

Leah Awkward-Rich (she, her, hers)

Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work, University of Wisconsin-Madison
 1350 University Avenue, Madison, WI 53706
awkwardrich@wisc.edu
 (773)-230-5865

EDUCATION

In progress	PhD	University of Wisconsin-Madison, Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work <u>Dissertation:</u> <i>Racial and Ethnic Segregation in Early Childhood Education</i> <u>Dissertation Committee:</u> Katherine Magnuson, PhD (chair); Amy Claessens, PhD; Alejandra Ros Pilarz, PhD; Erica Turner, PhD
2017	BA	Oberlin College, majors: Sociology (high honors) and Comparative American Studies; minor: Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies <u>Senior Thesis:</u> "Head Start Works' But Why? Understanding the Persistence of an American Welfare Program"

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Early childhood education; accessibility of child care; child care policy; child and family policy; child development; program evaluation; diversity, equity, & inclusion

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

6/2020 – present	Project Assistant, Wisconsin Child Care Partnership PIs: Amy Claessens, PhD; Katherine Magnuson, PhD; Alejandra Ros Pilarz, PhD <i>Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison</i> Conducted quantitative programming and analysis of survey data on child care workforce working conditions and wellbeing; conducted qualitative coding and analysis of interviews with former family child care providers; assisted with writing reports and manuscripts.
6/2020 – 9/2020	Research Assistant, Association for Public Policy Administration and Management Presidential Address PI: Maria Cancian, PhD <i>Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison</i> Conducted literature review on framing and measurement of race and ethnicity of non-custodial fathers in child support literature.
5/2019 – 6/2020	Research Assistant, Mothers' Work Schedules and Children's Time with Parents PI: Alejandra Ros Pilarz, PhD <i>Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison</i>

Assisted with study on non-standard work schedules and children's time with parents using Panel Study of Income Dynamics; assisted with quantitative coding and analysis; assisted with writing manuscript.

9/2018 – 6/2019 **Research Assistant**, Enhancing the Quality of Instruction in 4-year-old Kindergarten
 PI: Katherine Magnuson, PhD
Center for Research on Early Childhood Education, Wisconsin Center for Education Research, Madison, WI.
 Conducted pre-kindergarten classroom observations; conducted and coded qualitative interviews with pre-K teachers; assisted with interview transcription and qualitative analysis.

6/2017 – 7/2018 **Research Assistant**
HighScope Educational Research Foundation, Ypsilanti, MI.
 Assisted with two projects: 1) validation of new pre-kindergarten classroom observation tool and 2) evaluation of initiative to increase child care program quality in Detroit; conducted pre-kindergarten classroom observations; conducted qualitative interviews with parents; conducted qualitative and quantitative coding and analysis.

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Pilarz, A. R., & Awkward-Rich, L. (2023). Mothers' Work Schedules and Children's Time with Parents. *Journal of Family and Economic Issues*.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10834-023-09894-z>

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Awkward-Rich, L., Pilarz, A.R., Magnuson, K., Claessens, A., & Hoiting, J. (*Under review*). Early Care and Education Teachers' Turnover Intentions during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Evidence from Wisconsin.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

4. Hoiting, J., Yang, H., **Awkward-Rich, L.**, Claessens, A., Pilarz, A. R., & Magnuson, K. (*In preparation*). Family Child Care Closures in Wisconsin: A Mixed-Methods Sequential Explanatory Study.
3. Hoiting, J., Magnuson, K., Pilarz, A. R., Claessens, A., Yang, H., & **Awkward-Rich, L.** (*In preparation*). The Decline in Family Child Care: Testing Multiple Explanations in Wisconsin.
2. **Awkward-Rich, L.** (*In preparation*). Shortages in Early Childhood Education Teachers in Wisconsin.
1. **Awkward-Rich, L.** (*In preparation*). Examining the Extent to Which Early Childhood Education Classroom and Programs are Segregated by Race and Ethnicity.

GOVERNMENT AND RESEARCH REPORTS

-
6. **Awkward-Rich, L.**, Jenkins, C., & Dresser, L. (2021). *Wisconsin's Early Care and Education Workforce: Summary Report on the Survey of Program Directors* (No. 1; Studies of the Wisconsin Early Care and Education Workforce, pp. 1–102).
<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/childcare/pdf/pdg/wi-ece-workforce-directors-report.pdf>
 5. Pilarz, A. R., Claessens, A., **Awkward-Rich, L.**, & Hoiting, J. (2021). *Wisconsin's Early Care and Education Workforce: Summary Report on the Survey of Center-Based Teachers* (No. 2; Studies of the Wisconsin Early Care and Education Workforce, pp. 1–57).
<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/childcare/pdf/pdg/wi-ece-workforce-teacher-report.pdf>
 4. **Awkward-Rich, L.**, Jenkins, C., & Dresser, L. (2021). *Wisconsin's Early Care and Education Workforce: Summary Report on the Survey of Family Providers* (No. 3; Studies of the Wisconsin Early Care and Education Workforce, pp. 1–58).
<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/childcare/pdf/pdg/wi-ece-workforce-family-provider-report.pdf>
 3. **Awkward-Rich, L.** & Hoffmeister, M.R. (2021). Understanding the Role of Data and Research in Perpetuating Inequities in Human Services. Quarterly Leadership Memo Series, No. 18-2021; prepared for the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at the United States Department of Health and Human Services.
<https://www.irp.wisc.edu/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Memo-5-Inequities-in-Data-and-Research-09272021.pdf>
 2. Hoffmeister, M.R. & **Awkward-Rich, L.** (2021). Understanding the Role of Caseworker Bias in Racial and Ethnic Inequities in Human Services. Quarterly Leadership Memo Series, No. 17-2021; prepared for the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at the United States Department of Health and Human Services.
<https://www.irp.wisc.edu/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Memo-2-Caseworker-Bias-09272021.pdf>
 1. Young, K., Ramberg, E., **Awkward-Rich, L.**, Boonstra, K., Hoiting, J., Snyder, J., Graue, E., Grodsky, Jeppson, A., & Vaade, E. (2019) Understanding the Quality of Instruction in Madison 4-Year-Old Kindergarten. Madison, WI: Madison Education Partnership. pp. 1-29. <http://mep.wceruw.org/documents/MEP-4k-instruction-report.pdf>

PEER-REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS

-
8. **Awkward-Rich, L.** (2023, March 23-25). *Shortages in Early Childhood Education Teachers in Wisconsin* [Poster session]. Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT.

7. Hoiting, J., Magnuson, K., Pilarz, A. R., Claessens, A., Yang, H., & **Awkward-Rich, L.** (2022, March 27-29). *The Decline in Family Child Care: Testing Competing Explanations in Wisconsin* [Paper presentation]. Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM) Research Conference, Austin, TX.
6. **Awkward-Rich, L.**, Pilarz, A. R., Claessens, A., Magnuson, K., & Hoiting, J. (2022, March 27-29). *The Wisconsin Early Care and Education Workforce during COVID-19* [Paper presentation]. APPAM Research Conference, Austin, TX.
5. Pilarz, A. R., & **Awkward-Rich, L.** (2021, April 7-9). *Mothers' Work Schedules and Child Behavior in Contemporary Families* [Paper presentation]. SRCD Biennial Meeting, Virtual.
4. Pilarz, A. R., & **Awkward-Rich, L.** (2020, November 11-13). *Mother's Work Schedules, Children's Time with Parents, and Child Development* [Paper presentation]. APPAM Research Conference, Virtual.
3. Pilarz, A. R., & **Awkward-Rich, L.** (2020, July). *Mother's Work Schedules and Children's Time with Parents* [Paper presentation]. Work and Family Researchers Network Conference, Virtual.
2. **Awkward-Rich, L.**, Scharphorn, L, & Iruka, I. (2019, March 21-23). *Detroit Parents' Priorities When Making Childcare Decisions* [Poster session]. SRCD Biennial Meeting, Baltimore, MD.
1. **Awkward-Rich, L.** (2018, June). *Detroit Parents' Priorities When Making Childcare Decisions* [Poster session]. National Research Conference on Early Childhood, Arlington, VA.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

3. **Awkward-Rich, L.**, & Ramberg, E. (2019, February 22). *Enhancing the Quality of Instruction in 4-Year-Old Kindergarten* [Poster session]. Education Research Poster Fair, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI.
2. **Awkward-Rich, L.** (2018, May 16-18). *How Detroit Parents Select Childcare* [Paper presentation]. HighScope International Conference, Detroit, MI.
1. **Awkward-Rich, L.**, & Martin, E. (2018, April 12-14). *HighScope's Comprehensive Assessment of Preschool Classroom Quality Validation Study* [Oral presentation]. Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children Early Childhood Conference, Grand Rapids, MI

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant – Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Spring 2023

Social Work 457 – Human Behavior and the Environment

Instructor of Record: Angela Baerwolf, MSW, DSW

Responsibilities: Solely responsible for leading two sections each week, including lecture review and engaging students in discussion. Graded student exams and papers.

HONORS & AWARDS

2023	Irving Piliavin Award , Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work, University of Wisconsin-Madison (\$2,500)
2023	Graduate Student Service Scholarship , University of Wisconsin-Madison (\$1,000)
2022	Exceptional Service Award , Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work, University of Wisconsin-Madison (\$1,000)
2020	Best Conference Paper Award , Work and Family Researchers Network
2020	Equity & Inclusion Student Fellowship , Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM) (\$599 & conference attendance)
2019	Dorothy M. Pearson Graduate Fellowship , Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work, University of Wisconsin-Madison (\$5,000)
2019 – present	Graduate Research Fellow , Institute for Research on Policy, University of Wisconsin-Madison
2018 – present	Advanced Opportunity Fellowship , University of Wisconsin-Madison
2017	Comfort Starr Prize in Sociology , Oberlin College
2013 – 2017	National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist
2013 – 2017	John F. Oberlin Scholarship Recipient

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY

<u>Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work</u> , University of Wisconsin-Madison	
April 2023 – present	Doctoral Student Equity Committee – member
August 2022 – present	Committee on Diversity and Inclusion – member
January 2023 – May 2023	Admissions Review Committee – student reviewer
August 2021 – March 2022	Faculty Search Committee – student representative

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

9/2020 – present **Perspectives on Social Work journal** (student-run social work journal, Graduate College of Social Work, the University of Houston) – *reviewer*

COMMUNITY SERVICE

3/2019 – present **The Rainbow Project Child & Family Counseling, Madison, WI** – *child care volunteer*

1/2022 – 6/2022 **Community Coordinated Child Care (4C), Madison, WI** – *volunteer*

5/2019 – 12/2019 **One City Schools, Madison, WI** – *intern & volunteer*

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Association for Public Policy and Management (APPAM) – *student member*

Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) – *student member*