

# Michelle J. Poulin

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2021 – Executive Director, Berkeley Population Center, University of California, Berkeley
- 2014 – 2022 Sociologist, Africa Gender Innovation Lab (GIL), World Bank
- 2012 – 2014 Visiting Scholar; Senior Editor, *Pathways Magazine*; Director of Publications, Center on Poverty and Inequality, and the Institute on Research in the Social Sciences, Stanford University
- 2010 – 2012 Assistant Professor, Sociology Department, and the Women's Studies Program, University of North Texas
- 2008 – 2010 NICHD T32 Postdoctoral Research Fellow (*Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development), Population Studies & Training Center, Brown University
- 2006 – 2008 Population Aging Research Center (PARC) Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Pennsylvania

## EDUCATION

- 2006 Ph.D. Sociology, Boston University  
Dissertation Title: *The Sexual and Social Relations of Youth in Malawi: Strategies for AIDS Prevention*.  
Winner: *Rose Laub Coser Award*, Best Dissertation in Area of Family or Gender and Society, Eastern Sociological Society.  
Dissertation Committee: *Hans-Peter Kohler, Patricia Rieker, John Stone, and Susan Cotts Watkins*
- 1997 B.S. Sociology, Northeastern University  
*Summa cum laude*

## PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS

- Luke, Nancy and Michelle Poulin. 2023. "Sex and Single Women in Midlife: Theoretical Perspectives, Recent Findings, and Future Directions." *Journal of Family Theory & Review* 15(3): 373-360.
- Poulin, Michelle, Kathleen Beegle, and Hongwei Xu. 2021. "Premarital Fertility and Marital Timing in Malawi." *Studies in Family Planning* 52(2): 195-216.

- Beegle, Kathleen and **Michelle Poulin** [equal authorship]. 2017. "Marriage Transitions in Malawi Panel Data." *Studies in Family Planning* 48(4): 307-407.
- Dovel, Kathryn, Sara Yeatman, Susan Watkins, and **Michelle Poulin**. 2016. "Prioritizing Strategies to Reduce AIDS-Related Mortality for Men in sub-Saharan Africa." *AIDS* 30(1): 158-159.
- Poulin, Michelle**, Kathryn Dovel, and Susan Watkins. 2016. "Men with Money and the 'Vulnerable Woman' Client Category in an AIDS Epidemic." *World Development* 85: 16-30.
- Beegle, Kathleen, **Michelle Poulin**, and Gil Shapira [equal authorship]. 2015. "HIV Testing, Behavior Change, and the Transition to Adulthood in Malawi." *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 63(4): 665-684.
- Dovel, Kathryn, Sara Yeatman, Susan Watkins, and **Michelle Poulin**. 2015. "Men's Heightened Risk of AIDS-Related Death: The Legacy of Gendered HIV Testing and Treatment Strategies." *AIDS* 29(10): 1123-1125.
- Angotti, Nicole, Maggie Frye, Amy Kaler, **Michelle Poulin**, Susan Watkins, and Sara Yeatman [equal authorship]. 2014. "Popular Moralities and Institutional Rationalities in Malawi's Struggle against AIDS." *Population and Development Review* 40(3): 447-473.
- Beegle, Kathleen and **Michelle Poulin** [equal authorship]. 2013. "Migration and the Transition to Adulthood in Contemporary Malawi." *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 648(1): 38-51.
- Dionne, Kim Yi and **Michelle Poulin**. 2013. "Ethnic Identity, Region, and Attitudes Toward Male Circumcision: An Exploratory Study in a High-HIV Prevalence Country." *Global Public Health* 8(5): 607-618.
- Ignatow, Gabe, **Michelle Poulin**, Caazena Hunter, and Joseph Comeau. 2013. "Race and Reciprocity: Inter-Household Exchanges in a Multiracial Exurb." *Sociological Forum* 28(1): 21-69.
- Tavory, Iddo and **Michelle Poulin**. 2012. "Sex Work and the Construction of Intimacies: Institutions and Culture in Rural Malawi." *Theory and Society* 41(3): 211-231. *Lead Article*
- Ignatow, Gabe, Sarah M. Webb, **Michelle Poulin**, Ramesh Parajuli, Peter Fleming, Shikha Bedi, and Diptee Neupane. 2012. "Public Libraries and Democracy in Developing Countries: A Culture/Power Approach." *Libri* 62(1): 67-80.
- Poulin, Michelle** and Adamson S. Muula. 2011. "An Inquiry into the Uneven Distribution of Women's HIV Infection in Rural Malawi." *Demographic Research* 25(28): 869-902.
- Poulin, Michelle**. 2010. "Reporting on First Sexual Experience: The Importance of Interviewer-Respondent Interaction." *Demographic Research* 22(11): 237-288.
- Clark, Shelley, **Michelle Poulin**, and Hans-Peter Kohler. 2009. "Marriage Aspirations and HIV/AIDS in Rural Malawi." *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 71(2): 396-416.

- Boileau, Catherine, Shelley Clark, Simona Bignami-Van Assche, **Michelle Poulin**, Georges Reniers, Susan C. Watkins, Hans-Peter Kohler, and Jody Heymann. 2009. "Sexual and Marital Trajectories and HIV Infection among Ever-Married Women in Rural Malawi, 2001-2004." *Sexually Transmitted Infections* 85 (Suppl 1): i27-i33.
- Obare, Francis, Peter Fleming, Philip Anglewicz, Rebecca Thornton, Francis Martinson, Agatha Kapatuka, **Michelle Poulin**, Susan Watkins, and H-P Kohler. 2009. "Acceptance of Repeat Population-Based Voluntary Counseling and Testing for HIV and Socio-Demographic Variations in HIV Incidence in Rural Malawi." *Sexually Transmitted Infections* 85(2): 139-144.
- Poulin, Michelle**. 2007. "Sex, Money, and Premarital Partnerships in Southern Malawi." *Social Science & Medicine* 65(11): 2383-2393.
- Adams, Jimi, Jenny Trinitapoli, and **Michelle Poulin**. (2007). "Letter to the Editor Regarding 'Male and Female Circumcision Associated with Prevalent HIV Infection in Virgins and Adolescents in Kenya, Lesotho, and Tanzania.'" *Annals of Epidemiology* 17(11): 923-925.
- Poulin, Michelle**. 2006. "Giving and Getting: Money Exchange in Intimate Partnerships among Youth in Southern Malawi." In R. B. Riedl, S. Aksartova, and K. Mitchell (eds.), *Bridging Disciplines, Spanning the World. Approaches to Inequality, Identity, and Institutions*. Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies: Princeton University. Monograph Series, No. 4.

#### **POLICY REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

- Niklas Buehren, Markus Goldstein, Paula Gonzalez, Adiam Hagos Hailemicheal, Daniel Kirkwood, Patricia Paskov, **Michelle Poulin**, and Chandni Raja. 2019. *Ethiopia Gender Diagnostic Report: Priorities for Promoting Equity*, [Working Paper, Report #135344](#). Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group. Available here.
- Poulin, Michelle** and Allan Bomuhangi. 2018. *Qualitative Study on Household Livelihood Strategies and Constraints in Zambia*, [Working Paper, Report #130047](#), Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group.
- Goldstein, Markus, James Habyarimana, Joao Montalvao, Mike O'Sullivan, Rachael Pierotti, **Michelle Poulin**, and Chris Udry. 2016. "Land Tenure Security for Men and Women: Evidence from a Randomized Controlled Trial in Uganda." Gender Innovation Lab - Gender Impact Evaluation Technical Concept Note.
- Poulin, Michelle**. 2016. "Business Registration and Access to Finance in Malawi: Qualitative Findings." Mimeo. World Bank Group.
- Poulin, Michelle**. 2015. "An Assessment of 'Gender' in Rural Zambia: A Qualitative Inquiry." Mimeo. World Bank Group.
- Poulin, Michelle**. 2015. "[Women's Livelihood Strategies in Africa: New Findings from a Qualitative Study in Rural Zambia](#)." Blog Post, *Africa Can End Poverty*, WB.
- Poulin, Michelle** and Mary Beth Mattingly. 2014. "A New Democratic Elite?" Research-in-Brief. *Pathways: A Magazine on Poverty, Inequality, and Social Policy* Summer: 8.

Poulin, Michelle. 2013. "A Report on New Poverty and Inequality Research." Research-in-Brief. *Pathways: A Magazine on Poverty, Inequality, and Social Policy* Spring: 8.

Poulin, Michelle. 2012. Book review of *The Secret: Love, Marriage, and HIV* (authors: Jennifer S. Hirsch, Holly Wardlow, Daniel Jordan Smith, Harriet M. Phinney, Shanti Parikh, and Constance A. Nathanson) *Contemporary Sociology* 41(1): 88-90.

Poulin, Michelle. 2012. "Divorce in Contemporary Malawi." *Encyclopedia of Cultural Divorce* by Robert E. Emery, J. Geoffrey Golson, Sage Publications.

## FUNDING AND GRANT SUPPORT

### Active.

"Novel Methods for Estimating Adult Mortality using a Survey," \$412,656. Co-Investigator (co-I), with Dennis Feehan (PI), University of California, Berkeley. NIH, National Institute of Aging (NIA), #R21AG088981, (2024-2027).

"Learning about Death: A Pilot Study to Improve Evidence about Mortality in Africa and Asia" \$30,000. Co-Investigator (co-I), with Dennis Feehan (PI), University of California, Berkeley. Center on the Economics and Demography of Aging (CEDA), (2025-2027).

### Completed.

"Marriage Transitions in Malawi," \$10,000. Principal Investigator (PI), Research Initiation Grant, University of North Texas, (2012-2013).

"Marriage Transitions in Malawi," \$10,000. Principal Investigator (PI), Research Initiation Grant, University of North Texas, (2012-2013).

"Marriage Transitions in Malawi," \$398,000. Co-Principal Investigator (co-PI), with Kathleen Beegle, co-PI, World Bank, Research Committee, World Bank, #P099861, (2007 - 2009).

"Marriage Transitions in Malawi," \$140,000, co-PI, with Kathleen Beegle, co-PI, World Bank, Hewlett Foundation, # P105110, (2007-2008).

"The Sexual and Social Relations of Youth in Malawi: Strategies for AIDS Prevention," co-PI, with Patricia Rieker (co-PI), \$7,300, NSF Dissertation Improvement Grant # SES-0503350, (2005-2006).

## INVITED TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS (THROUGH 2010)

2024 "Seeds of Unity: Examining the Link Between Joint Land Titles and Women's Status in Western Uganda," presented at:

American University, Center on Health, Risk & Society (Washington, DC)  
Sociology of Development Conference (Washington, DC)  
University of California, Berkeley, Department of Demography (Berkeley, CA)  
University of Maryland, Maryland Population Research Center (College Park, MD)  
World Bank, Africa Region (Washington, DC)

2022 "Agricultural Land and the Marital Bond: The Significance of Joint Titles for Women in Western Uganda," presented at the Population Association of America's Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, April.

- 2021 “Cumulative Risk Environments and Adolescent Fertility in Liberia,” presented at the Population Association of America’s Annual Meeting (online), May.
- 2019 “Livelihood Strategies in Zambia: Lived Experiences and Public Commitments to Living a Good Life,” presented at the Sociology of Development Conference, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana, October.
- 2017 “Premarital Birth and Marriage Formation in Malawi,” with Kathleen Beegle, at the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, Cape Town, South Africa, October.
- 2016 “Culture and Success among Women Entrepreneurs in Ethiopia,” presented at the Sociology of Development Conference, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, October.
- 2013 “Poverty in Everyday Life: Early Findings from a Pilot Study in San Francisco,” presented at the Tohoku-Stanford Annual Conference at Stanford University, Stanford, CA, June.
- “Wealthy Men, Vulnerable Women, and the AIDS Epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa,” presented at the Sociology Inequality Workshop at Stanford University, Stanford, CA, March.
- 2012 “Marriage and Personhood in the Human Rights Era in Malawi’s New Democracy,” presented at the Anthropological Association of America’s Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, November.
- “Does HIV Testing Change Behaviors of Young Adults in Malawi?” presented at the Pre-PAA Mini-Conference on Marriage and HIV/AIDS in San Francisco, CA, May.
- “The Case of the Missing Men: The Mismatch Between Men’s Vulnerability to HIV and the ‘Vulnerable Women’ Client Category,” presented at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, May.
- 2011 “Migration and the Transition to Adulthood in Contemporary Malawi,” presented at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., April.
- “Out-of-Wedlock Fertility and the Timing of First Marriage in Malawi,” presented at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., April.
- “The Heart of the Deal: Individualism, Collectivism, and Human Rights in a New Democracy,” presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV, August.
- 2010 “Migration and the Transition to Adulthood in Contemporary Malawi,” presented (by Monica Grant) at the IUSSP Seminar on Youth Migrations and Transitions to Adulthood in Developing Countries, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, December.
- “Integrating Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis,” presented at “Using Mixed Methods to Study the Relationship between Reproductive Health and Poverty: Lessons from the Field: A Methods Workshop,” sponsored by the Population and Poverty Network (Hewlett Foundation), and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, England, November.
- “Intimacies and Ceremonies: Forms of Marriage in a New Democracy,” presented at the Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, May.

## SERVICE TO THE DISCIPLINE

### **(a) Professional Meetings**

2024. Chair. Sociology of Development Conference.  
2024. Chair. Population Association of America annual meeting.  
2023 Organizer, Chair. Population Association of America annual meeting.  
2023 Discussant, UC Berkeley Center on the Economics and Demography of Aging and the USC/UCLA Center for Biodemography and Population Health.  
2021 Chair (x2). Population Association of America annual meeting.  
2019 Organizer, Chair, and Discussant. Population Association of America annual meeting.  
2016 Organizer. Population Association of America annual meeting.  
2012 Chair. Population Association of America annual meeting.  
2011 Organizer. Sixth African Population Conference, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.  
2010 Chair. Population Association of America annual meeting.  
2009 Discussant. Population Association of America annual meeting.  
2008 Chair. Population Association of America annual meeting.  
2007 Chair, Discussant. Fifth African Population Conference, Arusha, Tanzania.  
2007 Chair. Impact of HIV and AIDS on the Well-Being of Older People,” for the Fifth African Population Conference, Arusha, Tanzania, December.  
2006 Discussant. “Panel Research on HIV/AIDS and Other Sexually Transmitted Infections in sub-Saharan Africa,” for the Malawi Diffusion and Ideational Change Project Conference, Philadelphia, PA, October.

### **(b) Referee/Reviewer**

*American Journal of Sociology; American Sociological Review; BMC Public Health; Bulletin of the World Health Organization; Culture, Health, & Sexuality; Demographic Research; Demography; Gender & Society; Journal of Biosocial Science; Journal of Comparative Family Studies; Journal of Marriage and Family; Journal of Youth Studies; International Journal of STD & AIDS; International Migration Review; Malawi Journal of Social Science; Medical Anthropology; Population and Development Review; Population Studies; Social Forces; Social Science & Medicine; Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism; Studies in Family Planning; Violence against Women; World Development; and for the Hewlett Foundation and the Institute for International Education (IIE) Dissertation Fellowship Program*

### **(c) Mentorship and Service**

Association of Population Centers (APC) Fellows Committee (2024-present)  
World Bank, Mentor to 20 national and international graduate students (2014- 2022)  
Stanford University, Mentor to 2 undergraduate students, 3 graduate students (2012-2014)  
University of North Texas,  
Committee member or lead advisor for 6 MA and 7 PhD students (2010-2012)  
Search Committee for the Director of Research Development (2011-2012)  
Alpha Kappa Delta Honors Society, Faculty Advisor (2010-2012)  
Department Academic Writing and Publishing Seminar co-creator and organizer (2010-2012)  
University of North Texas Federation Sociology Committee, Member (2011-2012)

### **(d) Professional Memberships and Affiliations**

American Sociological Association (ASA)  
Section on Sociology of Family  
Section on Sociology of Population  
Population Association of America (PAA)

Union for African Population Studies (UAPS)  
International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP)

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Gender & Social Change (Graduate Seminar), University of North Texas.

*Spring 2012, Spring 2011*

Developing Societies (Undergraduate) University of North Texas.

*Spring 2012*

Gender & Society (Undergraduate), University of North Texas.

*Spring 2011, Fall 2011, Fall 2010*

Principles of Population (Graduate Seminar), with Nancy Luke, Brown University.

*Spring 2009*

Introduction to Social Science Research Methods, University of Malawi, College of Medicine.

*August 2005*

### FIELD RESEARCH AND EXPERIENCE

With the World Bank (Africa Gender Innovation Lab; Social Protection & Labor; Research Group),  
Department for International Development (UK), Heifer International.

Designed and conducted quantitative and qualitative research projects on many dimensions of *health, development, and gender* in the following African countries (2004-2024): Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Togo, Uganda, and Zambia. Extended stays or visits to additional African countries: Botswana, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe.