

Erykah N. Benson

Literature, Science, and Arts Building
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Education

- Present **Ph.D. in Sociology**, The University of Michigan - Ann Arbor
Advisor: Dr. Jeffrey Morenoff
- 2021 **Bachelor of Arts (High Honors)**, Michigan State University - East Lansing
Thesis Advisor: Dr. John Waller

Research Interests

Economic Sociology; Racial Stratification; Demography; Digital Studies

Academic Positions Held

Research

- 2022 - Present Research Fellow, Center for Racial Justice
The University of Michigan - Ann Arbor
Director: Dr. Celeste Watkins-Hayes
Research Director: Dr. Mara Ostfeld
Associate Director: Dr. Dominique Adams-Santos
- 2021 - Present Research Assistant, Detroit Metro Area Communities Study
The University of Michigan - Ann Arbor
Faculty Lead Researchers: Dr. Jeffrey Morenoff, Dr. Elisabeth Gerber, Dr. Mara Ostfeld
- 2019 - 2021 Primary Investigator, *Sins of Omission: A Visual Content Analysis of the Portrayal of Racial Minorities*
Michigan State University - East Lansing
Faculty Mentors: Dr. John Waller, Dr. Melissa Fore

Teaching

- 2021-2022 Teaching Assistant
Wayne State University - Detroit
Department of English, Basic Writing (ENG 1010), Dr. Thomas Trimble, Dr. Nicole Varty
- 2020 - 2021 Teaching Assistant
Michigan State University - East Lansing
Department of Sociology (SOC 100), Dr. Eric Beasley

Honors and Awards

Internal Funds

2023	Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor (\$1,500)
2023	National Center for Institutional Diversity Anti-Racism Grant (\$5,000)
2022	Rackham Conference Travel Award, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor (\$900)
2022	Population Studies Center Conference Travel Award, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor (\$400)
2022	Clifford C. Clogg Scholarship, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor (\$2,800)

External Funds

2023	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (\$147,000)
2021	Population Studies Research Traineeship, Eunice Kennedy Shriver NICHD
2020	Provost Undergraduate Research Initiative, Michigan State University - East Lansing (\$4,000)
2020	Andrew Undergraduate Fellowship, Michigan State University - East Lansing (\$1,000)
2020	MLK, Jr. Advancing Inclusion Through Research Award (\$300)
2020	Diversity Research Showcase, Michigan State University - East Lansing (\$1,000)
2020	Richard B. Gerisch Scholarship, Michigan State University - East Lansing (\$5,000)
2019	Ernest G. Green Black Alumni Scholarship, Michigan State University - East Lansing (\$1,000)
2018	Guyer Public Policy Award, Michigan State University - East Lansing (\$1,000)
2018	Reverend C.O. Stewart Education Ministry, Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church

Honors

2023	Honorable Mention - Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship
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Publications

*= GRADUATE STUDENT CO-AUTHOR

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Book Chapters

Benson, E*. 2021. "Dissecting the American History Textbook: A Content Analysis on the Erasure of Structural Racism and Oppressed Voices." Social Science Scholars Program Volume 5. East Lansing: Michigan State University Press.

Non-Refereed Publications

Public Sociology (Writing)

Erykah Benson* & Jasmine Simington* (2023). ["Forty Acres and a Mule? How Flint residents believe the government should repay Black Americans"](#). Issue Brief. Center for Racial Justice.

Erykah Benson* & Jasmine Simington* (2023). ["Collective Remembrance and Detroiters' Views Toward Racial Inequity"](#). Issue Brief. Center for Racial Justice.

Erykah Benson* & Jasmine Simington* (2022). ["The Electoral Impact of Racial Reckoning: The Effect of Reparations Policy on Voter Engagement in Detroit"](#). Issue Brief. Center for Racial Justice.

Lydia Wileden & **Erykah Benson***. (2022). "[The Economic Well-Being of Detroit Residents Two Years Into the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)". Issue Brief. Detroit Metro Area Communities Study.

Presentations

Academic Conferences

- 2024 **Benson, E***. "Black Creatives in the Platform Gig Economy." April 17th - 20th, 2024. Population Association of America. Columbus, OH. *Forthcoming Presentation*.
- 2023 Hudgins, K. *, **Benson, E.***, Simington, J*. "Crafting Democratic Futures: Understanding Political Conditions and Racialized Attitudes towards Black Reparations in the US." April 21st, 2023. Russell Sage Foundation. Black Reparations: Insights from the Social Sciences. New York City, NY.
- 2022 **Benson, E***. "Entrepreneurship and Perceived Economic Uncertainty in Detroit during COVID-19." November 17th - 19th, 2022. Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference. Washington, D.C.

Other Colloquia or Conference Participation

- 2023 "The Love Jones Cohort: Single and Living Alone in the Black Middle Class: A Conversation with Dr. Kris Marsh." Book Talk Discussant. October 3rd, 2023. Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy.

Community Presentations

- 2021 **Benson, E***. "Building Financial Knowledge and Equity Across Generations". *MountUp!* For Social Justice Series. Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church. Co-Organizer & Presenter. April 19, 2021.
- 2021 **Benson, E***. "Suffer Not the Children: Education and Equity in COVID-19". *MountUp!* For Social Justice Series. Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church. Organizer & Presenter. March 26, 2021.
- 2021 **Benson, E***. "Biden Administration 100-Day Plan and Black America". *MountUp!* For Social Justice Series. Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church. Organizer & Presenter. February 22, 2021.
- 2021 **Benson, E***. "Candid Convo on COVID-19". *MountUp!* For Social Justice Series. Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church. Organizer & Presenter. January 21, 2021.
- 2020 **Benson, E***. "Get the Voter 411!". *MountUp!* For Social Justice Series. Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church. Organizer & Presenter. October 30, 2020.

Select Media Coverage

[“Detroiters' financial recovery from COVID mixed.”](#) Axios. May 2022

[“Housing costs take bulk of paycheck for thousands of Detroiters...”](#) Detroit Free Press. May 2022

[“Detroit residents largely support reparations, survey finds.”](#) Crain's Detroit. April 2023.

[“U-M report: Half of Black Detroiters support reparations.”](#) Michigan Chronicle. April 2023

[“U-M report finds majority of Detroiters supports some form of reparations.”](#) CBS News Detroit. April 2023

[“Flint and Detroit Are at the Forefront of the National Reparations Discussion.”](#) Michigan Chronicle. November 2023.

Departmental Service Activities

2023 - Present	Student Coordinator, Race & Racial Identities Workshop, The University of Michigan - Ann Arbor
2023 - Present	Mentor, Applied Policy Internship and Research Experience Program, The University of Michigan - Ann Arbor
2022 - 2024	Graduate Student Recruitment Representative, The University of Michigan - Ann Arbor

Service-Related Panel Engagements

2023	Your Path to Go Blue Webinar - Humanities, Management, and Social Sciences Graduate Programming
2022	Michigan Humanities Emerging Research Scholars Program (MICHHERS) Graduate Student Panel, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor

Research Skills

Geographic Information Systems (ArcGIS)

Stata Statistical Software

Microsoft Suite

Professional & Academic Associations

Professional Membership

American Sociological Association

Association of Black Sociologists

Population Association of America

Associations

Institute for Social Research

Michigan State University Black Alumni Association

Population Studies Center

Stone Family Center for Inequality Dynamics Fellow