

Kaylee T. Matheny

McCourt School of Public Policy
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APPOINTMENTS

Georgetown University — McCourt School of Public Policy	
Assistant Professor of Public Policy	2024–Present
Provost’s Distinguished Faculty Fellow	
Johns Hopkins University — Department of Sociology	
Faculty Affiliate, Poverty and Inequality Research Lab	2024–Present
Visiting Assistant Professor	2025, 2026
Postdoctoral Fellow, Poverty and Inequality Research Lab	2023–24

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Sociology of Education, Education Policy	2023
Certificate in Quantitative Research in Education	
Stanford University	
M.A., Sociology	2020
Stanford University	
B.A., Sociology, English-Creative Writing	2015
Robert W. Woodruff Scholar	
Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha Kappa Delta	
Emory University	

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

*Equal authorship

Publications

- Matheny, Kaylee T.**, Ilana M. Horwitz, and Natalie Milan. Forthcoming. “The Triple Burden: Low-SES Women and the Binds of Caretaking, Work, and College.” *Social Forces*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/sf/soag068>
Media Coverage: [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#), [Inside Higher Ed](#), [Times Higher Education](#)
- Matheny, Kaylee T.** and Ilana M. Horwitz. Forthcoming. “Predicting the BA Divide: Early Buffering and Depletion in the Lives of Low-SES Adolescents.” *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences*.
- Lu, Amanda* and **Kaylee T. Matheny**.* 2026. “Equal Inputs, Unequal Outputs: How Capacity Limits Policy Implementation.” *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis* 48(1):189–213.
<https://doi.org/10.3102/01623737241310832> [PDF]
- Horwitz, Ilana M., **Kaylee T. Matheny**, Krystal Laryea, and Landon Schnabel. 2025. “Measuring Culture and Its Effects: A Rejoinder to Sivan et al. on Religious Subculture and Educational Attainment.” *American Sociological Review* 90(5):932–944. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00031224251356268> [PDF]
- Matheny, Kaylee T.** 2023. “A Seat at the Table: Lessons from Tennessee’s Rapid Achievement and Equity Gains.” *Education Policy Analysis Archives* 31(43). <https://doi.org/10.14507/epaa.31.7481> [PDF]
- Matheny, Kaylee T.**,* Marissa E. Thompson,* Carrie Townley-Flores,* and sean f. reardon. 2023. “Uneven Progress: Recent Trends in Academic Performance Among U.S. School Districts.” *American Educational Research Journal* 60(3):447–485. <https://doi.org/10.3102/0002831222113476> [PDF]
Media Coverage: [EdSource](#)

Bettinger, Eric P.,* Amanda Lu,* **Kaylee T. Matheny**,* and Gregory S. Kienzl. 2022. "Unmet Need: Evaluating Pell as a Lever for Equitable Dual Enrollment Participation and Outcomes." *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis* 44(4):783–807. <https://doi.org/10.3102/01623737221091574> [PDF]
Media Coverage: [Brookings Institute](#), [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#)

Horwitz, Ilana M., **Kaylee T. Matheny**, Krystal Laryea, and Landon Schnabel. 2022. "From Bat Mitzvah to the Bar: Religious Habitus, Self-Concept, and Women's Educational Outcomes." *American Sociological Review* 87(2):336–372. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00031224221076487> [PDF]
Media Coverage: [The Washington Post](#), [Tulane News](#), [Cornell Chronicle](#), [NewsWise](#), [Phys.org](#), [Futurity](#), [The Jewish Press](#), [The Jerusalem Post](#), [Reddit](#) (Homepage), [Jewish Telegraphic Agency](#), [Religion News Service](#)

Manuscripts Under Review

Matheny, Kaylee T., Madison Dell, Gus Gluek, Rachel Baker, Eric P. Bettinger, Alex Monday, and Hidahis Mesa. 2025. "Fast Track to Success? A Mixed Methods Study of Condensed Course Formats." EdWorkingPaper 25-1346. Annenberg Institute at Brown University: <https://doi.org/10.26300/3mpa-1h50>. *Revise and Resubmit*.

Matheny, Kaylee T. "A Means to an End or an End in Itself: Parent Socioeconomic Status and College Semiotics." *Under Review*.

In Preparation

Matheny, Kaylee T. "Socioeconomic Inequality in District Funding and Achievement."

Matheny, Kaylee T., Sonia X. Giebel, Philip Hernandez, and Ilana M. Horwitz. "How First-Generation, Low-Income Students at an Elite College Navigate Major Selection."

DeLuca, Stefanie, **Kaylee T. Matheny**, and Elizabeth Tong. "What Families Want? Leveraging a Housing Experiment to Understand the Role of Social Networks in Neighborhood Choice for Low-Income Households."

BOOKS

Horwitz, Ilana M., with **Kaylee T. Matheny**. 2027. *Burnt Out and Left Behind: Lost Boys, Exhausted Girls, and the Broken Promise of a College Degree*. Manuscript in production with the University of California Press.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

*Equal authorship

Matheny, Kaylee T. Forthcoming. Review of *Subtle Webs: How Local Organizations Shape US Education*. *American Journal of Sociology*. [Book Review]

Matheny, Kaylee T., Madison Dell, Gus Gluek, Rachel Baker, Eric P. Bettinger, Alex Monday, and Hidahis Mesa. 2026. "Replication Data for: Fast Track to Success? A Mixed Methods Evaluation of Condensed Course Formats at Tennessee Community Colleges." <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/ZQBEH5>, Harvard Dataverse, V1. [Dataset] [Link]

Matheny, Kaylee T. 2022. University readiness assessments and equity in college admissions. [Report, Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness] [Link]

Matheny, Kaylee T., Amanda Lu, Eric P. Bettinger, and Gregory S. Kienzl. 2022. Do Pell Grants increase dual enrollment for low-income students? [Brown Center Chalkboard Blog Post, Brookings Institute] [Link]

Natalie Milan, **Kaylee T. Matheny**, and Ilana M. Horwitz. 2022. The motherhood penalty begins in college. [Article, Inside Higher Ed] [Link]

Matheny, Kaylee T.,* Marissa E. Thompson,* Carrie Townley-Flores,* and sean f. reardon. 2021. Increasing school segregation widens White-Black achievement gaps. [Data Discovery, The Educational Opportunity Monitoring Project] [\[Link\]](#)

Matheny, Kaylee T.,* Marissa E. Thompson,* Carrie Townley-Flores,* and sean f. reardon. 2021. Racial socioeconomic inequality predicts growing racial academic inequality. [Data Discovery, The Educational Opportunity Monitoring Project] [\[Link\]](#)

Horwitz, Ilana M., **Kaylee T. Matheny**, and Natalie Milan. 2021. "Abortion Bans and College Drop-outs." *Contexts* 20(4):76. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15365042211058133> [\[PDF\]](#)
Media Coverage: [The Society Pages](#)

GRANTS

Smith Richardson Foundation. "Increasing Opportunity & Upward Mobility: What We Can Learn from Communities." (Co-PI, <i>with</i> Stefanie DeLuca)	\$283,400	2024–26
Smith Richardson Foundation. "How School Districts Decide How to Spend." (Co-PI, <i>with</i> Nora Gordon)	\$30,000	2024
Ascendium Education Group. "Fast Track to Success? A Mixed Methods Study of Accelerated Course Formats." (Co-PI, <i>with</i> Eric P. Bettinger, Russ Deaton, Madison Dell, and Amy Moreland)	\$730,000	2022–24
Russell Sage Targeted Competition Grant on Equal Opportunity Monitoring [Link]	\$9,885	2021–22

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

*Externally competitive

*Semi-Finalist, NA/Ed Spencer Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship		2025
Provost's Distinguished Faculty Fellowship at Georgetown University		2024–25
*American Education Research Association (AERA) Dissertation Fellowship [Link]	\$27,500	2022–23
Computational Social Science Fellowship [Link]	\$5,000	2022–23
*Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE) Summer Fellowship [Link]	\$8,000	2022
Gerald J. Lieberman Fellowship [Link]	\$48,000	2021–22
Stanford Community Impact Award		2021
Institute of Education Sciences Doctoral Training Fellowship [Link]	\$120,000	2017–21
Karr Fellowship	\$19,370	2020
I. James and Viola Quillen Fellowship	\$12,441	2017–18
Solomon and Sara Sutker Outstanding Student Award [Link]		2015

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

American Sociological Association, New York, NY (<i>Accepted</i>)	2026
"Cohort Differences in How Men Evaluate Higher Education"	
"Leveraging a Housing Experiment to Understand Preferences and Social Networks in Low-Income Families' Neighborhood Choices"	
Population Association of America, St. Louis, MO	2026
"What Families Want? Leveraging an Experiment to Understand the Role of Preferences and Social Networks in the Housing Choices of Low-Income Families."	
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Baltimore, MD	2024
"Do Accelerated Courses Work? A Mixed Methods Study of Condensed Course Formats."	
Society for Research in Educational Effectiveness, Baltimore, MD	2024

"Fast Track to Success? A Mixed Methods Study of Condensed Course Formats." "Equal Inputs, Unequal Outputs: How Capacity Limits Policy Implementation."	
Association for Education Finance and Policy, Baltimore, MD	2024
"Fast Track to Success? A Mixed Methods Study of Accelerated Course Formats."	
Sociology of Education Association, Pacific Grove, CA	2024
"A Means to an End or an End in Itself: How Social Class Foregrounds the Meaning of College."	
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Atlanta, GA	2023
"Equity Compromises in Opportunity Provision."	
American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA	2023
"Drivers of Despair: An Examination of the Despair Among Low-SES Populations Across the Early Life Course."	
Association for Education Finance and Policy, Denver, CO	2023
"The Motherhood Penalty Begins in College."	
Sociology of Education Association, Pacific Grove, CA	2023
"Persisting Barriers: SES and Gender Inequality in College Pathways."	
American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL	2023
"Socioeconomic Inequality in School District Funding and Achievement."	
"Monitored Mobility: How Social Class and Gender Shape Mobility Projects."	
"Persisting Barriers: SES and Gender Inequality in College-Going Pathways."	
Society for Research in Educational Effectiveness, Arlington, VA	2022
"University Readiness Assessments and Equity in College Admissions."	
American Sociological Association, Los Angeles, CA	2022
"Education, Interrupted: How Class and Gender Shape Postsecondary Trajectories."	
"How First-Generation, Low-Income Students at an Elite College Navigate Major Selection."	
Chicago Ethnography Conference, Virtual	2022
"A Means to an End or an End in Itself: How SES Shapes Parents' Orientations Toward College."	
Association for Education Finance and Policy, Denver, CO	2022
"Trends in Funding Inequality, Achievement Inequality, and the Relationship Between Them."	
American Sociological Association, Virtual	2021
"'Not for Everybody' or 'The Only Way': Competing Perspectives on the Purpose of College."	
Sociology of Education Association, Virtual	2021
"Unpacking the Aspiration Gap: Cross-Class Perspectives on the Purpose of College."	
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Virtual	2020
"A Seat at the Table: How Tennessee Attained Rapid Achievement Gains While Advancing Equity across Student Groups."	
"Everyone's Own Good Reason: Evaluating the Implementation of a Federal Experiment for Pell Grants to Fund Dual Enrollment."	
Association for Education Finance and Policy, Virtual	2020
"Tennessee's Patterns in Achievement and Equity: A Mixed Methods Study."	
"Experimental Evidence for the Impact of Federal Need-Based Aid on Dual Enrollment."	
Association for the Study of Higher Education, Portland, OR	2019
"The Role of Religion in Status Attainment: A Comparison of Jewish and non-Jewish Adolescents."	

“Optimizing Opportunity: Patterns in College Matching and Financial Aid.”	
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Denver, CO	2019
“Uneven Progress: Trends in District-Level Opportunity.”	
American Sociological Association, New York, NY	2019
“Uneven Progress: Trends in Academic Performance Among U.S. School Districts.”	
“Religious Stratification in Higher Education: The Case of American Jews.”	
Association for Education Finance and Policy, Kansas City, MO	2019
“Variation in District-level Trends in Test Performance.”	
Sociology of Education Association, Pacific Grove, CA	2019
“Variation in District-Level Trends in Achievement and Achievement Disparities, 2009-2016.”	
Scholarly Inquiry and Research at Emory Undergraduate Symposium, Atlanta, GA	2013
“Impact of Reader on Successful Knowledge Formation in Children.”	

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Opportunity Insights: Summer of Opportunity, Boston, MA	2025
“Uncovering Mechanisms Underlying Economic Mobility Using Qualitative and Mixed Methods”	
Russell Sage Foundation: Beyond Deaths of Despair, New York City, NY	2025
“Institutional Embeddedness: Explaining Class and Gender Differentials in College Completion and Subsequent Life Outcomes”	
Institution for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison: Fall Seminar Series, Madison, WI	2024
“The Triple Burden: Women of Low SES and the Binds of Caretaking, Work, and College”	
Russell Sage Foundation and William T. Grant Foundation: Improving Education and Reducing Inequality, New York City, NY	2022
“Does Equalizing School Funding Lead to More Equitable Outcomes?”	
National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships, Salt Lake City, UT	2019
“Evaluating the ExSites Pell Experiment.”	

ACADEMIC TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record — Public Policy — Georgetown University

Graduate Courses

Qualitative Research Methods [Syllabus] [Evals]	Fall 2025
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Instructor of Record — Sociology — Skyline College

Undergraduate Courses

Introduction to Sociology [Syllabus]	Spring 2020–Summer 2023
Introduction to Research Methods [Syllabus]	Spring 2021–Spring 2023
Contemporary Social Problems [Syllabus]	Fall 2020–Fall 2022

Note: Skyline College does not administer course evaluations

Teaching Assistant — Education/Sociology — Stanford University

Undergraduate Courses

Education and Inequality: Big Data for Large-Scale Problems [EDUC/SOC] [\[Syllabus\]](#) [\[Evals\]](#) — TA for sean f. reardon Fall 2022

Graduate Courses

Using Data to Describe the World: Descriptive Social Science Research Techniques [EDUC/SOC] [\[Syllabus\]](#) [\[Evals\]](#) — TA for sean f. reardon Spring 2022

Education Policy in the United States [EDUC] [\[Syllabus\]](#) [\[Evals\]](#) — TA for Jon Valant Spring 2021

Statistical Analysis in Education [EDUC] [\[Syllabus\]](#) [\[Evals\]](#) — TA for Eric P. Bettinger Winter 2021

Introduction to Data Analysis and Interpretation [EDUC] [\[Syllabus\]](#) [\[Evals\]](#) — TA for Ann Porteus and Sanne Smith Fall 2020

Sociology of Education [EDUC/SOC] [\[Syllabus\]](#) [\[Evals\]](#) — TA for Mitchell L. Stevens Fall 2019

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

To the Profession

Journal Reviewer
AERA Open, American Behavioral Scientist, American Educational Research Journal, Educational Inquiry, Educational Researcher, Sociological Inquiry

Sociology of Education Association
 Communications Chair 2025–27
 Conference Program Chair 2025
 Board Member 2023–25

American Sociological Association, Sociology of Education Section
 Bourdieu Book Award Committee 2025–26
 Conference Panel Chair 2025
 Conference Discussant 2023

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
 Conference Discussant 2025

Association for Education Finance and Policy
 Conference Discussant 2023

To the Institution

Georgetown University

MPP Admissions Committee 2025–26
 MPP Thesis Prizes Committee 2025–26
 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) Faculty Mentor 2025

Stanford University

Student Representative, Target of Opportunity Faculty Hiring Committee 2022–23
 Student Member, Associate Vice Provost for Graduate Education (VPGE) Evaluation Committee 2022
 Student Representative, VPGE Graduate Student and Postdoc Strategic Vision Team 2021–22

Skyline College

Faculty Panelist, Undergraduate Symposium of Academic Research 2021

To the Community

Panelist, AEFP Doctoral Student Academic Job Market Panel 2025
 Panelist, Stanford GSE's Higher Education Workshop Job Market Panel 2024
 Committee Lead, Center for Education Policy Analysis Race and Research Group 2020–21

<i>Co-Author on a grant for organizational funding (\$3,000)</i>	
Co-President, Stanford Graduate School of Education Student Guild	2019–21
Mentor, IDEAS Fellowship	2020
Mentor, Policy, Organizations, and Leadership Studies Master’s Program	2020
MA Student Representative, Association of Sociology Graduate Students	2019–20
Co-Director, Sociology and Education Network, Stanford University	2019–20
<i>Co-Author on a grant for organizational funding (\$2,300)</i>	
Mentor, Stanford Graduate School of Education Mentorship Program	2018–19
Academic Chair, Stanford Graduate School of Education Student Guild	2018–19
<i>Lead Author on a grant for organizational funding (\$2,790)</i>	

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Educational Research Association
SIGs: Sociology of Education
 American Sociological Association
Committees: First Generation/Working Class Sociologists
Sections: Sociology of Education; Poverty, Inequality, & Mobility; Family; Children & Youth
 Association for Education Finance and Policy
 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
 Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness
 Sociology of Education Association

SELECTED PRE-ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

World Literature Teacher & 10 th Grade Content Lead, Griffin High School, Griffin, GA	2015–17
Waitress, Waffle House, Inc. (Unit 1772), Griffin, GA	2009–14