JESSI STREIB

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2026	Professor of Sociology, Duke University
2021 - 2025	Associate Professor of Sociology, Duke University
2013 - 2021	Assistant Professor of Sociology, Duke University

EDUCATION

Ph.D.	Sociology, University of Michigan, 2013
M.A.	Sociology, University of Michigan, 2009
B.A.	Sociology, Trinity College, 2006, highest honors

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Social Class Inequality
Marriage and Family
Race and Gender
Sociology of Education
Cultural Sociology
Qualitative Methods

BOOKS

Streib, Jessi and Betsy Leondar-Wright. 2025. *Is It Racist? Is It Sexist?: Why Red and Blue White People Disagree, and How to Decide in the Gray Areas.* Palo Alto: Stanford University Press.

- On *Choice's* Top 75 Community College Titles
- Covered by several NPR affiliates
- selected for an Author Meets Critic session by the Eastern Sociological Society

Streib, Jessi. 2023. *The Accidental Equalizer: How Luck Determines Pay After College*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

- #1 New Release on Amazon in Sociology, Education Policy, Education Reform, and Labor & Industrial Economic Relations
- #1 Best Seller on Amazon in Sociology
- ASA Section on the Sociology of Education's Pierre Bourdieu Award for the Best Book in Sociology of Education, Honorable Mention
- Zelizer Economic Sociology Best Book Award, Honorable Mention
- The Top 75 Community College Titles, Choice Awards

- Featured in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Los Angeles Book Review*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Inside Higher Education*, *WGN Chicago Morning News, The San Francisco Chronicle, MSN, Yahoo News, Seattle Post-Intelligencer, The Art Fuse, Fast Company,* and *Duke Alumni Reads*
- selected for an Author Meets Critic session by the Eastern Sociological Society

Streib, Jessi. 2020. *Privilege Lost: Who Leaves the Upper-Middle-Class and How They Fall.* New York: Oxford University Press.

- Translated into Chinese
- selected for an Author Meets Critic session by the Eastern Sociological Society

Streib, Jessi. 2015. *The Power of the Past: Understanding Cross-Class Marriages.* New York: Oxford University Press.

- Featured in *The Washington Post, New York Magazine, NPR, The Atlantic, Vox, Jezebel, Quartz, Elle, MSNBC, Inside Higher Ed, The Society Pages, The Billfold, Yahoo Finance, BBC* (England), *Times Higher Education* (England), *Le Monde* (France), *Newstalk 770* (Canada), *The Moncrieff Show* (Ireland), *Australian Broadcasting Corporation* (Australia), *Australian Finance Review* (Australia), *I Will Teach You To Be Rich / Money For Couples,* and news outlets in ten other countries

PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

* designates graduate student co-author; ** designates undergraduate co-author

Streib, Jessi. 2026. "How the Habitus Facilitates Class Reproduction and Social Mobility." *Sociological Theory,* online first.

Streib, Jessi. 2026. "How Cultural Capital and Its Evaluation Enable Social Mobility." *Sociological Compass* 20(3):e70180.

Streib, Jessi. 2025. "How the Class Advantaged Fail to Obtain Greater Economic Capital from Their Greater Social Capital." *Socius* 11.

Streib, Jessi and Betsy Leondar-Wright. 2025. "How White Americans Decide What's Racist and Sexist." *Contexts* 24(3):28-33.

Manzoni, Anna and Jessi Streib. 2023. "Moving Away from One's Origins: Predictors of Becoming a First-Generation College Graduate and Not Becoming a Continuing-Generation College Graduate." *The Sociological Quarterly* 64(4):630-650.

Streib, Jessi. 2023. "America's Hidden Equalizing Machine." *Contexts* 22(2):12-17.

Streib, Jessi, Jane Rochmes, Felicia Arriaga,* Carlos Tavares,* and Emi Weed.* 2021. "Class and the Cultural Styles Applicants Present to Gatekeepers." *Poetics* 86:101513.

Streib, Jessi. 2020. "How the Privileged Fall." *Contexts* 19(2):28-33.

Streib, Jessi, Jane Rochmes, Felicia Arriaga,* Carlos Tavares,* and Emi Weed.* 2019. "Writing in Race: Evidence Against Employers' Assumptions about Race and Soft Skills." *Social Problems* 67(4):677-697.

Streib, Jessi, Jane Rochmes, Felicia Arriaga,* Carlos Tavares,* and Emi Weed.* 2019. "Presenting Their Gendered Selves? How Women and Men Describe Who They Are, What They Have Done, and Why They Want the Job in Their Written Applications." *Sex Roles* 81(9-10):610-626.

Streib, Jessi. 2018. "Class, Culture, and Downward Mobility." *Poetics* 70:18-27.

Manzoni, Anna and Jessi Streib. 2018. "The Equalizing Power of a College Degree for First-Generation College Students: Disparities Across Institutions, Majors, and Achievement Levels." *Research in Higher Education* 60(5):577-605.

- Featured in *The Chicago Tribune*

Streib, Jessi. 2017. "The Unbalanced Theoretical Toolkit: Problems and Partial Solutions to Studying Culture and Reproduction but Not Culture and Mobility." *American Journal of Cultural Sociology* 5(1):127-153.

Streib, Jessi, Miryea Ayala,** and Colleen Wixted.** 2017. "Benign Inequality: Frames of Social Class Inequality in Children's Movies." *Journal of Poverty* 21(1):1-19.

- Featured in *New York Magazine, NPR, The Guardian, Daily Mail, The Telegraph, Yahoo Finance, The Columbus Dispatch, Deseret News, The Hollywood Reporter,* and media outlets in ten other countries
- Most viewed article on the Clippings section of *The Society Pages* in 2017

Streib, Jessi. 2015. "Explanations of How Love Crosses Class Lines: Cultural Complements and the Case of Cross-Class Marriages." *Sociological Forum* 30(1):18-39.

- American Sociological Association Family Section Graduate Student Paper Award (Top Five)
- Midwest Sociological Association Best Graduate Student Paper Award (First Place)
- University of Michigan Katherine Luke Graduate Student Paper Award

Streib, Jessi. 2015. "Marrying Across Class Lines." *Contexts* 14(2):40-45.

- Reprinted in *Gender, Sexuality, and Intimacy: A Contexts Reader*

Streib, Jessi. 2013. "Class Origin and Heterogeneity in College Graduates' Parenting Beliefs." *The Sociological Quarterly* 54(4):670-693.

Streib, Jessi. 2011. "Class Reproduction by Four Year Olds." *Qualitative Sociology* 34(2):337-352.

- American Sociological Association Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility Graduate Student Paper Award
- University of Michigan Mark Chesler Graduate Student Paper Award
- Featured in the *Boston Globe, NPR, Vancouver Sun*, *The Financial Times*, and *Contexts*

BOOK CHAPTERS AND BOOK REVIEWS

Streib, Jessi. 2021. "Class, Culture, and Inequality." In Christie Launius, Michele Fazio and Tim Strangleman (eds.) *The Routledge International Handbook of Working-Class Studies.* New York: Routledge.

- handbook is the winner of the Working Class Studies Association's Jake Ryan and Charles Sackrey Award

Streib, Jessi, SaunJuhi Verma, Whitney Welsh, and Linda Burton. 2016. "Life, Death, and Resurrections: The Culture of Poverty Perspective." In David Brady and Linda Burton (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Poverty.* New York: Oxford University Press.

Streib, Jessi. 2016. Review of *Pedigree: How Elite Students Get Elite Jobs* by Lauren Rivera. In *Contemporary Sociology* 45:130-132.

Streib, Jessi. 2016. "Lessons Learned: How I Unintentionally Reproduce Class Inequality." In Allison Hurst and Sandi Nenga (eds.), *Working in Class: Recognizing How Social Class Shapes Our Academic Work.* New York: Rowman & Littlefield.

Streib, Jessi. 2015. Review of *Driving After Class: Anxious Times in an American Suburb* by Rachel Heiman. In *The Times Higher Education* 2(208):48.

WORK IN PREPARATION

"How Youth Develop Political Identities" (with Anna Hiltner*)

"The Limits of Selection and Meritocratic Evaluation in Equalizing Post-College Outcomes."

"When is College the Great Equalizer? The Institutional Determinants of Class Inequality After College"

"The Limits of Parental Advice as a Mechanism of Class Reproduction."

AWARDS AND HONORS

2025	Pierre Bourdieu Award for the Best Book in Sociology of Education, Honorable Mention for *The Accidental Equalizer*
2025	Decker's Prize for Undergraduate Teaching Excellence, Duke University (nominated)
2024	Zelizer Economic Sociology Book Award, Honorable Mention for *The Accidental Equalizer*
2023	William Julius Wilson Early Career Award; Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility Section of the American Sociological Association
2018	Top 5% of Teaching Evaluations, Duke University Social Sciences, Small Course Division
2013	National Center for Institutional Diversity Exemplary Diversity Scholar
2013	Midwest Sociological Society Best Student Paper Award, First Place "Appreciation across Class and Cultural Lines: The Case of Cross-Class Marriages"
2013	Early Career Scholar, Work-Family Research Network
2011	American Sociological Association Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility Section Graduate Student Paper Award "Class Reproduction by Four Year Olds"
2011	Katherine Luke Best Graduate Student Paper Award, University of Michigan "Appreciation across Class and Cultural Lines: The Case of Cross-Class Marriages"
2010	Mark Chesler Graduate Student Paper Award, University of Michigan "Class Reproduction by Four Year Olds"
2009	Mark Chesler Graduate Student Paper Award, University of Michigan "A Role for Emotions in Class Reproduction"
2008	Mark Chesler Graduate Student Paper Award, University of Michigan "Class in the Preschool Classroom"
2006	Phi Beta Kappa

2006 Presidential Fellowship. Awarded to the student achieving the highest level of scholastic achievement and leadership within each discipline, Trinity College.

2006 The Sociology Prize for Outstanding Scholarship and Achievement, Trinity College

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

2024 Institute for Human Studies ($5,000)

2023 Social Science Research Institute ($25,000, with Stephen Vaisey and Christopher Johnston)

2020 Arts & Sciences Council Committee Faculty Research Grant, Duke University ($4,875)

2014 The Spencer Foundation Small Grant ($50,000)

2014 Arts & Sciences Council Committee Faculty Research Grant, Duke University ($4,600)

2012 Center for Public Policy in Diverse Societies Research Grant ($3,000)

2012 Midwest Sociological Society Research Grant ($750)

2011 Rackham Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, University of Michigan ($27,600)

2011 Rackham Spring/Summer Research Grant, University of Michigan ($6,000)

2010 Rackham Student Research Grant for Doctoral Candidates, University of Michigan ($3,000)

2009 Institute for Research on Women and Gender Graduate Student Research Award, University of Michigan ($500)

2009 Center for the Education of Women Graduate Student Research Grant, University of Michigan ($1,000)

2009 Sociology Department Dissertation Grant, University of Michigan ($1,400)

2009 Rackham Student Research Grant for Pre-Doctoral Candidates, University of Michigan ($1,500)

2006 W.H. Russell Fellowship. Awarded to the student with the highest GPA graduating from Trinity College with plans to enter graduate school ($7,500)

INVITED TALKS

2025	Oxford University. "Downward Mobility in the United States."
2025	Southern Sociological Society. "Is it Racist? Is it Sexist?"
2025	Yale Culture Workshop. "How the Habitus Matters for Upward and Downward Mobility."
2024	Georgetown University, McCourt School of Public Policy. "The Luckocracy."
2024	Cornell University, Center for the Study of Inequality. "The Accidental Equalizer."
2024	Questbridge. "Understanding Cross-Class Marriages."
2024	Stanford University Pathways Seminar. "The Accidental Equalizer."
2024	Eastern Sociological Society. Author Meets Critic Session for *The Accidental Equalizer*.
2023	Washington University. "The Luckocracy."
2023	Moscow Centre for Cultural Sociology, Vectors Conference. Keynote Speaker. "How Culture Matters for Equality and Social Mobility."
2023	Eastern Sociological Society. Author Meets Critic for Elizabeth Lee and Janel Benson's *Geographies of Campus Inequality.*
2022	Cultures of the Working Class, Finnish Group. "Privilege Gained: Why Some Working-Class Youth Are Upwardly Mobile While Most Are Not."
2022	Academy of Management Professional Development Workshop. "Bringing 'Class' into the Business Classroom: Addressing Social Class in Management Education."
2022	Columbia University, The Center for the Study of Wealth and Inequality. "The Luckocracy."
2020-2021	*Privilege Lost* talks at Colby College, Elon University, George Mason University, and Trinity College.
2019	NSF Workshop on Assessing Technology and Skills Gaps in Adulthood Transitions.

2018 Duke University First-Generation Graduate Student Network. "How Students from Different Social Classes Find Jobs."

2018 Bringing Cultural Sociology to the Public Workshop. American Sociological Association.

2018 Eastern Sociological Society. Author Meets Critic Session for Rachel Sherman's *Uneasy Street: The Anxieties of Affluence.*

2018 University of North Carolina, Culture and Politics Workshop. "Privilege Lost: Downward Mobility in the New Gilded Age."

2018 Northwestern University, Graduate Family Course. "The Power of the Past."

2017 Duke University, University Scholars Program. "Beyond Social Reproduction: How Inequality Becomes Equality During the Transition from College to Work."

2017 Duke University, Race Workshop. "Behind the Scenes: The Making of a Qualitative Research Project."

2017 University of Virginia, Social Stratification Course. "The Power of the Past."

2017 Yale University, Center for Research on Inequalities and the Life Course. "Privilege Lost: Downward Mobility in an Age of Affluence."

2016 University of Maryland, Population Research Center. "Downward Mobility in an Age of Affluence."

2016 Working Class Studies. Author Meets Critic on *The Power of the Past*.

2016 The National Center for Institutional Diversity Conference. Keynote Speaker.

2016 Southern Sociological Society, Presidential Panel. "How Two Do Not Become One: Cross-Class Marriages in America."

2016 Southern Sociological Society. Author Meets Critic on *Unequal Time: Gender, Class, and Family in Employment Schedules,* by Dan Clawson and Naomi Gerstel.

2016 Furman University, Social Class Inequality Course. "The Power of the Past."

2016 North Carolina State University, Qualitative Methods Course. "How Love Crosses Class Lines."

2015 Oregon State University, Social Class Inequality Course. "The Power of the Past."

2015 "What Happens When Love Crosses Class Lines." University of Pennsylvania Colloquium Series.

2014 Conference on Innovative Approaches to Social Class Research. "The Power of the Past."

2014 Author Meets Critic. "Playing to Win." Eastern Sociological Society.

2013 Duke University, Jensen Series. "Does the Class Come Out of the Person When the Person Comes Out of the Class?"

2013 North Carolina State University, Department of Sociology and Anthropology. "Does the Class Come Out of the Person When the Person Comes Out of the Class?"

2013 "Class Differences and Language Gaps in Preschool Classrooms." Washtenaw County Association of the Education of Young Children.

2010 Invited participant at the Craft of Ethnography Conference.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

2023 "The Accidental Equalizer." RC28 Conference.

2022 "The Luckocracy." Bourdieu, Work, and Inequality Conference.

2022 Author Meets Critic for *Privilege Lost.* Eastern Sociological Society.

2018 "Beyond Social Reproduction: How Greater Equality is Achieved During the Transition from College to Work." American Sociological Association.

2018 "Lucky in Labor: College, Work, and the Alleviation of Social Class Inequality." Working-Class Studies Association Conference.

2017 "Downward Mobility in an Age of Affluence." Working-Class Studies Association Conference.

2016 "Cultural Mechanisms of Downward Mobility." American Sociological Association.

2016 "Are All College Degrees Equally Equalizing?" Population Association of America.

2016 "Written Equally: How a College Degree Levels the Playing Field for Students from Different Class Backgrounds." Sociology of Education Association.

2015 "Are All College Degrees Equally Equalizing?" Association for the Study of Higher Education.

2015 "The Unbalanced Theoretical Toolkit: Problems and Partial Solutions to Studying Culture and Reproduction but Not Culture and Mobility." American Sociological Association.

2015 "How a College Degree Levels the Playing Field: Class Background and Deploying the Cultural Capital Needed to Get a Foot in the Door." Southern Sociological Society.

2014 "Social Class Reproduction in Marriage and Schools." Duke University, Social Mobility Group.

2014 "Class Origin and Ideas of Work." Work Family Research Network Conference.

2013 "Taking the Class Out of the Person after Taking the Person Out of the Class? The Durability of the Habitus in Different-Origin Marriages." Eastern Sociological Society.

2012 "Cultural Differences and Strong Tie Formation across a Class Divide." American Sociological Association.

2012 "Ties that Bind and Ties that Lift: Solidifying Upward Mobility through Marriage." University of Michigan Conference on Poverty and Inequality.

2011 "The Origins of Class Consciousness Revisited." American Sociological Association.

2010 "Preschoolers' Class Acts: How Young Children Perform Class." American Sociological Association.

2010 "Already Class Actors." Chicago Ethnography Conference.

2009 "A Role for Emotions in Class Reproduction." American Sociological Association.

2009 "Additional Avenues to Class Reproduction: Class Cultures, the Middle-Class Gaze, and Structures of Feeling." Eastern Sociological Society.

2008 "Class in the Preschool Classroom: Learning about Class through Cliques and Exclusion." American Sociological Association.

2008 "Class in the Preschool Classroom: Learning about Class through Cliques and Exclusion." Working-Class Studies Conference.

2006 "Class at College: The Effect of Social Class on Students' College Experiences." Eastern Sociological Society.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Sole Instructor at Duke University

Graduate

Contemporary Theory
Qualitative Methods
Interviewing Methods
Social Class Inequality
Class, Race, and Gender
Dissertation Proposal Workshop

Undergraduate

Theory and Society
The Changing American Family
Research Seminar for Undergraduates
Bass Connections
Research Independent Study Adviser
Human Development Certificate Adviser
North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics Mentor

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Service to the Profession

2026	ASA Program Committee
2025	Inequality, Mobility, and Poverty ASA Session Organizer
2024-2025	Mentor in NC State Sociology's Assistant Professor Mentorship Program
2024-2025	The Washington Center for Equitable Growth, Economic Mobility Newsletter Advisory Committee
2024-	Sociological Forum Editorial Board
2023	How to Get Into a Sociology PhD Program webinar host and organizer
2023	Robert M. Hauser Distinguished Scholar Award Chair
2023	Book Workshop for Marbella Eboni Hill
2022-2024	Cultures of the Working Class in the 2020s: Fragmentation, Reproduction, Boundaries and Politics, International Advisory Board Member
2022-2024	*Contexts* Editorial Board

2022	Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility Robert D. Mare Graduate Student Paper Award Chair
2021	Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility Devah Pager Outstanding Article Award Chair
2020-2023	Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility Section of the American Sociological Association: Council Member
2020	Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility Section of the American Sociological Association: Mentor
2018	ASA Co-Session Organizer of Panel: "Talking Across Class"
2018	ASA Culture Section Best Paper Award Committee
2017-	Board of Advisors for the Emerging Leaders Study
2017-	Co-Founder and Co-Leader of the Class and Culture Caucus of the Working-Class Studies Association
2017	ASA Sociology of Education Section Graduate Student Award Paper Committee
2017	Book workshop for Carolyn Barnes
2015	Mentor for Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility and Race, Class, and Gender Sections
2015-2017	Southern Sociological Society Program Committee
2014-2015	ASA Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility Mentorship Program Co-Organizer
2012	ASA Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility Graduate Student Paper Committee

Service to Duke University

2025-	Director of Graduate Studies, Sociology Department
2025	Director of the von der Heyden Global Fellowship
2025	Tenure Committee, DKU
2025	Third Year Review Committee
2025	Faculty Mentor for Sanford and Sociology Junior Faculty
2025	Graduate Admissions Committee
2024-2025	Honors Student Advisor
2023	Culture and Mobility Independent Study Advisor
2023	Mentor, Duke Kunshan University
2023	Graduate Committee
2022	Hiring Committee
2022	Sophomore Summit Speaker
2022-2023	Graduate Studies Committee
2021	Jensen Speaker Series Co-Coordinator
2021	Rubenstein Scholar Selection Committee
2019	Hiring Committee
2018-2020	Rubenstein Scholars Advisor
2017	Co-Creator of Duke Sociology's Frequently Asked Questions for Applying to Graduate School
2016-2018	Graduate School Admissions Committee
2015	Discussant at Angel Harris' Conference on Social Stratification
2015	Discussant on Gender and Academia Panels
2015	The Science of Small Talk – Panel Discussant at the Kenan Ethics Center
2014-2015	Graduate School Admissions Committee

2014-2015 Hiring Committee
2013-2014 Jensen Speaker Series Co-Coordinator
2013-2014 Executive Committee

Service to the Department of Sociology, University of Michigan

2011-2012 Faculty Recruitment Graduate Student Committee Chair
2010-2011 Personnel Committee Graduate Student Representative
2009-2012 Student Founder and Leader of the Advanced Qualitative Research Workshop
2008-2009 Founder of the Sociologists' Social Class Reading Group
2008-2009 Executive Committee Student Representative
2007-2011 Sociology Graduate Student Mentor

Occasional Reviewer

Ashbury Publishing, American Journal of Education, American Journal of Cultural Sociology, American Journal of Sociology, American Sociological Review, British Journal of Sociology, Chicago University Press, Contexts, European Societies, Journal of Business Venturing, National Science Foundation, Poetics, Qualitative Sociology, Russell Sage Foundation, Sociology of Education, Sociological Perspectives, Social Currents, Social Problems, Social Psychology Quarterly, Sociological Compass, Sociological Forum, Socius, Stanford University Press, University of California Press, University of Chicago Press, Washington Center for Equitable Growth

Undergraduate and Graduate Student Committees

Felicia Arriaga, Chase Adkins, Aimee Chabot, Ajenai Clemmons, Hong Chen, Lesleigh Ford, Emma Gerden (UNC), Vincent Fowler, Anna Hiltner, Anna Holleman, Elizabeth Johnson, Adrienne Jones (co-chair), Andrew Joyce (chair), Rachel Kaufman (chair), Rebecca Lerhman, Warren Lowell, Samantha Moser, Collin Mueller, Mari Kate Mycek, Sarah Nolan, Pamela Zabala Ortiz, Crystal Peoples, Emily Persons, Megan Reynolds, Gaute Rygh, Shuyi Qiu, Samuel Snelson (co-chair), Carlos Tavares, Zimife Umeh, Aditya Unnikrishnan, Lauren Valentino, Liann Yamashita, Bethany Young

Other Service

Consultant for the Women's Lawyers of Utah
Board Member for Modern Husbands

MEDIA ROLES

2024 - 2025 Contributing writer for Forbes.com