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Jessica Y. Ho

CONTACT INFORMATION

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University of Southern California
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Residency status: U.S. Citizen

EDUCATION

2013 Ph.D., Demography and Sociology, with distinction
University of Pennsylvania

Dissertation: Comparative Studies of Health and Mortality
Committee: Irma T. Elo (chair), Samuel H. Preston, Jason Schnittker

Demography Exams: A.M. Exam 2010, Ph.D. Exam 2011
Sociology Exams: Qualifying Exam with distinction 2011,
Comprehensive Exam in Medical Sociology 2011

2010 A.M., Demography
University of Pennsylvania

2009 B.A., Economics and Health and Societies with distinction,
minor in English, *summa cum laude*
University of Pennsylvania

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Sociology of health and illness; medical sociology; stratification; demography; sociology of aging and the life course; racial, socioeconomic, and gender inequalities in health; global health; comparative health care systems; quantitative methods; drug overdose

POSITIONS

2017- Assistant Professor of Gerontology and Sociology, Leonard Davis School of Gerontology and Department of Sociology
Schaeffer Center Fellow, Leonard D. Schaeffer Center for Health Policy & Economics
Faculty Affiliate, USC Race and Equity Center
University of Southern California

- 2015-2017 Research Scientist
Duke Population Research Institute and Sanford School of Public Policy
Duke University
- 2013-2015 Postdoctoral Fellow
Duke Population Research Institute and Sanford School of Public Policy
Duke University

PUBLICATIONS

Ho, Jessica Y. 2020. “Cycles of Gender Convergence and Divergence in Drug Overdose Mortality: Transitioning from Prescription Opioids to Street Drugs.” Forthcoming, Population and Development Review.

Sudharsanan, Nikkil and Jessica Y. Ho. 2020. “Rural-Urban Differences in Adult Life Expectancy in Indonesia: A Parametric G-Formula Based Decomposition Approach.” Forthcoming, Epidemiology.

Elo, Irma T., Arun S. Hendi, Jessica Y. Ho, Yana Vierboom, and Samuel H. Preston. 2019. “Trends in Non-Hispanic White Mortality in the United States by Metropolitan-Nonmetropolitan Status and Region, 1990- 2016.” Population and Development Review 45(3): 549–583.

Ho, Jessica Y. 2019. “The Contemporary American Drug Overdose Epidemic in International Perspective.” Population and Development Review 45(1): 7–40.

Lead article

Ho, Jessica Y. and Arun S. Hendi. 2018. “Recent Trends in Life Expectancy across High Income Countries: A Retrospective Observational Study.” The BMJ. 362: k2562. PMID: PMC6092679.

Ho, Jessica Y., Elizabeth Frankenberg, Cecep Sumantri, and Duncan Thomas. 2017. “Adult Mortality Five Years after a Natural Disaster: Evidence from the Indian Ocean Tsunami.” Population and Development Review 43(3): 467–490. PMID: PMC5929150.

Ho, Jessica Y. 2017. “The Contribution of Drug Overdose to Educational Gradients in Life Expectancy in the United States, 1992-2011.” Demography 54(3): 1175–1202. PMID: PMC5484063.

2017 winner of the IPUMS Research Award

Peltonen, Riina E., Jessica Y. Ho, Irma T. Elo, and Pekka Martikainen. 2017. “Contribution of Smoking-Attributable Mortality to Life Expectancy Differences by Marital Status among Finnish Men and Women, 1971–2010.” Demographic Research 36(8): 255–280. PMID: PMC5260839.

Ho, Jessica Y. 2016. “Mortality: Transitions and Measures.” In Ritzer, George (Ed.), The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology. Blackwell Publishing. Blackwell Reference Online. 03 May 2016.

Frankenberg, Elizabeth, Jessica Y. Ho, and Duncan Thomas. 2015. "Biological health risks and economic development." In John Komlos and Inas Rashad Kelly (Eds.), Oxford Handbook of Economics and Human Biology. Oxford, Oxford University Press.

Ho, Jessica Y. and Andrew Fenelon. 2015. "The Contribution of Smoking to Educational Differences in U.S. Life Expectancy." Journal of Health and Social Behavior 56(3): 307–322. PMID: PMC4553079.

Ho, Jessica Y. 2015. "Early Life Environmental Exposures and Height, Hypertension, and Cardiovascular Risk Factors Among Older Adults in India." Biodemography and Social Biology 61(2): 121–146. PMID: PMC4545224.

Ho, Jessica Y. and Irma T. Elo. 2013. "The Contribution of Smoking to Black-White Differences in U.S. Mortality." Demography 50(2): 545–568. PMID: PMC3606656.

Ho, Jessica Y. 2013. "Mortality Under Age 50 Accounts For Much of the Fact That US Life Expectancy Lags That of Other High-Income Countries." Health Affairs 32(3): 459–467.

Martikainen, Pekka, Jessica Y. Ho, Samuel H. Preston, and Irma T. Elo. 2013. "The Changing Contribution of Smoking to Educational Differences in Life Expectancy: Indirect Estimates for Finnish Men and Women from 1971 to 2010." Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health 67: 219–224. PMID: PMC3886806.

Preston, Samuel H. and Jessica Ho. 2011. "Low Life Expectancy in the United States: Is the Health Care System at Fault?" In E.M. Crimmins, S.H. Preston, and B. Cohen (Eds.), Panel on Understanding Divergent Trends in Longevity in High-Income Countries, Committee on Population, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, International Differences in Life Expectancy at Older Ages: Dimensions and Sources pp. 259-298. Washington, D.C.: The National Academies Press.

Ho, Jessica Y. and Samuel H. Preston. 2010. "U.S. Mortality in an International Context: Age Variations." Population and Development Review 36(4): 749–773. PMID: PMC3140845.

WORKING PAPERS

Ho, Jessica Y., Elizabeth Frankenberg, Cecep Sumantri, and Duncan Thomas. 2016. "Adult Mortality Five Years after a Natural Disaster: Evidence from the Indian Ocean Tsunami." National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper #22317, June 2016.

Frankenberg, Elizabeth, Jessica Y. Ho, and Duncan Thomas. 2015. "Biological Health Risks and Economic Development." The Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD) Working Paper No. 453, May 2015. Also issued as National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper #21277, June 2015.

Preston, Samuel H. and Jessica Ho. 2009. "Low Life Expectancy in the United States: Is the Health Care System at Fault?" National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper #15213, July 2009. Also issued as Population Studies Center Working Paper #11, March 2009.

Brown, Ryan, Elizabeth Frankenberg, Jessica Y. Ho, Arun Karlamangla, Teresa Seeman, Duncan Thomas, and Andrea Velasquez. 2016. "Exposure to Violent Crime and Population Health: Impact of the Mexican War on Drugs on Blood Pressure."

GRANTS

- 2018-2023 Co-Investigator, "Causes of Geographic Divergence in American Mortality Between 1990 and 2015: Health Behaviors, Health Care Access and Migration." \$1,782,899, National Institute on Aging (NIA). R01 AG060115.
- 2015-2020 Principal Investigator, "Health and Well-Being after Large Scale Shocks: Causal Pathways in Developing Countries." \$902,685, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) Pathway to Independence Award. K99/R00 HD083519. Impact score: 10 on a 10 to 90 scale
- 2017-2018 Principal Investigator, "Implications of the American Drug Overdose Epidemic for Older Adults." \$32,000, National Institute on Aging (NIA). University of Southern California Resource Center for Minority Aging Research (RCMAR) Pilot Grant.
- 2017-2018 Consultant, "The Alarming Stagnation in American Life Expectancy." \$275,000, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. #74439.
- 2010-2013 Principal Investigator, "U.S. Mortality in an International Context: Age Variations." National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship. DGE-082.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2020 Ho, Jessica Y. "Causes of America's Lagging Life Expectancy: An International Comparative Perspective." To be presented at the University of Minnesota Population Center (MPC) Seminar, Minneapolis, Minnesota, March 2020.
- 2020 Ho, Jessica Y. "Title TBD." To be presented at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Session on Assessing Mortality and Morbidity Using Survey-Based Methods, Washington, DC, February 2020.
- 2019 Ho, Jessica Y. "Causes of Gains and Losses in Life Expectancy in OECD Countries." Presented at the Joint Workshop of The King's Fund and The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on Understanding Recent Trends in Cardiovascular Disease Mortality in High Income Countries, Paris, France, November 2019.
- 2019 Ho, Jessica Y. "Causes of America's Lagging Life Expectancy: A Global Perspective." Presented at the National Academy of Medicine Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, October 2019.

- 2018 Ho, Jessica Y. “The Contribution of Drug Overdose to Educational Gradients in Life Expectancy in the United States.” Presented at the R24 Network on Life Course Health Dynamics and Disparities Meeting, Boulder, CO, April 2018.
- 2018 Ho, Jessica Y. “The American Drug Overdose Epidemic in International Perspective.” Presented at the University of California, Irvine Center for Demographic and Social Analysis Seminar, Irvine, CA, February 2018.
- 2017 Ho, Jessica Y. “Contemporary Trends in American Mortality: International Comparisons and Emerging Challenges.” Presented at the University of California, Los Angeles California Center for Population Research (CCPR) Seminar, Los Angeles, CA, November 2017.
- 2016 Ho, Jessica Y. “Contemporary Trends in American Mortality: International Comparisons and Emerging Challenges.” Presented at the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR), Rostock, Germany, December 2016.
- 2016 Ho, Jessica Y. “Contemporary and Emerging Challenges: Drug Overdose, Smoking, and Educational Gradients in Life Expectancy.” Presented at the University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, CA, November 2016.
- 2016 Ho, Jessica Y. “Contemporary and Emerging Challenges: Drug Overdose, Smoking, and Educational Gradients in Life Expectancy.” Presented at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, October 2016.
- 2016 Ho, Jessica Y. “What Explains the Rise of Drug Overdose Deaths? Differential Vulnerability Across U.S. Counties.” Presented at the Duke University Bass Connections Team on Stemming the Opiate Epidemic through Education and Outreach, Durham, NC, June 2016.
- 2013 Ho, Jessica Y. “Mortality Under Age 50. Findings from the U.S. Health in International Perspective Study.” Presented at the National Academy of Sciences Workshop on Determinants of Premature Mortality, Washington, D.C., September 2013.
- 2013 Ho, Jessica Y. and Samuel H. Preston. “Cross National Comparisons of Mortality and Life Expectancy: Methodology and Findings.” Presented at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, April 2013.
- 2013 Ho, Jessica Y. “International Comparisons of American Mortality: Identifying Causes of the U.S.’s Low Life Expectancy Ranking.” Presented at Princeton University, January 2013.
- 2011 Ho, Jessica Y. “International Comparisons of U.S. Mortality.” Presented at the National Academy of Sciences Panel on Understanding International Health Differences in High-Income Countries Meeting, Washington, D.C., September 2011.

PRESENTATIONS

- 2020 Ho, Jessica Y. "Cycles of Gender Convergence and Divergence in Drug Overdose Mortality: Transitioning from Prescription Opioids to Street Drugs." To be presented at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, April 2020.
- 2019 Ho, Jessica Y. "Parental Absence and Grandparent Caregiving in the Wake of the Contemporary American Opioid Epidemic." Presented at the Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting, Austin, TX, November 2019.
- 2019 Ho, Jessica Y. "Cycles of Gender Convergence and Divergence in Drug Overdose Mortality: Transitioning from Prescription Opioids to Street Drugs." Presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY, August 2019.
- 2019 Ho, Jessica Y. "America's Lagging Life Expectancy in International Context: An Eroding Older-Age Mortality Advantage and Rising Younger Adult Mortality from Preventable Causes." Presented at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Austin, TX, April 2019.
- 2018 Ho, Jessica Y. "The Contribution of Drug Overdose to Educational Gradients in Life Expectancy in the United States." Presented at the Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, October 2018.
- 2018 Ho, Jessica Y. "Dual Vulnerability: Parental Absence and Grandparent Caregiving in the Wake of the Contemporary American Opioid Epidemic." Presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, August 2018.
- 2018 Ho, Jessica Y. "The American Drug Overdose Epidemic in International Perspective." Presented at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, April 2018.
- 2018 Ho, Jessica Y. "Implications of the American Drug Epidemic for Minorities and Older Adults." Presented at the RCMAR Annual Investigators Meeting, Bethesda, MD, April 2018.
- 2017 Ho, Jessica Y. "The American Drug Overdose Epidemic in International Perspective." Presented at the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population XXVIII International Population Conference, Cape Town, South Africa, October 2017.
- 2017 Ho, Jessica Y. "The American Drug Overdose Epidemic in International Perspective." Presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada, August 2017.
- 2017 Ho, Jessica Y. "What Explains the Rise of Drug Overdose Deaths? Differential Vulnerability Across U.S. Counties." Presented at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 2017.

- 2017 Ho, Jessica Y. "The Contribution of Drug Overdose to Educational Gradients in Life Expectancy in the United States, 1992-2011." Presented at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 2017.
- 2016 Ho, Jessica Y. "Factors Contributing to Differential Vulnerability to the Drug Overdose Epidemic Across Counties." Presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, August 2016.
- 2016 Ho, Jessica Y. "What Explains the Rise of Drug Overdose Deaths? Differential Vulnerability Across U.S. Counties." Presented at the Duke University Population Research Institute (DuPRI) Seminar, Durham, NC, April 2016.
- 2016 Ho, Jessica Y., Elizabeth Frankenberg, Cecep Sumantri, and Duncan Thomas. "Adult Mortality Five Years after a Natural Disaster: Evidence from the Indian Ocean Tsunami." Presented at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, March-April 2016.
- 2016 Ho, Jessica Y., Elizabeth Frankenberg, and Duncan Thomas. "Adult Mortality Five Years after a Natural Disaster: Evidence from the Indian Ocean Tsunami." Presented at the Cross-National Comparison of Adult Mortality Determinants in Low and Middle Income Countries Workshop, Los Angeles, CA, February 2016.
- 2015 Ho, Jessica Y., Elizabeth Frankenberg, Cecep Sumantri, and Duncan Thomas. "Adult Mortality Five Years after a Natural Disaster: Evidence from the Indian Ocean Tsunami." Presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, August 2015.
- 2015 Frankenberg, Elizabeth, Jessica Y. Ho, and Duncan Thomas. "Biological Health Risks and Economic Development: Comparative Evidence across the Globe." Presented at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, May 2015.
- 2014 Ho, Jessica Y., Elizabeth Frankenberg, Cecep Sumantri, and Duncan Thomas. "Adult Mortality Five Years after a Natural Disaster: Evidence from the Indian Ocean Tsunami." Presented at the International Population, Health and Development Seminar, Duke University, Durham, NC, November 2014.
- 2014 Ho, Jessica Y. and Arun S. Hendi. "Trends in U.S. Mortality Below Age 50, 1950-2008: An International Comparative Perspective." Presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, August 2014.
- 2014 Ho, Jessica Y. and Andrew Fenelon. "The Contribution of Smoking to Educational Differences in U.S. Life Expectancy." Presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, August 2014.
- 2014 Ho, Jessica Y. and Andrew Fenelon. "The Contribution of Smoking to Educational Differences in U.S. Life Expectancy." Presented at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, May 2014.

- 2014 Ho, Jessica Y. “Early Life Environmental Exposures and Adult Health in India.” Presented at the NIA-Sponsored Biomarker Network Meeting, Boston, MA, April 2014.
- 2014 Ho, Jessica Y. “Early Life Environmental Exposures and Adult Health in India.” Presented at The Long Run Impacts of Early Life Events IV Conference, Ann Arbor, MI, March 2014.
- 2013 Ho, Jessica Y. “America’s Lagging Life Expectancy: International Comparisons of U.S. Mortality.” Presented at the Duke University Population Research Institute (DuPRI) Seminar, Durham, NC, October 2013.
- 2013 Ho, Jessica Y. “Month of Birth, Environmental Exposures, and Adult Health in Six Developing Countries.” Presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY, August 2013.
- 2013 Ho, Jessica Y. “Month of Birth, Environmental Exposures, and Adult Health in Six Developing Countries.” Presented at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, April 2013.
- 2012 Ho, Jessica Y. “International Comparisons of U.S. Mortality: Identifying Causes of the U.S.’s Low Life Expectancy Ranking.” Presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, August 2012.
- 2012 Ho, Jessica Y. and Irma T. Elo. “Sources of Black-White Differences in Cancer Screening and Mortality.” Presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, August 2012.
- 2012 Ho, Jessica Y. “International Comparisons of U.S. Mortality.” Presented at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, May 2012.
- 2012 Ho, Jessica Y. and Irma T. Elo. “Sources of Black-White Differences in Cancer Screening and Mortality.” Presented at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, May 2012.
- 2011 Ho, Jessica Y. and Irma T. Elo. “The Contribution of Smoking to Black-White Differences in Mortality.” Presented at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., March/April 2011.
- 2010 Ho, Jessica Y. and Samuel H. Preston. “U.S. Mortality in an International Context: Age Variations.” Presented at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Dallas, TX, April 2010.

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

- 2020 “Causes and Consequences of the American Opioid Epidemic.” To be presented at the Vibrant Living Retreat, USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology, Ojai, CA, March

2020.

- 2015 “Why is Life Expectancy in the U.S. Lower than in Other High-Income Countries?” Presented at Demography Daze, a collaboration between the Carolina Population Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the Duke Population Research Institute, Duke University, Chapel Hill, NC, May 2015.
- 2013 “Why Does U.S. Life Expectancy Rank So Low?” Presented at the Penn Lightbulb Café, a free public-lecture series presented by the School of Arts and Sciences and the Office of University Communications, Philadelphia, PA, March 2013.

AWARDS, HONORS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

IPUMS Research Award, 2017.

Resource Center for Minority Aging Research (RCMAR) Scholar, University of Southern California, 2017-2018.

Postdoctoral Fellow, Social, Medical, and Economic Demography of Aging T32 Program, Duke University, 2013-2015.

Dean’s Scholar, University of Pennsylvania, 2011-2012. Awarded to the top 9 students in the School of Arts and Sciences who exhibit exceptional academic performance and intellectual promise.

RAND Summer Institute Scholarship, 2011.

Presidential Prize Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2010. Awarded to exceptional graduate students to support summer study and research.

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, 2010-2013.

Class of 1939 Graduate Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2009.

Fontaine Society Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2009.

Phi Beta Kappa, University of Pennsylvania, 2008.

Summer Undergraduate Minority Research Program, Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics, University of Pennsylvania, 2007.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Consultant to the National Academy of Sciences Panel on Understanding International Health Differences in High-Income Countries, July 2011-January 2012

Member, American Sociological Association (ASA), 2011-present
Sections: Aging and the Life Course, Medical Sociology, Sociology of Population

Discussant, Mortality and Morbidity, 2017 Annual Meeting
Organizer, Mortality and Morbidity, 2019 Annual Meeting

Member, Gerontological Society of America (GSA), 2017-present
Abstract Reviewer, 2018, 2019
Chair, Roles and Experiences of Grandparenting Paper Session

Member, International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP), 2017-2018
Chair and Discussant, Biodemography, 2017 Meeting

Member, Population Association of America (PAA), 2009-present
Co-Organizer for Mortality Trends (2 sessions), 2015 Annual Meeting
Chair, Mortality Trends, 2015 Annual Meeting
Program Committee Member, 2016 Annual Meeting
Chair, Social and Behavioral Variation in Adult Mortality, 2016 Annual Meeting
Discussant, Modeling Mortality and Population Health, 2018 Annual Meeting
Program Committee Member, 2020 Annual Meeting

Participant, Comparative Workshop on Adult Mortality Determinants (sponsored by USC/UCLA Center for Biodemography and Population Health and UC Berkeley Center on the Economics and Demography of Aging), 2016-present
Discussant, 2018

Participant, NIA-Sponsored Biomarker Network, 2014-present

Reviewer, Demography, Journal of Health and Social Behavior, Population and Development Review, Social Science & Medicine, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Health Affairs, American Journal of Epidemiology, Population Research and Policy Review, PLOS ONE, Biodemography and Social Biology, International Journal of Epidemiology, Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health, Demographic Research, Population and Environment.

Reviewer for the Sir Henry Wellcome Postdoctoral Fellowship, Wellcome Trust

TEACHING

Ph.D. Advisor: Yujin Jeong

Ph.D. Guidance Committee Member: Haley Gallo, Deborah Hoe, Hyewon Kang

Ph.D. Dissertation Committee Member: Deborah Hoe, Hyewon Kang

Ph.D. Qualifying Exam Committee Member: Deborah Hoe (2018), Hyewon Kang (2018)

Global Health and Aging, Fall 2019.

Sociology of Aging and the Life Course, University of Southern California, Spring 2019.

Lecture in Health and Aging (GERO 613), "Health Behaviors and Aging," University of

Southern California, Spring 2020.

Lecture in Quantitative Methods Seminar, “A Method for Estimating the Impact of Smoking on Life Expectancy,” University of Southern California, Fall 2017.

Lecture in Global Health Challenges (GLHLTH 701), “Demography and Global Health,” Duke University, Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2016.

Lecture in Demographic Measures and Concepts (GLHLTH 530S.01), “Estimating Smoking-Attributable Mortality and Obesity-Attributable Mortality,” Duke University, Fall 2013, Fall 2015.

Lecture in Demographic Measures and Concepts (GLHLTH 530S.01), “Contemporary and Emerging Challenges: Drug Overdose, Smoking, and Educational Gradients in Life Expectancy,” Duke University, Fall 2016.

Lecture in Poverty, Race, and Health (SOC1 264), “The U.S. Health Care System, Cross-National Comparisons, and Health Disparities,” University of Pennsylvania, Spring 2012.

SUPPLEMENTARY TRAINING

RAND Summer Institute: Mini-Medical School for Social Scientists, Santa Monica, CA 2011

RAND Summer Institute: Workshop on Aging (Demography, Epidemiology, and Economics of Aging), Santa Monica, CA 2011

Computer Skills: STATA, R/S-PLUS

Language Skills: English (native), French (intermediate), Mandarin (speaking)