

**Alexis M Dennis**  
**Department of Sociology**  
**Community and Environmental Sociology**  
**University of Wisconsin-Madison**

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## EDUCATION

**PhD** Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison Spring 2024

*Dissertation:* “Sojourning through the Academy: Examining the Terrain First-Gen, Working-Class Graduates Travel on the Journey to the Doctorate/Professional Degree”

*Preliminary Exams:* Race and Ethnicity; Community and Urban Sociology

*Ph.D. Minor Courses:* Narrative Inquiry, Anthropology & Education, Bridging Theory & Practice

**MS** 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

**BA** Sociology, Northeastern Illinois University, *summa cum laude* Spring 2013

Ronald E. McNair Scholar

*Minor:* Women’s and Gender Studies

## AREAS OF INTEREST

Race & Ethnicity, Poverty and Social Mobility, Social Psychology and Social Interaction, Higher Education and Graduate Student Communities, Families and Inequality, Gender Stratification, Qualitative Methods (*Narrative Analysis, Autoethnography, Life History Methodologies*)

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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

### Projects:

Wisconsin’s Empowering Lives through Education, Vocational Assessment, Training, and Employment (ELEVATE) Program Final Implementation Analysis

Under the direction of Associate Scientist, Dr. Lisa Klein Vogel and Dr. Hilary Shager

Child Support Policy Research Agreement T4 2020-2022: Perceptions of Fairness in Child Support

Under the direction of Associate Scientist, Dr. Lisa Klein Vogel and Dr. Daniel R. Meyer

## PUBLICATIONS & MANUSCRIPTS

### Government Research Reports

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>

### Articles Submitted for Publication

Boelter, Jacob, **Alexis M. Dennis**, Lisa Klein Vogel, and Kenneth D. Croes. 2023. "Recruiting Hard-to-Reach Populations Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic." Currently under review.

Vogel, Lisa Klein and **Alexis M. Dennis**. 2023. "Let's Bring It into the 21st Century": Perceptions of Fairness in Child Support Enforcement." Currently under review.

### In Progress

**Dennis, Alexis M.**, and Lisa Klein Vogel. "Self-Perception and Ideas of Parenthood: Understanding the Influence of Child Support in (re)Shaping Ideas of Parenthood and Parent Identity." Manuscript in progress.

**Dennis, Alexis M.**, "Racial Injury in the Context of Graduate Education at Majority White Universities: How Graduates of Color Navigate the Terrain of the "Small-Town.""

### **Other Publications**

#### Master's Thesis

**Dennis, Alexis M.**, 2017. "Racial Injury of Graduate Students of Color at Majority White Universities in the Era of Postracialism". Master's Thesis. Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin – Madison. Available at: (<http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1793/84112>).

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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

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  
Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility Section, ASA  
Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities, ASA

Association of Black Sociologists

Alpha Kappa Delta, International Sociology Honor Society

## PANELS & PRESENTATIONS

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.

2013. Dennis, Alexis M. "Post-Racial, Post-Feminist Society? Black Women and the Negotiation of Race, Class, and Gender," Midwest Sociological Society.

## 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