



Ni'Shele Jackson

Graduate Student, University of Illinois at Chicago, Sociology

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Research Interests

My scholarly interests are in social inequality regarding body size, fatness specifically, and how this intersects with race, gender, and class systems.

Education

Present - Graduate Student in the Sociology department, University of Illinois at Chicago

2022 - Certificate in Measurement, Evaluation, Statistics and Assessment, University of Illinois at Chicago (MEd anticipated in 2025)

2022 - M.A. in Sociology, University of Illinois at Chicago

2019 - B.A. in American Studies from Wellesley College

Research & Academic Experience

Research Assistant / Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy

August 2023 - Present, Chicago

Research Mentor / Graduate Undergraduate Research Mentorship (GURM)

December 2022 - Present, Chicago

I work together with an undergraduate student to help me with the computational text analysis portion of my dissertation proposal. Together, we will use the program Python to analyze the evolution of discourse around the body and fatness in top medical sociology journals and in popular media using television transcripts from shows like 'My 600-lb Life'. The student I am working with will be able to use the data for a senior thesis or future projects.

Radical Health Alliance / Researcher

September 2022 - Present

We aim to use survey data in order to create a survey measure for body size, shape, and weight that gathers more information about the body and is less stigmatizing than the BMI, but is also able to be used on large-scale surveys. We use various survey responses comparing different ways of self-reporting body size and weight and test their statistical reliability and validity with the BMI.

Category X / Graduate Researcher

January 2021 - Present, University of Illinois at Chicago

Conducting, coding, and transcribing interviews on a NSF funded project about the experiences of non-binary people. This research is conducted under the leadership of Barbara Risman, UIC, Associate Professor and Buddy Scarborough.

National Trust for Historic Preservation / African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund Research Fellow

Summer 2018, Chicago, IL

I was selected to be part of a group of ten students to research and write essays on neighborhood change and historic preservation.

Teaching Experience

University at Illinois of Chicago / SOC 212 Teaching Assistant

August 2020 - May 2021

Course Name: SOC 212 Human Sexuality

Instructor: Sarah Steele

Publications

In Progress: Is the Health at Every Size (HAES) frame effective at promoting attitudes around fat acceptance and body diversity: empirical evidence for a theoretical intervention

Jackson, Ni'Shele (2023) Book Review: It's always been ours: rewriting the story of Black women's bodies, *Fat Studies*, DOI: 10.1080/21604851.2023.2229599

Via, Emily, Guerrero, Rodriguez Daniela, **Jackson, Ni'Shele**, Risman, Barbara and Scarborough, William (Forthcoming, August 2023). "BEYOND SONS AND DAUGHTERS: NON-BINARY EXPERIENCES WITH FAMILY" *Families as They Really Are* (3rd edition)

Perspectives of Neighborhood Change: Case Studies from the 2018 African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund Research Fellows. Accessible [here](#).

Awards

2023 - Rachel Gordon Statistics Award for Emerging Scholars (UIC)

2022 - Research/Travel Grant, Graduate Advisory Board, University of Illinois at Chicago (\$200)

2020 - Access to Excellence Fellowship, University of Illinois at Chicago

2017 - Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship, Wellesley College

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Methods & Softwares

Quantitative: Stata, SPSS, SAS, R, experimental survey design,
multivariate regression analysis

Qualitative: Atlas.ti, Otter.ai, ethnography, interviewing

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Languages

English (Native)

Spanish (Advanced)