Joel Mittleman

Department of Sociology · 274 McNeil Building · Philadelphia, PA 19104
jmittlem@sas.upenn.edu · Last updated October 2026

Academic Positions

2026–Present **Associate Professor of Sociology**, University of Pennsylvania
Faculty Associate, Population Studies Center
Core Faculty, Program for Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies

2024–2026 **Assistant Professor of Sociology**, University of Pennsylvania

2023–2024 **William P. & Hazel B. White Assistant Professor of Sociology**, University of Notre Dame

2019–2023 **Assistant Professor of Sociology**, University of Notre Dame
Faculty Affiliate, Center for Research in Educational Opportunity

Education

2019 **Princeton University**, PhD in Sociology and Social Policy
Specialization in Demography

2016 **Princeton University**, MA in Sociology

2013 **London School of Economics**, MSc in Philosophy and Public Policy

2012 **University College London**, MA in Comparative Education

2009 **Swarthmore College**, BA in Economics. *Phi Beta Kappa.*

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Conditionally Accepted — Mittleman, Joel. "Gender as a Prediction Problem: Recasting Sex and Gender in American Education." *American Sociological Review*.

2026 — Stacey, Lawrence, Joel Mittleman and Claire Kamp Dush. "Mapping the Shape of LGBT Life Satisfaction: Variation by Age." *Sex & Sexualities* 2(2): 115–126.

2025 — Mittleman, Joel. "Adverse Childhood Experiences Among LGBTQ+ High School Students: National Evidence from the 2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey." *American Journal of Public Health* 115:1137–1145.
- Featured with accompanying editorial
- Findings summarized and disseminated in *Population Reference Bureau* feature article

2025 — Mittleman, Joel. "Peer Victimization, Parental Abuse and Attempted Suicide Among Sexual and Gender Minority Youth: Population-Level Evidence." *Social Science & Medicine: Mental Health* 7(June): 1–8.

2023 — Mittleman, Joel. "Stable and Shifting Sexualities Among American High School Students, 2015 to 2021." *Socius*, 9.

2023 — Mittleman, Joel. "Sexual Fluidity: Implications for Population Research." *Demography* 60(4): 1257–1282.

2023 — Haskins, Anna R., Wade C. Jacobsen, and Joel Mittleman. "Optimism and Obstacles: Racialized Constraints in College Attitudes and Expectations among Teens of the Prison Boom." *Sociology of Education* 96(3): 211–233.

2023 — Mittleman, Joel. "Homophobic Bullying as Gender Policing: Population-Based Evidence." *Gender & Society* 37(1): 5–31.
- Featured in *Contexts Magazine* Spring 2023

2022 Mittleman, Joel. "Intersecting the Academic Gender Gap: The Education of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual America." *American Sociological Review* 87(2): 303–335.
- Devah Pager Outstanding Article Award, ASA Inequality, Poverty & Mobility
- Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Award, ASA Sociology of Population
- Distinguished Article Award, ASA Sex & Gender
- James Coleman Best Article Award, ASA Sociology of Education (Honorable Mention)
- Distinguished Article Award, Sociology of Education Association
- Top 5% articles ever tracked by Altmetric; 51,500+ downloads
- Selected Press: Washington Post, NBC News, Forbes, Inside Higher Ed, Freakonomics Radio

2019 Mittleman, Joel. "Sexual Minority Bullying & Mental Health From Early Childhood Through Adolescence." *The Journal of Adolescent Health* 64(1): 172–178.

2018 Mittleman, Joel. "A Downward Spiral? Childhood Suspension and the Path to Juvenile Arrest." *Sociology of Education* 91(3): 183–204.
- David Lee Stevenson Graduate Student Paper Award, ASA Sociology of Education
- Graduate Student Paper Award, ASA Sociology of Population

2018 Mittleman, Joel. "Sexual Orientation and School Discipline: New Evidence from a Population-Based Sample." *Educational Researcher* 47(3): 181–190.
- Selected Press: The Seattle Times, The Los Angeles Blade, Vice News

2018 Mittleman, Joel and Jennifer L. Jennings. "Accountability, Achievement, and Inequality in American Public Schools: A Review of the Literature." In *Handbook of the Sociology of Education in the 21st Century*, edited by Barbara Schneider. New York: Springer.

2012 Miller, Luke and Joel Mittleman. "High Schools That Work and College Preparedness: Measuring the Model's Impact on Mathematics and Science Pipeline Persistence." *Economics of Education Review* 31(6): 1116–1135.

2011 Hannaway, Jane and Joel Mittleman. "Education Politics and Policy in an Era of Evidence." In *Shaping Education Policy: Power and Process*, edited by Douglas E. Mitchell, Robert L. Crowson, and Dorothy Shipps. New York: Routledge.

Under Review

Curran, Emily and Joel Mittleman. "Masculinity, Femininity & Educational Attainment: A Cross-National, Population-Level Study." Revised and resubmitted, *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences*.

In Progress

Lundberg, Ian and Joel Mittleman. "Discrimination, Vigilance and Sexual Minority Health: A Gap-Closing Approach."

"Gender Policing in Cross-National Perspective: Evidence from the PISA Assessment."

Public Writing

2022 "For LGBTQ+ students, this year's Pride Month comes at a perilous time." *The Brookings Institution*, June 1.

"What gay men's stunning success might teach us about the academic gender gap." *The Washington Post*, February 24.

Awards & Fellowships

2024–25	Association of Population Centers Fellow
2024	Distinguished Article Award, ASA Sex & Gender
2024	James Coleman Best Article Award, ASA Sociology of Education (Honorable Mention)
2023–24	National Academy of Education/Spencer Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship ($70,000)
2023	Devah Pager Outstanding Article Award, ASA Inequality, Poverty & Mobility
2023	Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Award, ASA Sociology of Population
2023	Distinguished Article Award, Sociology of Education Association
2022	American Education Research Association – National Science Foundation Research Grant ($35,000)
2018	Elizabeth Procter Honorific Fellowship, Princeton University
2018	David Lee Stevenson Graduate Student Paper Award, ASA Sociology of Education
2018	Graduate Student Paper Award, ASA Sociology of Population
2017	Fellowship of Woodrow Wilson Scholars, Princeton University
2016	Graduate Student Paper Award, SSSP Educational Problems Division
2016	Graduate Student Paper Award (Honorable Mention), ASA Sociology of Education
2014	American Educational Research Association MET Fellowship ($20,000)
2013	Degree Awarded with Distinction: MSc in Philosophy and Public Policy
2012	Degree Awarded with Distinction: MA in Comparative Education
2011–13	Marshall Scholarship
2009	Phi Beta Kappa
2008	Truman Scholarship

Invited Talks

2026	"Felt Gender Typicality & Educational Attainment: A Cross-National, Population-Level Study." *Russell Sage Foundation Conference: Gender Inequality Beyond Categories*. June.
	"Gender as a Prediction Problem: Rethinking Sex and Gender in American Education, 1960–2012." Columbia University, *Center for the Study of Wealth and Inequality*. January.
2025	"Masculinity in Education: A New Look at an Old Question." Penn State University, *Population Research Institute*. September.
	"Gender Inequality Beyond the Gender Binary: Recasting How Gender Shaped Schooling in America, 1960–2012." University of Wisconsin, *Center for Demography & Ecology*. March.
2024	"Gender Inequality Beyond the Gender Binary: Adolescent Gender Norms and the Changing Gender Gap in American Education, 1960–2012." Vanderbilt University, *Center for Research on Inequality and Health*. November.
	"Gender Inequality Beyond the Gender Binary…" University of Maryland, *Population Research Center*. October.
	"Exploding Gender Categories and Re-conceptualizing Gender in Research and Policy." *ASA Sociology of Education Section & William T. Grant Foundation* Online Conference. May.
	"How Queer Populations Recast the Academic Gender Gap." *Queer Demography Summit*, Princeton University Office of Population Research. March.
	"Sexual Fluidity: Implications for Population Research." *Donald J. Bogue Demography Workshop*, University of Chicago. February.
	"Sexual Fluidity: Implications for Population Research." *Demography Seminar Series*, U.S. Census Bureau. February.

2023 "Gender Inequality Beyond the Gender Binary: A Gender Predictive Approach." University of California, Berkeley, *Sociology Colloquium*. November.

University of Pennsylvania, *Sociology Colloquium*. November.

Washington University in St. Louis, *Sociology Colloquium*. October.

"The Student Loan Crisis Among LGBTQ+ Americans." Invited Keynote Panelist, *LGBTQ+ Higher Education Research Symposium*, Michigan State University. October.

"The Educational Attainment of LGBTQ+ Americans." Invited Panelist, *National Conference on the Inclusion and Advancement of LGBTQ+ People in STEM Fields*, AAAS & Northwestern University. May.

"Intersecting the Academic Gender Gap: The Education of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual America." University of Illinois at Chicago, *Quantitative Methods Workshop*. January.

2022 "Intersecting the Academic Gender Gap: The Education of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual America." Duke University, *Sociology Colloquium*. November.

"Queer Data for Education Policy." Invited Panelist, *Association for Education Finance & Policy*. October.

"Intersecting the Academic Gender Gap…" *Berkeley Demography Brownbag Seminar Series*. March.

2021 "Bullying as Gender Policing: Theory and Evidence from Queer Childhoods." Invited Panelist, *American Sociological Association* Panel on Policing, Punishment, and Victimization of LGBTQ+ People. August.

"New Evidence on the School-to-Prison Pipeline." Invited Panelist, *American Educational Research Association* Presidential Session. April.

Conference Presentations

2025 "Gender Inequality Beyond the Gender Binary: Recasting How Gender Shaped American Schooling, 1960–2012." *American Sociological Association*. Chicago, IL. August.

"Peer Victimization, Parental Abuse and Attempted Suicide Among Sexual and Gender Minority Youth." *Population Association of America*. Washington, DC. April.

2023 "Sexual Fluidity in America: Prevalence, Patterns and Implications." *American Sociological Association*. Philadelphia, PA. August.

2022 "Sexual Fluidity: Implications for Population Research." *Population Association of America*. Atlanta, GA. April.

2021 "Gender Expression Among Contemporary American High School Students: New Population-Based Evidence." *American Sociological Association*. Virtual Meeting. August. (With Elizabeth Moison.)

2020 "Intersecting the Rise of Women: The Academic Achievement and Attainment of LGB America." *Population Association of America*. Washington, DC. April. (Canceled due to Covid-19 pandemic.)

2018 "Childhood Bullying and Adolescent Mental Health for Sexual Minorities: Prospective Evidence from a Population-Based Birth Cohort." *Population Association of America*. Denver, CO. April.

2017 "Sexual Orientation and School Discipline: New Evidence from a Population-Based Sample." *American Sociological Association*. Montréal, Canada. August.

"A School to Prison Pipeline? Exclusionary School Discipline and Juvenile Justice Contact." *Population Association of America*. Chicago, IL. April.

"Education in the Shadows of Incarceration: College Hopes and Expectations Among Teens of the Prison Boom." *Population Association of America*. Chicago, IL. April. (With Anna Haskins and Wade Jacobsen.)

2016 "What's in a Match? Disentangling the Impact of Teacher Race/Ethnicity for Black and Hispanic Students." *Society for the Study of Social Problems*. Seattle, WA. August.

	"What's in a Match? Disentangling the Impact of Teacher Race/Ethnicity." *American Education Research Association*. Washington, DC. April.
	"The Demographic Divide in the Classroom: The Impact of Teacher Race/Ethnicity on Student Experience." *Sociology of Education Association*. Monterey, CA. February.
2015	"Identity Intersections in the Classroom: The Impact of Teacher Identity on Student Experience." *Population Association of America*. San Diego, CA. May.

Teaching

Penn	Research Methods (Graduate) Men & Masculinity in America
Notre Dame	New Directions in Inequality Research (Graduate) Social Stratification (Graduate) Unequal America The School-to-Prison Pipeline
Princeton	Race and Public Policy *(teaching assistant for Douglas Massey)* Introduction to Sociology *(teaching assistant for Mitchell Duneier)*

Advising

Penn	**University of Pennsylvania** *Dissertation Committees: Abby Lim, Matthew Sheen* *Master's Thesis Advisor: Han Wang, Alyssa Cahoy, Jake Sullivan* *PhD First-Year Advisor: Han Wang* *Undergraduate Honors Thesis Advisor: Nunaa Tsikata, Linda Xu*
Notre Dame	**University of Notre Dame** *Dissertation Committees: Kenya Lee, Eli Williams, Patrick Graff, Lindsay Heldreth* *Master's Committees: Dailia Mota (Co-Chair), Kenya Lee, Lindsay Heldreth, Elizabeth Moison, Valena Hernandez*

Other Employment

2009–2011	**The Urban Institute**, Washington, DC *Research Assistant, Education Policy Center*

Editorial Boards

2027–2029	Editorial Board Member, *Sociology of Education*
2026–2028	Editorial Board Member, *Demography*
2024–2026	Editorial Board Member, *Socius*
2021–2023	Editorial Board Member, *Gender & Society*

Service

To the discipline

2025	Session Organizer, Population Association of America
2024	Program Committee, Population Association of America Annual Conference
2024	Member, Devah Pager Outstanding Article Award Committee, ASA IPM Section
2024	Member, Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Award Committee, ASA Population Section
2023	Session Organizer, Population Association of America

2020 Session Organizer, Population Association of America

2019 Member, David Lee Stevenson Paper Award Committee, ASA Sociology of Education Section

To Penn's Population Studies Center

2025–Present PI of the PSC Information and Technology Core

To Penn's Sociology Department

2026 Chair of Faculty Search Committee

2025–2027 Family and Gender Workshop Organizer

2025–2026 Executive Committee

2024–2026 Undergraduate Studies Committee

To Notre Dame's Sociology Department

2022–2023 Committee on the Advancement of Diversity & Inclusion

2022–2023 Graduate Studies Committee

2020–2022 PhD Student Job Market Placement Committee

2019–2020 Departmental Colloquium Committee

Occasional Reviewer

American Sociological Review, American Journal of Sociology, Demography, Nature Human Behavior, Social Forces, Social Problems, American Journal of Public Health, Population and Development Review, Sociology of Education, Gender & Society, Socio-Economic Review, Socius, European Sociological Review, Contexts, Men and Masculinities, Journal of Adolescent Health, American Educational Research Journal, Educational Researcher, Research in Social Stratification and Mobility, Childhood Obesity