

CLAYTON ADAMSON

University of Wisconsin-Madison | Department of Sociology | Center for Demography and Ecology
ClaytonAdamson.com | cadamson@wisc.edu

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. (forthcoming). "Unequal Returns to Growth and Decline Across U.S. Regions and Social Classes." *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy, and Society*. [Link to preprint](#).

Clayton Adamson and Karl Vachuska. (2026). "The Intergenerational Mobility Advantage of Educators' Children: Capital Embedded in Occupations." *Social Science Research*. [Link to full text](#).

Karl Vachuska and **Clayton Adamson**. (2026). "Neighborhood Shocks and Network Dynamics: An Instrumental Variable Approach to Measuring Triadic Closure in Daily Mobility Networks." *Social Networks*. [Link to full text](#).

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" (conditional acceptance 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*)

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

Karl Vachuska and **Clayton Adamson.** "Expected Years of Homeownership Are Declining for Americans without a BA" (under review)

Katherine J. Curtis, Sara A. Peters, **Clayton Adamson**, Anton Babkin, Austin Sandler, and Richard A. Dunn. "Uneven development as a fundamental cause of geographic health disparities: A spatial regime analysis of economic trade and premature mortality in the United States" (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