

Erik Westlund

Department of Sociology
University of Iowa
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Education

- 2015 Ph.D., Sociology, Johns Hopkins University
Dissertation: “The Origins and Implications of Postsecondary Academic Mismatch.”
Committee: Stephen B. Plank, Karl L. Alexander, Lingxin Hao
- United States Department of Education Institute of Education Sciences (IES) Predoctoral Training Program
- 2013 M.A., Sociology, Johns Hopkins University
- 2007 M.Sc. (with Distinction), Education, University of Oxford, United Kingdom
Dissertation: “Time and Comparative and International Education”
- 2006 B.A. (Magna Cum Laude), History, University of Maryland, College Park
B.A. (Magna Cum Laude), Education, University of Maryland, College Park

Research Interests

Sociology of Education, Social Inequality, Social Theory, Causal Inference

Professional Positions

- 2015-Present Visiting Professor, University of Iowa, Department of Sociology
- 2011-2015 Ph.D. Intern, Joint Global Change Research Institute, University of Maryland/Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
- 2010-2012 Program Coordinator and Instructor, International Baccalaureate Advanced Studies Program, Anne Arundel County Public Schools, Maryland
- 2007-2010 Social Studies Teacher, Annapolis High School, Anne Arundel County Public Schools, Maryland
- 2004-2006 Undergraduate Intern, Joint Global Change Research Institute, University of Maryland/Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Awards and Honors

- 2013 Peabody Scholar in Sociology of Education, Johns Hopkins University
- 2012 Outstanding Planning, Policy, or Management Research Award, American Educational Research Association
- 2010 Heritage Partnership of the Year Award, Four Rivers Heritage Area (recognizing collaboration with Anne Arundel County Public Schools and local partners on student-created historical documentary on segregated beaches in Annapolis)
- 2007 Distinction, M.Sc. Dissertation, University of Oxford

Papers

Under Review

Westlund, Erik and Elizabeth A. Stuart. 2016. "Using Pilot Study Results Responsibly: Insights from Simulations of Small Experiments." Under review.

In Preparation

Westlund, Erik. 2015. "The Dual Effects of Postsecondary Academic Mismatch and College Environment on Degree Completion." Manuscript in progress.

Westlund, Erik. 2015. "The Educational Opportunity Structure and College Enrollment: How Class, Race, and Geography Lead to Postsecondary Academic Mismatch" Manuscript in progress.

Westlund, Erik. 2015. "How Students' College Application and Acceptance Sets Lead to Postsecondary Academic Mismatch." Manuscript in progress.

Westlund, Erik. 2015. Beyond Counterfactuals: Causal Inferences in the Social Sciences. Manuscript in progress.

Westlund, Erik. 2015. "Multilevel Data: Reconciling Individualist and Social Structural Explanations of Social Phenomena." Manuscript in progress.

Peer Reviewed

Owen, Laura and Erik Westlund. 2015. "Increasing College Opportunity: School Counselors and FAFSA Completion." *Journal of College Access*. 2(1): Article 3.

Westlund, Erik. 2007. "Time and Comparative and International Education." *Research in Comparative and International Education* 2(2): 144-153.

Non-Peer Reviewed

Westlund, Erik and Stephen B. Plank. 2013. "'Lean Start-up' Culture and Public Schools: A Case Study of Digital Harbor Foundation's EdTech Link" Technical Report, Baltimore Education Research Consortium.

Durham, Rachel and Erik Westlund. 2011. "A Descriptive Look at College Enrollment and Degree Completion of Baltimore City Graduates." Technical Report, Baltimore Education Research Consortium.

Technical Manuals

Westlund, Erik. 2013. "Propensity Score Methods in Practice: A Guide to R." Technical manual.

Unpublished Manuscripts And Theses

Westlund, Erik. 2013. "Academic Mismatch, College Selectivity, and Early College Persistence." Trial Research Paper, Department of Sociology, Johns Hopkins University.

Connolly, Faith, Erik Westlund, and Stephen Plank. 2011. "Defining College Readiness: Learning from the Past and Looking toward the Future." Unpublished manuscript.

Westlund, Erik. 2007. "Time and Comparative and International Education: With Evidence from a Temporal, Comparative Analysis of Brown v. Board of Education." M.Sc. Dissertation, University of Oxford, Department of Education.

Westlund, Erik. 2006. "The History of Racial Integration in Anne Arundel County Public Schools, 1954-1974." Senior Research Project, University of Maryland, Department of History.

Presentations

Westlund, Erik. 2016. "Overmatch Penalties, Selectivity Premiums, and Postsecondary Degree Completion." Presentation to the American Institutes for Research.

Westlund, Erik. 2015. "Overmatch Penalties, Selectivity Premiums, and Postsecondary Degree Completion." Seminar on Social Inequality, University of Iowa.

Westlund, Erik. 2015. "Safety, Match, or Reach? How Constrained College Searches Create Postsecondary Academic Mismatch." Roundtable Presentation, Sociology of Education Section, Annual Meeting of the American Sociology Association.

Westlund, Erik. 2015. "How Geography Contributes to Postsecondary Academic Mismatch." Program on Social Inequality, Department of Sociology, Johns Hopkins University.

Westlund, Erik. 2014. "Safety, Match, or Reach? Constraints and Choices Leading to Postsecondary Academic Mismatch." College of Education, University of Iowa.

Westlund, Erik and Elizabeth A. Stuart. 2014. "The Proper and Improper Use of Pilot Studies in Experimental Education Research." Virtual Poster Session, Research Methods Section, Spring Meeting of the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness.

Westlund, Erik. 2013. "Academic Mismatch, College Selectivity, and Early College Persistence." Roundtable Presentation, Sociology of Education Section, Annual Meeting of the American Sociology Association.

Westlund, Erik and Stephen B. Plank. 2013. "'Lean Start-up' Culture and Public Schools: A Case Study of Digital Harbor Foundation's EdTech Link." Roundtable Presentation, Sociology of Education Section, Annual Meeting of the American Sociology Association.

Westlund, Erik. 2013. "Academic Mismatch, College Selectivity, and Early College Persistence." Program on Social Inequality, Department of Sociology, Johns Hopkins University.

Westlund, Erik. 2013. "Propensity Score Methods in Practice." Methods Workshop, Johns Hopkins University Department of Sociology.

Westlund, Erik. 2013. "Academic Mismatch, College Selectivity, and Early College Persistence." Presentation to Graduate Student Seminar, University of Memphis.

Westlund, Erik. 2007. "Time and Comparative and International Education." Presentation to Social Science Graduate Research in Progress Seminars, University of Oxford.

Other Research Experience

- 2013-2015 Statistical Methods for Causal Inference in Education Research, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health (Advisor: Elizabeth A. Stuart)
- 2012-2013 Research and Evaluation of EdTech Link Teacher Technology Training Program, Baltimore Education Research Consortium (Advisor: Stephen B. Plank)
- 2011 Graduate Research Assistant, Baltimore Education Research Consortium (Advisors: Stephen B. Plank and Faith Connolly)
- 2010-2011 Research Apprenticeship, Johns Hopkins University Department of Sociology (Advisor: Stephen B. Plank)

Teaching

Visiting Professor, University of Iowa, Department of Sociology

Sociological Theory
Research Methods

Teaching Assistant, Johns Hopkins University, Department of Sociology

Introduction to Social Statistics
Medical Sociology

Teacher, International Baccalaureate Advanced Studies Program, Anne Arundel County Public Schools

Teacher, Annapolis High School

I.B. Theory of Knowledge
I.B. Information Technology in a Global Society
World History
African American History
Criminal Justice

Teaching Assistant, University of Maryland, College Park

Foundations of Education
Senior Seminar: 20th Century African American History
Blacks in American Life: 1865 to Present

Technical Skills

R, Shiny for R, Stata, Python, Linux, LaTeX, MySQL, nginx, PHP, Server Management, HTML, CSS

Professional Affiliations

American Sociological Association
Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness