

**Chair PAA Gov't and Public Affairs Committee  
I was an NIH trainee at CCPR (UCLA Population Center)**

**I conduct life course analyses that show how disparities take root (requires high quality longitudinal data!). Gives important insights for policy – when to intervene and for what group?**

**Examples of questions my work answers, data sets I use, and the agencies that sponsor these data**

**Agency:** NIA

**Data:** The Health and Retirement Study

- How do resources accumulate in families?
- People match systematically on characteristics (education, smoking) at marriage and cohabitation
- Highly educated choose non-smoking partners and this behavior intensifies over time
- College-educated couples much more likely to quit smoking before having first child
- Create families with consolidated portfolios of multiple advantages that pay off across life course for both adults and children

**Agency:** U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)

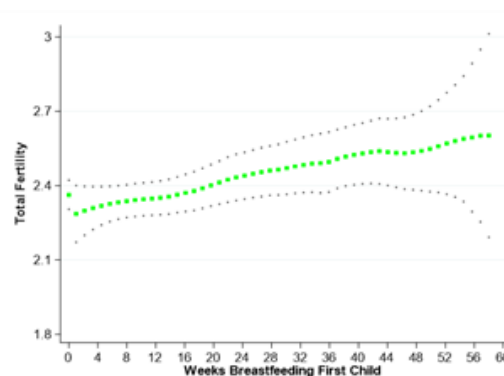
**Data:** National Longitudinal Surveys (1979 and 1997 cohorts)

- How do **breastfeeding duration and reading daily** to children shape women's work hours and job characteristics? How does this defer by family resources?
- Women who **breastfeed for longer have more children**
- Women who **breastfeed longer switch into part-time work in anticipation of having children** and investing in them

**Breastfeeding Duration and Fertility**

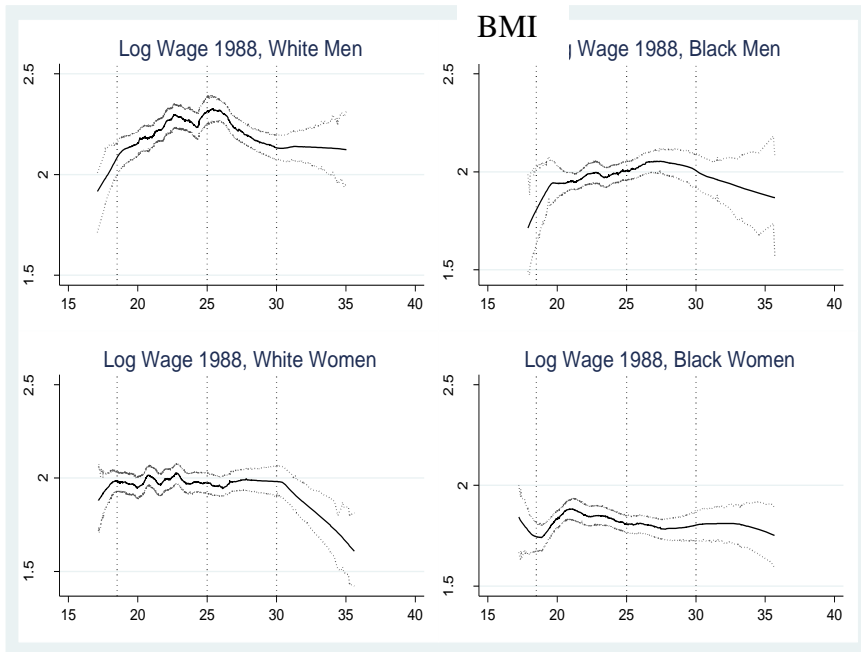
**Women who breastfeed longer have higher fertility**

- NLSY79
- Less likely to stop at only one child, and more likely to have  $\geq 3$  children
- Holds in multivariate models



## Relationship between Wages and Body Mass (BMI) by Race and Gender

- How does the relationship between **BMI (obesity) and wages** differ by a person's race and or gender?
- Do people who are **obese earn less** in jobs that evoke stereotypes or stigma about fatness? Does this differ by race and gender? Ex.: contact with external customers or jobs that require authority, autonomy



Maralani and McKee 2017 *Sociological Science* using NLSY97 and NLSY79

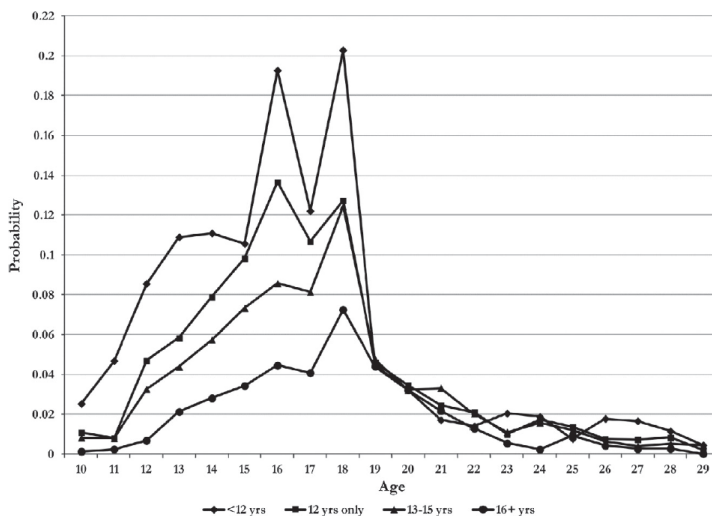
## When do inequalities in smoking regularly take root?

**Agency:** NIH National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

**Data:** National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health (Add Health)

- **Inequalities in smoking by completed education emerge as early as age 11**
- Educational inequalities in smoking are explained by never starting to smoke, rather than differences in quitting by education

V. Maralani/Social Science Research 48 (2014) 20–34



Probability of smoking regularly by age and education level in adulthood, N=3458