

CLAYTON ADAMSON

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Social stratification ◇ Demography ◇ Place ◇ Family sociology
Economic growth and development ◇ Spatial methods

EDUCATION

- In progress **University of Wisconsin–Madison**, Ph.D. in Sociology
- *Preliminary Exams*: demography; social stratification
 - *Minor*: Community Development & Family Policy
 - *Committee*: Katherine J. Curtis; Christine Schwartz; Max Besbris
- 2022 **Cornell University**, M.S. in Regional Science
- 2019 **University of Minnesota-Twin Cities**, B.S.B. in Accounting; B.S.B. in Finance

RESEARCH ACTIVITY

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Clayton Adamson and Karl Vachuska (forthcoming). "The Intergenerational Mobility Advantage of Educators' Children: Capital Embedded in Occupations." *Social Science Research*.

Karl Vachuska and **Clayton Adamson**. (forthcoming). "Neighborhood Shocks and Network Dynamics: An Instrumental Variable Approach to Measuring Triadic Closure in Daily Mobility Networks." *Social Networks*.

Clayton Adamson, Katherine J. Curtis, Sarah Peters. (2025). "Economic Complexity and Divergent Population Growth by Race and Rurality." *Spatial Demography*, 13(1), 5. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40980-025-00137-3>. [Link to full text](#).

Under Review

Clayton Adamson. "Uneven Jobs, Uneven Places: Industrial Structure and the Geography of Job Quality" (revise and resubmit at *Population Research and Policy Review*)

Clayton Adamson. "Growth Without Gain: The Adverse Effects of State and Local Development Incentives on Resident Prosperity" (revise and resubmit at *Urban Affairs Review*)

Clayton Adamson. "Unequal Returns to Growth and Decline Across U.S. Regions and Social Classes" (revise and resubmit at *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy, and Society*)

Nicholas D.E. Mark, **Clayton Adamson**, and Max Besbris. "Housing Costs and US Fertility: A New Era" (under review)

Karl Vachuska, **Clayton Adamson**, Brian Levy, and Max Besbris. "Neighborhoods, Homicide, and Racial Inequality in Life Expectancy: The Impact of Residence and Routine Mobility" (under review)

Refereed Conference Presentations

Clayton Adamson and Karl Vachuska. "Cost-of-Living Inequality Sustains Racial Earnings Inequality in the United States." *Research Committee 28 on Social Stratification and Mobility (RC28) Spring Meeting 2026, Seville, Spain.*

Clayton Adamson. "Occupations Revisited: How Non-Wage Parental Job Characteristics Shape Children's Attainment." *European Consortium for Sociological Research (ECSR) Mechanisms of Social Mobility conference, 2026, Zurich, Switzerland.*

Clayton Adamson, and Katherine J. Curtis. "The End of the Migration Premium? Unequal and Declining Returns to Internal Migration in the US." *Population Association of America, 2026, St. Louis, MO.*

Clayton Adamson, Katherine J. Curtis, Anton Babkin, and Richard A. Dunn. "Rethinking Rural Disadvantage: Economic, Not Geographic, Isolation Patterns Local Social Exclusion." *Population Association of America, 2026, St. Louis, MO.*

Nicholas D.E. Mark, **Clayton Adamson**, and Max Besbris. "Housing Costs and US Fertility: A New Era." *Population Association of America, 2026, St. Louis, MO.*

Sara Peters, **Clayton Adamson**, and Michael Topping. "The Changing Value of Education in U.S. Mortality Trends." *Population Association of America, 2026, St. Louis, MO.*

Clayton Adamson, Katherine J. Curtis, Anton Babkin, and Richard A. Dunn. "Using network theory to characterize economic, geographic, and social dimensions of isolation." *72nd Annual North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International, 2025, Denver, CO.*

Sara Peters, Katherine J. Curtis, **Clayton Adamson**, Michael Topping, and Anton Babkin. "Structural Dimensions of Rising Premature Mortality in US: Examining the Role of Economy, Race, and Rurality." *American Sociological Society Annual Meeting, 2025, Chicago, IL.*

Clayton Adamson. "Higher Tech, Lower Opportunity: Regressive Impact of Local Tech Sector on Intergenerational Mobility." *Research Committee 28 on Social Stratification and Mobility (RC28) Summer Meeting 2025, Los Angeles, CA.*

Clayton Adamson, Sarah Peters, Katherine J. Curtis, Anton Babkin, Austin Sandler, and Richard A. Dunn. "Unequal distribution of benefits of regional trade using quantile and spatial modeling." *Rural Sociology Society Annual Meeting, 2024, Madison, WI.*

Sarah Peters, Katherine J. Curtis, **Clayton Adamson,** Anton Babkin, Richard A. Dunn, and Austin Sandler. "Industry and the Rural Mortality Penalty: A Spatial Regime Analysis of Economic Structure and Early Life Mortality in the Rural U.S." *Rural Sociology Society Annual Meeting, 2024, Madison, WI.*

Dunn, Richard A., Anton Babkin, Austin Sandler, Katherine J. Curtis, **Clayton Adamson,** Sara A. Peters. "The Spatial Structure of Economic Exchange and Rural Prosperity in the United States." *Agricultural and Applied Economics Annual Meeting, 2024, New Orleans, LA.*

Dunn, Richard A., Anton Babkin, Austin Sandler, Katherine J. Curtis, **Clayton Adamson,** Sara A. Peters. "Economic Catchment Areas: A New Place Typology Based on Supply Chain Connectedness." *Agricultural and Applied Economics Annual Meeting, 2024, New Orleans, LA.*

Clayton Adamson, Katherine J. Curtis and Sarah Peters. "Economic complexity and regional and racial variation in population growth in the metropolitan and nonmetropolitan United States." *Population Association of America, 2024, Columbus, OH.*

Karl Vachuska, **Clayton Adamson,** Brian Levy, and Max Besbris. "Neighborhoods, Homicide, and Racial Inequality in Life Expectancy: The Impact of Residence and Routine Mobility." *Population Association of America, 2024, Columbus, OH.*

Babkin, Anton, Richard Dunn, Austin Sandler, Katherine J. Curtis, **Clayton Adamson,** Sara A. Peters. "Economic Catchment Areas: A New Place Typology Based on Potential Supply Chain Connectedness." *Population Association of America, 2024, Columbus, OH.*

Conference Poster Presentations

Clayton Adamson. "Tech-sector growth, economic polarization, and intergenerational mobility: regressive consequences of contemporary growth coalitions." *Population Association of America, 2025, Washington, D.C.*

Clayton Adamson, Meiyi Li, Max Besbris, and Karl Vachuska. "Lagging housing values and homeowner health: race & place." *Population Association of America, 2025, Washington, D.C.*

Sara Peters, Katherine J. Curtis, **Clayton Adamson,** Michael Topping, and Anton Babkin. "Structural Dimensions of Rising Premature Mortality in the US: An Examination of the Role of

the Economy, Race, and Rurality." *Population Association of America, 2025, Washington, D.C.*

Clayton Adamson, Meiyi Li, Max Besbris, and Karl Vachuska. "Lagging housing values and homeowner health: race & place." *HOME: Health, Opportunity, Mobility, and Equity in Housing, a research symposium hosted by the Minnesota Population Center (MPC), 2025, Minneapolis, MN.*

Academic Theses

Clayton Adamson. "Localized job quality index: constructing multidimensional, occupation-level measure of job quality." Cornell University, M.S. 2022.

Clayton Adamson. "When the honeymoon ends: do state and local discretionary tax packages inordinately burden school districts?" University of Minnesota, B.S.B. 2019.

SERVICE

Reviewer: *Spatial Demography; Economic Development Quarterly; Journal of Rural Health*

2025-2026 Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

2025-2026 Sociology Graduate Student Mentor

2024-2026 Demography Graduate Student Mentor

2025 Co-Facilitator, Spatial Methods Working Group

AWARDS & DISTINCTIONS

Fellowships

2023-2026 T32 pre-doctoral training grant (T32 HD07014) from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)

2025 Evelyn T. Crowe Fellowship from the Department of Community and Environmental Sociology at the University of Wisconsin–Madison

Professional Distinctions

2019-present Certified Public Accountant (inactive), State of Minnesota

Awards

2019 Summa Cum Laude undergraduate thesis, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

2019 Magna Cum Laude graduate, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

EMPLOYMENT

2023-present **University of Wisconsin-Madison**, Center for Demography and Ecology
Predoctoral Research Fellow (Katherine J. Curtis)
Research Assistant (Katherine J. Curtis, Max Besbris, Nicholas D.E. Mark,
Megan Doherty Bea)
Madison, Wisconsin

2024-present **Land Strategies**
Director of Economic Modeling and Analytics
Greenville, South Carolina

2022-present **Minneapolis-Saint Paul Economic Development Partnership**
Research Manager
Saint Paul, Minnesota

2022 **The Brookings Institution**, Workforce of the Future initiative
Research Assistant
Washington, D.C.

2019-2021 **Grant Thornton LLP**
Economic Development Incentives Consultant
Minneapolis, Minnesota

SKILLS

R (tidyverse, ipumsr, Leaflet, Rmarkdown), Input-Output, Python, ArcGIS, SQL, Overleaf, Geoda, Excel VBA