

CHRISTAL HAMILTON

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2023–present Assistant Professor, School of Public Policy, University of Connecticut
2021–2023 Postdoctoral Research Scientist, Center on Poverty and Social Policy, Columbia University

AFFILIATIONS

2023–present Senior Research Fellow, Center on Poverty and Social Policy, Columbia University
2021–2023 Affiliate, Columbia Population Research Center, Columbia University

EDUCATION

2021 Ph.D., Public Affairs, University of Missouri
2013 Master of Public Affairs, University of Missouri
2006 B.Sc. International Relations, University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica
Minor: Gender Studies

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Social Policy (Poverty/ Material Hardship/ Health Disparities and Inequalities); Health Policy (Medicaid); Education Policy (Choice/ College Access and Persistence); Socioeconomic Inequality; Social Mobility; Policy Analysis; Program Evaluation

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed

Hamilton, C. (2024). The impact of the 2014 Medicaid expansion on the health, health care access, and financial well-being of low-income young adults. *Health Economics*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/hec.4839>

Ananat, E., Glasner, B., **Hamilton, C.**, Parolin, Z., & Pignatti, C. (2024). Effects of the expanded Child Tax Credit on employment outcomes. *Journal of Public Economics*, 238, 105168. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpubeco.2024.105168>

Hamilton, C., Parolin, Z., Wimer, C., & Waldfogel, J. (2024). Transitioning to adulthood: Are the conventional benchmarks as protective today as they were in the past?. *Social Science Research*, 119, 102981.

Hamilton, C., Sariscsany, L., Waldfogel, J., & Wimer, C. (2023). Experiences of poverty around the time of a birth: A research note. *Demography* 60(4): 965–976. <https://doi.org/10.1215/00703370-10837403>

Altman, C. E., **Hamilton, C.**, Bachmeier, J. D., & Spence, C. (2023). Medicaid health insurance coverage among the foreign-born following ACA implementation: Disparities by migration status. *Population Research and Policy Review*, 42(4), 68. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11113-023-09814-x>

Hamilton, C., Altman, C. E., Bachmeier, J. D., & Spence, C. (2022). Legal status and health disparities: An examination of insurance coverage among the foreign-born. *Demographic Research*, 47(16), 453–488.

Altman, C. E., **Hamilton, C.**, & Dondero, M. (2022). The intersection of state-level immigrant policy climates and Medicaid expansion: An examination among immigrants. *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*. 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40615-022-01399-z>

Altman, C. E., Bachmeier, J. D., Spence, C., **Hamilton, C.** (2022). Sick days: Logical versus survey identification of the foreign-born. *International Migration Review*, DOI: 10.1177/01979183221084333

Altman, C. E., Spence, C., **Hamilton, C.**, & Bachmeier, J. D. (2021). Health insurance coverage: Logical versus survey identification of the foreign-born. *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*, 23(3), 606-614.

Spence, C., Bachmeier, J. D., Altman, C. E., & **Hamilton, C.** (2020). The association between legal status and poverty among immigrants: A methodological caution. *Demography*, 57(6), 2327-2335.

Dache-Gerbino, A., Aguayo D., Griffin, M., Hairston, S. L., **Hamilton, C.**, Krause, C., Lane-Bonds, D., & Sweeney H. (2019). Re-imagined post-colonial geographies: Graduate students explore spaces of resistance in the wake of Ferguson. *Research in Education*, 104(1), 3–23.

Under Review

Hamilton, C. “Increasing choice or limiting opportunity? A socio-spatial analysis of charter school location in North Carolina”.

Non-peer Reviewed

Hamilton, C. (2025, February 18). Public insurance improves young adult well-being. *Public Health Post*. <https://publichealthpost.org/health-equity/public-insurance-improves-young-adult-coverage-and-well-being/>

Hamilton, C., Harris, D., Wimer, C., Kimberlin, S., Collyer, S. & Garfinkel, I. (2023). The case for a federal birth grant: A plan to reduce poverty for newborns and their families. *Poverty and Social Policy Brief*, 7(1). Center on Poverty and Social Policy, Columbia University. povertycenter.columbia.edu/publication/case-for-federal-birth-grant

Ananat, E., Glasner, B., **Hamilton, C.**, & Parolin, Z. (2022). Effects of the expanded Child Tax Credit on employment outcomes: Evidence from real-world data from April to December 2021 (No. w29823). *National Bureau of Economic Research*.

Hamilton, C. & Foster, N. (2022, June 13). [The key to reducing childhood poverty? Child tax credits distributed monthly](#) [Op-Ed]. *The Hill*.

Hamilton, C., Wimer, C., Collyer, S., & Sariscsany, L. (2022). Monthly cash payments reduce spells of poverty across the year. *Poverty & Social Policy Brief*, 6(5).

Myroniuk, T. W., Hermsen, J. M., **Hamilton, C.**, David, I., Teti, M., Ranjit, Y. S., ... & Schatz, E. (2022). The MU Study of Seropositivity and Risk for SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19: Crucial Behavioral and Immunological Data from Midwestern College Students. *medRxiv*, 2022-01.

Arteaga, I., Bolanos, D., **Hamilton, C.**, & Mauzy, D. (2013). *Are Missouri's children ready? Examining the importance of including early childhood and afterschool data in Missouri's comprehensive data system*. Report to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

“Changing Tracks of Mexican Immigration: Role of Legal Pathways and Enforcement”

“The Economic Wellbeing of Young Adults: Explaining Discrepancies in Poverty and Hardship Rates”

“Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic-Related Policies on Young Adult and Women Hardship and Health”

“A Look-Back Provision for the Child Tax Credit: Who It Benefits and Why”

“The Impact of the Expanded Child Tax Credit on the College Persistence”

PRESENTATIONS

Hamilton, C., Ananat, L., Dickerson, T., Waldfogel, J., & Wimer, C. “Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic-Related Policies on Young Adult Hardship”. Paper presented at the annual Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference, Seattle, Washington, November 13–15, 2025

Hamilton, C., Curran, M., Dickerson, T., Haralampoudis, A., Waldfogel, J., & Wimer, C. “Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic-Related Policies on Young Adult Hardship”. Poster presented at the Population Association of America 2025 Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, April 11–13, 2025

Kaushal, N. & Hamilton, C. “Changing Tracks of Mexican Immigration: Role of Legal Pathways and Enforcement”. Poster presented at the Population Association of America 2025 Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, April 11–13, 2025

Hamilton, C., Sariscsany, L., Waldfogel, J., & Wimer, C. “Experiences of Poverty Around the Time of a Birth”. Beyond Implications: Research into Policy Conference, Hartford, CT, December 12, 2024

Hamilton, C., Curran, M., & Collyer, S. “A Lookback Provision for the Child Tax Credit: Who It Potentially Benefits and Why”. Paper presented at the annual Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference, National Harbor, Maryland, November 21–23, 2024

Hamilton, C., Waldfogel, J., & Wimer, C. “Hardship Rates Among Young Adults: What Accounts for Discrepancies Compared to Poverty Rates”. Poster presented at the Population Association of America 2024 Annual Meeting, Columbus, Ohio, April 17–20, 2024

Hamilton, C., Sariscsany, L., Waldfogel, J., & Wimer, C. “Experiences of Poverty Around the Time of a Birth”. Paper presented at the annual Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference, Washington, DC, November 17–19, 2022

Altman, C. E., Hamilton, C., Spence, C., & Bachmeier, J. D. “Health Coverage among the Foreign-born Post ACA: Disparities by Migration Status”. Poster presented at the Population Association of America 2021 Annual Meeting, Virtual, May 5–8, 2021 (Best Poster Award Winner)

Hamilton, C., “The Impact of the Affordable Care Act’s Medicaid Expansion on Young Adults’ Health and Health Care Access”. Paper presented at the 2021 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Student Conference, Virtual, May 5, 2021

Altman, C. E., Hamilton, C., Spence, C., & Bachmeier, J. D. “Health Coverage among the Foreign-born Post ACA: Disparities by Migration Status”. Paper presented at the annual Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference, Virtual, November 11–13, 2020

Altman, C. E., Hamilton, C., Spence, C., & Bachmeier, J. D. “Medicaid Coverage among the Foreign-born Post ACA: Disparities by Migration Status”. Poster presented at the 2020 Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science Conference, Virtual, September 30–October 02, 2020

Hamilton, C., “The Effect of Charter Schools Expansion on College Readiness and Postsecondary Intentions”. 2020 APPAM DC Regional Student Conference, Washington, DC (Conference cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic)

Hamilton, C., Altman, C. E., Bachmeier, J. D., & Spence, C. “Legal Status and Health Disparities: An Examination of Insurance Coverage among the Foreign-Born”. Poster accepted in the Population Association of America 2020 Annual Meeting, Virtual, April 22–23, 2020

Hamilton, C. “The Impact of the Affordable Care Act’s Medicaid Expansion on Young Adults’ Health and Health Care Access”. Poster presented at the annual Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference, Denver, CO, November 7–9, 2019.

Hamilton, C. “The Effect of Charter Schools Expansion on College Readiness and Postsecondary Intentions”. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Education Finance and Policy, Kansas City, MO, March 21–23, 2019.

Hamilton, C. “Increasing Choice or Limiting Opportunity? A Socio-Spatial Analysis of Charter School Location in North Carolina”. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Education Finance and Policy, Portland, OR, March 15–17, 2018.

Hamilton, C. “Increasing Choice or Limiting Opportunity? A Socio-Spatial Analysis of Charter School Location in North Carolina”. Presented at the annual Research and Creative Activities Forum, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO, March 10, 2018.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Hamilton, C. *Medicaid as a Financial Support for Low-income Individuals and Families*. Beyond the Basics: Medicaid and Financial Stability in Ohio [Webinar]. Health Policy Institute of Ohio, Online Event, March 04, 2025

Hamilton, C. *Experiences of Poverty Around the Time of a Birth: A Research Note*. Starting Strong: Providing Income Support to Families During Pregnancy and the First Year of Life [Webinar]. National Association for Welfare Research and Statistics (NAWRS) Virtual Event Series, Virtual, July 24, 2024

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Carrazana, C. (May 11, 2022). Low-income families can still get the child tax credit through a new filing portal. Here’s how. *The 19th*. <https://19thnews.org/2022/05/child-tax-credit-new-filing-portal-families/>

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Connecticut

Instructor of Record

- Social Policy (PP 5344/ PP 4034). MPP Program, School of Public Policy. Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024, and Fall 2025
- Applied Research Design (PP 5370). MPA Program, School of Public Policy. Spring 2024, Spring 2025, Spring 2026

University of Missouri

Graduate Teaching Assistant

- Research Methods and Inquiry in Public Affairs I (PA 8180), Fall 2016

Guest Lecture

- Social Class and Mobility (SOCL-312-01). Department of Sociology, Trinity College. Fall 2024. Title: *Social Welfare Policies*

NON-ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

- 2014–2015 Children’s Services Associate (Research), Children’s Authority of Trinidad and Tobago, Trinidad and Tobago
- 2009–2010 Sociology Teacher, Holy Faith Convent, Penal, Trinidad and Tobago
- 2007–2009 Assistant Language Teacher (Japan Exchange and Teaching Program), Kanra Town Board of Education, Kanra, Gunma, Japan

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

- 2024 Grant Award, Center on Poverty and Social Policy, Columbia University
- 2020 Travel Award, Graduate Professional Council, University of Missouri
- 2019 Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy Grant and Irving Louis Horowitz Award
- 2019 Dissertation Fund Award, Truman School of Public Affairs, University of Missouri
- 2018 Travel Award, Graduate Professional Council, University of Missouri
- 2011 Fulbright Foreign Student Program, Institute of International Education, USA
- 2002 Additional National Scholarship, Government of Trinidad and Tobago

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2022 National Research Center on Poverty and Economic Mobility Early-Career Mentoring Institute, Institute for Research on Poverty University of Wisconsin-Madison and the Center for Poverty Research University of California, Davis
- 2019 Inequality by the Numbers Workshop at the Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality, The City University of New York
- 2018 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Equity and Inclusion Fellowship

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

University of Connecticut

- 2025–present CT Policy Talks, School of Public Policy
- 2024–2025 Research Seminar Committee Member, School of Public Policy
- 2024–present MPP Committee Member, School of Public Policy

Service to the Profession

- 2023–present Journal Referee
 - Contemporary Economic Policy; Demography; Development Economics; Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health; Journal of Population Economics
- 2018–2019 Conference Planning Volunteer, Association for Education Finance and Policy

University of Missouri

- 2018–2021 College of Arts and Science Non-Academic Careers Committee
- 2017–2021 President, Truman School Doctoral Students Association
- 2018–2019 Assistant Director of Professional Development, Graduate Professional Council
- 2016–2018 General Assembly Representative for Truman School PhD students, Graduate Professional Council
- 2011–2013 Truman School Grant Writing Program
- 2011–2013 University of Missouri Fulbright Organization
- 2012–2013 Treasurer, Association of Mizzou Public Affairs Students

Community Service

- 2022–2023 Mentor, Read Ahead, New York, NY

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
Population Association of America
Association for Education Finance and Policy
Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science

TECHNICAL SKILLS

STATA; ArcGIS; SAS; R; SPSS; Microsoft Project; Visio