

LATRICA E. BEST
(she/her)

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- July 2022 - Present **Associate Professor**, Department of Sociology and African & African Diaspora Studies, Boston College
- Affiliate Faculty, Medical Humanities, Health, and Culture
- Jan – June 2022 **Associate Dean, Graduate Education**, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Louisville
- 2016-June 2022 **Associate Professor**, Department of Sociology, University of Louisville
- Affiliate Faculty, Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research, (2020-Present)
- Affiliate Faculty, Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies Program in Health Care Ethics, (2020-Present)
- 2016-2018 **Associate Professor**, Department of Pan-African Studies, (2016-2018)
- Director of Graduate Studies, Dept. of Pan-African Studies, (2016-2018)
- Vice Chair, Department of Pan-African Studies, (2016-2017)
- 2010-2016 **Assistant Professor**, Joint Appointment, Department of Pan-African Studies, Department of Sociology, University of Louisville
- Vice Chair, Department of Pan-African Studies, (2014-2016)
- 2008-2010 **National Institute on Aging Postdoctoral Fellow**, Andrus Gerontology Center, University of Southern California

EDUCATION

- 2008 **Ph.D. in Sociology & Demography, minor in Gerontology**, The Pennsylvania State University
- National Institute on Aging Predoctoral Fellow, (2003-2006)
- National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Predoctoral Interdisciplinary Training in Demography, (2006-2007)

knowledge about eating practices in two African American communities. *Qualitative Health Research*, 26(14), 1961-1974. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1049732315606683>

Best, Latrica E. & W. Carson Byrd. (2014). Methods beyond methods: A model for Africana graduate methods training. *Journal of Pan-African Studies*, 7(1), 61-73.

Best, Latrica E. & John Chenault* (2014). Rethinking bioethics: The implication of biological markers in health research in the African diaspora. *Journal of Pan-African Studies*, 7(1), 74-98.

Della, Lindsay, Siobhan Smith, **Latrica E. Best**, & Margaret D'Silva. (2014). What's Hoppin' in hoptown? Examining fruit and vegetable consumption among Hopkinsville's African American community. *Kentucky Journal of Communication*, 33(2), 5-24.

Wray, Linda, Duane Alwin, Ryan McCammon, Tim Manning, & **Latrica E. Best**. (2006). Social status, risky health behaviors, and diabetes in middle-aged and older adults. *The Journals of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, 61(6), S290-S298. <https://doi.org/10.1093/geronb/61.6.S290>

Best, Latrica E., Mark D. Hayward, & Mira M. Hidajat. (2005). Life course pathways to adult-onset diabetes. *Social Biology*, 52(3-4), 94-111.

Book Chapters

Best, Latrica E. (2023). Black women, food, and health: Exploring the importance of intersectionality in population-based health studies. In P. McCutcheon, **L. Best**, & T. Rajack-Talley (Eds.), *Beyond the kitchen table: Black women and global food systems*. University of North Carolina Press.

Best, Latrica E. (2017). The impact of personality change on health among older Americans: Findings from the Health and Retirement study. In M. McGehee & B. Bradshaw (Eds.), *Applied demography and public health in the 21st Century* (pp. 51-68). Springer International.

Best, Latrica E. & Byrd, W. Carson. (2015). All marked-up in the genetic era: Genetic and biomarkers as 'floating signifiers' in race-related health research. In B.

Reviews & Essays

Best, Latrica E. (spring 2021). Understanding the pandemic's impact on Black Americans' health from a life course perspective. *Footnotes*, 49(2), 10-11.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Best, Latrica E. and Solomon Amoatey. The changing context of disability and eldercare among Ghanaian families: A critical review of the literature. (Revise and resubmit). *Disability and the Changing Context of Family and Personal Relationships*, 15th edition (Research in Social Science and Disability).

Best, Latrica E., Lauren Heberle, and Haley Metcalf-Wade. Towards an Intergenerational Environmental Justice Framework for Climate Change Scholarship and Practice

Best, Latrica E. Environmental justice, intergenerational justice, and the impacts of climate change on health: Theoretical considerations

Best, Latrica E. Methodological innovations and the growth of sociogenomics in health disparities research

Best, Latrica E. and Oliver Rollins. Mapping the different positions and politics of biosocial research on race and health disparities.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2021

- 2015 Intramural Research and Creative Activities, University of Louisville. “Floating signifiers in academic innovation and publication: The use of race and ethnicity across multiple disciplines in the genomic era,” **Latrica Best** (Co-PI) and W. Carson Byrd (Co-PI). 2015-2016, \$2,039. (*funded*)
- 2014 Michigan Center for Urban African American Aging Research Center, “Personality & health over time among older African Americans,” **Latrica Best** (PI). \$40,000. (*not funded*)
- 2013 Office of Community Engagement, Research/Project Initiation Grant, University of Louisville, “The multiracial family wellness project,” Kevin Chapman (PI), **Latrica Best**, and Jesse Owen. 2013-2014, \$4,050. (*funded*)
- 2013 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s New Connections Program, “Psychosocial factors, health, and older African Americans,” **Latrica Best** (PI). \$100,000. (*not funded*)
- 2013 National Institute of Health (NIH), National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, “Exploring culture, community, communication, and fruit and vegetable intake in Black Kentuckians,” Lindsay Della (PI), **Latrica Best** (consultant), Margaret D’Silva, Toni Miles, Deborah Potter, Theresa Rajack-Talley, 2012-2014, \$180,654. (*funded*)
- 2008 National Institute on Aging (NIA) Postdoctoral Fellow in Gerontology, Andrus Gerontology Center, The University of Southern California, (Eileen Crimmins, preceptor). 2008-2010.
- 2007 National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) Pre-Doctoral Interdisciplinary Training in Demography, The Pennsylvania State University, (Melissa Hardy, preceptor).
- 2003 National Institute on Aging (NIA) Pre-Doctoral Fellow in Gerontology, The Pennsylvania State University (Mark Hayward, preceptor). 2003-2006.

AWARDS

- 2014 “Faculty Favorite” nominee, College of Arts & Sciences, University of Louisville.
- 2009 Poster Session Winner, Vasunilashorn, Sarinnapha, **Latrica Best**, Jung Ki Kim, and Eileen M. Crimmins. “Predicting Mortality Using Latent Class Risk of ? & ò

2005 Frontiers of Demographic Research on Mortality and Longevity, Joint Summer School of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) and Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Rostock, Germany.

2004 Event History Analysis, The Summer Institute in Survey Research Techniques, Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS, TALKS, & PANELS

2023 “

- 2017 “Racism & Health.” Talk presented at the Culturally Effective Care Symposium, University of Louisville’s Health Sciences campus.
- 2016 Keynote Address, Spring Visitation Day for Prospective Students, The Graduate School, University of Louisville.
- 2015 “Racial Conflict & Its Impact on Health.” Panel discussion for the Office of Diversity & Inclusion, University of Louisville’s Health Sciences campus.
- 2015 “The impact of personality on African-American health and well-being.” Paper presented in the special symposium, *Social and Psychological Factors to Promote Health and Wellbeing in Aging African Americans*, Gerontological Society of America, Orlando, FL.
- 2015 “The growing burden of chronic disease among older Ghanaians.” Talk presented at the Department of Sociology Spring Colloquium, University of Louisville.
- 2013 Della, Lindsay, Siobhan Smith, Theresa Rajack-Talley, Margaret D’Silva, Deborah Potter, **Latrica E. Best**, Quaniqua Carthan, Keneka Cheatham, Lisa Markowitz, & Latonia Craig. “Engaging the community while exploring the food culture of African Americans in West Louisville and Hopkinsville.” Presented at the Second Annual Celebration of Faculty Excellence, University of Louisville.
- 2012 “Black Love: A conversation about relationships and sexuality in the (en-US)BDC q0.00000912 0

- 2009 Weir, David, **Latrica E. Best**, & Eileen M. Crimmins. “Racial and ethnic differences in undiagnosed and poorly managed diabetes and hypertension: Combining population surveys with biomarker data (HRS 2006).” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America. National Harbor, MD.
- 2006 “Research findings on obesity and overweight.” Presented at Gerontology Center Fall Series Colloquium Panel Discussion, The Pennsylvania State University.
- 2006 **Best, Latrica E.**, Mark D. Hayward, & Mira M. Hidajat. “Life course pathways to adult-onset diabetes.” Paper presented at the Gerontology Center Fall Series Colloquium, The Pennsylvania State University.

SELECT PRESENTATIONS & PANELS

- 2024 Best, Latrica E., Lauren Heberle, and Haley Metcalf-Wade. “Intergenerational environmental justice, local policy making, and climate change: Housing and resiliency policies in Louisville, KY.” Paper to be presented at the annual meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society, Washington, D.C. (March)
- 2023 **Best, Latrica E.**, Lauren Heberle, and Haley Metcalf-Wade. “Towards an intergenerational environmental justice framework for climate change scholarship

annual meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science, Prague. (**declined/no participation due to COVID-19**)

Meeting of the Population Association of America. Boston, MA.

2014 Della, Lindsay J., Siobhan E. Smith, Margaret U. D'Silva, **Latrica E. Best**,
Quaniqua N. Carthan, Theresa Rajack-

the Gerontological Society of America. National Harbor, MD.

2006 Menon, Niveditha & **Latrica E. Best**. "Politics of the aging body: Sexuality and health in aging populations." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America. New York, NY.

2005 **Best, Latrica E.**, Mark D. Hayward, & Mira M. Hidajat. "Childhood influences on diabetes among older Americans." Paper presented at the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population Meeting. Tours, France.

2004 Hidajat, Mira M., **Latrica E. Best**, & Mark D. Hayward. "The effects of residence on health transitions for the oldest-old in China." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America. Washington, DC.

2004 "Racial differences in the prevalence of diabetes." Paper presented 025 584.reW* nBT/F2 12 Tf11

Member, Program and Awards Committee, 2022 Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Sciences

Session Organizer, “Aging in Vulnerable Populations,” Population Association of America Annual Meeting, 2022

Discussant, “Racialization and Health,” Population Association of America Annual Meeting, 2021

Abstract Reviewer, Gerontological Society of America, 2014

Chair, Session on “Cross-Cultural and Cross-National Aging.” Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting, 2015

Chair, Session on “Analyze This: Personality and Aging.” Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting, 2009

Director of Graduate Studies, 2016-2018
Chair, Personnel Committee, 2016-2018
Member, Curriculum Committee, 2011-2014
Chair, Curriculum Committee, 2013-2014
Chair, Faculty Search Committee, 2012-2013
Planning Committee Member, Launch event for the PhD in Pan-African Studies, 2012
Co-chair, Distance Education Committee, 2010-2011

Department of Sociology:

Member, Department Speaker Series, 2022-2023, (Boston College)
Member, Graduate Admissions Committee, 2022-2023, (Boston College)
Member, Faculty Search Committee, 2011-2012; 2021-2022
Member, Graduate Studies Committee, Fall 2011; 2020-present
Chair, Jon Rieger Speaker Series, 2020-2021
Member, Personnel Committee, 2011-2012; Fall 2016; 2019-2021
Member, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, 2017-2018
Member, Curriculum Committee, 2017-2018

College & University Level

Appointed Member, Provost's College of Arts and Sciences Strategic Planning Committee, 2022

Elected Alternate Member, College of Arts & Sciences Graduate Student Grievance Committee, 2021-2023

Chair, Institutional Review Board review panel, University of Louisville, 2017-2018

Grant proposal reviewer, Cooperative Consortium for Transdisciplinary Social Justice Research, 2017-2018

Co-Chair, Equity and Inclusion and Organizing Committee, American Association of University Professors, University of Louisville chapter, 2016

Delegation Member, Partnership between University of Louisville's Pan-African Studies Department and the University for Development Studies, Tamale, Ghana. 2011

Internal Review Committee, Center for Reducing Mental Health Disparities, University of Louisville, 2011-2012

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

Board of Directors, Americana World Community Center, Louisville, KY (2021-present)

Research Contributor, Louisville Metro Status on Women Report, 2020

Health Team Member, Vision Louisville, Louisville Mayor's Office, 2013-2014

Liaison (and Big Sister), Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Kentuckiana's partnership with the National Pan-

Child Welfare
Demography
Demography of Aging and the Life
Course
Demography of Health
Disability & Health
Global Health
History of Mental Health
Intersectionality*
Medical Sociology
Neighborhoods and Health
Race and Ethnicity*
Race and Reproductive Justice
Race Disparities in Health
Racialized Medicine
Women and Maternal Health
Statistics
Sociology of HIV/AIDS

Ph.D. Chair (UofL)

Solomon Amoatey, Sociology. “Disability, the life course, and health in Ghana.” In progress.

John Broadus, Sociology.

Alexis Keen Crook, Pan-African Studies.

Warren King, Pan-African Studies. “Neighborhood disparities in healthcare: The accessibility, availability, and affordability of healthcare services.”

Jamar Wheeler, Sociology. “Black middle-class neighborhoods in Louisville through multiple lenses.” 2020.

James Kent Pugh, Sociology. “Moving mountains: A study examining long-term impacts of mountaintop removal coal mining on mortality in the Appalachian region using geographic information systems.” 2017.

Ph.D. Committees (UofL)

Chandre Chaney, Public Health. “Food insecurity during COVID-19.”

Camara Douglas, Pan-African Studies. “The underbelly of residential segregation & busing on education: A case study of Louisville, Kentucky.

Rebecca Halpryn, Sociology

Haley Metcalf, Sociology

Trey Allen, Sociology. “A study of Arab and Pakistani American men with immigrant-family origins in two regionally isolated settings.” 2021.

Jonathon Holland, Sociology. “The norms are more guidelines than actual rules: Applying isomorphism to disability accommodations in the Catholic church. 2020.

Jelisa Clark, Sociology. “This is a black-white conversation: Navigating race, class, and gender at an urban school.” 2017.

Sula Hood, Public Health. “The influence of social contextual condition 4 d h s Bso ho~ ogys# 1

Thomas Isaak, Sociology. "External homophobia and outness in gay men." 2020.

Alexis Keen, Pan-African Studies. "Assessing cultural competence in a mental health outpatient facility." 2016.

Shannon Spears, Pan-African Studies. "The problem of the twenty-first century in the Cherokee nation is the problem of the color line: How the Cherokee Freedman have articulated a sense of cultural identity and citizenship claims over time." 2014.

Casey Griffith, Sociology. "Parental engagement on student academic self-efficacy and educational attainment expectation for immigrant youth." 2012.

Tamara Spiller, Pan-African Studies. Thesis Exam Option, 2011.

M.A. Committees (UofL)

LeAnna Luney, Pan-African Studies. "'Triggers': Systematic and social cues for African American college student racial self-consciousness and rejection sensitivity." 2018.

Tanisha Stanford, Pan-African Studies. "African American grandmothers as the black matriarch: You don't live for yourself." 2018.

Joshua Schuschke, Pan-African Studies. "#SayItLoud: Securing racial & academic identities for African American students through social media." 2015.

Shelby Pumphrey, Pan-African Studies. "Reclaiming my body: Black women and the fight for reproductive justice." 2014.

Tytianna Wells Smith, Pan-African Studies. "An exploration of African folktales among the Gullah community of the South Carolina Sea Islands: History, culture, and identity." 2012.

Nannie Croney, Pan-African Studies and Social Work.

Megan Pavageau, Pan-African Studies.

Courtney Wheeler, Sociology.

Undergraduate Internship Supervisor (Pan-African Studies) (UofL)

Dayiaone Bibb. St. George's Scholar Institute at the California Community Center, 2019.

Thomas Gordon, University of Louisville, Department of Neurology, 2016.

Aranise Hodges, Village Learning Center, 2014.

Sasha Ndvolu, Kentucky Center for African American Heritage, 2014.

Rachel Ellis, University of Louisville, College of Arts and Sciences, Inclusion & Equity, 2013.

Fairen Harris, University of Louisville, College of Arts and Sciences, Inclusion & Equity, 2013.

Israel McCullough, Community Development, 2013.

Amber Burns, Revolutionary Reading Circle, 2012.

Jyler Donovan, University of Louisville, Pan-African Studies Department, 2012.

On'Draya Green, Muhammad Ali Center, 2012.