

## **J. Trent Alexander**

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### **EMPLOYMENT**

#### **U.S. Census Bureau**

Assistant Chief, Center for Administrative Records Research and Applications, 2015-present

Assistant Chief, Center for Economic Studies, 2012-2015

Staff Chief, American Community Survey Office, 2010-2012

#### **University of Minnesota**

Principal Research Scientist, Minnesota Population Center, 2008-2010

Research Associate, Minnesota Population Center, 2003-2008

Postdoctoral Associate, Minnesota Population Center, 2001-2003

### **EDUCATION**

Ph.D. in History, Carnegie Mellon University, 2001

Dissertation *Great Migrations: Race and Community in the Southern Exodus, 1917-1970*

M.A. in History, Carnegie Mellon University, 1995

B.A. in History and Sociology, Columbia University, 1992

### **MAIN ONGOING PROJECTS**

(1) *Census Longitudinal Infrastructure Project (CLIP)*. Creates and documents linkages across confidential Census microdata files and with other administrative records and survey data. Supports use of the linked data by government researchers and academic social scientists.

(2) *Historical Census Name Recovery Project*. Designing techniques to digitize names from the 1990 population census microfilm reels. Have recovered 25 million names from 1990 and linked most of these records to earlier and later censuses. Seeking funds to implement methods on all 250 million records in the 1990 census and extend techniques to other files where names were not digitized.

(3) *Using new longitudinal data to study migration*. Conducting migration research using linked decennial census records from 1940 and 2000, in conjunction with administrative records from the Social Security Administration, Internal Revenue Service, and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

Alexander, J. Trent, Christine Leibbrand, Catherine Massey, and Stewart Tolnay. Forthcoming. "Second Generation Outcomes in the Great Migration." *Demography*.

Alexander, J. Trent and Annemarie Steidl. 2012. "Gender and the 'Laws of Migration': A Reconsideration of Nineteenth-century Patterns." *Social Science History* 36: 223-241.

Donato, Katharine, J. Trent Alexander, Donna Gabaccia, and Johanna Leinonen. 2011. "Variations in the Gender Composition of Migrant Populations: How and Why They Matter." *International Migration Review* 45: 495-526.

Ruggles, Steven, J. Trent Alexander, Todd K. Gardner, and Matthew Schroeder. 2011. "Frozen Film and FOSDIC Forms: Restoring the 1960 Census of Population and Housing." *Historical Methods* 44: 69-78.

Alexander, J. Trent, Michael Davern, and Betsey Stevenson. 2010. "Inaccurate Age and Sex Data in the Census PUMS files: Evidence and Implications." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 74: 551-569. (Previously appeared as NBER Working Paper No. 15703, January 2010).

Eichenlaub, Suzanne, Stewart E. Tolnay, and J. Trent Alexander. 2010. "Moving Out but Not Up: Economic Outcomes in the Great Migration." *American Sociological Review* 75: 101-125.

Davern, Michael, Steven Ruggles, Tami Swenson, J. Trent Alexander, and Michael Oakes. 2009. "Drawing Statistical Inferences from Historical Census Data." *Demography* 46: 589-603.

Alexander, J. Trent and Chad Berry. 2010. "Who is Appalachian? Self-Reported Appalachian Ancestry in the 2000 Census." *Appalachian Journal* 38: 46-55.

Alexander, J. Trent. 2009. "Appalachians, Southern Whites, and the Great Migration." Article in themed issue titled "Major Turning Points: Rethinking Appalachian Migration." *Appalachian Journal* 36: 166-171.

Alexander, J. Trent. 2006. "Defining the Diaspora: Appalachians in the Great Migration." *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 37: 219-247.

Alexander, J. Trent. 2005. "'They're never here more than a year': Return Migration in the Southern Exodus, 1940-1980." *Journal of Social History* 38: 653-671.

Alexander, J. Trent, Jason Carl Digman, and J. David Hacker. 2003. "Introducing Two New Public Use Samples of the Census of Slave Inhabitants." *Historical Methods* 36: 21-27.

Alexander, J. Trent. 1998. "The Great Migration in Comparative Perspective: Interpreting the Urban Origins of Southern Black Migrants to Pittsburgh." *Social Science History* 22: 349-376.

Modell, John and J. Trent Alexander. 1997. "High School in Transition: Community, School, and Peer Group in Abilene, Kansas, 1939." *History of Education Quarterly* 37: 1-24.

## **WORKS IN PROGRESS**

Leibbrand, Christine, J. Trent Alexander, Catherine Massey, and Stewart Tolnay, "Inter-generational Returners in the Great Migration." Under review at *Social Forces*. Uses linked 1940-2000 Census microdata.

Alexander, J. Trent, Catherine Massey, Christine Leibbrand, and Stewart Tolnay, "Appalachian out-migrants: Long-term outcomes." In preparation. First use of linked 1940-2000 Census data in conjunction with data from the Internal Revenue Service and Social Security Administration.

## **CURRENT GRANTS AND CONTRACTS**

Constructing Life Course and Intergenerational Data through Census Data Linkages (Project Manager for Census contract), funded by the National Institutes of Health (NICHD) to National Bureau of Economic Research, 2016-2018. \$170,000 on Census contract.

Recovery of Names from the 1990 Census/American Opportunity Study (Project Manager for Census contract), funded by Carnegie Foundation to National Academy of Sciences, 2015-2017, \$275,000 on Census contract.

## **COMPLETED EXTERNAL GRANTS**

Integrating, Linking, and Disseminating CPS Data, 1962 to 2013 (Co-Principal Investigator), funded by the NIH/NICHD (R01 HD047283), 2010-2015, \$3.1 million. Transferred Co-PI role to John Robert Warren in 2011. Score: 18 (5<sup>th</sup> percentile).

Baseline Data for the Analysis of Demographic Change (Principal Investigator), funded by the NIH/NICHD (R01 HD060676), 2009-2015, \$3.6 million. Transferred PI role to Evan Roberts in 2011. Score: 120 (2<sup>nd</sup> percentile).

Integrated Public Use Microdata Series Redesign (Co-Investigator, Project Manager), funded by the NIH/NICHD (R01 HD43392), 2008-2013, \$3.1 million. Score: 132 (6<sup>th</sup> percentile).

New Data Resources from the 1960 United States Census (Co-Investigator, Project Manager), funded by the NIH/NICHD (R01 HD041575), 2007-2013, \$2.4 million. Score: 120 (2<sup>nd</sup> percentile).

Conference on Mobility, Gender Ratios and Public Policy, funded by the Russell Sage Foundation (with Katharine Donato and Donna Gabaccia), 2008, \$19,000.

American Time Use Survey/Current Population Survey Data Access System (Principal Investigator), funded by the USDA Economic Research Service, 2007-2009, \$43,000.

Improving Variance Estimation Procedures for the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (Co-Investigator), funded by the NIH/NICHD (Continuing Supplement, R01 HD43392), 2005-2007, \$162,000. Score: 161 (no percentile given).

Black Migration to the West, 1930-2000 (Principal Investigator), funded by the National Science Foundation Sociology Program (SES-0317254), 2003-2006; Collaborative research with University of Washington (SES-0317247). \$303,500.

Public Use Microdata Samples of the 1850 Slave Population (Co-Investigator), funded by the National Science Foundation Sociology Program (SES-0214300), 2002-2005, \$209,000.

Race and Community in the Southern Exodus, Dissertation Improvement Grant funded by the National Science Foundation Sociology Program, 1998-1999, \$7,500.

## ORIGINAL DATA RESOURCES

*Census Longitudinal Infrastructure Project (CLIP), Preliminary Release.* U.S. Census Bureau. 2015. CLIP consists of linked microdata from the U.S. decennial Censuses (1940, 2000, and 2010), the CPS (1973 and 1979-present), the ACS (2000-present) and administrative records files from seven federal programs. The project creates and documents linkages across files and manages a proposal process for internal and external research projects. The infrastructure is in use by 10 internal/external collaborative pilot teams working in Federal Statistical Research Data Centers. Co-Founder of CLIP and Census Lead on related contracts with the National Bureau of Economic Research and the National Academy of Sciences. More information at <https://www.census.gov/about/adrm/linkage/projects/clip.html>.

*Integrated Public Use Microdata Series: United States Census (IPUMS-USA).* With Steven J. Ruggles, Katie Genadek, Ronald Goeken, Matthew B. Schroeder, and Matthew Sobek. 2010. Database of 750 million person records from the U.S. decennial censuses of 1850-2000 and the ACS from 2000 to the present. Was named author on releases in 2006, 2008, and 2010. IPUMS-USA has 130,000 registered users and 6,000 publications. IPUMS was described by the *Journal of American History* as “one of the great archival projects of the past two decades.” Was Project Manager from 2003-2010 and was Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator on related grants from NICHD. More information at <http://usa.ipums.org>.

*Integrated Public Use Microdata Series: Current Population Survey (IPUMS-CPS).* With Miriam King, Steven Ruggles, and Matthew Sobek. 2010. Database of all available records from the Current Population Surveys from 1962-present. Facilitates cross-sectional and longitudinal use of data from the CPS Basic Monthly Survey and all CPS supplements. Was Project Manager from 2006-2010 and was Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator on related grants from NICHD and USDA. More information at <http://cps.ipums.org>.

*Public Use Microdata Samples of the Slave Population of 1850-1860.* With Russell J. Menard, Jason Digman, and J. David Hacker. 2004. First nationally-representative database of slaves and slave owners. Was Co-Investigator on a related grant from the NSF. More information at <http://usa.ipums.org/usa/slavepums>.

## SELECTED RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Leibbrand, Christine, J. Trent Alexander, Catherine Massey, and Stewart E. Tolnay. 2017. “Intergenerational Returners in the Great Migration.” Presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America.

Ruggles, Steven, J. Trent Alexander, Martha Jane Bailey, Joseph Ferrie, Catherine Fitch, Katie Genadek, David B. Grusky, J. David Hacker, Michael Hout, Amy B. O’Hara, Evan Roberts, Seth Sanders, Matthew Sobek, and John Robert Warren. 2017. “Building a National Longitudinal Research Infrastructure.” Presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America.

Alexander, J. Trent, Christine Leibbrand, Catherine Massey, and Stewart E. Tolnay. 2016. “Second-Generation Outcomes in the Great Migration.” Presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association.

Alexander, J. Trent and Diane Cronkite. 2016. "1990 Census Names Recovery Project." Presented at the Federal Computer-Assisted Survey Information Collection Conference (FedCASIC).

Alexander, J. Trent, Jonathan Fisher, David Grusky, Carole House, Michael Hout, Amy B. O'Hara, Aliya Saperstein, Timothy Smeeding, and Matthew Snipp. 2016. "Creating the American Opportunity Study: A New Tool for Studying Social Mobility." Presented at the annual meeting of the Federal Statistical Research Data Centers. Also presented at the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology Research Conference, 2015.

Alexander, J. Trent, Todd Gardner, Catherine Massey, and Amy B. O'Hara. 2015. "Creating a Longitudinal Infrastructure at the Census Bureau." Presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America.

Alexander, J. Trent, Misty Heggness, and Sharon Stern. 2012. "Alternative Strategies for Grouping People into Resource Units: Measuring Poverty in the American Community Survey." Presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America.

Alexander, J. Trent and Annemarie Steidl. 2010. "Gender and the 'Laws of Migration': A reconsideration of nineteenth-century patterns." Presented at the Russell Sage Foundation's Conference on Gender Ratios of Internal and International Migrants.

Alexander, J. Trent, Michael Davern, and Betsey Stevenson. 2009. "Inaccurate Age and Sex data in the Census PUMS files: Evidence and Implications." Presented at the annual Joint Statistical Meetings.

Alexander, J. Trent, Katharine Donato, Donna Gabaccia, and Johanna Leinonen. 2008. "Using Harmonized International Microdata to Study Global Migrations." Presented at the University of Manchester's Centre for Census and Survey Research, Conference on Census Microdata: Findings and Futures.

Alexander, J. Trent. 2008. "Reconsidering the Roles of Distance and Selectivity in Mass Migrations: The Case of the Twentieth-Century U.S. South." Presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America.

Alexander, J. Trent and Chad Berry. 2008. "After the Move: Self-reported Appalachian Ancestry in the 2000 Census." Presented at the annual meeting of the Appalachian Studies Association.

Alexander, J. Trent, Katharine Donato, Donna Gabaccia, and Johanna Leinonen. 2008. "Gender Ratios in Global Migrations, 1850-2005." Presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America.

Eichenlaub, Suzanne, Stewart E. Tolnay, and J. Trent Alexander. 2007. "The Correspondence Between Migration Selection and Migration Outcomes: The Case of the Great Migration." Presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America.

Alexander, J. Trent. 2006. "Reconsidering the Roles of Distance and Selectivity in Mass Migrations: The Case of the Twentieth-Century U.S. South." Presented at the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP), Workshop on Space and Time in Historical Demographic Research.

Alexander, J. Trent. 2006. "Global, Local, and Nowhere in Between: Data and Disciplines in the Study of U.S. Internal Migration." Presentation at the Moving Americans Conference, sponsored by NIH/NICHD.

Alexander, J. Trent. 2006. "'Just a short hop home': Migration within the South during the Southern Exodus." Presentation at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America.

Alexander, J. Trent. 2005. "'New Jersey with mountains and deserts': A Comparative Perspective on Southern Black Migration to the West." Presentation at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association.

## **INVITED WORKSHOPS AND TRAININGS**

2016. "Data Linkage Infrastructure at the Census Bureau." Half-day workshop for employee education program at the Department of Education. Washington, DC, December 13.

2003-2012. Led an outreach and training team at the Minnesota Population Center (2003-2010) and at the Census Bureau (2010-2012). Designed, conducted, and managed trainings on data integration and data access for researchers and support staff at all skill levels. Core training activities consisted of regular 1-day, 3-day, and 5-day workshops held in Minneapolis, plus annual or semi-annual workshops at conferences. Selected presentations are listed below.

2011. "Using the American Community Survey and the IPUMS." Workshop at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management. Washington, DC, November 4.

2011. "Using the ACS: Issues with Studying Small areas and Change Over Time." Webinar presented to the Association of Public Data Users. January 20. Also in-person workshop for the Council of Governments Forecasting and Data Subcommittee, January 11.

2010. "Integrating the American Community Survey with the World's Census Data: IPUMS and the ACS." Workshop held at the Asociación Latinoamericana de Población annual meeting, Habana, Cuba, November 16.

2010. "Using the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series." Workshop held at the Population Association of America annual meeting, Dallas, TX, April 15.

2009. "Getting and Using the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series." Presentation and workshop held at the Social Science Data Center, University of California-Davis. January. Held at Xavier University, Cincinnati, OH, February 2.

2007. "An Integrated Database of Individual-level Census Data, 1850-present." Workshop held at the U.S. Census Bureau, Annual meeting of the Census Information Centers.

2007, 2006. "IPUMS Workshop: Using the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series databases." Three-day workshops held in Minneapolis in July 2006, January 2007, and June 2007. Students included a total of 90 paying attendees from around the world.

2006, 2005, 2004, 2003. "Using U.S. Census Data for Public Policy Research." Short-course held at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute for Public Affairs, University of Minnesota.

2006, 2005, 2004, 2003. "Research Workshop on Historical Census Data." Instructional session held at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association.

2006. "New Census Data for Historical Research." Half-day workshop held at the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians.

2006. "Post-conference Workshop on Census Microdata." Half-day workshop held at the annual meeting of the Social Science History Association.

2005. "Using Census Data in the Classroom." Teaching workshop at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association.

2003. "Historical Census Data, 1850-2000: Accessing and Using Resources." Workshop held in the Summer Program in Quantitative Methods at the Inter-University Consortium for Social and Political Research (ICPSR).

2003. "Public Use Census Microdata in Social Science and Social Policy Research." Instructional session at the Midwest Conference on Demographics for Policy Analysts.

2002. "Training Session on Government Documents: Census Microdata in Social Science Research." Instructional session at the annual meeting of the American Library Association.

### **ACADEMIC COURSES TAUGHT**

2005. Work, Family, and Community: Perspectives on Population History (Global Studies 5900)  
University of Minnesota.

2003-2006. U.S. Census Data in Public Policy Research (Public Affairs 5022, 2-week short-course),  
University of Minnesota.

2002. United States History Since 1877 (History 1210), North Hennepin Community College.

2000. Immigration and Ethnicity in the United States (History 79-232), Carnegie Mellon University.

1999. Twentieth Century America (History 79-252), Carnegie Mellon University.

1994 and 1995. Introduction to World History (History 79-101), Carnegie Mellon University.

### **TRAINEE MANAGEMENT**

As an Assistant Center Chief at the Census Bureau, I regularly hired research staff and have typically managed about 20 staff at a time. As a Research Scientist at University of Minnesota, I hired and managed numerous graduate students and postdoctoral researchers working on the IPUMS data development projects. I typically managed trainees for several years. The list below shows a selection of graduate students and postdoctoral trainees and their current affiliation.

#### *Graduate Research Assistants, University of Minnesota*

Samantha Ammons, Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Nebraska-Omaha

Suparna Chakraborty, Associate Professor of Economics, University of San Francisco

Margaret Charleroy, Research Fellow in History, University of Warwick

Eric Dahlin, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Brigham Young University

Sarah Flood, Research Scientist, Minnesota Population Center, University of Minnesota

Katie Genadek, Economist, Center for Economic Studies, U.S. Census Bureau

Tony Jiang, Senior Software Engineer, Facebook

Dave Lavigne, Visiting Assistant Professor of History, St. Johns University

Michael Latterner, Senior Data Scientist, National Opinion Research Center, University of Chicago  
Donna Leicach, Senior Risk Analyst, US Bank  
Johana Leinonen, Senior Researcher, Migration Institute, University of Turku (Norway)  
Sadie Pendaz-Foster, Instructor in Sociology, Normandale Community College  
Chantel Rodriguez, Assistant Professor of History, University of Maryland  
Matthew Schroder, Senior Researcher, Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities  
Annemarie Steidl, Associate Professor of History, University of Vienna  
Brandon Trampe, Analyst, Wells Fargo, Quantitative Analytics Group

*Postdoctoral Research Associates, University of Minnesota and U.S. Census Bureau*

Berna Torr, Assistant Professor of Sociology, California State Fullerton  
Nathan Lauster, Associate Professor of Sociology, University of British Columbia  
Hiromi Ishizawa, Associate Professor of Sociology, George Washington University  
Natasha Rivers, Demographer, Seattle Public Schools  
Julia A. Rivera Drew, Research Scientist, Minnesota Population Center, University of Minnesota  
Augustus Anderson, Sociologist, Occupation and Industry Branch, U.S. Census Bureau

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

*Professional Service*

2009-2011. Executive Committee, Social Science History Association (elected position)  
2006-2012. Historical Data Files Recovery Project, collaboration between Census Bureau, University of Michigan, UC-Berkeley, and the University of Minnesota. Recovered decennial census microdata from 1960-1990 and various historical survey files.  
2000-present. Regular participation as presenter, discussant, or organizer at annual meetings of the American Sociological Association, Population Association of America, and Social Science History Association.  
Manuscript reviewer for *Demography*, *American Sociological Review*, *Journal of Appalachian Studies*, *Social Forces*, *Social Science Quarterly*, *Social Science History*, the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and the Census Bureau's Cooperative Agreements program.

*Institutional Committees and Workgroups*

2014-present. Census Longitudinal Infrastructure Project Governance Committee (Co-Director).  
2012-present. Census Bureau Data Integration Policy Committee.  
2010-2012. Census Bureau ACS Public Use Microdata Samples Production Team (Chair).  
2010-2012. American Community Survey Research and Evaluation Committee.  
2003-2010. Director, Outreach and Training Core, Minnesota Population Center (MPC).  
2003-2010. MPC Postdoctoral Associate Search Committee (Chair, 2006-2009).  
2003-present. Participated in and chaired dozens of search committees for research staff and technical staff at all levels.

## **INSTITUTIONAL AWARDS**

Special Achievement Awards (3), U.S. Census Bureau (2011, 2012, 2014)  
Recognition of Special Merit (2), College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota (2004, 2008)  
Collaborative Research Grant, Office of International Programs, University of Minnesota (2008)  
Proposal Development Grant (2), Minnesota Population Center (2005, 2007)  
Outstanding Service Award, College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota (2005)  
Dissertation Fellowship, Center for African-American Studies, Carnegie Mellon (2000)