

Catherine Stepniak**Present Position**

PhD Candidate
Department of Sociology
Center on Aging and the Life Course
Purdue University
700 W. State St.
West Lafayette, IN 47907

Cell Phone

(317) 900-0319

E-Mail Address

cstepnia@purdue.edu

Education

(2024) Dual-Title Ph.D. in Sociology and Gerontology, Purdue University
2020 M.S. in Sociology, Purdue University
2018 B.S. in Psychology and Sociology, Midwestern State University
Minor, Women and Gender Studies

Teaching Experience

SOC100 Introduction to Sociology (Summer 2023)
SOC350 Family Sociology (Fall and Spring 2022)
SOC374 Medical Sociology (Fall 2023 and 2021)

Teaching Interests

Medical Sociology; Aging and the Life Course; Sociology of Family; Sociological Theory

Research Interests

Intergenerational Relationships and Health; Caregiving; Aging and the Life Course

Publications

- J. Jill Suitor, Megan Gilligan, Destiny Ogle, Robert Frase, Reilly Kincaid, and **Catherine Stepniak**. In press. "Respondent Uncertainty in Troubled Times: The Role of Mixed Methods in Studying Respondents' Deliberations Regarding Intergenerational Relations." In *The Handbook on Intergenerational Relations*, Marco Albertini (Ed.), Edward Elgar Publishing House.
- J. Jill Suitor, Megan Gilligan, Reilly Kincaid, Yifei Hou, **Catherine Stepniak**, and Siyun Peng. 2022. "How Widowhood and Gender Shape the Impact of Maternal Favoritism on Adult Children's Psychological Well-Being." *The Journals of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, 77(1), 224-236. doi: 10.1093/geronb/gbab120

J. Jill Sutor, Yifei Hou, **Catherine Stepniak**, Destiny Ogle, and Rob Frase. 2022. "Parent-Adult Child Ties and Older Adult Health and Well-Being." *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Global Public Health*. doi: 10.1093/acrefore/9780190632366.013.383

Catherine Stepniak, J. Jill Sutor, and Megan Gilligan. 2021. "Mothers' Functional Limitations and Relationship Quality with Adult Children: Exploring the Moderating Roles of Race and Gender." *Research on Aging*. doi: 10.1177/01640275211044834

Manuscripts Under R&Rs

J. Jill Sutor, Megan Gilligan, Destiny Ogle, **Catherine Stepniak**, Yifei Hou, and Robert Frase. "How Gender Shapes the Effects of Parental Death on Tension Among Siblings in Adulthood." Submitted to *Journal of Marriage and Family*.

Manuscripts in Preparation

Robert Frase, J. Jill Sutor, Megan Gilligan, and **Catherine Stepniak**. "Did I Ask for Your Advice? Differential Effects of Comfort and Advice from Parents on Adult Children's Depressive Symptoms." Being prepared for submission to *Journal of Marriage and Family*.

Robert Frase, J. Jill Sutor, Megan Gilligan, **Catherine Stepniak**, and Karen Fingerma. "Worrying Across the Generations: Effects of Grandchildren's Problems on Their Grandparents' Health and Well-Being." Being prepared for submission to *Journal of Marriage and Family*.

Robert Frase, J. Jill Sutor, Megan Gilligan, **Catherine Stepniak**, and Reilly Kincaid. "The Power of Daughters: The Role of Sibship Gender Composition on Mother-Adult Child Relations." Being prepared for submission to *Social Forces*.

Yifei Hou, J. Jill Sutor, Megan Gilligan, Destiny Ogle, and **Catherine Stepniak**. "Costs of Raising Grandchildren on Grandmother-Adult Child Relations in Black and White Families." Being prepared for submission to *The Journals of Gerontology: Social Sciences*.

J. Jill Sutor, Megan Gilligan, **Catherine Stepniak**, Destiny Ogle, and Ranran He. "Generational Differences in Patterns and Predictors of Mothers' Favoritism and Disfavoritism Among Their Adult Children." Being prepared for submission to *Journal of Marriage and Family*.

Presentations at Scholarly Meetings

Stepniak, Catherine, J. Jill Sutor, Megan Gilligan, Destiny Ogle, Yifei Hou, and Shawn Bauldry. 2022. "Changes in Intergenerational Relationships During the COVID-19 Pandemic: The Impact on Well-Being." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Indianapolis, IN, November.

Sutor, J. Jill, Megan Gilligan, Robert Frase, and **Catherine Stepniak**. 2022. "'Did I Ask for Your Advice?': Effects of Advice from Parents on Adult Children's Depressive Symptoms."

Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Indianapolis, IN, November.

Frase, Robert, J. Jill Suitor, Megan Gilligan, Reilly Kincaid, and **Catherine Stepniak**. 2022. "The Power of Daughters: The Role of Sibship Gender Composition in Mother-Adult Child Relations." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Indianapolis, IN, November.

Frase, Robert, J. Jill Suitor, Megan Gilligan, **Catherine Stepniak**, and Karen Fingerman. 2022. "Worrying Across the Generations: Effects of Grandchildren's Problems on Their Grandparents' Health and Well-Being." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Los Angeles, CA, August.

Stepniak, Catherine, J. Jill Suitor, and Megan Gilligan. 2020. "Mothers' Health and Relationship Quality with Adult Children: The Moderating Role of Gender and Race." Presented at Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Held Virtually, November.

Rurka, Marissa, J. Jill Suitor, Megan Gilligan, Yifei Hou, and **Catherine Stepniak**. 2020. "Patterns and Predictors of Adult Children's Self-Perceptions as Mothers' Primary and Secondary Caregivers." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Held Virtually, November.

Suitor, J. Jill, Megan Gilligan, **Catherine Stepniak**, Yifei Hou and Robert Frase. 2020. "Role of Gender in the Effects of Immediate Family Network Members' Deaths on Adult Children's Psychological Well-Being." Presented at the Sunbelt Social Networks Conference, Held Virtually, July.

Stepniak, Catherine, J. Jill Suitor, Megan Gilligan, Karl Pillemer, and Marissa Rurka. 2019. "Race Differences in the Consequences of Adult Children's Problems on Mothers' Psychological Well-Being." Presented at Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Austin, TX, November.

Suitor, J. Jill, Megan, Gilligan, Marissa Rurka, Yifei Hou, and **Catherine Stepniak**. 2019. "Changes in the Psychological Costs of Maternal Favoritism for Daughters and Sons as Mothers Age." Presented at Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Austin, TX, November.

Rurka, Marissa, J. Jill Suitor, Megan Gilligan, Yifei Hou, and **Catherine Stepniak**. 2019. "Patterns and Predictors of Adult Children's Perceptions as Mothers' Primary and Secondary Caregivers." Presented at Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, New York City, NY, August.

Suitor, J. Jill, Megan Gilligan, **Catherine Stepniak**, Marissa Rurka, Yifei Hou, Karl Pillemer. 2018. "The Roles of Gender and Mothers' Care Preferences in the Impact of Caregiving on Adult Children's Marital Quality." Presented at Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, MA, November.

Diekhoff, Deana Danilova, George M. Diekhoff, and **Catherine Stepniak**. 2017. "Gender

Moderates the Relationship Between BMI and Emotional Response to One's Body"
Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Psychological Association, San Antonio, TX, March.

Stiles, Beverly L., Newman Wong, and **Catherine Stepniak**. 2017 "Sexual Knowledge and Attitudes of Hooking Up: Does Being Sexually Active Make a Difference?" Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Social Science Association, Austin, TX, April.

Other Presentations

Stepniak, Catherine, J. Jill Sutor, and Megan Gilligan. 2020. "Mothers' Functional Limitations and Relationships with Adult Children: The Moderating Role of Social Structural Characteristics." Presented at Annual CALC Scholars in the Spotlight, West Lafayette, IN, March.

Research Experience

Research Assistant. 2018-2023. "Parent-Child Relations: Within Family Differences-II." Funded by the National Institute on Aging (2RO1 AG18869-04; 1R56AG062767-01), J. Jill Sutor, PI.

TA Experience

SOC100 Introduction to Sociology (Spring 2020, Spring 2023)
SOC220 Social Problems (Spring 2023)
SOC402 Sociological Theory (Fall 2019)

Service

Center of Aging and Life Course Steering Committee Graduate Student Representative (2024-2023)
Interdisciplinary Graduate Program Student Advisory Board Representative for Gerontology (2023-2022)
Sociology Undergraduate Committee Graduate Student Representative (2023-2022)
Sociology Awards Committee Graduate Student Representative (2024-2023, 2021-2020)
Sociology Graduate Student Organization Events Coordinator (2020-2019)

Awards, Honors, and Fellowships

2023 Sociology Department Outstanding Graduate Instructor Award
2018 Lynn Fellowship, Purdue University