

CURRICULUM VITAE

Joseph J. Merry

June 2026

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Greenville, SC 29613

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EMPLOYMENT

2021 - Present Associate Professor, Furman University

2015 - 2021 Assistant Professor, Furman University

EDUCATION

Ph.D. 2015 The Ohio State University, Department of Sociology.
Dissertation: "Education in the Era of Rising Inequality and the Distribution of School Effectiveness."

M.A. 2012 The Ohio State University, Department of Sociology.
Master's Thesis: "Tracing the U.S. Deficit in PISA Reading Skills to Early Childhood: Evidence from the U.S. and Canada."

B.A. 2010 John Carroll University, Departments of Sociology and Spanish.
Summa Cum Laude.

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Social Class Inequality, Education, Family, Cross-National Comparative, Social Policy.

TEXTBOOKS & INVITED BOOK CHAPTERS

Stuber, Jenny, Judson G. Everitt, and Joseph J. Mery. Forthcoming. "The Sociology of Education: A Systematic Analysis, 10th edition. Routledge.

Merry, Joseph J. and Maria Paino. 2019. "Sociology of Education." in the *Wiley Blackwell Companion to Sociology*, edited by George Ritzer and Wendy Wiedenhof Murphy. Wiley-Blackwell.

Merry, Joseph J., Claudia Buchmann and Dennis J. Condon. 2016. "Learning Outside of School: The Implications of Shadow Education for Seasonal Learning Patterns." Pp. 131-145 in *Summer Slide: What We Know and Can Do About Summer Learning Loss*, edited by Karl Alexander, Matthew Boulay, and Sarah Pitcock. New York, NY: Teachers College Press.

PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES (* DENOTES STUDENT COAUTHOR)

- Condrón, Dennis J., Joseph J. Merry, Emma Johnston*, and Talia Samard*. 2025. "Child Poverty and Academic Skills at the National Level: A Longitudinal Analysis of Four Waves of PISA." *International Journal of Comparative Sociology* 66(6): 849-868.
- Merry, Joseph J. and Donna Bobbitt-Zeher. 2023. "Sibship and Inequality Beliefs: Do Siblings Have a Liberalizing or Conservatizing Effect?" *Sociological Inquiry* 93(4): 778-808.
- Workman, Joseph, Paul von Hippel, and Joseph J. Merry. 2023. "Findings on Summer Learning Loss Often Fail to Replicate, Even in Recent Data." *Sociological Science*.
- Downey, Douglas B., Man Yao, and Joseph J. Merry. 2023 "More Siblings During Childhood, Lower Probability of Divorce in Adulthood: New Evidence from China and Europe." *Journal of Family Issues* 45(4): 890-930.
- Merry, Joseph J., Dennis J. Condrón, and Nick Torres*. 2020. "A Comparative Analysis of Early Childhood Socioeconomic Conditions and Educational Achievement Fifteen Years Later." *International Journal of Comparative Sociology* 61 (6): 389-411.
- Dirlam, Jonathan and Joseph J. Merry. 2020. "Challenges in Isolating the Effect of College Attainment and Debt Accumulation on Young Adult Self-Concept." *Sociological Forum* 36 (1): 111-133.
- Merry, Joseph J., Donna Bobbitt-Zeher, and Douglas B. Downey. 2019. "Number of Siblings in Childhood, Social Outcomes in Adulthood." *Journal of Family Issues* 41(2): 212-232.
- Kelly, Katie, Joseph J. Merry, and Madeline Gonzalez*. 2018. "Trust, Collaboration, and Well-Being: Lessons Learned from Finland" *Southeast Regional Association of Teacher Educators (SRATE)* 27(2): 34-39.
- Yoon, Aimee and Joseph J. Merry. 2017. "Understanding the Role of Schools in the Asian-White Gap: A Seasonal Comparison Approach." *Race Ethnicity and Education* 21(5): 680-700.
- 2016 Research Paper Award, *Asia and Asian America Section of the American Sociological Society*
- Kołczyńska, Marta and Joseph J. Merry. 2016. "Preferred Levels of Income Inequality in a Period of Systemic Change: Poland 1988-2003." *Polish Sociological Review* 194(2): 171-189.
- Reprinted as "Preferred Levels of Income Inequality in a Period of Systemic Change" Pp. 205-226 in *Dynamics of Social Structure: Poland's*

Transformative Years 1988-2013, edited by Kazimierz M. Slomczynski and Irina Tomescu-Dubrow. Warsaw, Poland: IFiS Publishers

Park, Hyunjoon, Claudia Buchmann, Jaesung Choi, and Joseph J. Merry. 2016. "Learning Beyond the School Walls: Trends and Implications." *Annual Review of Sociology* 42: 231-252.

Bobbitt-Zeher, Donna, Douglas B. Downey, and Joseph J. Merry. 2014. "Number of Siblings During Childhood and the Likelihood of Divorce in Adulthood." *Journal of Family Issues* 37(15): 2076-2094.

Merry, Joseph J. 2013. "Tracing the U.S. Deficit in PISA Reading Skills to Early Childhood: Evidence from the U.S. and Canada." *Sociology of Education* 86 (3): 234-252.

- Stevenson Graduate Student Paper Award, *Sociology of Education Section of the American Sociological Association*.
- Maureen T. Hallinan Graduate Student Paper Award (2nd Place), *American Educational Research Association*.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Merry, Joseph J., Luca Breslin, and Claire Isosaki Jost. "Unemployment Generosity and National Educational Performance: A Longitudinal Analysis of 5 Waves of PISA"

Merry, Joseph J. "How Do Kids Influence Adults' Attitudes Toward Meritocracy and Redistribution? A Comparison of Parents and Childfree Adults."

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Supp, Sarah R., Anne M. Nurse, Joseph Holler, Nicholas J. Horton, Peter Kedron, Richard Ball, and contributing authors: Ben Gebre-Medhin, Xavier Haro-Carrión, Emmanuel Kaparakis, Scott LaCombe, Matthew Lavin, Joseph J. Merry, and Laurie Tupper. 2025. "Reproducibility May Be the Key Idea Students Need to Balance Trust in Evidence with Healthy Skepticism" *The Conversation*, June 5.

Merry, Joseph J. 2014. "Education in the Era of Rising Inequality: Are Schools Becoming the Great(er) Equalizer?" Kingsbury Center Research Brief. *Northwest Evaluation Association*.

Merry, Joseph J. 2014. "Considering Preschool Cross-Nationally and as Part of a Broader Reform Agenda." *Sociology of Education Newsletter* 17(1).

Merry, Joseph J. 2014. "Research in Sociology of Education: The Need for an Early and Cross-National Perspective." *Sociology of Education Newsletter* 18(1).

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2026 Furman University Summer Research Fellowship Mentor. \$4,000.
- 2025 Furman University Summer Research Fellowship Mentor. \$1,750.
- 2024 Furman University Summer Research Fellowship Mentor. \$1,750.
- 2022 Furman University Summer Research Fellowship Mentor. \$1,750.
- 2019 Furman University Summer Research Fellowship Mentor. \$1,500.
- 2018 Furman University Summer Research Fellowship Mentor. \$1,500.
- 2017 Furman University Summer Research Fellowship Mentor. \$1,500.
- 2017 Research and Professional Growth Grant. “Cross-National Achievement Gaps and Early Childhood Social Conditions.” \$935.
- 2017 Faculty Research Fellowship, Shi Center for Sustainability. “Education and Sustainable Societies: Finland’s Approach to Educating the Whole Child”, with Katie Kelly. \$2,500.
- 2015 Outstanding Graduate Teaching Associate Award, presented by the Sociology Graduate Student Association (SGSA)
- 2015 Max Weber Postdoctoral Programme Fellowship, Declined
- 2014 Finalist, Spencer Dissertation Fellowship
- 2013 Kingsbury Data Center Award. “Are Schools Becoming the Great(er) Equalizer? *Northwest Evaluation Association*, May 2013.
- 2010 Form-Huber Fellowship, The Ohio State University, Sociology Department. \$17,220.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Merry, Joseph J., Luca Breslin, and Claire Isosaki Jost. “Unemployment Generosity and National Educational Performance: A Longitudinal Analysis of 5 Waves of PISA. Annual Meeting of the *South Carolina Sociology Association*, Orangeburg, SC. February 2026.

Merry, Joseph J., Sara Powell*, and Leah Forrest*. “What Goes Up Must Become More Conservative? Class Mobility and Inequality Beliefs” Annual Meeting of the *South Carolina Sociology Association*, Greenville, SC. February 2025

Merry, Joseph J. "How Do Kids Influence Adults' Attitudes Toward Meritocracy and Redistribution? A Comparison of Parents and Childfree Adults." Annual Meeting of the *Southern Sociological Society*, New Orleans, LA. April 2024.

Condron, Dennis J., Joseph J. Merry, Emma Johnston* and Talia Samard*. "Poverty and Academic Skills in Comparative Perspective: A Longitudinal Analysis of Four Waves of PISA." Annual Meeting of the *Southern Sociological Society*, Myrtle Beach, SC. March 2023.

Merry, Joseph J. and Becca Waldorf*. "Inequality Beliefs in the United States: An Interdisciplinary Systematic Review." Annual Meeting of the *Southern Sociological Society*, Virtual Conference. April 2021.

Merry, Joseph J. and Donna Bobbitt-Zeher. "Sibship and Inequality Beliefs: Do Siblings Have a Liberalizing or Conservatizing Effect?" Prerecorded July 8, 2020 for the Annual Meeting of the *American Sociological Association*, Virtual Engagement Program. August 2020.

Merry, Joseph J. "National Education Performance and Early Childhood Social Conditions" Annual Meeting of the *American Sociological Association*, New York, NY. August 2019.

Dirlam, Jonathan and Joseph J. Merry. "Does Higher Education Really Increase Self-Esteem and Mastery in Young Adults?" Annual Meeting of the *American Sociological Association*, Philadelphia, PA. August 2018.

Joseph J. Merry and Nick Torres*. "Cross-National Achievement Gaps and Early Childhood Social Conditions" Annual Meeting of the *Southern Sociological Society*, New Orleans, LA. April 2018.

Merry, Joseph J. and Joseph Workman. "School's Out for Summer: Pervasiveness and Magnitude of Summer Learning Loss". Annual Meeting of the *Southern Sociological Society*, Greenville SC. March 2017.

Merry, Joseph J., Donna Bobbitt-Zeher, and Douglas B. Downey. "Number of Siblings and Social Outcomes in Adulthood. Annual Meeting of the *American Sociological Association*, Seattle WA. August 2016.

Workman, Joseph and Joseph J. Merry. "School's Out for Summer: Pervasiveness and Magnitude of Summer Learning Loss." Annual Meeting of the *American Sociological Association*, Seattle WA. August 2016.

Merry, Joseph J. "The Distribution of School Effectiveness: A Seasonal Comparison Approach" Annual Meeting of the *Southern Sociological Society*, Atlanta GA. April 2016.

Yoon, Aimee J. and Joseph J. Merry. "Understanding the Role of Schools in the Asian-White Gap: A Seasonal Comparison Approach" Annual Meeting of the *American Sociological Association*, Chicago, IL. August 2015.

Merry, Joseph J. "Education in the Era of Rising Inequality: Are Schools Becoming the Great(er) Equalizer?" Annual Meeting of the *American Sociological Association*, San Francisco, CA. August 2014.

Kołczyńska, Marta and Joseph J. Merry. "Change in Preferred Levels of Income Inequality: Poland 1988-2003." Annual Meeting of the *American Sociological Association*, San Francisco, CA. August 2014.

Merry, Joseph J. and Alicia Croft. "Ability Grouping and Learning to Read. A New Method for Isolating Causal Effect." Annual Meeting of the *American Sociological Association*, New York City, NY. August 2013.

Bobbitt-Zeher, Donna, Douglas B. Downey, and Joseph J. Merry. "Are There Long-Term Consequences to Growing Up Without Siblings? Likelihood of Divorce Among Only Children." Annual Meeting of the *American Sociological Association*, New York City, NY. August 2013.

Merry, Joseph J. "Tracing the U.S. Deficit in PISA Reading Skills to Early Childhood: Evidence from the U.S. and Canada." Annual Meeting of the *American Sociological Association*, Denver, CO. August 2012.

INVITED TALKS, INTERVIEWS & WORKSHOPS

"Inequality Inside vs. Outside of Schools" Furman University, Comparative Education (EDU 235), February 2021, February 2023.

"Schools and Inequality, Revisited." Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) Lunch and Learn Speaker Series. Furman University, September 2020.

"Educational Inequality in the United States." *College Advising Corps*. Furman University, July 2019.

"Social Sustainability and Education: Lessons from Finland" with Katie Kelly. *Shi Center Faculty Affiliate Research Presentation*. Furman University, April 2018.

Invited participant for workshop on "The Role of Schools in Educational Inequality: Comparative and International Evidence." *Berlin Social Science Center*. Berlin, Germany, June 2017.

Introductory Remarks for keynote speaker, Dr. Karl Alexander. "The Long Shadow: Family Background, Disadvantaged Urban Youth, and the Transition to Adulthood"

presented during the Riley Institute's Summer Series: *Straight Talk SC: Education for Life: Working Together to Fulfill the Promise of Education*, June 2016.

"Schools and Inequality, Revisited" High Noon Speaker Series at the Upcountry History Museum, Greenville, SC, March 2016.

"Change in Preferred Levels of Income Inequality: Poland 1988-2003" with Marta Kołczyńska. Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland, March 2014.

POLPAN (Polish Panel Survey) Workshop participant. Two-week training workshop in panel analysis, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland and The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, May 2013.

"Tracing the U.S. Deficit in PISA Reading Skills to Early Childhood: Evidence from the U.S. and Canada" *Podcast Interview for Sociology of Education, Sage Publications*, July 2013.

"The Mediocre Performance of U.S. Students on International Education Tests: Are Schools to Blame?" John Carroll University, Research Methods in Sociology, March 2012."

"Cross-National Comparisons of Education: An Introduction to the Large-Scale International Tests." The Ohio State University, Sociology of Education, November 2011.

TEACHING & MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Courses Taught: Introduction to Sociology, Methods of Social Research, Quantitative Analysis, Sociology of Education, Social Class in America, International Perspectives on Public Education, Comparative Social Policy, Family Tree Sociology

Advanced Training: Participant in The Alliance to Advance Liberal Arts Colleges (AALAC) Workshop on Reproducibility and Replicability in the Liberal Arts (2024).

Pathways Academic Advising Instructor, Furman University (2022).

American Sociological Association (ASA) Pre-Conference on Teaching and Learning – "Thinking Matters: Critical Thinking, Active Listening, and Evidence-Based Writing" (August 2017)

Participant in Associated Colleges of the South (ACS) Workshop on Inclusive Pedagogy (June/July 2017)

Participant in Associated Colleges of the South (ASC) GIS Pathways Workshop (June 2016). Program to explore the use of GIS software and analysis for teaching and research.

Completion of the Graduate School's Preparing Future Faculty Program (Ohio State University; May 2015). Year-long partnership with faculty member from a liberal arts college. Program offers opportunities to discuss and review pedagogy and experience the academic setting of smaller colleges and universities.

Research Supervision: Faculty Advisor for Summer Research Fellowship (Summer 2026). "Sociology of Education Textbook Drafting" with Maggie Malcolm and Ahlyana Borski.

Faculty Advisor for Summer Research Fellowship (Summer 2025). "Unemployment Generosity and National Educational Performance: A Longitudinal Analysis of 5 Waves of PISA" with Luca Breslin and Claire Isosaki Jost.

Faculty Advisor for Summer Research Fellowship (Summer 2024). "How Does Social Mobility Shape Inequality Beliefs?" with Leah Forrest and Sara Powell.

Faculty Advisor for Summer Research Fellowship (Summer 2022). "International Perspectives on Childhood Poverty and Later Educational Performance" with Emma Johnston and Talia Samard.

Faculty Advisor for Summer Research Fellowship (Summer 2019). "Attitudes and Opinions toward Inequality: Determinants and Change over Time" with Becca Waldorf.

Faculty Advisor for Summer Research Fellowship (Summer 2018). "Early Childhood Education in Greenville County: Access and Resource Variation" with Mary Leffingwell.

Faculty Advisor for Summer Research Fellowship (Summer 2017). "Cross-National Achievement Gaps and Early Childhood Social Conditions" with Nick Torres.

Co-Faculty Advisor (with Dr. Katie Kelly) for Summer Research Fellowship (Summer 2017). "Trust, Collaboration, and Well-Being: Key Principles of School Culture in Finland" with Maddie Gonzalez

Internship Supervision: Chris Bradham (Spring 2018) “Sociology and the Symphony”

Mary Frances Dennis (Fall 2017) “Sociological and Legal Perspectives on Human Trafficking”

Jasmine Blassingame (Fall 2016) “Sociological Insights on Human Resources and Hiring”

Special Recognitions: Recognized during Faculty/Staff Appreciation Night (Furman Women’s Basketball Team 2017 and 2022) for playing an important role in the Furman Experience of a student-athlete on the team.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

2025 – Present South Carolina Sociology Association

2015 – Present Shi Center for Sustainability, Faculty Affiliate

2015 – Present Southern Sociological Society

2011 – Present American Sociological Association
Section Member – Sociology of Education
Section Member – Inequality, Poverty, & Mobility
Section Member – Teaching and Learning

SERVICE TO THE DISCIPLINE

Ad Hoc Reviewer: Springer Nature, Scientific Reports, Educational Researcher, UNICEF, International Journal of Comparative Sociology, American Sociological Review, British Educational Research Journal, Social Forces, Research in the Sociology of Education, American Educational Research Journal, Routledge Press, Social Currents, Sociology of Education, Journal of Family Issues, Maternal and Child Health Journal, Polish Sociological Review

2021 Session Organizer/Presider. “Enduring Economic Inequality” at the Annual Meeting of the *Southern Sociological Society*, Virtual Conference. April 2021.

2020 Session Organizer/Presider. “Social Inequalities” at the Annual Meeting of the *Southern Sociological Society*, Jacksonville, FL. April 2020 (Cancelled).

- 2016 - 2017 Local Arrangements Committee – planning and preparation for the Annual Meeting of the *Southern Sociological Society*, Greenville, SC.
- 2016 Session Organizer/Presider. “Factors Shaping Educational Attainment and Achievement” at the Annual Meeting of the *Southern Sociological Society*, Atlanta, GA. April 2016.
- 2014 Graduate Student Editorial Board for *Sociology of Education*, under direction of Editor, Dr. John Robert Warren, University of Minnesota.
- 2014 David L. Stevenson Award Committee – Sociology of Education Section, American Sociological Association
- 2014 Consultation with the Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) project at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

- 2026 Faculty Recruitment Committee – Search for Visiting Assistant Professor
- 2024-2025 Engaged Learning Experience (ELE) document drafting and editing
- 2021 - 2026 Common Book Nominating Committee
- 2017 - 2026 Department Representative at Academic Pathways Fair
- 2022 Department Representative at Furman Forward
- 2021 - 2022 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Department Representative
- 2021 - 2022 Research and Coordination to consider revisions to Department standards for Professional Activity
- 2021 Department Representative at Homecoming Weekend
- 2021 Faculty Recruitment Committee – Search for Visiting Assistant Professor
- 2020 - 2021 Curriculum Modifications, resulting from COVID-19 Pandemic

2019	Faculty Recruitment Committee – Search for new Assistant Professor
2018	Administrative Assistant Search Committee
2017 - 2018	Chapter Representative for the Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD), The International Sociology Honors Society
2017 - 2019	Department Liaison for Faculty Technology Briefings
2017	Faculty Recruitment Committee – Search for new Assistant Professor
2016-2019	Department Representative at ‘Fall for Furman’
2015	Faculty Recruitment Committee – Search for new Assistant Professor

UNIVERSITY & COMMUNITY SERVICE

2026	Faculty Lecturer, Bridges to a Brighter Future (Summer 2026)
2026 -	Academic Advising Committee Member
2026	Cultural Life Program (CLP) faculty sponsor. Provided introductory remarks and academic context for invited speaker.
2025	Student Commencement Speaker Committee
2024 - 2025	Nominating Committee Member
2022 - 2023	Student Accountability Hearing Board, Faculty Representative
2021 - 2022	Furman Fellows Selection Committee
2020 - 2022	Academic Discipline Committee
2019 - 2022	Awards and Grants Committee Member (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee)
2019 - 2020	Academic Discipline Committee (Alternate Member)
2019 - 2020	Faculty Advisor and Track Mentor for the Shucker Center for Leadership Development (Education Policy Track).

- 2018 - 2021 Summer Research Fellows Program Committee Member. Responsible for reviewing all student summer research and internship applications.
- 2017 - 2018 Project Assessment and Collaboration with *First Steps* of Greenville County.
- 2016 - 2019 Appeals Committee Member
- 2016 - 2019 Reviewer/Judge for Social Science papers submitted to the South Carolina Junior Academy of Science
- 2016 Cultural Life Program (CLP) faculty sponsor. Provided introductory remarks and hosted Q&A session after documentary screening
- 2016 Volunteer/Speaker for 1st grade Reading Program at Gateway Elementary School, Traveler's Rest, SC.
- 2016 Planning and Consultation for Riley Institute's Summer Series (*Straight Talk SC*). Series Title: "Education for Life: Working Together to Fulfill the Promise of Education"
- 2016 Invited Speaker for High Noon Series. "Schools and Inequality, Revisited"
- 2015 - 2016 Project Assessment and Collaboration with Public Education Partners of Greenville County (PEPGC)
- 2015 - 2016 Project Assessment and Collaboration with *First Steps* of Greenville County.

REFERENCES

Available upon Request