

Gerald R. Nowak III

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Research Assistant
College of Nursing
Michigan State University
nowakge2@msu.edu
734.306.0860 (cell)

Education

- 2019 – Pres. Doctoral Program | Sociology | Michigan State University | Expected Defense: April 15, 2027
- 2019 Master of Arts | Sociology | Wayne State University
Thesis: "The Effect of Servers' Race on Consumer Appraisals in Full-Service Restaurants."
Defense date: May 7th, 2019
- 2017 Bachelor of Arts | Sociology | Wayne State University
- 2015 Associate of Applied Science | Marketing and Applied Management |
Schoolcraft Community College
- 2014 Associate of Arts | Business Administration | Schoolcraft Community College

Employment

- 2025 – Pres. Research Assistant | Funded by the College of Nursing | College of Nursing |
Michigan State University | Direct supervisor: Angela Chia-Chen Chen, PhD,
MS, RN, PMHNP-BC, FAANP
- 2023 – 2025 Teaching Assistant | Department of Sociology | Michigan State University | Direct
supervisor: Carla A. Pfeffer
- 2021 – 2023 Research Assistant and Project Coordinator | Funded by the National Institute on
Aging [Grant No. R01AG061118] | Department of Sociology | Michigan State
University | Direct supervisor: Hui Liu
- 2019 – 2021 Research Assistant and Project Coordinator | Funded by National Institutes of
Health BRAIN Initiative [Grant No. RF1MH117802] | Center for Ethics and
Humanities in the Life Sciences | Michigan State University | Direct supervisor:
Aaron M. McCright
- 2018 – 2019 Graduate Teaching Assistant | Wayne State University | Direct supervisor: Jeffrey
Kentor

2017 – 2018 Undergraduate Statistics Tutor | Department of Sociology | Wayne State University | Direct supervisor: David Merolla

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record

- SOC 316: Youth and Society, Michigan State University, Summer 2025 (Online Asynchronous)
- SOC 475: Health and Society, Michigan State University, Summer 2024 (Online Asynchronous)

Graduate Lab Instructor

- SOC 881: Analysis of Social Data I, Michigan State University, Fall 2024 (In Person)
- SOC 882: Analysis of Social Data II, Michigan State University, Spring 2025 (In Person)

Recitation Instructor

- SOC 100: Introduction to Sociology, Michigan State University, Spring 2024 (In Person)

Teaching Assistant

- ISS 215: Social Differentiation and Inequality, Michigan State University, Fall 2023 (In Person)

Specializations

- Public health, Aging and the life course, Family studies, Mental Health
- Large grant coordination (budget management, record keeping, participant recruitment, manuscript preparation, collaborative research facilitation, IRB protocol management)
- Population-level data cleaning | analysis (proficient in Stata, SPSS, and Excel)
- Survey research (questionnaire development | administration)
- Data collection (human subjects)

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Copeland, Molly, **Gerald R. Nowak III**, and Hui Liu. 2026. "Changes in Social Network Size and Older Adults' Health During the COVID-19 Pandemic." *Journal of Applied Gerontology* 45(9):1732–42. doi: [10.1177/07334648251389285](https://doi.org/10.1177/07334648251389285).

- Copeland, Molly, **Gerald R. Nowak III**, and Hui Liu. 2023. "Social Participation and Self-Reported Depression during the COVID-19 Pandemic among Older Adults." *Aging & Mental Health* 27(8):1559–66. doi: [10.1080/13607863.2022.2126821](https://doi.org/10.1080/13607863.2022.2126821).
- Liu, Hui, Molly Copeland, **Gerald R. Nowak III**, William J. Chopik, and Jeewon Oh. 2023. "Marital Status Differences in Loneliness Among Older Americans During the COVID-19 Pandemic." *Population Research and Policy Review* 42(5):74. doi: [10.1007/s11113-023-09822-x](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11113-023-09822-x).
- Liu, Hui, **Gerald R. Nowak III**, Juwen Wang, and Zhehui Luo. 2023. "A National Study of Marital Status Differences in Early Uptake of COVID-19 Vaccine among Older Americans." *Geriatrics* 8(4):69. doi: [10.3390/geriatrics8040069](https://doi.org/10.3390/geriatrics8040069).
- Brewster, Zachary W., Kenneth Gourlay, and **Gerald R. Nowak III**. 2022. "Are Black Restaurant Servers Tipped Less Than White Servers? Three Experimental Tests of Server Race Effects on Customers' Tipping Behaviors." *Cornell Hospitality Quarterly* 63(4):433–47. doi: [10.1177/19389655211036652](https://doi.org/10.1177/19389655211036652).
- Cabrera, Laura Y., **Gerald R. Nowak III**, Aaron M. McCright, Eric Achtyes, and Robyn Bluhm. 2021. "Last Resort Interventions?: A Qualitative Study of Psychiatrists' Experience with and Views on Psychiatric Electroceutical Interventions." *Psychiatric Quarterly* 92(2):419–30. doi: [10.1007/s11126-020-09819-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11126-020-09819-1).
- Cabrera, Laura Y., **Gerald R. Nowak III**, Aaron M. McCright, Eric Achtyes, and Robyn Bluhm. 2021. "A Qualitative Study of Key Stakeholders' Perceived Risks and Benefits of Psychiatric Electroceutical Interventions." *Health, Risk & Society* 23(5–6):217–35. doi: [10.1080/13698575.2021.1979194](https://doi.org/10.1080/13698575.2021.1979194).
- Brewster, Zachary W., and **Gerald R. Nowak III**. 2021. "Racialized Workplaces, Contemporary Racial Attitudes, and Stereotype Endorsement: A Recipe for Consumer Racial Profiling." *Sociological Perspectives* 64(3):343–64. doi: [10.1177/0731121420946775](https://doi.org/10.1177/0731121420946775).
- Brewster, Zachary W., and **Gerald R. Nowak III**. 2019. "Racial Prejudices, Racialized Workplaces, and Restaurant Servers' Hyperbolic Perceptions of Black–White Tipping Differences." *Cornell Hospitality Quarterly* 60(2):159–73. doi: [10.1177/1938965518777221](https://doi.org/10.1177/1938965518777221).
- Wills, Jeremiah B., Zachary W. Brewster, and **Gerald R. Nowak III**. 2019. "Students' Religiosity and Perceptions of Professor Bias: Some Empirical Lessons for Sociologists." *The American Sociologist* 50(1):136–53. doi: [10.1007/s12108-018-9388-y](https://doi.org/10.1007/s12108-018-9388-y).

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

- Nowak, Gerald R., III**, and Hui Liu. 2025. "Health and Partnerships." Pp. 203–213 in *Research Handbook on Partnering across the Life Course*, edited by D. Mortelmans, L. Bernardi,

and B. Perelli-Harris. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing.
<https://doi.org/10.4337/9781803923383>

Manuscripts in Progress

Nowak, Gerald R., III, Lihong Ou, Megan Whaley, and Angela Chia-Chen Chen. “Healthcare Access, STI Testing, and HPV Vaccine Initiation Among Young Adults in the United States: An Analysis of 2022–2023 NSFG Data.” Manuscript in preparation.

Whaley, Megan, **Gerald R. Nowak III**, Jutamas Suwannawat, and Angela Chia-Chen Chen. “Youth Engagement in HPV Vaccine Behavioral Clinical Trials: A Global Registry Systematic Review from 2006–2025.” Manuscript in preparation.

Mansuri, Sudaba, Nouran Ghonaim, Satya Subedi, Eunjin Jeong, **Gerald R. Nowak III**, Jessica Sender, and Angela Chia-Chen Chen. “HPV and HIV: Research on Vaccination and Self-Sampling Trials: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.” Manuscript in preparation.

Service

2026	Ad-Hoc Journal Article Reviewer Society and Mental Health American Sociological Association
2024 – 2025	Chairperson Dean’s Graduate Student Advisory Committee Michigan State University
2023 – Pres.	Graduate Representative Graduate Education Committee Department of Sociology Michigan State University
2022 – 2023	Student Co-Editor Medical Sociology Student Section American Sociological Association
2022	Ad-Hoc Journal Article Reviewer Sociological Imagination Wisconsin Sociological Association
2022	Session Presider “Bracketed Out: How Medicine Displaces LGBTQ+ People” Section on Medical Sociology Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association Los Angeles, CA
2021 – 2023	Graduate Mentor for Hannah Pierson Graduate Mentorship Program Department of Sociology Michigan State University
2021 – 2023	Graduate Representative Faculty Advisory Committee Department of Sociology Michigan State University
2020	Graduate Representative Graduate Education Committee Department of Sociology Michigan State University

- 2019 – 2021 Symposium Coordinator and Moderator | Research Symposium Committee | Department of Sociology | Michigan State University
- 2018 – 2019 Graduate Liaison to the Undergraduate Committee | Department of Sociology | Wayne State University
- 2017 Registration Volunteer | ASA Sociology of Development Sixth Annual Conference | Wayne State University

Professional Presentations

- 2026 **Nowak III, Gerald R.**, Lihong Ou, Megan Whaley, and Angela Chia-Chen Chen. “Healthcare Access, STI Testing, and HPV Vaccine Initiation Among Young Adults in the United States: An Analysis of 2022–2023 NSFG Data.” Poster to be presented to the American Public Health Association, San Antonio, TX
- 2023 **Nowak III, Gerald R.** “Did the Emergence of the Delta Variant Impact Mental Health Outcomes in 2021? A Split-Sample Examination of NHATS Data.” Presented to the Population Association of America, New Orleans, LA
- 2022 Copeland, Molly, **Gerald R. Nowak III**, and Hui Liu. “Change in Social Participation and Mental Health during the COVID-19 Pandemic among Older Adults.” Presented to the American Sociological Association, Los Angeles, CA
- 2022 Liu, Hui, Molly Copeland, and **Gerald R. Nowak III**. “Marital Status Differences in Loneliness Among Older Americans During the COVID-19 Pandemic.” Presented to the Population Association of America, Atlanta, GA
- 2020 Cabrera, Laura Y., Maryssa Gilbert, **Gerald R. Nowak III**, Aaron M. McCright, Eric Achtyes, Robyn Bluhm. “Attitudes & Ethical Concerns about Psychiatric Electroceutical Interventions for Treatment-Resistant Depression.” Presented to the NIH BRAIN Investigators Meeting (Virtual Meeting Due to Covid-19 Pandemic)
- 2019 McCright, Aaron M., Megan Penzkofer, **Gerald R. Nowak III**, Maryssa Gilbert, Robyn Bluhm, Eric D. Achtyes, Laura Y. Cabrera. “Public Views About Treating Depression Across Four Treatment Modalities.” Presented to the National Network of Depression Centers, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2019 Castillo, Emily, Marissa Cortright, **Gerald R. Nowak III**, Maryssa Gilbert, Eric D. Achtyes, Aaron M. McCright, Robyn Bluhm, Laura Y. Cabrera. “Comparison of Perceived Barriers Regarding Psychiatric Electroceutical Interventions as Treatment for Clinical Depression.” Presented to the National Network of Depression Centers, Ann Arbor, MI

- 2019 **Nowak III, Gerald R.** “The Effect of Servers’ Race on Customer Service Appraisals in Full-Service Restaurants.” Presented to the North Central Sociological Association, Cincinnati, Ohio
- 2019 **Nowak III, Gerald R.** “The Effect of Servers’ Race on Customer Service Appraisals in Full-Service Restaurants.” Humanities Center Brown Bag Colloquium Series, Wayne State University
- 2018 Brewster, Zachary W. and **Gerald R. Nowak III.** “Racialized Workplaces, Contemporary Racial Attitudes, and Stereotype Endorsement: A Recipe for Race-based Restaurant Service.” Presented to the Society for the Study of Social Problems, Philadelphia, PA
- 2018 **Nowak III, Gerald R.** “Do Racist Attitudes Affect Consumer Reactions to Mediocre and Excellent Service at a Full-Service Restaurant? A Survey Experiment.” Presented to the North Central Sociological Association, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2018 Brewster, Zachary W. and **Gerald R. Nowak III.** “The Racialization of Restaurant Customers and Servers’ Hyperbolic Perceptions of Tipping Differences.” Presented to the North Central Sociological Association, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2017 **Nowak III, Gerald R.** “The Motivational Antecedents of Occupational Presenteeism Among Employees in the Full-Service Restaurant Industry.” Presented to the Undergraduate Research and Creative Projects Conference, Detroit, MI
- 2017 **Nowak III, Gerald R.** “Waiting on a Sick Day: The Motivational Factors relating to Presenteeism in the Full-Service Restaurant Industry.” Presented to the North Central Sociological Association, Indianapolis, IN
- 2017 Brewster, Zachary W. and **Gerald R. Nowak III.** “Dining While Black: Anti-Black Stereotypes, Racialized Workplace Discourse, and Modern Racism.” Presented to the North Central Sociological Association, Indianapolis, IN
- 2017 Brewster, Zachary W. and **Gerald R. Nowak III,** “Racialized Workplaces, Modern Racist Attitudes, and Racial Stereotypes: A Recipe for Race-Based Restaurant Service.” Humanities Center Brown Bag Colloquium Series, Wayne State University

Scholarships and Awards

- 2020 Travel Trainee Award | The NIH BRAIN Initiative | Awarded for submission “Perceptions of the Side Effects, Risks, and Benefits Associated with Psychiatric

	Electroceutical Interventions” \$1,000 (reduced to a \$200 honorarium due to COVID-19 pandemic)
2019	The Pulaski Scholarship for Advanced Studies American Council for Polish Culture, \$5,000
2018	AGRADE Scholarship The Graduate School Wayne State University, \$3,058.73
2017	Dorothy C. Dolan Endowed Scholarship The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Wayne State University, \$2,000
2017	Frank Filipek Scholarship Friends of Polish Art, \$2,500
2016	The Lucille Makarov Memorial Scholarship Department of Sociology Wayne State University, \$4,500
2015	The Raby Endowment Scholarship Schoolcraft Community College, \$700
2015	Special Populations Scholarship Schoolcraft Community College, \$2,000

Additional Research Funding

2024	Dissertation Support Graduate Office Fellowship (GOF) Michigan State University \$4,190
2021	Research Support Graduate Office Fellowship (GOF) Michigan State University \$500
2018	Thesis Research Support The Graduate School Wayne State University \$500
2017	Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program Wayne State University \$3,000

Professional Organization Memberships

American Sociological Association
Population Association of America
American Public Health Association

References

Angela Chia-Chen Chen, PhD, MS, RN, PMHNP-BC, FAANP

Professor, Michigan State University College of Nursing
McLaren Greater Lansing Endowed Chair for Behavioral Mental Health Nursing Education
Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, MSU Health Care Family Medicine
1355 Bogue Street, East Lansing, MI 48824
Office: (517) 355-5148
chenang6@msu.edu

stef shuster, PhD

Associate Professor
Lyman Briggs College, Science and Society Program
College of Social Science, Department of Sociology
Michigan State University
www.stefshuster.com
sshuster@msu.edu

Ning Hsieh

Associate Professor of Sociology
Michigan State University
Berkey Hall, 509 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing, MI 48824
hsiehnin@msu.edu

Stephanie Nawyn

Professor, Department of Sociology
Michigan State University
Berkey Hall, 509 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing, MI 48824
Office: (517) 353-7747
nawyn@msu.edu

Personal Statement

Gerald R. Nowak III studies how social conditions shape health across the life course. Much of his current work asks what large-scale disruption means for health in later life, drawing on national panel data from the National Health and Aging Trends Study to trace the lasting consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic for older adults' mental health, physical health, and health behavior. A second line of research approaches health from the opposite end of the life course, using the National Survey of Family Growth and Add Health to examine how healthcare access, adverse childhood experiences, and family context shape sexual and reproductive health and HPV vaccination from adolescence into young adulthood. A quantitative sociologist by training, he works primarily with complex national survey data in Stata and SPSS, and his broader portfolio spans survey experiments, systematic review and critical appraisal, qualitative interviewing, and the coordination of large federally funded studies. Underlying all of this work is a commitment to improving public health outcomes through fundamentally sound, data-driven investigation, particularly for communities that lack access to primary care or preventive medicine.