

# Dr. Rachel N. Head

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## EDUCATION

PhD, Sociology, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, 2013.

MA, Sociology, The University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK, 2005.

BS, Sociology, Religious Studies minor, Missouri State University, Springfield, MO, 2001.

## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Sociology of Mental Health  
Race, Class, and Gender Inequality  
Medical Sociology  
Sociology of Religion

## REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Head, Rachel and Maxine Seaborn Thompson. 2017. "Discrimination-Related Anger, Religion, and Distress: Differences between African Americans and Caribbean Black Americans." *Society and Mental Health* 7(3): 159-174.

Rikard, R.V., Head, Rachel, and Maxine S. Thompson. 2016. "Know Your Status: Health Literacy, Self-Efficacy, & HIV Testing Attitudes." *Journal of Behavioral and Social Sciences* 3: 52-62.

Thompson, Maxine Seaborn, Thomas, Melvin E., and Rachel N. Head. 2012. "Race, Socioeconomic Status, and Self-Esteem: The Impact of Religion." *Sociological Spectrum* 32(5): 385-405.

Thompson, Maxine Seaborn, Head, Rachel N., Rikard, R.V., McNeil, Carlotta, and Caressa White. 2012. "University-Community Partnerships: Bridging People and Cultures in an HIV/AIDS Health Intervention in an African American Community." *Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement* 16(2): 79-106.

Rikard, R.V., Thompson, Maxine S., Head, Rachel, McNeil, Carlotta, and Caressa White. 2012. "Problem Posing and Cultural Tailoring: Developing an HIV/AIDS Health Literacy Toolkit with the African American Community." *Health Promotion Practice* 13(5): 626-636.

## BOOKS/BOOK CHAPTERS

Archibald, Matthew, Head, Rachel, Yakoby, Jordan, and Pamela Behrman. 2022. "An Examination of Exposure and Vulnerability to Stress from Chronic Illness and Its Impact on Mental Health and Long-Term Disability Among Non-Hispanic White, African American, and Latinx

Populations.” In *Research in the Sociology of Health Care*, edited by J. Kronenfeld. Bingley, West Yorkshire, UK: Emerald Publishing.

## RESEARCH REPORTS

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Gathings, Jen, Head, Rachel, and Marina Crosby. 2014. *Wake County Human Services Final Report*.

Head, Rachel, Stawiski, Sarah, and Corre Robinson. 2013. *Golden LEAF Foundation Scholars Leadership Program Interim Report*.

Libbus, Nadia, Gathings, Jen, Robinson, Corre, and Rachel Head. 2013. *Community Assistance Initiative (CAI) Evaluation Final Report*.

Robinson, Corre, MacGillivray, Lois, and Rachel Head. 2012. *In-School Prevention of Obesity and Disease Evaluation Report*.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Fall 2019 – Present      Assistant Professor  
Department of Anthropology & Sociology, University of Tulsa  
SOC 1033, *The Sociological Imagination*  
SOC 3123, *Sociology of Family*  
SOC 3703, *Sociology of Health, Illness, and Medicine*  
SOC 3813, *Sociology of Mental Health*  
SOC 4103, *Investigating the Social World*  
SOC 4993 [4973], *Senior Seminar*—cotaught as independent studies with Travis Lowe  
SOC 4193, *Explaining the Social World*
- Fall 2014 – Summer 2019      Assistant Professor  
Department of Social Sciences, University of Texas-Tyler  
SOC 1301, *Introduction to Sociology*  
SOC 3315, *Social Stratification*  
SOC 3341, *Marriage and Family Life*  
SOC 3345, *Medical Sociology*  
SOC 3370, *Sociological Theory*  
SOC 4311, *Majority Minority Relations*  
SOC 4360, *Women & Men in Society*  
HNRS 1352, *World, Text, and Image II: Rationality*
- Spring 2009 – Spring 2013      Instructor  
Department of Sociology & Anthropology, North Carolina State Univ.  
SOC 202, *Principles of Sociology*
- Fall 2005 – Fall 2008      Instructor  
Department of Sociology & Anthropology, North Carolina State Univ.  
SOC 202, *Principles of Sociology*  
SOC 202Q, *Principles of Sociology*, First Year Inquiry (FYI)

## MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Head, Rachel N. "Objective and Subjective Relative Status and Self-Rated Health Among Black and White Respondents in the National Survey of American Life: The Roles of Anomie and Alienation." Preparing for *The Sociological Quarterly*.

Head, Rachel N. "Racial Group Consciousness Among African Americans and Caribbean Black Americans." Preparing for *Ethnic and Racial Studies*.

Head, Rachel N. "Diseases and Deaths of Despair: The Role of Neighborhood Contexts." Preparing for the *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Head, Rachel (2022). *Hopelessness and Social Dominance Orientation Among the U.S. White Working Class: The Role of Relative Deprivation*. Accepted for the International Society for Political Psychology's 2022 Annual Meeting, Athens, Greece.

Head, Rachel. (2020). *Diseases of Despair and the Stress Process: Insecure Employment, Depression, and Substance Abuse*. Accepted to the Seventeenth International Conference on Social Stress Research, Savannah, GA. (Conference postponed to June 2022 due to COVID-19)

Head, Rachel. (2018). *The Anxious Class and Diseases of Despair: Tenuous Employment and Its Links to Depression and Substance Abuse*. Presented at the Southwestern Social Science Association Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL.

Head, Rachel. (2018). *Economic Resources and Group Consciousness as Predictors of Political Participation and Support for Race-Targeted Policies: Comparing African Americans and Afro-Caribbeans*. Presented at the International Society of Political Psychology Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX.

Head, Rachel and Brian Head. (2017). *Organic Data and the New Racism: Exploring a Third Data Source*. Presented at the American Association of Behavioral and Social Sciences Conference, Las Vegas, NV.

Head, Rachel. (2016). *The Personal is Political? Racial Discrimination, Black Political Participation, and the Changing Definition of African American*. Presented at the Mid-South Sociological Association Annual Meeting, North Charleston, SC.

Head, Rachel and Maxine Seaborn Thompson. (2016). *Discrimination-Related Anger, Religiousness, and Distress: Differences between African Americans and Caribbean Black Americans*. Presented at the Fifteenth International Conference on Social Stress Research, San Diego, CA.

Head, Rachel. (2016). *Predictors of Perceived Discrimination among the U.S. Black Population: Exploring Ethnic Variations*. Presented at the Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.

Head, Rachel. (2015). *The Politics of Discrimination: Racial Discrimination, Health, and Political Involvement among African Americans and Afro-Caribbeans*. Presented at the Mid-South Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Lafayette, LA.

- Head, Rachel. (2015). *Racism-Related Anger, Religiousness, and Depression: Ethnic and Immigrant Variations in the U.S. Black Population*. Presented at the Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- Head, Rachel and Jen Gathings. (2014). *Addressing the HIV/AIDS Epidemic: Working with Marginalized Communities to Develop a Minority Men's Clinic*. Presented at North Carolina Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Charlotte, NC.
- Head, Rachel. (2011). *Segregation and Social Psychological Factors as Predictors of Perceived Discrimination: The Roles of Ethnicity and Assimilation*. Presented at Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Jacksonville, FL.
- Head, Rachel and R.V. Rikard. (2011). *A Roadmap to Develop Health Interventions with Marginalized Communities: Cultural Tailoring & Problem-Posing*. Presented at Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Jacksonville, FL.
- Rikard, R.V. and Rachel Head. (2010). *A Problem-Posing Health Intervention: Developing an HIV/AIDS Health Literacy Toolkit with the African American Community*. Poster presented at NC Health Literacy Conference, Greensboro, NC.
- Head, Rachel. (2008). *Gender, Work, and Psychological Distress: Examining the Effects of Emotional Labor*. Presented at Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Richmond, VA.
- Head, Rachel. (2006). *Religiosity, Race, and Stress*. Presented at Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- Head, Rachel. (2005). *Preferring Delusion to Despair: Religiosity as an Individual Coping Resource in General Strain Theory*. Presented at Southwestern Social Science Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- Brown, Allen and Rachel Head. (2004). *Viral Desires: The Queer Contours of Juridical and Disciplinary Power*. Presented at Controlling Bodies, Controlling Spaces Conference, Montreal, Quebec.

## GRANTS AND EVALUATION RESEARCH

***Faculty Development Summer Fellowship Grant*** (Summer 2020)—*Assistant Professor, The University of Tulsa*

The Faculty Development Summer Fellowship Grant provides support for developing my research agenda in “deaths of despair”—premature mortality due to drug overdose, suicide, and alcoholic liver disease. My Summer Fellowship project adds to the evidence base for addressing deaths of despair by studying the relationship between *diseases of despair* (i.e., depression and substance abuse) and perceptions of security and opportunity regarding employment.

***Triangle Latino Student Success*** (2013-2014)—*Senior Research Associate with ETR Services*

As one of thirteen communities throughout the U.S. sponsored by the Lumina Foundation, the Triangle for Latino Student Success (TLSS) aims to increase opportunities for Latino students in the North Carolina counties of Durham, Wake and Johnston in obtaining college degrees or credentials using evidence-based approaches. Strategies include engaging Latino students and families in direct support services to increase awareness for high school and college completion, partnering and

engaging stakeholders in dialogues regarding factors that affect Latino student success, and targeting counties with established and growing Latino communities and institutions. *Responsibilities included assisting in coordinating and conducting data handling, leading the quantitative data analyses, assisting with data collection as necessary, and contributing to reporting.*

***Wake County Human Services CAPUS Minority Men’s Health Clinic*** (2013-2014)—*Senior Research Associate with ETR Services*

Wake County Human Services (WCHS) was in need of a contractor to conduct survey and focus group data analysis for the purposes of providing WCHS with information “to establish a community driven minority Men’s Health Clinic.” Once established, the Clinic will fund and support HIV prevention; linkage to care and retention in care activities that focus on African American and Latinos between the ages of 15-28 that are at greatest risk for acquiring or transmitting HIV infection. *Responsibilities included assisting in designing data collection procedures and instruments, leading the quantitative data analyses work, assisting in coordinating data collection with WCHS staff, assisting with conducting service provider interviews, recording and transcribing of focus group data, and contributing to reporting.*

***The AT&T Aspire Local High School Impact Grant*** (2012-2014)—*Research Associate with ETR Services*

The Middle College at UNCG is a non-traditional high school for students with an interest in health, medical, and youth development service careers who are at risk of dropping out of school, disengaged or at risk of not reaching their full potential in a traditional school setting. Goals of the project include all students: being on track to graduate within 4 years, gaining hands-on exposure to health and medical related careers, actively engaging in tutoring and mentoring, and participating in community-based service learning projects. *Responsibilities included reviewing data, coordinating data collection with Guilford County Schools, reviewing data, and conducting site visits.*

***The Golden LEAF Foundation Scholars Leadership Program*** (2012-2013)—*Research Associate with ETR Services*

The Golden LEAF Foundation (GLF) was formed in 1999 as part of the Master Settlement Agreement to provide grants to assist rural, economically distressed and/or tobacco dependent counties with economic transition. The Center for Creative Leadership (CCL) received an initial grant from GLF in 2010 to develop a leadership component of the scholarship program for up to 120 freshmen Golden Leaf Scholarship recipients. The Golden LEAF Scholars Leadership Program (GLSLP) offers leadership training and work-based internship experience. CCL in collaboration with GLF has identified the following priorities for the GLSLP: (1) develop a cadre of young leaders from rural North Carolina who understand the social and economic challenges and opportunities faced by rural communities in NC; (2) provide work-based experiences in rural areas to encourage young scholars to see these areas as viable career options and return to rural communities upon degree completion; (3) foster a deep connection and commitment to economically distressed and/or rural communities in NC, to the mission of GLF, and their own personal growth, and development; and (4) increase the likelihood that scholars will make a sustained and meaningful contribution to economically distressed and/or rural communities in NC. *Co-wrote the grant proposal. Additional responsibilities included quantitative data analysis, collection of administrative data, coordinating survey data collection through the CCL Evaluation Center, site visits and field data collection, qualitative data analysis and reporting.*

***The Golden LEAF Foundation Community Assistant Initiative*** (2012)—*Research Associate with ETR Services*

GLF formed the Community Assistance Initiative (CAI) in 2007 to provide support specifically for Tier 1 counties in North Carolina that is for those counties ranked lowest among 100 counties in terms of key economic indicators. Evaluation of the program included: (1) identifying common characteristics and/or best practices for implementation of successful projects and common barriers to achieving success; (2) evaluating the utility of the CAI process in identifying and recommending projects that accomplish the mission of GLF, as well as increase awareness of and appreciation for GLF and its mission and sustained civic engagement among participants; (3) make recommendations for a potential second round of community-based grants making to accomplish Foundation goals in the most effective and efficient manner; and (4) collaborating with GLF staff to guide and revise the evaluation process to best meet the needs of GLF and grantees. *Responsibilities included qualitative data analysis and final reporting.*

***In-School Prevention of Obesity and Disease*** (2009-2010 and 2012)—*Statistician; Research Associate*

The In-School Prevention of Obesity and Disease (IsPOD) Initiative was the North Carolina Alliance for Athletics, Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance's (NCAAHPERD) leading program in the fight against childhood obesity in North Carolina. IsPOD trained physical education teachers in the Sports, Play and Active Recreation for Kids (SPARK™) curriculum. Expected impacts of the project included increases in the minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity students' receive each week and subsequent improvement in students' fitness levels, measured with FITNESSGRAM™ software. *Responsibilities included receiving, cleaning, coding, analyzing, and managing original data on physical fitness and health behaviors of a population sample of 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in North Carolina using SAS and Microsoft Excel. Oversaw reporting for the IsPOD evaluation as both an internal evaluator within the State Center for Health Statistics and an external evaluator with ETR Services, LLC.*

***University Extension, Engagement, and Economic Development Grant: Developing a Culturally Sensitive Health Literacy Toolkit for Sexually Transmitted Infection for the African American Community.*** (2008-2009)—*Co-investigator*

This project developed a culturally sensitive health literacy toolkit for sexually transmitted infections and training workshops for the African American community. Persons who attended the workshops were empowered to become change agents—sharing information with and assisting others in their community to adopt healthier behaviors. Expected impacts of the project included empowerment education, leadership development, and community building. *Co-wrote the grant proposal. Developed and implemented the focus group protocol, coded and reported on focus group data, assisted in survey development and the development of an STI health literacy toolkit.*

## **GRANTS UNDER REVIEW**

***HALO Hydrogen Hub Proposal: TUHALO*** (2023)—*Co-PI*

The University of Tulsa's Community Benefits program (TUHALO) is designed to provide k-12 STEM outreach, workforce development, and technical validation support to all organizations participating in HALO H2Hub in the Northeast Oklahoma region and the state. If funded, I would oversee a post-doctoral scholar and undergraduate students in developing, administering, and assessing fieldwork-based community and individual assessments to understand the impacts of HALO Hub projects on the

workforce and the requirements of workforce development associated with those projects. A set of focus groups will be conducted to assess the impact of HALO Hub project implementations on outreach, education, and training in marginalized and rural communities in Northeast OK.

## **GRANTS SUBMITTED BUT NOT FUNDED**

### **NSF Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM) program: *Chemistry Scholarships for Rural, Low-Income Students in East Texas.* (2016)—Co-PI**

The Science and Math Scholars program was intended to offer renewable scholarships to rural East Texas students who are academically talented and economically disadvantaged. The program was designed to recruit and retain gifted students from rural communities and provide tailored mentoring to see them through to careers in science and mathematics. *Developed the formative and summative evaluation plan for each component of the program.*

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

### **Service to Institution**

#### *Department Service*

Committee Member. TU Department of Anthropology and Sociology Curriculum Committee. Fall 2022 – present.

Committee Member. TU Department of Sociology Curriculum Committee. Fall 2020 – Spring 2022.

Committee Member. TU Department of Sociology Annual Assessment Committee. Fall 2020 – Spring 2022.

Author. Department of Sociology Annual Assessment Report for 2020-2021.

Virtual Majors Fair, Sociology Department Representative, February 24, 2021.

Prospective student visit, January 8, 2021 and September 1, 2021.

Committee Member. Faculty Search Committee. 2020.

Tulsa Time Overnight Academic Session Host, November 11, 2020.

Tulsa Time Overnight Academic Session Co-host, February 17, 2020.

Prospective student visit, January 10, 17, and 31, 2020.

Member of the UT Tyler Department of Social Sciences New Initiatives Committee. Fall 2018-Spring 2019.

Member of the UT Tyler Department of Social Sciences Tenure and Promotion Guidelines Committee. Fall 2017-Spring 2018.

Member of the UT Tyler, College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee. Fall 2016-Spring 2018.

Member of the UT Tyler, College of Arts and Sciences Commencement Committee. Fall 2015-Spring 2019.

#### *College Service*

College Committee on Faculty Rights and Responsibilities. 2023 – 2026.

Committee Member. Ryan Saylor Post Tenure Review Committee. Spring 2022.

Committee Member. Michael Futch Post Tenure Review Committee. Spring 2021.

#### *University Service*

TURC Mentor (Harini Senthil). “County-Level Contexts and Deaths of Despair.” Summer 2023.

Invited Interviewee. “See Me After Class.” *TU Collegian*, October, 2022.

TURC Mentor (Leann Khattab). “County-Level Correlates of Deaths of Despair: A Literature Review.” Summer 2021.

Invited Interviewee. TUTV, “A Year of COVID.” The University of Tulsa, March 23, 2021.

Invited Panelist. “What I Wish I Would Have Known in My First Year.” New Faculty Orientation. The University of Tulsa, August 12, 2020.

Invited U.S. Healthcare Panelist. TUTV, The University of Tulsa, March 3, 2020.

Invited Speaker. LOGOS Student Group, UT Tyler Honors Program, 2019.

Invited Speaker. Psi Chi’s “Suicide Awareness Walk” at UT-Tyler, 2019.

Invited Speaker. “The Personal is Political?: Racial Discrimination, Black Political Participation, and the Changing Definition of African American.” at the UT-Tyler Webb Historical Society Meeting, March 15, 2016.

#### **Service to Discipline**

Manuscript Reviewer. *Journal of Ethnicity in Substance Abuse*. Spring 2022.

Session Chair (“Psychological Aspects of Intergroup Contact”) at the International Society for Political Psychology’s Annual Meeting, Athens, Greece. July 2022.

Chapter Reviewer. *Race and Society: The Essentials*, December 2020.

Chapter Reviewer. *The Research Experience: Planning, Conducting and Reporting Research, Second Edition*.

Edited Volume Reviewer. *Readings on the Family: Pathways to Intimacy, Parenthood, and Families*, Summer 2018.

Manuscript Reviewer. *Casebook for Group Concept Mapping*, Spring 2017.



Edited Volume Reviewer. *Rethinking the Color Line: Readings in Race and Ethnicity*. Spring 2017.

Manuscript Reviewer. *Society and Mental Health*. Spring 2017-Spring 2019.

Session Organizer and Presider (“Racial Identity Formation”) at the Mid-South Sociological Association Annual Meeting, October 2016.

Session Presider (“Ethnoracism and Consequences for Physical and Mental Health”) at the Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, March 2015.

## **Professional Development**

International Society for Political Psychology’s “ISPP Academy,” Athens, Greece. Three-day workshop providing training in political psychology’s foundational research and methodologies. The Academy brought together early career scholars in political psychology, psychology, and sociology with leading political psychology academics. I participated in lectures and discussions with Tabassom Fanaian, Felicia Pratto, Rosario Aguilar, Iris Žeželj, Chryl Laird, Orla Muldoon, Hermann Swart, George Marcus, and Nick Valentino, all of whom provided insights into the leading research in the field. July 11 – 13, 2022.

The University of Tulsa. “Summer Writing Plan Retreat.” This retreat, led by Joli Jensen on April 26, 2022, provided guidance for having a productive summer in terms of writing and publishing research findings. I also participated in two private coaching sessions with Dr. Jensen on May 31 and June 14, 2022.

The University of Tulsa. “TU Growth Group.” Six sessions focused on professional development, including creating visibility and advocacy networks; using the RAPID analysis for navigating the VUCA environment; developing communication skills, mentors, and sponsors; and creating a personal mission statement.

The University of Tulsa. “Decolonizing Your Syllabus Workshops.” The workshops included, first, a presentation by Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Kelli McLoud Schingen, entitled “Unconscious Bias and Classroom Culture.” The second session was led by Dr. Monique Van Willingham and addressed culturally responsive teaching. The third session focused on enriched assessment and illustrated other means of evaluating student learning beyond essays and multiple-choice tests. Spring semester, 2021.

Office of Digital Learning, University of Texas at Tyler. “PATSS Summer Academy Workshop.” The PATSS workshop offered training on developing blended learning environments, enhancing professor presence in the online classroom, applying technology, and designing an inquiry-based approach to blended learning environments. May 23 – 26, 2016.

## **AWARDS**

***Black Inventors Hall of Fame Design Thinking Challenge.*** (2021)—*Faculty mentor*

This project explored the role of a formal sociology education on empathy and racial beliefs among pre-med students. It consisted of a pre-experimental study—a static-group comparison consisting of interviews and surveys asking pre-med students about their sociology coursework and examining their empathy and racial beliefs. Data collection involved interviews and self-administered surveys. *Co-wrote*

*the competition proposal, guided students in collecting and analyzing both survey and interview data, and provided help with programming in Qualtrics.*

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Sociological Association  
International Society of Political Psychology  
Southwestern Social Science Association