García, Gerardo Maupomé, and Brea L. Perry. 2022. “The Informal Safety Net: Social Network Activation among

Hispanic Immigrants During COVID-19.” *American Sociological Association*. Los Angeles, California.

Smith, Nicholas C. 2021. “Black-White Disparities in Women’s Physical Health: The Role of Socioeconomic Status and Racism-related Stressors.” *Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science*. Virtual due to COVID-19.

Smith, Nicholas C. 2021. “The Cost of Caring: Familial Incarceration, Stress Proliferation, and Mental Health among African Americans.” *American Sociological Association*. Virtual due to COVID-19.

Smith, Nicholas C. and Max Coleman. 2020. “Becoming Black American: Internalized Racism and Mental Health among Afro-Caribbeans in the U.S.” *The Society for the Study of Social Problems*. San Francisco, California (canceled due to COVID-19).

Pullen, Erin, **Nicholas C. Smith**, Joanna Lara, and Elaine Hernandez. 2018. “Stress Exposure and Prenatal Depression: The Role of Pregnancy Discussion and Advice Networks.” *Sunbelt Social Network Analysis Conference*. Utrecht, Netherlands.

Smith, Nicholas C. 2018. “Psychosocial Mechanisms Linking Perceived Discrimination and Health among African American and Caribbean Black Adolescents.” *CRRES Graduate Symposium*. Bloomington, Indiana.

Smith, Nicholas C. 2017. “Support from Similar Others as Optimal? An Empirical Test of Theory Using the Case of Black Youth who Experience Discrimination.” *American Sociological Association*. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Maryland, College Park

Full responsibility for course design, instruction, and grading

Fall 2024	SOCY230: Sociological Social Psychology
Spring 2025	SOCY230: Sociological Social Psychology
Fall 2025	SOCY230: Sociological Social Psychology
	SOCY436: Where You Live Matters: Race, Segregated Neighborhoods, and Health
	SOCY636: Racial Residential Segregation and Health
Spring 2026	SOCY230: Sociological Social Psychology
	SOCY100: Introduction to Sociology

Indiana University, Instructor of Record

Full responsibility for course design, instruction, and grading

Summer 2022	Introduction to Sociology (Online, asynchronous)
Fall 2021	Introduction to Sociology

Indiana University, Graduate Teaching Assistant

Spring 2017	Gender Studies: Core Concepts and Key Debates
Spring 2017	Introduction to Sociology
Spring 2017	Social Problems and Policies: Sex, Gender, and the Law
Fall 2016	Social Problems and Policies: Medicine in America

GRADUATE STUDENT COMMITTEES

Completed Ph.D. committee member, Katelyn Foltz, University of Maryland, College Park

Completed	Ph.D. committee member, Hope Xu Yan, University of Maryland, College Park
In progress	Ph.D. committee member, Clayton Buck, University of Maryland, College Park
In progress	Ph.D. co-chair, Melody Mann, University of Maryland, College Park
In progress	Master's thesis committee member, Lear Burton, University of Maryland, College Park
In progress	Master's thesis committee member, Jessica Abramson, University of Maryland, College Park
In progress	Master's thesis committee member, Timothy Simmons, University of Maryland, College Park

SERVICE

University of Maryland, Departmental Service

2024 – 2025	Policy Committee
2024 – 2025	Hiring Committee
2023 – 2024	Hiring Proposal Committee
2023 – 2024	Member, Graduate Committee

American Sociological Association, Social Psychology Section

2023 – 2024	Member, Graduate Student Affairs Committee
2018 – 2019	Chair, Graduate Student Advisory Committee
2017 – 2018	Member, Graduate Student Advisory Committee

Indiana University, Departmental Service

2021 – 2022	KSISR Assistant, Indiana University Department of Sociology
2021 – 2022	Undergraduate Affairs Committee, Graduate Student Association
2021 – 2022	Graduate Student Mentor, Indiana University Department of Sociology
2020 – 2021	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Graduate Student Association
2019 – 2020	President, Graduate Student Association
2017 – 2019	Recruitment Committee, Graduate Student Association
2017 – 2018	Treasurer and Graduate Student Mentor, WOKE (Undergraduate Sociology Club)
2017 – 2018	Assistant Coordinator, Indiana University SHeL (Social Psychology, Health, and the Life Course) Workshop
2018 – 2019	Graduate Student Mentor

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Sociology Association

Medical Sociology
 Social Psychology
 Mental Health

Association of Black Sociologists

Population Association of America