

Erykah N. Benson

Literature, Science, and Arts Building
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Education

- In Progress* **Ph.D. in Sociology**, The University of Michigan - Ann Arbor, MI
Doctoral Candidate
Advisor: Dr. Jeffrey Morenoff
- 2024 **Master of Arts**, Sociology, The University of Michigan - Ann Arbor, MI
- 2021 **Bachelor of Arts (High Honors)**, Michigan State University - East Lansing, MI
Thesis Advisor: Dr. John Waller

Research Areas

Structural Racism; Social Demography; Technology and Digital Studies; Survey Methods

Peer-Reviewed Publications and Manuscripts Under Review

- 2024 Hudgins, K., **Benson, E.**, Carr, S., Simington, J., Walker, Z., Cruz, J., Hutchings, V., Lewis, E., Ostfeld, M. C., & Young, A. Crafting Democratic Futures: Understanding Political Conditions and Racialized Attitudes Toward Black Reparations. *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences*, 10(3), 49–67. <https://doi.org/10.7758/RSF.2024.10.3.03>
- 2021 **Benson, E.** “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.

Policy Reports

- 2023 **Benson, E.** & Simington, J. “Forty Acres and a Mule? How Flint residents believe the government should repay Black Americans.” [Issue Brief](#). Center for Racial Justice.
- 2023 **Benson, E.** & Simington, J. “Collective Remembrance and Detroiters’ Views Toward Racial Inequity.” [Issue Brief](#). Center for Racial Justice.
- 2022 **Benson, E.** & Simington, J. . “The Electoral Impact of Racial Reckoning: The Effect of Reparations Policy on Voter Engagement in Detroit.” [Issue Brief](#). Center for Racial Justice.
- 2022 Wileden, L. & **Benson, E.** “The Economic Well-Being of Detroit Residents Two Years Into the COVID-19 Pandemic.” [Issue Brief](#). Detroit Metro Area Communities Study.

Working Papers

Benson, E. Delivering Change in the Motor City?: Usage Patterns and Affective Experiences in Online Grocery and Meal Delivery in the City of Detroit, MI.

Benson, E. Catharsis, Community, and Craft: Catharsis, Community, and Craft: How Black Creatives Make Meaning of Online Community-building in the Platform Economy.

Additional Research Experience

2024 - Present Research Assistant, Reparative Artificial Intelligence (AI)
The University of Michigan - Ann Arbor, LSA Humanities Collaboratory
Drs. Germaine Halegoua, Matthew Bui, Apryl Williams, Ellie Abrons, Tung-Hui Hu

2022 - Present Research Fellow, Center for Racial Justice
The University of Michigan - Ann Arbor, Ford School of Public Policy
Dr. Mara Ostfeld

2021 - Present Research Assistant, Detroit Metro Area Communities Study
The University of Michigan - Ann Arbor, Poverty Solutions
Drs. Jeffrey Morenoff, Elisabeth Gerber, Mara Ostfeld

2019 - 2021 Principal Investigator, *Sins of Omission: A Visual Content Analysis of the Portrayal of Racial Minorities*
Michigan State University - East Lansing, College of Social Science
Drs. John Waller, Melissa Fore, Heather McCauley

Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

External Fellowships

2023 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship

2021 Population Studies Research Traineeship, Eunice Kennedy Shriver NICHD, 5T32HD007339-37

External Awards

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

Internal Funding and Awards

- 2024 Rackham Conference Travel Award, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor (\$900)
- 2023 Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor (\$1,500)
- 2023 National Center for Institutional Diversity Anti-Racism Grant, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor (\$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)

Additional Honors

- 2024 Graduate Student Mentorship Award, University of Michigan Department of Sociology
- 2023 Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship Honorable Mention

Conference Presentations

Academic Conferences

- 2024 **Benson, E.** “Driving Change in the Motor City? Usage Patterns and Affective Experiences in Online Grocery and Meal Delivery in the City of Detroit, MI”. September 26th - 27th, 2024. Detroit Food Summit, Detroit Food Policy Council. Detroit, MI. [Public Link](#).
- 2024 **Benson, E.** “Black Creatives in the Platform Gig Economy”. April 17th - 20th, 2024. Population Association of America. Columbus, OH.
- 2024 **Benson, E.** “Catharsis, Community, and Craft: How Black Creatives Make Meaning of Online Community-building in the Platform Economy”. April 2nd, 2024. 2024 NCID Anti-Racism Graduate Research Showcase. Ann Arbor, MI. [Public Link](#).
- 2024 **Benson, E.** “Catharsis, Community, and Craft: How Black Creatives Make Meaning of Online Community-building in the Platform Economy”. March 23rd, 2024. Black Graduate Student Association Research Symposium. Ann Arbor, MI.
- 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. Ann Arbor, MI.

Invited Community Presentations

- 2024 **Benson, E.** “Technology, Food Access, and Reparation: Why Public Attitudes Matter”. Detroit Promise Program. August 21, 2024. University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, MI.
- 2024 **Benson, E.** “Voting in the Michigan Primaries”. *MountUp!* For Social Justice Series. Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church. Co-Organizer & Presenter. February 26, 2024. Virtual.
- 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. Virtual.
- 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. Virtual.
- 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. Virtual.
- 2021 **Benson, E.** “Candid Convo on COVID-19”. *MountUp!* For Social Justice Series. Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church. Organizer & Presenter. January 21, 2021. Virtual.
- 2020 **Benson, E.** “Get the Voter 411!” *MountUp!* For Social Justice Series. Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church. Organizer & Presenter. October 30, 2020. Virtual.

Teaching Experience

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Guest Speaker, PUBPOL475: Race, Place, and Inequality, *Winter 2024*

Wayne State University, Detroit

Teaching Assistant, Basic Writing (ENG 1010), Dr. Thomas Trimble, *Summer 2021*

Michigan State University, East Lansing

Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Sociology (SOC 100), Dr. Eric Beasley, *Winter 2020*

Teaching Assistant, International Development & Change (SOC 161), Dr. Benjamin Marley, *Fall 2019*

Select Media Coverage

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

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

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

Departmental and Professional Service

2023 - 2024 Student Coordinator, Race & Racial Identities Workshop, U-M - Ann Arbor, MI
 2023 - 2024 Mentor, Applied Policy Internship and Research Experience Program, U-M - Ann Arbor, MI
 2022 - 2024 Graduate Student Recruitment Representative, U-M - Ann Arbor, MI

Research Skills

Stata Statistical Software, ArcGIS Pro, Dedoose, Excel

Undergraduate Mentorship

2024 - Maegan Davis, University of Michigan, Sociology Undergraduate Research Opportunity (SURO)
 2024 - Morgan Chambers, Spelman University, Applied Policy Internship and Research Experience Program
 2024 - Love Lundy, Spelman University, Public Policy and International Affairs Program
 2023 - Lexi Turner, Spelman University, Applied Policy Internship and Research Experience Program

Professional & Academic Associations

Professional Membership

American Sociological Association
 Association of Black Sociologists
 Population Association of America

Affiliations

Bodies, Identities, Intimacies, and Technologies (BIIT) Lab, Digital Studies Institute
 Institute for Social Research
 University of Michigan Population Studies Center
 Stone Family Center for Inequality Dynamics
 Center for Racial Justice at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy
 Michigan State University Black Alumni Association