

**Claire Kovach**  
*Curriculum Vitae*

The Pennsylvania State University  
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University Park, Pennsylvania 16801

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**EDUCATION**

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2020 (Expected)      Ph.D., Sociology, The Pennsylvania State University

Dissertation : *Factors of Hardship: Circumstance, Capability, and Complications*  
Committee: Dr. John Iceland (Chair), Dr. Melissa Hardy, Dr. Molly Martin, Dr. Ann Tickamyer

2016                      M.A., Sociology, The University of Akron

2014                      B.A., Sociology, Saint Francis University

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**AREAS OF INTEREST**

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- Poverty & Well Being
- Poverty Programs & Policy
- Racial Equity
- Quantitative Methodology

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**MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS**

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“Poverty and the Incidence of Material Hardship, Revisited” coauthored by Dr. John Iceland

“Farmworker Documentation Status, Child Birthplace, and Their Role in Child Health Insurance Status”  
coauthored by Dr. Shedra Amy Snipes

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**RESEARCH REPORT**

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*Analyzing Employment Statistics with ACS MicroData*- Center on Budget and Policy Priorities codebyte  
tutorial series for State Partnership Groups

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**CONFERENCE PRESENTATION**

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2018. “Documentation Status and Children’s Health Insurance Coverage: The Case of Farmworker  
Children”, 6th Annual Rural Studies Student Conference, The Pennsylvania State University.  
November.

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**RESEARCH SKILLS**

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- Data cleaning, coding, and multivariate analysis in Stata.
- Demographic and Program Participation weighted estimates using American Community Survey (ACS), Current Population Survey (CPS), and The Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)
- Instructing undergraduate statistic labs using SPSS and one graduate level lab using Stata
- Training and experience with OLS, logistic regression, difference-in-differences modeling, structural equation modeling, hierarchical linear modeling, and factor analysis.

- One semester of graduate training in qualitative methods, focused primarily on interviewing and participant observation.

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCES**

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### **May 2019-August 2019**

#### **Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Washington DC**

- Employed by the Income and Poverty Trends Data team to:
  - Conduct longitudinal data analysis of deep poverty using the 2008 and 2014 SIPP
  - Estimate populations affected by program policy changes using ACS, CPS, and SIPP data from 2008 and 2014
  - Write a tutorial for State Partnership groups on analyzing ACS microdata using Stata
  - Analyze data recall issues in the 2014 SIPP using job-transition spells
  - Create geographic zip code crosswalks for the number of EITC filers (zip code to legislative districts) using Missouri Census Data Center's Geocorr engine

### **2017-present**

#### **Research Assistant**

- Assistant to Dr. John Iceland, working primarily to clean, code, run analyses, and write papers on material hardship using data from the Survey of Income and Program Participation

### **2017 Research Assistant**

- Employed by the Pennsylvania State University Department of Bio-Behavioral Health to assist Dr. Amy Snipes with a National Agricultural Workers Project
  - Responsibilities included programming the statistical models in Stata and compiling a literature review.

### **2015 Research assistant**

- Employed by The University of Akron Department of Sociology during summer to assist Dr. John Zipp with: *Self-Reflections, Expectations and Gender Differences in Academic Performance* and *Using Cooperative Group Exams and Modified Multiple Choice Tests to Foster Student Learning: Study II*
  - Responsibilities included compiling a literature review, data entry, and coding
- Also employed by the department to assist Dr. John Zipp in creating teaching materials for upcoming courses

### **2013**

- Assistant to Dr. Lening Zhang and Dr. Steven F. Messner on *Neighborhood Social Control and Disorder in Contemporary Urban China*, a National Science Foundation Grant.
  - Responsibilities included compiling a literature review, coding, and creating a codebook.

### **Other Qualifications**

- Obtained Special Sworn Status from the Census Bureau to use restricted data at the Penn State Research Data Center (RDC)
  - includes FBI background check
- Completed US Census Bureau Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP 2014) data workshop
- Data Security and Title 26 Certificates from the Census Bureau

- Completed Indiana University Bloomington Plagiarism Test Certificate: Masters & Doctoral Level

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### **Teaching Assistant**

- Fall 2018: *Soc 470 Intermediate Social Statistics with Dr. Liying Luo*  
 --SPSS Lab Instructor
- Fall 2017: *Soc 400w Senior Research Seminar with Dr. RS Oropesa*  
 --SPSS Coding Instructor
- Spring 2016: *Multivariate Statistics with Dr. Juan Xi (Graduate Level)*  
 --Stata Lab Instructor
- Fall 2015 *Soc 100 Introduction to Sociology with Dr. Kathryn Feltey*
- Fall 2014- Spring 2015 *Soc 100 Introduction to Sociology with Dr. John Zipp*

## **HONORS**

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- Sociology Departmental Honors Award, Saint Francis University, Spring 2014
- Academic Achievement Award- highest cumulative GPA, Saint Francis University, Spring 2014

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

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- American Sociological Association
- Population Association of America
- Sociology Department Travel Committee
  - Fall 2016-present
    - Responsibilities include reviewing student travel applications and pricing conference travel
- National Honor Society
- Alpha Kappa Delta- Sociology Honor Society
  - Treasurer, Fall 2015-Spring 2016
    - Responsibilities included working with student government to apply for conference travel funding for AKD members, organizing and running a year-long society fundraiser, and financially managing guest speaker, banquet, and society activity budgets.

## **REFERENCES**

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Dr. John Iceland  
 The Pennsylvania State University  
 jdi10@psu.edu

Dr. Melissa Hardy  
 The Pennsylvania State University  
 mah38@psu.edu

Vincent Palacios  
 Senior Policy Analyst at ESOP, Georgetown Center on Poverty & Inequality  
 vincent.i.palacios@gmail.com