

BLAKELEE R. KEMP
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Child, Youth and Family Studies, University of Nebraska

APPOINTMENTS

2023–present Assistant Professor
Child, Youth and Family Studies, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Faculty Affiliate, Rural Drug Addiction Research Center
Faculty Affiliate, Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families and Schools

2020–2023 Research Assistant Professor
Faculty Affiliate, Rural Drug Addiction Research Center
Sociology, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

2018–2020 Postdoctoral Fellow
Aging Studies Institute, Syracuse University

2011–2014 Instructor
Department of Sociology, Texas Tech University

EDUCATION

2018 Ph.D., Sociology and Gerontology (dual-title)
Purdue University; West Lafayette, Indiana
Dissertation: *Early Social Origins of Premature Aging: How Do Childhood Exposures Shape Aging and Mortality?*

2012 M.A., Sociology
Texas Tech University; Lubbock, Texas
Thesis: *Social Capital and Health Among Older Adults in South Africa*

2009 B.A., Sociology
Texas Tech University; Lubbock, Texas

AREAS OF INTEREST

Aging and the Life Course, Health Disparities, Social Inequalities, Quantitative Methods

FUNDING

External Funding

2025-2028 *Early Life Adversity and Substance Misuse in Mid and Later Life: The Moderating Role of Adult Residential Characteristics*
NIH/NIGMS COBRE Research Project Leader for the Rural Drug Addiction Research Center. (\$668,524)
Role: PI/Early Career Research Project Leader

Proposals Submitted, Not Funded

2024-2029 *Aging in America: Geographic Patterns and Life Course Determinants of Latino Immigrant Health*
NIH/NIA R01.
Role: Co-Investigator (PIs: Courtney Boen and Marc Garcia)

2023-2026 *Group Storytelling to Promote Older Refugee Mental Health in an Urban Humanitarian Setting*
 NIH/NIMH R34.
 Role: Co-Investigator (PI: Julie Tippens).

PUBLICATIONS

(h-index: 10; i10-index: 11; citations: 330)

*indicates student co-author

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Impact factors are reported for the year of publication (2024 for 2025 publication). Impact factors were sourced from Clarivate Journal Citation Reports (<https://clarivate.com/academia-government/scientific-and-academic-research/research-funding-analytics/journal-citation-reports/>). Google scholar citation counts were retrieved on 12/26/2025. Downloads were sourced from journal metrics and retrieved on 12/26/2025.

13. **Kemp, B.**, Morton, P. M., & Rush, C.* (2025). Intergenerational education and later-life heart health: Variation across gender or cohort? *Sociological Perspectives*, online first. <https://doi-org.libproxy.unl.edu/10.1177/0731121425135>.
(Contributions: Conceptualization, all data analysis and visualization, wrote methods and results, co-wrote introduction and discussion, edited drafts, mentored student, coordinated submission and revisions)
 Impact Factor: 1.1; 5-Year Impact Factor: 2.8; Citation Count: N/A; Downloads: 56

12. Wheeler, L. A., Kuo, P. X., **Kemp, B. R.**, Xu, W.*, Hatton, H., Parra, G. R., & Tippens, J. A. (2024). The 2023 state of Nebraska families: State priorities and key areas of promise. *Marriage & Family Review*, 1-30. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01494929.2024.2402486>
(Contributions: Wrote sections on older adults, co-mentored student, reviewed full draft)
 Impact Factor: 1.2; 5-Year Impact Factor: 1.9; Citation Count: 2; Downloads: 244

11. Tippens, J. A, Erwin, S. E.*, Eller, K. E.*., Dutra Gross, R. M.*., Bearss, B.*., **Kemp, B.**, Mollard, E., Njiru, L., Okwarah, P., Palmer-Wackerly, A. L., & Lakati, A. (2023). Multisystemic resilience and psychosocial wellbeing among older refugees: A systematic review with implications for mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*, 25, 1152-1170. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10903-023-01516-y>
(Contributions: Contributed to sections in the discussion, contributed to conceptualizations of older and aging adults, reviewed full draft)
 Impact Factor: 2.0; 5-Year Impact Factor: 2.2; Citation Count: 15; Downloads: 2,012

10. **Kemp, B. R.**, Ferraro, K. F., Morton, P. M., Mustillo, S. A., Thomas, P. A., & Crimmins, E. M. (2022). Do early-life social, behavioral, and health exposures increase later-life arthritis incidence? *Research on Aging*, 44(7–8), 479–493. <https://doi.org/10.1177/01640275211044979>
(Contributions: Conceptualization, all data analysis and visualization, wrote full draft, reviewed full draft, coordinated submission and revisions)
 Impact Factor: 2.6; 5-Year Impact Factor: 3.1; Citation Count: 10; Downloads: 650

9. **Kemp, B. R.**, Grumbach, J. M., & Karas Montez, J. (2022). U.S. state policy contexts and physical health among midlife adults. *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World*, 8, 1–14. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2378023122109132>
(Contributions: Conceptualization, all data analysis and visualization, wrote full draft, reviewed full draft, coordinated submission and revisions)
 Impact Factor: 4.5; 5-Year Impact Factor: N/A; Citation Count: 24; Downloads: 2,240

8. Hatton-Bowers, H, McPherran Lopardi, C., **Kemp, B. R.**, Decker, K. B., Amini Virmani, E., Brophy-Herb, H. E., & Vallotton, C. D. (2021). Risks and resources for college students' mental health: ACEs, attachment, and mindfulness. *Journal of American College Health* 1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07448481.2021.1942007>
(Contributions: Operationalization of variables and analytic plan, co-wrote sections of the background, reviewed full draft)
 Impact Factor: 2.4; 5-Year Impact Factor: 3.0; Citation Count: 17; Downloads: 1,980

7. **Kemp, B. R.**, & Ferraro, K. F. (2021). Are biological consequences of childhood exposures detectable in telomere length decades later? *Journals of Gerontology: Biological Sciences*, 76(1), 7–14. <https://doi.org/10.1093/gerona/glaa019>
 ♦ Named Editor's Choice
(Contributions: Conceptualization, all data analysis and visualization, wrote full draft, edited drafts, coordinated submission and revisions)
 Impact Factor: 6.6; 5-Year Impact Factor: 6.7; Citation Count: 18; Downloads: 1,959

6. **Kemp, B. R.**, & Karas Montez, J. (2020). Why does the importance of education for health differ across the United States? *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World*, 6, 1–16. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2378023119899545>
(Contributions: Conceptualization, all data analysis and visualization, wrote full draft, edited drafts, coordinated submission and revisions)
 Impact Factor: N/A; 5-Year Impact Factor: N/A; Citation Count: 21; Downloads: 2,726

5. Smith, N. R.*, Ferraro, K. F., **Kemp, B. R.**, Morton, P. M., Mustillo, S. A., & Angel, J. L. (2019). Childhood misfortune and handgrip strength among Black, White, and Hispanic Americans. *Journals of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, 74(3), 526–535.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/geronb/gbw147>
(Contributions: Assisted with study design and analyses, co-wrote sections of the discussion, edited drafts)
 Impact Factor: 3.5; 5-Year Impact Factor: 3.9; Citation Count: 24; Downloads: 2,489

4. Williams, M. M., **Kemp, B. R.**, Ferraro, K. F., & Mustillo, S. A. (2019). Avoiding the major causes of death: Does childhood misfortune reduce the likelihood of being disease free in later life? *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, 74(1), 170–180.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/geronb/gby039>
(Contributions: Assisted with study design and analyses, co-wrote sections of the introduction and discussion, edited drafts)
 Impact Factor: 3.5; 5-Year Impact Factor: 3.9; Citation Count: 26; Downloads: 2,176

3. **Kemp, B. R.**, Ferraro, K. F., Morton, P. M., & Mustillo, S. A. (2018). Early origins of adult cancer risk among men and women: Influence of childhood misfortune? *Journal of Aging and Health*, 30(1), 140–163. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0898264316670049>
(Contributions: Conceptualization, all data analysis and visualization, wrote full draft, edited drafts, coordinated submission and revisions)
 Impact Factor: 2.0; 5-Year Impact Factor: 2.5; Citation Count: 26; Downloads: 2,107

2. Wilkinson, L. R., Ferraro, K. F. & **Kemp, B. R.** (2017). Contextualization of survey data: What do we gain and does it matter? *Research in Human Development*, 14(3), 234–252. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15427609.2017.1340049>
(Contributions: Conceptualization, assisted with study design and analysis, co-wrote sections of the introduction, wrote discussion, edited drafts)
 Impact Factor: 1.2; 5-Year Impact Factor: 1.6; Citation Count: 30; Downloads: 503

1. Ferraro, K. F., **Kemp, B. R.**, & Williams, M. M. (2017). Diverse aging and health inequality by race and ethnicity. *Innovation in Aging*, 1(1), 1–11. <https://doi.org/10.1093/geroni/igx002>
(Contributions: Assisted with conceptualization, wrote and co-wrote sections, assisted in designing heuristic model, edited drafts)
 Impact Factor: N/A; 5-Year Impact Factor: N/A; Citation Count: 116; Downloads: 14,396

Manuscripts in Progress or Under Review

6. Garcia, M. A., **Kemp, B. R.**, Boen, C., & Saenz, R. *U.S. state policy contexts and disability risk among pan-ethnic Latinos: Variation by nativity and gender?*
(status: revised and resubmitted to Journals of Gerontology: Social Sciences)

5. Garcia, C. A., **Kemp, B. R.**, Boen, C., & Garcia, M. *Heterogeneity in healthy aging among U.S. Latinos: A dual functionality perspective.*
(status: minor revisions requested for Population Research and Policy Review)

4. Morton, P. M., **Kemp, B. R.**, & Ahmed, F.* *Child abuse and adult mental health: Does gender matter?*
(status: analyses complete, full draft available, editing draft)

3. **Kemp, B. R.**, Mason, W. A., & Emmanuel, P.* *Early life adversity and alcohol misuse in mid and later life adults: The moderating role of adult residential characteristics*
(status: analyses complete, writing results and discussion)

2. **Kemp, B. R.**, & Ferraro, K. F. *Do early life exposures increase all-cause and cardiovascular mortality risk among adults?*
(status: full draft available, updating analyses, editing draft)

1. Garcia, M. A., Tarraf, W., **Kemp, B. R.** *State policy and political landscapes: Implications for cognitive and functional health.*
(status: analyses complete, writing draft)

Research Briefs

2. **Kemp, B. R.**, Grumbach J. M., & Karas Montez, J. (2022). *Civil rights, firearm safety, and environmental protection policies predict better health among U.S. midlife adults*. Lerner Center Population Health Research Brief Series.
1. **Kemp, B. R.** (2019). *Economic hardship during childhood increases the risk of premature death later in life*. Lerner Center Population Health Research Brief Series.

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations

*indicates student co-presenter

17. **Kemp, B. R.**, Mason, W. A., Emmanuel, P*. (2025, September 7-11). *Early life adversity and substance misuse in mid and later life: The moderating role of adult residential characteristics* [Poster]. Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Sciences, Pittsburgh, PA, United States.
16. Garcia, M. A., Tarraf, W., **Kemp, B. R.** (2024, November 13-16). *State policy and political landscapes: Implications for cognitive and functional health* [Symposium]. Gerontological Society of America, Seattle, WA, United States.
15. **Kemp, B. R.**, Morton, P. M., & Rush, C.* (2023, November 8-12). *Intergenerational education and later-life heart health: Variation across gender or cohort?* [Poster]. Gerontological Society of America, Tampa, FL, United States.
14. **Kemp, B. R.**, & Garcia, M. A. (2022, November 6–9). *Age of migration and the health status of older Latino men and women: Findings from the Health and Retirement Study* [Symposium]. American Public Health Association, Boston, MA, United States.
 - ❖ Finalist for the *Aetna Award for Excellence in Research on Older Women and Public Health*
13. **Kemp, B. R.**, & Garcia, M. A. (2021, November 10-14). *Age of migration and the health status of older Latinos: Findings from the Health and Retirement Study* [Symposium]. Gerontological Society of America, virtual.
12. **Kemp, B. R.**, Grumbach, J. M., & Karas Montez, J. (2021, May 5–8). *U.S. state policy contexts and physical health among midlife adults* [Symposium]. Population Association of America, virtual.
11. **Kemp, B. R.**, & Karas Montez, J. (2019, November 12–17). *Why does the importance of education for health differ across the United States?* [Symposium]. Gerontological Society of America, Austin, TX, U.S.
10. Morton, P. M., **Kemp, B. R.**, & Ahmed, F.* (2019, November 12–17). *Child abuse and adult mental health: Does gender matter?* [Poster]. Gerontological Society of America, Austin, TX, U.S.

9. **Kemp, B. R.**, & Ferraro, K. F. (2019, August 10–13). *Do early life exposures increase all-cause and cardiovascular mortality risk among adults?* [Symposium]. American Sociological Association, New York, NY, U.S.
8. **Kemp, B. R.**, & Karas Montez, J. (2019, April 9–13). *Geo-life course determinants of educational disparities in U.S. adult health* [Symposium]. Population Association of America, Austin, TX, U.S.
7. **Kemp, B. R.**, & Ferraro, K. F. (2018, November 14–18). *Are biological consequences of childhood exposures detectable in telomere length decades later?* [Symposium]. Gerontological Society of America Conference, Boston, MA, U.S.
6. Williams, M. M., **Kemp, B. R.**, & Ferraro, K. F. (2017, July 23–27). *Does childhood misfortune increase the likelihood of mobility limitation in later life?* [Symposium]. IAGG World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics and Gerontological Society of America, San Francisco, CA, United States.
5. Wilkinson, L. R., Ferraro, K. F., & **Kemp, B. R.** (2017, July 23–27). *Contextualization of survey data: What do we gain and does it matter?* [Symposium]. IAGG World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics and Gerontological Society of America, San Francisco, CA, U.S.
4. **Kemp, B. R.**, & Ferraro, K. F. (2016, November 2–6). *Does childhood misfortune increase the risk of perceived discrimination in later life?* [Symposium]. Gerontological Society of America Conference, New Orleans, LA, U.S.
3. **Kemp, B. R.**, Ferraro, K. F., Morton, P. M., & Mustillo, S. A. (2016, August 20–23). *Does childhood misfortune increase adult arthritis?* [Roundtable]. American Sociological Association, Seattle, WA, U.S.
2. **Kemp, B. R.**, Ferraro, K. F., Morton, P. M., & Mustillo, S. A. (2015, November 18–22). *Does childhood misfortune raise the risk of cancer among Black, White and Hispanic Americans?* [Symposium]. American Sociological Association, Seattle, WA, U.S.
1. **Kemp, B. R.** (2015, August 22–25). *Does perceived discrimination increase risk of cancer?* [Roundtable]. American Sociological Association, Chicago, IL, U.S.

Invited Presentations

4. **Kemp, B. R.** (2022). *Child maltreatment and adult mental health: Assessing type, frequency, and perpetrator of abuse.* CYAF Scholarly Brown Bag Seminar at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE, United States.
3. **Kemp, B. R.**, & Ferraro, K. F. (2019). *Are biological consequences of childhood exposures detectable in telomere length decades later?* Sociology Department at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE, United States.

2. **Kemp, B. R., & Karas Montez, J. (2019).** *Geo-life course determinants of educational disparities in U.S. adult health*. Aging Studies Institute at Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, United States.
1. **Kemp, B. R. (2018).** *The early origins of adult health: How do childhood events and experiences shape aging, morbidity, and mortality?* Health and Human Sciences Update Conference for Extension Staff, West Lafayette, IN, United States.

AWARDS AND HONORS

2017 Certificate of Excellence in Research Award
Office of Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs, Purdue University

2016 & 2017 Conference Travel Award. Total: \$1,500
Purdue PROMISE Award, Purdue University

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2017 Dissertation Research Fellowship. \$17,645
Purdue Research Foundation Research Grant, Purdue University

2016 Robert L. Eichhorn Fellowship in Medical Sociology. \$5,000
Purdue University

2007 Gilman International Scholarship. \$3,000.
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State

2007 Health and Social Services Fellowship. \$2,000
Texas Tech University

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2018–2020 Postdoctoral Researcher, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY
Educational Attainment, Geography, and U.S. Adult Mortality Risk, Jennifer Karas Montez (P.I.). National Institute on Aging (R01 AG055481).

2014–2018 Research Assistant, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN
Childhood Misfortune and Adult Health among Black, White, and Hispanic Americans, Kenneth F. Ferraro (P.I.). National Institute on Aging (R01 AG033541).

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

2024-2025 Grant Writing for Grand Visions
CEHS Research Development Program, University of Nebraska

2023 Grant Writers' Seminars and Workshops, Write Winning Grant Proposals,
Office of Research and Economic Development, University of Nebraska

2023 Power Analysis and Sample Size Planning
Statistical Horizons Summer Workshop, Chris Aberson

2023 Structural Equation Modeling with Categorical Outcomes
Statistical Horizons Summer Workshop, Kevin Grimm

2020	Summer Grant Development Workshop Rural Drug Addiction Research Center and Minority Health Disparities Initiative, University of Nebraska
2020	Summer Institute for Online Teaching Center for Transformative Teaching, University of Nebraska
2018	Data and Model Visualization Social and Behavioral Sciences Methodology Cluster Workshop, Purdue
2017	Missing Data: Best Practices for Analyzing Incomplete Data Social and Behavioral Sciences Methodology Cluster Workshop, Purdue
2016	Longitudinal Data Analysis Using Structural Equation Modeling Statistical Horizons Summer Workshop, Paul Allison
2015	Examining the Health and Retirement Study (HRS) Workshop University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2023–present	University of Nebraska, Child, Youth and Family Studies CYAF 160: Human Development and the Family CYAF 488/888: Child and Family Policy (Undergraduate and Graduate levels)
2020–2022	University of Nebraska, Sociology SOCI 252: Health, Medicine, and Society SOCI 863: Advanced Social Research Methods (Graduate level)
2011–2014	Texas Tech University, Sociology SOC 1301: Introduction to Sociology SOC 1320: Current Social Problems SOC 2331: Sociology of Marriage and Family
2011	Texas Tech University, Women’s Studies WS 2300: Introduction to Women’s Studies

STUDENT COMMITTEES AND MENTORSHIP

Doctoral Student

2025–present	Ruting Liu, Child, Youth and Family Studies, UNL	committee co-chair
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Master’s Students

2025–present	Joy Ezeaku, Child, Youth and Family Studies, UNL	committee member
2025–present	Ray Virdrine, Child, Youth and Family Studies, UNL	committee member

Bachelor’s Honor Student

2025–present	Trenton Ditter, Child, Youth and Family Studies, UNL	committee co-chair
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SERVICE

Service to the Profession

Ad Hoc Grant Reviewer

2018 National Science Foundation Geography and Spatial Science Program, Syracuse University Lerner Center for Public Health Promotion

Ad Hoc Manuscript Reviewer

Alzheimer's & Dementia (2024-)
American Sociological Review (2020)
BMC Geriatrics (2024-)
BMC Public Health (2024-)
Demography (2020-)
Discover Social Science and Health (2023-)
Family Process (2025-)
Journal of Aging and Health (2017-)
Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences (2017-)
Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences (2021-)
Journal of Health and Social Behavior (2019-)
Scientific Reports (2025-)
Social Forces (2025-)
Social Science and Medicine (2020-)
Social Science and Medicine-Population Health (2019-)
Society and Mental Health (2025-)
The Gerontologist (2025-)

Service to the College

2024-2027 CEHS Scholarship and Awards Committee

Service to the Department

2025-2028 Chair's Advisory Committee
2025-2026 Search Committee: RDAR affiliated Assistant Professor in Rural Mental Health and Substance Use

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2015–present American Sociological Association

2014–present Gerontological Society of America