

# Rachael D. Weaver

University of Georgia  
Department of Sociology  
401 Baldwin Hall  
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## EDUCATION

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In progress    Ph.D.    Sociology, University of Georgia, Athens, GA

2023            B.S.    Psychology, University of Georgia, Athens, GA  
                         Area of Emphasis: Neuroscience  
                         Minor: Criminal Justice Studies  
                         Certificate in Legal Disparities and Equity  
                         *Magna Cum Laude*

## AREAS OF INTEREST

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Medical Sociology; Family, Life Course, and Aging; Quantitative Methods

## PUBLICATIONS

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### *Peer-Reviewed Publications*

Simons, Ronald L., Mei Ling Ong, Man-Kit Lei, Steven R.H. Beach, Yu-Wen Lu, **Rachael Weaver**, and Michelle M. Mielke (2025). "Diabetes and Hypertension at Midlife Predict Increases in Biomarkers of Dementia among Black Americans." *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*.

- Coverage in UGA Today

Rigg, Khary K., **Rachael Weaver**, and Ethan Kusiak (2023). "Attitudes toward Methadone Treatment among Black/African Americans: Implications for Engagement and Retention." *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 93(6), 476-485.  
<https://doi.org/10.1037/ort0000692>.

### *Manuscripts Under Review*

Lei, Man-Kit, **Rachael Weaver**, Steven R.H. Beach, Ronald L. Simons, and Michelle M. Mielke. "Change in Racial Discrimination Increases the Slope of Age-Related Change in Serum Neurofilament Light Chain Levels among African American Adults."

### *Books in Preparation*

Lei, Man-Kit, **Rachael Weaver**, Mei Ling Ong. *Understanding the Social Determinants of Health*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

## PRESENTATIONS

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- 2025      **Weaver, Rachael.** “Racial/Ethnic Health Disparities in Aging: Understanding Social Determinants, Key Theoretical Frameworks, and Innovative Research Techniques.” Invited Guest Lecture for Undergraduate Introductory Sociology Course, University of Georgia, Athens, GA (April).
- 2023      **Weaver, Rachael.** “Media Portrayals and Research: Mitigating Aggressive Intentions through Stimulation of the Dorsolateral Prefrontal Cortex.” Cognitive Neuroscience Course, University of Georgia, Athens, GA (December).
- 2022      **Weaver, Rachael.** “Attitudes toward Methadone Maintenance Treatment among Black/African Americans.” Symposium on Substance Use Research, Rural Drug Addiction Resource Center, University of Nebraska, Remote (November).
- Weaver, Rachael.** “Attitudes toward Methadone Maintenance Treatment among Black/African Americans.” Summer Research Institute Symposium, Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL (August).

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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- 2024-Present      Research Assistant  
Families, Communities, and Health Workshop, Department of Sociology, University of Georgia  
PI: Dr. Ron Simons, Dr. Karlo Lei
- 2022 – 2024      Research Assistant  
National Cannabis Legalization Research Study (NCLRS) Lab, Owens Institute for Behavioral Research, University of Georgia  
PI: Dr. Lydia Aletraris
- 2022      Research Assistant  
Summer Research Institute, Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, University of South Florida  
PI: Dr. Khary Rigg
- 2020 – 2021      Research Mentee  
Google Computer Science Research Mentorship Program, Kennesaw State University

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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2024-Present    *Teaching Assistant, Department of Sociology, University of Georgia*  
Introductory Sociology (online)  
The Science of Happiness

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

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*Department of Sociology, University of Georgia*

2025            Graduate Student Recruitment Committee Member/Host Coordinator

2024-Present    Sociology Graduate Student Society Member

*University of Georgia*

2022 – 2023    American Society of Law, Medicine, & Ethics Social Media Manager/Co-Vice President  
Students for Psychedelic Advocacy, Research, & Connection Member

2021 – 2022    Doctors Without Borders/Friends of MSF Member

*Kennesaw State University*

2019 – 2020    Honors College Member

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

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American Sociological Association

*Sections:* Medical Sociology; Aging and the Life Course; Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility

## TRAINING

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2024            Elevate & Excite: Designing Meaningful Learning Experiences, Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Georgia

2022            Research Ethics & IRB Practices, Summer Research Institute, University of South Florida  
Social & Behavioral Research, CITI Program

## NON-ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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2021 – 2024    Patient Care Assistant, Acumen Fiscal Agency

2020            Companion, Papa: Companion Care for Older Adults and Families

## SERVICE

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2021 – 2023    Crisis Counselor, Crisis Text Line

