

NIH BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH COMMON FORM

Name: Schwartz, Christine

Persistent Identifier (PID) of the Senior/Key Person: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8407-1065>

Position Title: Professor

Organization and Location: Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, United States

PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE	Start Date	Completion Date	FIELD OF STUDY
University of California, Los Angeles, California, United States	DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY	08/1999	06/2006	Sociology
University of California, Los Angeles, California, United States	MASTER OF ARTS	08/1999	06/2001	Sociology
Reed College, Portland, Oregon, United States	BACHELOR OF ARTS	08/1991	12/1995	Sociology

Appointments and Positions

2015 - present Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, United States

2011 - 2014 Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, United States

2006 - 2011 Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, United States

Products

Products Closely Related to the Proposed Project

1. Schwartz CR, King MD. The Changing Role of Mothers' Status in Children's College Completion. Am Sociol Rev. 2026 Feb;91(1):123-157. PubMed Central PMCID: [PMC12915997](#).
2. Hirschl N, Schwartz CR, Boschetti E. Eight Decades of Educational Assortative Mating: A Research Note. Demography. 2024 Oct 1;61(5):1293-1307. PubMed Central PMCID: [PMC12176447](#).
3. Schwartz CR, González-Velastín R, Li A. Lifetime years married held steady for men with a BA degree since 1960 but dropped to lowest level since 1880 for men without a BA. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2023 Jul 11;120(28):e2301983120. PubMed Central PMCID: [PMC10334745](#).
4. Schwartz CR, Wang Y, Mare RD. Opportunity and change in occupational assortative mating. Soc Sci Res. 2021 Sep;99:102600. PubMed Central PMCID: [PMC8387636](#).
5. Smock PJ, Schwartz CR. The Demography of Families: A Review of Patterns and Change. J Marriage Fam. 2020 Feb;82(1):9-34. PubMed Central PMCID: [PMC7329188](#).

Certification:

I certify that the information provided is current, accurate, and complete. This includes, but is not limited to, information related to current, pending, and other support (both foreign and domestic) as defined in 42 U.S.C. § 6605.

In accordance with Section 10632 of the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022 (42 U.S.C. § 19232), each individual identified as a senior/key person must certify that they are not a party to a malign foreign talent recruitment program.

Research Security Training Requirement for Federal Award Personnel: In accordance with Section 10634 of the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022 (42 U.S.C. § 19234), each individual identified as a senior/key person must certify that they have completed the requisite research security training that meets the requirements specified in Item 2 of Important Notice No. 149 within 12 months prior to proposal submission.

Misrepresentations and/or omissions may be subject to prosecution and liability pursuant to, but not limited to, 18 U.S.C. §§287, 1001, 1031 and 31 U.S.C. §§3729-3733 and 3802.

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NIH BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH SUPPLEMENT

Name: Schwartz, Christine

Persistent Identifier (PID) of the Senior/Key Person: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8407-1065>

Position Title: Professor

Organization and Location: Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, United States

Personal Statement

I am Vilas Distinguished Achievement and Emma Welsch Conway Bascom Professor of Sociology and Associate Director of the Center for Demography and Ecology (CDE) at UW-Madison. I previously served as the Training Director of the Center for Demography of Health and Aging (CDHA) and Chair of the Department of Sociology, roles in which I collaborated closely with the CDE training program. In addition, I am Director of UW-Madison's Certificate in Applied Social Research, which trains undergraduate students in the social sciences applied quantitative methods, and regularly teach Advanced Demographic Techniques (Soc 756), a core course in the training program.

My research interests fall at the intersection of family demography, stratification, and gender. I actively contribute to the CDE primary research area in Family Demography, leading this area for three years and regularly attending working group meetings. Much of my work has examined the causes and consequences of assortative mating to gain insight into the links between family change and inequality in the United States. In another line of research, I examine the consequences of the reversal of the gender gap in education for marriage patterns and marriage outcomes. More recently, I have begun several projects on divorce trends in the United States. My work on these topics has been funded by NIH, the Russell Sage Foundation, and the University of Wisconsin Graduate School.

I have mentored nearly 70 graduate and undergraduate students, including several NICHD trainees who have pursued active careers in research. I teach undergraduate and graduate-level courses on demographic methods, statistics, data management, and family demography. Several of my undergraduate classes feature a step-by-step approach to writing journal style articles, conducting independent data analysis projects, the importance of replicability in social science research, and displaying and writing about quantitative data. I received a Departmental Citation for Excellence in Teaching by a Member of the Faculty from the Department of Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Honors

2026	Departmental Citation for Excellence in Teaching by a Member of the Faculty, Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison
2024	Kellett Mid-Career Award, University of Wisconsin-Madison
2024	Emma Welsch Conway-Bascom Professorship, University of Wisconsin-Madison
2022	Honorable Mention Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Award , ASA Sociology of Population Section
2018	Rosabeth Moss Kanter Award for Excellence in Work-Family Research , Work and Family Researchers Network
2018	Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professorship, University of Wisconsin-Madison
2017	Vilas Faculty Mid-Career Investigator Award, University of Wisconsin-Madison
2016	Distinguished Paper Award for "The Reversal of the Gender Gap in Education and Marital Dissolution", Sociology of Population Section, American Sociological Association
2009	Departmental Citation for Excellence in Teaching by a Member of the Faculty, University of Wisconsin-Madison
2000	Graduate Fellowship Honorable Mention, National Science Foundation
2000 - 2004	Jacob K. Javits Fellowship, Department of Education
1999 - 2000	Edwin W. Pauley Fellowship, University of California, Los Angeles
1996	Member, Phi Beta Kappa

Contributions to Science

1. A major theme in much of my work is the link between marriage patterns and economic inequality. Spouses have become more similar in many ways over the past half-century: they increasingly resemble one another on education, earnings, and labor force participation. As highly educated high-earning men are increasingly married to highly educated high-earning women, this increases inequality across household compared with random marriage pairings. My work has both documented the increase in the educational and economic resemblance of spouses, and has also estimated the contributions of these shifts to household economic inequality. Contrary to what previous research has often assumed, I find that the rise in spouses' earnings resemblance is primarily attributable to wives' increased labor force participation rather than to increased sorting into marriage.
2. Another strand of research examines the reversal of the gender gap in education and potential consequences for marriage and divorce. Concern about the effects of women's success on marriage and marital outcomes have had a long history. But as marriage has become more egalitarian and the breadwinner-homemaker model of marriage has waned, it is possible that women's economic success may be less consequential for heterosexual romantic relationships. My work tackles one piece of this larger question by investigating an important marital outcome: divorce. My research examines whether the association between having higher socioeconomic status (higher earnings or higher educational attainment) than one's husband and marital dissolution has declined over time. Indeed, I find that when the breadwinner-homemaker model of marriage dominated American family life, deviations from this pattern (i.e., wives outearn their husbands and/or have higher educational attainment) were associated with a heightened risk of divorce. But these associations have declined and have essentially disappeared in recent marriage cohorts.
3. Women's socioeconomic status has increased dramatically in the United States and other countries around the world. In a third research area, I investigate whether mothers' rising status relative to fathers' has reshaped the links between parents' characteristics and children's outcomes. I find that the payoffs to mothers' and fathers' education, income, and occupational status for children's college attainment are similar and fairly constant across birth cohorts from the 1930s through the 1980s. Although these relative payoffs have been stable, the outsized growth in women's education, income, and occupational status in recent decades has meant that increased levels of mothers' status account for more of the increase in children's college completion than does fathers' status among cohorts born since the 1960s. That continued increases in college completion have more to do with the rising status of mothers than fathers has been overlooked by previous research.

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