

# Sara A. Peters

August 2025

Department of Community and Environmental  
Sociology  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
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Madison, WI

Center for Demography and Ecology  
Center for Demography of Health and Aging

## EDUCATION

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2022-Current	PhD in Sociology   University of Wisconsin-Madison <i>Advisor: Katherine J. Curtis</i>
2020	MS in Sociology   Virginia Commonwealth University <i>Certificate: Digital Sociology</i>
2005	BA in Sociology & Religious Studies   Stetson University <i>Minor: Anthropology</i>

## AREAS OF INTEREST

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Community and urban sociology, rural sociology, demography and ecology, political economy, digital sociology, sociology of the environment

## PUBLICATIONS AND WORK IN PROGRESS

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Adamson, Clayton, Katherine J. Curtis, **Sara A. Peters**. 2025. "Economic complexity and divergent population growth by race and rurality". *Spatial Demography* 13:5

Ronnkvist, Sara R., **Sara A. Peters**, Katherine J. Curtis. Forthcoming. "Forces, Patterns, and Consequences of Rural Migration". In *Research Handbook of Rural Sociology* eds. A.R. Tickamyer and C.E. Sachs. Elgar Publishing, Northampton, MA.

Chen, Victor T., Myeong Lee, **Sara A. Peters**. Under Review. "Social Capital, Social Connectedness, and Prosociality: Exploring the Relationship between Ethnic Heterogeneity and Different Dimensions of Social Connectedness Using Meetup and Facebook Data".

Curtis, Katherine J., **Sara A. Peters**, Clayton Adamson, Anton Babkin, Richard A. Dunn. Work in Progress. "Industry and the Rural Mortality Penalty."

Topping, Michael S., **Sara A. Peters**. Work in Progress. "Decomposing the Rural Mortality Penalty".

**Peters, Sara A.**, Katherine J. Curtis, Clayton Adamson, Michael S. Topping, Anton Babkin. Work in Progress. "Structural Determinants of Rising Premature Mortality in the US."

Dunn, Richard A., Anton Babkin, Austin Sandler, Katherine J. Curtis, Clayton Adamson, **Sara A. Peters**. Work in Progress. "The Spatial Structure of Economic Exchange and Rural Prosperity in the United States".

Dunn, Richard A., Anton Babkin, Austin Sandler, Katherine J. Curtis, Clayton Adamson, **Sara A. Peters**. Work in Progress. "Economic Catchment Areas: A New Place Typology Based on Supply Chain Connectedness".

## PAPERS

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**Peters, Sara A.** 2020. "Platform and Place: The Digitization of Gift Economies". Masters Thesis, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA

*Master's committee: Meredith Katz (chair), Gina Marie Longo, Katherine Chen (CUNY)*

## PRESENTATIONS

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**Peters, Sara A.**, Katherine J. Curtis, Michael S. Topping, Clayton Adamson, Anton Babkin. 2025 August. "Structural Determinants of Premature Mortality in the US". Paper presented at American Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.

Topping, Michael S., **Sara A. Peters**. 2025 April. "Decomposing the Rural Mortality Penalty." Presented at Population Association of American Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.

**Peters, Sara A.**, Katherine J. Curtis, Clayton Adamson, Michael S. Topping, Anton Babkin. 2025 April. "Structural Determinants of Premature Mortality in the US." Poster presented at Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.

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

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

**Peters, Sara A.**, Katherine J. Curtis, Clayton Adamson, Anton Babkin, Richard A. Dunn, Austin Sandler. 2024 July. "Industry and the Rural Mortality Penalty: A spatial regime analysis of economic structure and early life mortality in the rural US." Presented at the Rural Sociological Society annual meeting, Madison, WI.

Adamson, Clayton, Katherine J. Curtis, **Sara A. Peters**, Anton Babkin, Richard Dunn, Austin Sandler. 2024 July. "Unequal distribution of benefits of regional trade using quantile and spatial modeling." Presented at the Rural Sociological Society annual meeting, Madison, WI.

Adamson, Clayton, Katherine J. Curtis, **Sara A. Peters**, Anton Babkin, Austin Sandler, Richard Dunn. 2024 April. "Economic Complexity and Population Growth in the Rural United States." Presented at the Population Association of America, Columbus, OH.

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

Chen, Victor Tan, Myeong Lee, Nnamdi Ojibe, **Sara Peters**. 2023 August. "Ethnic heterogeneity, income, and multiple dimensions of social capital: Exploring Meetup and Facebook-base measurements." Paper presented at the American Sociological Society annual meeting, Philadelphia, PA.

Curtis, Katherine, **Sara A. Peters**, Anton Babkin, Austin Sandler, Richard Dunn. 2023 August. "Vitality and Health: Exploring relationships between migration, economics, and health outcomes." Working paper presented at the Rural Sociological Society annual meeting, Burlington, VT.

Curtis, Katherine, and **Sara A. Peters**. 2023 April. "Migration and Health: Exploring relationships between county-level net migration patterns and health outcomes." Presented at the Population Association of America Conference, New Orleans, LA.

**Peters, Sara A.** 2020 February. "Platform and Place: A Case Study of a Digitized Gift Economy" Working paper presented at The Digital Sociology Collective Conference, Philadelphia, PA.

**Peters, Sara A.** 2020 February. "Platform and Place: A Case Study of a Digitized Gift Economy." Working paper presented at Eastern Sociological Society annual meeting, Philadelphia, PA.

## SELECTED PROFESSIONAL & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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2022- Current	<b>Research Assistant (RA)</b> for Katherine Curtis <i>Center for Demography and Ecology</i> <i>Department of Sociology</i> <i>University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison WI</i>
2018- 2022	<b>Data and Evaluation Coordinator</b> <i>Northwest Mental Health Technology Transfer Center</i> <i>University of Washington, Seattle, WA</i>
2020	<b>Research Assistant (RA)</b> for Gina Marie Longo <i>Department of Sociology</i> <i>Virginia Commonwealth University</i>
2004-2005	<b>Strategic Planning Intern</b> <i>City Manager's Office, DeLand, FL</i> <i>Supervisor: Dr. Leonard Nance, Stetson University</i>
2004	<b>Research Assistant (RA)</b> for John Schor and Diane Everett <i>Stetson Institute for Social Research</i> <i>Department of Sociology</i> <i>Stetson University, DeLand, FL</i>

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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2019-20	<b>Teaching Assistant (TA)</b> at Virginia Commonwealth University <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction to Sociology (Spring 2019, with Prof. Meredith Katz)</li><li>• Sociology of Adolescents (Spring 2019, with Prof. Tara Stamm)</li><li>• Sociological Theory (Spring 2019, with Prof. Tara Stamm)</li><li>• Introduction to Sociology (Fall 2020, with Prof. Meredith Katz)</li></ul>
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## AWARDS & AFFILIATIONS

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### Awards

2022- Current	Mare Research Scholar <i>Sociology Department, University of Wisconsin- Madison</i>
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### Center and Department Affiliations

2022-Current	Center for Demography and Ecology <i>University of Wisconsin- Madison</i>
2022-Current	Community and Environmental Sociology Department <i>University of Wisconsin- Madison</i>
2025-Current	Institute for Poverty Research Graduate Fellow <i>University of Wisconsin-Madison</i>

### Professional Memberships

- American Sociological Association
- Rural Sociological Society
- Population Association of America
- Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics
- Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society