

ALEXIS M. DENNIS

adennis2@wisc.edu

Department of Sociology, Community & Environmental Sociology
 University of Wisconsin-Madison
 Sewell Social Sciences, 1180 Observatory Drive
 Madison, WI 53706-1393

EDUCATION

- Ph.D.** Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison (2026)
 Dissertation Title: *“Straddling Fences: Elite Academia, Graduate Education, and the Pursuit of Community”*
 Preliminary Exams: Race and Ethnicity; Community and Urban Sociology
 Ph.D. Minor Courses: Narrative Inquiry, Anthropology & Education, Bridging Theory & Practice
- M.S.** Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison (Fall 2017)
 Thesis: *“Racial Injury of Graduate Students of Color in Majority White Universities in the Era of Postracialism”*
 Committee Members: Alice Goffman (chair), Pamela Oliver, Douglas Maynard
- B.A.** Sociology, Northeastern Illinois University, *summa cum laude* (Spring 2013)
 Ronald E. McNair Scholar
 Minor: Women’s and Gender Studies
- A.A.** Social Sciences, Harry S. Truman College: City Colleges of Chicago (2009)

AREAS OF INTEREST

Substantive: Higher Education and Graduate Communities, Poverty & Social Mobility, Race and Ethnicity, Family Policy, and Gender Stratification

Methodological: Qualitative and mixed methods, research design, Narrative Analysis Survey Methods

PUBLICATIONS

Costanzo, Molly A., Lisa Klein Vogel, Aaron Reilly, and **Alexis M. Dennis**. 2026.
 “Frequency of License Suspension and Civil Contempt in Child Support.” *Journal of Policy Practice and Research*. (<https://doi.org/10.1007/s42972-026-00139-5>).

Lisa Klein Vogel, **Alexis M. Dennis**, and Nasitta Keita. 2024. "Let's Bring It into the 21st Century": Perceptions of Fairness in Child Support." *Children and Youth Services Review*.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chilyouth.2024.107767>.

Boelter, Jacob, **Alexis M. Dennis**, Lisa Klein Vogel, and Kenneth D. Croes. 2023. "Recruiting Hard-to-Reach Populations Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic." *Survey Practice*.
<https://doi.org/10.29115/SP-2023-0011>.

Government Research Reports & Related Products

Shager, Hilary., Molly Costanza, Lisa Klein Vogel, **Alexis Dennis**, Yonah Drazen, Hanna an, Samina Hossain, and Liesl Hostetter. (2025). "Wisconsin's ELEVATE Program: Final Evaluation Report." Madison, WI: Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Available at: <https://www.irp.wisc.edu/wp/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/WI-ELEVATE-final-evaluation-report.pdf>.

Vogel, L.K., Molly Costanzo, Reilly, Aaron, and **Dennis, A.M.** (2025). "License Suspension and Civil Contempt as Enforcement Tools." Madison, WI: Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Available at: <https://www.irp.wisc.edu/wp/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/CSRA-2022-2024-T5-Report.pdf>.

Vogel, L.K., **Dennis, A.M.**, and Hostetter, L. (2023). "Findings from Child Support Policy Research Agreement (CPSRA) 2022-2024 Task 14: Researching New Approaches to Child Support Services." Madison, WI: Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Vogel, Lisa Klein and **Alexis M. Dennis**, and Nasitta Keita. 2022. "Perceptions of Fairness in Child Support". Madison, WI: Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Available at: <https://www.irp.wisc.edu/wp/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/CSRA-2020-2022-T4B.pdf>

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research/Project Assistant, Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2021 - Current

Child Support Policy Research Agreement (CSPRA) T7 2024-2026: Exploring the Connection between Child Support and Childcare Subsidies. PI: Dr. Molly Costanzo and Dr. Lisa Klein Vogel

Child Support Policy Research Agreement (CSPRA) T5 2022-2024: Driver's License Suspension and Civil Contempt as Enforcement Tools. PI: Dr. Molly Costanzo and Dr. Lisa Klein Vogel

Wisconsin's Empowering Lives through Education, Vocational Assessment, Training, and Employment (ELEVATE) Program Final Implementation Analysis. PI: Dr. Lisa Klein Vogel and Dr. Hilary Shager

Child Support Policy Research Agreement (CSPRA) T4 2020-2022: Perceptions of Fairness in Child Support. PI: Dr. Lisa Klein Vogel

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Areas: Race and Ethnicity, Population Change and Health, Sociology of the Family, Gender Studies, Sociological Research Methods

Teaching Assistant, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Sociology

SOC 170: Population Problems (*Spring 2021, Fall 2020; Spring 2018, Fall 2017*)

SOC/AAS 220: Ethnic Movements in the U.S (*Spring 2016, Fall 2015; Spring 2015, Fall 2014*)

SOC 120: Marriage and Family (*Spring 2014*)

SOC 160: Understanding Human Sexuality (*Fall 2013*)

Lecturer, Northeastern Illinois University, Sociology

SOC 316: Race and Ethnic Relations (*Spring 2020*)

SOC 337: Introduction to Sociological Methods (*Fall 2018*)

SOC 100: Introduction to Sociology (*Fall 2018*)

Lecturer, Northeastern Illinois University, Women's & Gender Studies

WGS 101: Women's Perspectives & Values (*Spring 2020, Fall 2020; Fall 2019*)

SERVICE & TRAININGS

Co- Chair, Solidarity (*graduate student-led organization*), Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2014-16

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & FELLOWSHIPS, & AFFILIATIONS

Association of Black Sociologists, 2024

Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management, 2023

Humanities Grant Writing Camp (HGWC), Institute for Research in the Humanities (IRH), University of Wisconsin-Madison, Participant 2022

Teaching Fellow, The Program in Writing Across the Curriculum, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2016

Graduate Research Fellow, Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2015

American Sociological Association

Alpha Kappa Delta, International Sociology Honor Society

PANELS & PRESENTATIONS

2023 Vogel, Lisa Klein, **Alexis Dennis**, and Nasitta Keita. ““Let’s Bring It Into the 21st Century”: Perceptions of Fairness in Child Support.” Paper presented at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) annual meeting, November, Atlanta, GA.

2023 Vogel, Lisa Klein, **Alexis Dennis**, and Nasitta Keita. ““Let’s Bring It Into the 21st Century”: Perceptions of Fairness in Child Support.” Paper presented at the National Association of Welfare Research and Statistics (NAWRS) biennial meeting, October, Salt Lake City, UT.

2023 Vogel, Lisa Klein, **Alexis Dennis**, and Liesl Hostetter. “Making Ends Meet: Custodial Parent Perspectives on Programs for Families.” Paper presented at the National Association of Welfare Research and Statistics (NAWRS) biennial workshop, October, Salt Lake City, UT.

2023. Vogel, Lisa Klein, **Alexis M. Dennis** and Nasitta Keita. “Perceptions of Fairness in Child Support.” Presented to the Bureau of Child Support, Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, May, Virtual.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

College of Letters & Sciences` Community of Graduate Research Scholars Fellowship, Summer 2018 University of Wisconsin Madison

Wisconsin Collective for Ethnographic Research (WISCER) Summer Fieldwork Award, 2015
University of Wisconsin-Madison

William H. Sewell Summer Research Award, Summer 2014
University of Wisconsin-Madison

John Gillin Award, Fall 2013
University of Wisconsin-Madison