

KEVIN J.A. THOMAS

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EDUCATION

December 2004: University of Pennsylvania, Ph.D.

Dissertation: *The Demography of Migrant Populations in South Africa*

Committee: Tukufu Zuberi (Chair); Douglas Massey; Hans-Peter Kohler

2003: University of Pennsylvania, M.A.

2001: Western Michigan University, Masters in Development Administration

1998: University of Sierra Leone, B.A. Honors

EMPLOYMENT2007-present *Pennsylvania State University*

Associate Professor of Sociology, Demography, and African Studies (2013 to present)

Assistant Professor (Department of Sociology 2008 to 2013; Department of African and African American Studies 2007 to 2010)

Faculty Associate, Population Research Institute, Pennsylvania State University (2007 to present)

2004-2007 *Harvard University*

David Bell Research Fellow, Center for Population and Development Studies (2004 to 2005);

Research Fellow, Harvard Initiative for Global Health/Center for Population and Development Studies (2005 to 2007).

2002-2004: *University of Pennsylvania*

Research Assistant, Population Studies Center (African Census Analysis Project)

2002

International Organization for Migration (IOM), Geneva, Switzerland.

Research Intern, Migration Policy Research Program

1999-2001 *Western Michigan University*

Graduate Assistant Student-Advisor, Center for Academic Support Programs

HONORS AND AWARDS

2014 Honorable Mention, Early Career Award, American Sociological Association (REM section)

2012-2014 Young Scholar, Foundation for Child Development

2009 Fellow, Rock Ethics Institute, Pennsylvania State University

2009 Roy C Buck Award for Outstanding Scholarly Publication by a Junior Faculty member, College of Liberal Arts, Pennsylvania State University

2008 IPUMS International Outstanding Publication Award to a Junior Scholar, Minnesota Population Center, University of Minnesota

2004 David Bell Fellowship, Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies

2003 Population Policy Communication Fellow, Population Reference Bureau

2002 Fogarty Institute Fellow, University of Pennsylvania

2001 Mellon Foundation Fellow, University of Pennsylvania

2001 Phi Kappa Phi Academic Honor Society

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Migration, Immigration, Race, Inequality, Children and Families, Africa

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**BOOK**

2014. Thomas, K.J.A. *Diverse Pathways: Race and the Socioeconomic Incorporation of Black, White, and Arab-origin Africans in the US*. Lansing, Michigan State University Press.

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

Smith-Greenaway, E., and Thomas, K.J.A. 2014: "Exploring child mortality risks associated with diverse patterns of maternal migration in Haiti", *Population Research and Policy Review*, DOI 10.1007/s11113-014-9326-9

Thomas, K.J.A. and Inkpen, C. 2013, "Migration dynamics, entrepreneurship, and African development: Lessons from Malawi", *International Migration Review*, 47(4): 844-873

Thomas, K.J.A. 2012 "Migration processes, family contexts, and schooling dropout among Black youth"; *Demography*, 49(2): 477-498

Thomas, K.J.A. 2012 "Race and enrollment disparities among the children of immigrants: An examination of differences between the children of Black and White Africans"; *International Migration Review*. 26(1), 37-60.

Thomas, K.J.A. 2012 "Migration, household configurations, and the well-being of adolescent orphans in Rwanda", *Population Research and Policy Review*, 31(4): 587-607

Thomas, Kevin J.A. and Logan, B.I. 2012 "Female African Migration to the US and its policy implications", *Canadian Journal of African Studies*, 46(2): 87-107

Logan, B I and Thomas, K.J.A 2012: "The US Diversity Visa Program and the Transfer of Skills from Africa"; *International Migration*. 50(2): 1-19

Thomas, K.J.A: 2012 "The human capital characteristics and household living standards of returning international migrants in Eastern and Southern Africa", *International Migration*, 50(4): 85-106

Thomas, K.J.A. 2011 "Familial influences on child poverty in Black immigrant, US-born Black, and non-Black Immigrant Families", *Demography* 48(2): 437-460

Landale, N., Thomas, K.J.A., and Van Hook, J 2011 "The living arrangements of the children of immigrants", *Future of Children*, 21(1): 43-70

Thomas, K.J.A. 2011 "What explains the increasing trend in African emigration to the US?", *International Migration Review*, 45(1): 3-28

Thomas, K.J.A. 2011 "Sociodemographic determinants of language transitions among the children of French and Spanish-Caribbean immigrants in the US", *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 37(4): 543-559

Thomas, K.J.A 2010 "Household context, generational status, and English proficiency among the children of African Immigrants in the US", *International Migration Review*, 44(10): 142-172

Thomas, K.J.A. 2010 "Racial and ethnic differences in education-occupation mismatch status in South Africa and the United States", *Journal of International Migration and Integration*, 11: 383-401

Thomas, K.J.A. 2010 "Family contexts and schooling disruption among orphans in post-genocide Rwanda", *Population Research and Policy Review*, 29(6): 819-842

Thomas, K.J.A 2009 "Parental characteristics and the schooling progress of Black immigrant and native-born children", *Demography* 46(3): 513- 534

Winner of Roy C Buck Award for outstanding scholarly publication by a junior faculty member, College of Liberal Arts, Pennsylvania State University

Thomas, K.J.A 2008: "Return Migration in Africa and the relationship between educational attainment and labor market success: Evidence from Uganda", *International Migration Review*, 43(3) 652-674

Reviewed in "Discoveries: New and Noteworthy Social Research", *Contexts*, Spring 2009

Stevens, G., Dias R.H., Thomas, K.J.A, Rivera, J.A, Carvalho, N.,Barquera,S. Hill, K., Ezzati, M. 2008. "Characterizing the Epidemiological Transition in Mexico: National and Subnational Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors" *PLoS Medicine* 5(6): 900-910

Hill, K. , K.J. Thomas , C. AbouZhar , N. Walker , L. Say , M. Inoue and E. Suzuki (2007). "Estimates of Maternal Mortality Worldwide between 1990 and 2005", *Lancet* 370(9595) 1311-1319

Thomas, K.J.A. 2007: "Child mortality and Socioeconomic Status: Differences among immigrants and the native-born in South Africa", *International Migration Review*, 41(1) 40-74

Madhavan, S and Thomas, K.J.A 2005: "Early Childbearing and Schooling: New Evidence from South Africa", *Comparative Education Review*, 49(4) 452-467, Special Edition on Education and Public Health.

Thomas, K.J.A 2004: "Disability among the children of migrants in South Africa", *African Population Studies* 19(2) Sup. B. 139-164

Thomas, K.J.A 2002: "Development Projects and Involuntary Population Displacement in Africa: Assessing the World Bank's mitigation strategies" *Population Research and Policy Review*, 21(4): 339-349.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Thomas, K. J. A. 2012. *A demographic profile of Black Caribbean immigrants in the US*, Migration Policy Institute, Washington, DC, 1-26

Zuberi, T., and Thomas, K. J. A., 2012. "Demographic projections, the environment, and food security in sub-Saharan Africa", United Nations Development Program working paper, WP 2012-001

Thomas, K. J.A. and Zuberi, T. 2012. "Demographic change, the IMPACT model, and food security in sub-Saharan Africa", United Nations Development Program working paper, WP 2012-003

Wilson, K.B., and Thomas, K.J.A. (Eds.) 2009 *Expanding what we know through research across the African Diaspora*, Africana Research Center, Pennsylvania State University / Tasora Books, pp. 1 to 234.

RESEARCH GRANTS

"Parental education-occupation mismatch status and child poverty in Black immigrant families". Foundation for Child Development, 2012 to 2014, \$150,000 (Role: P.I)

"Exploring the educational experiences of Black immigrant college students," Social Science Research Institute, Pennsylvania State University, Universities and Colleges, 2010-2011, \$5,700 (Role: Investigator)

"Unpacking the moral dimensions of the brain drain in the African Free Trade area", 2010. Rock Ethics Institute, \$ 4,500, (Role: Co-P.I.)

Grant for the incorporation of ethical principles in Racial and Ethnic Inequality in America course; 2010, Rock Ethics Institute, \$ 4,500, (Role: P.I.)

"The educational and linguistic outcomes of the children of African immigrants in the US" Russell Sage Foundation, 2008-2010, \$ 21,867, (Role: PI)

"The dynamics of poverty among the children of Black immigrants in the US", Young Investigator Development Grant, University of Kentucky Poverty Center, 2008-2009, \$7,500, (Role: P.I.)

COURSES TAUGHT

Pennsylvania State University:

Social Demography; Migration, Urbanization, and Policy in the Developing World; Racial and Ethnic Inequality in America; Marriage, Sexuality, and the Black Family; Introduction to Contemporary Africa; Poverty in Africa

Harvard University 2004-2007:

Introduction to Demographic Methods, Department of Population and International Health, (Teaching assistant for Professor Alan Hill)

University of Pennsylvania 2004:

Summer Institute for Demographic Research (SIDR): *Introduction to Demography*.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Thomas, K.J.A., 2014: "Black immigrants, Education-Occupation mismatches, and the poverty outcomes of their children", Duke University Population Research Institute (DUPRI)

Thomas, K.J.A., 2012: "Black immigrants, their children, and their families", Migration Policy Institute, Washington, D.C.

Thomas, K.J.A., 2012: "The new immigrant paradox: Highly-skilled Black immigrants, occupational mismatches, and the economic disadvantage of Black children in immigrant families", Department of Sociology Colloquium Series; University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Thomas, K.J.A., 2012: "Highly-skilled Black immigrants in low-skilled jobs: Implications for child poverty disparities in immigrant families", Department of Africana Studies and the Maryland Population Center, University of Maryland.

Thomas, K.J.A. 2012: "Why are trends in African migration to the US increasing", Immigration and Poverty conference, University of California Davis.

Thomas, K.J.A. 2012, "Migration processes, family contexts, and schooling dropout among Black youth", Colloquium, Department of Sociology, Rice University.

Thomas, K. J., Zuberi, T. 2011 "Demographic Change, the Impact Model, and Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa," African economic conference, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Thomas, K.J.A., 2010 "Migration processes, family contexts, and schooling dropout among Black youths", Center for Migration and Development, Princeton University.

Thomas, K.J.A 2009 "The human capital characteristics and household living standards of returning international migrants in Eastern and Southern Africa", Minnesota Population Center Colloquium Series, University of Minnesota.

Thomas, K.J.A 2009 "What can census data tell us about the language assimilation of the children of African immigrants in the US?", Diaspora and Language conference organized by the Migration Studies Project and the Center for Language Acquisition of the Pennsylvania State University.

Thomas, K.J.A 2009 "Family contexts and schooling disparities between the children of immigrant and US-born Blacks", Center for Human Development and Family Research in Diverse Contexts, Pennsylvania State University.

Thomas, K.J.A 2008 "Consequences of urban resettlement among populations displaced by conflicts in Africa: Evidence from Sierra Leone", Invited presentation at the Annual meeting for the Society for Applied Anthropology, Memphis, Tennessee.

Thomas, K.J.A 2005: "The birth outcomes of migrants in South Africa: What role does socioeconomic status play? Inter-University Committee on International Migration Seminar, Massachusetts Institute for Technology (MIT), April 2005.

OTHER CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

Inkpen, C. and Thomas, K.J.A. 2013 "Return migration and attitudes towards contraception", Paper accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association.

Zuberi, T., and Thomas, K. J. A., 2012. "Demographic projections, the environment, and food security in sub-Saharan Africa", Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America.

Thomas, K. J.A. and Zuberi, T. 2012. "Demographic change, the IMPACT model, and food security in sub-Saharan Africa", Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America.

Thomas, K.J.A., 2010 "Migration, household contexts, and the well-being of orphans in post-genocide Rwanda", ISA World Congress of Sociology, Gothenburg, Sweden

Thomas, K.J.A. 2009 "How do family contexts affect child poverty among young children with Black immigrant, US-born Black, and non-Black immigrant parents?", University of Kentucky Poverty Center.

Thomas, K.J.A. 2009: "How do household contexts and generational status affect the English language proficiency of the children of African migrants in the US?" Diasporas, Migration, and Identities: Crossing Borders, New Directions conference, Center for Research on Nationalism, Ethnicity, and Multiculturalism (CRONEM) at the University of Surrey, United Kingdom.

Thomas, K.J.A 2008 Racial identity and the mismatch between education and occupation among immigrants: A comparison of the United States and South Africa, Brown Bag Series of the Africana Research Center, Pennsylvania State University.

Thomas, K.J.A 2008 "Urban population growth and the prospects for achieving UN Millennium Development Goals in the developing world" Paper presented at the 2008 annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Boston, Massachusetts.

Thomas, K.J.A 2007 "Who brings in more skills?: The Human Capital Characteristics of Returning Migrants and Immigrants in Eastern and Southern Africa" Paper presented at the Fifth African Population Conference, Arusha Tanzania, 10-14 December 2007.

Thomas, K.J.A and Hill K 2007 "What can census data tell us about adult mortality in Lesotho and Botswana?" Paper presented at the Fifth African Population Conference, Arusha Tanzania, 10-14 December 2007.

Thomas, K.J.A and Hill K 2007 "Evaluating the Performance of Death Distribution Methods for Estimating Death Registration Completeness: Applications to Data from High-Income Countries". Paper presented at the 2007 meeting of the Population Association of America in New York.

Thomas, K.J.A., Hill K, Stanton C, Choy Y, 2006: "Maternal Mortality In Developing Countries: Signs of Limited Progress" Paper presented at the Annual meeting of the American Public Health Association, November 2006.

Thomas, K.J.A 2006: "Sex disparities in childhood growth and nutrition: The influence of child mortality and socioeconomic conditions" Brown Bag presentation, Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies, May 2006.

Thomas, K.J.A 2006: "Recent child bearing and the search for employment: How do migrants differ?" Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America, California, April 2006.

Thomas, K.J.A 2005: "Socioeconomic status and racial disparities in child mortality in South Africa", Paper presented at the annual Fellows Forum, Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies, May 2005.

Zuberi T and Thomas, K.J.A 2005: "How do Migrants Fare in the Southern African Migration System?" Paper presented at the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) conference, Tours, France.

Thomas, K.J.A 2004: "Disability and school enrollment among the children of migrants in South Africa", Paper prepared for the Population Policy Communication Fellowship Program of the Population Reference Bureau.

Thomas, K.J.A 2003: "The Dynamics of Internal Displacement and Urban Encampment in Sierra Leone" Paper presented at the seminar on the Demography of Conflict and Violence organized by the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP), Thorbjørnrud, Norway, November 2003.

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Chair, Underrepresented Faculty Recruitment Committee, Department of Sociology, 2013-2014

Chair, Faculty Search Committee, African Studies Program, 2013 – 2014

Member, Colloquium Committee, Sociology department, 2013 - Present

Member, Advisory Committee, Department of Sociology, 2011-2013

Member, Minority Faculty Recruitment Committee, Department of Sociology, 2010-

Member, Colloquium Committee, Department of Sociology 2010-

Member, Department Head Search Committee, Dept. of African and African American Studies 2010

Member, Planning Committee, DeJong Lecture in Social Demography, Department of Sociology

Member, Doctoral Program Proposal Committee, Dept. of African and African American Studies, 2008 to 2010

Member, Advisory Committee, Dept. of African and African American Studies, 2008 to 2010

OTHER UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Member, Global Studies Committee, College of Liberal Arts, 2014

Member, Advisory Board, Population Research Institute, Pennsylvania State University, 2013 to present

Member, Advisory Board, Africana Research Center, Pennsylvania State University, 2012 to present

Member, Pennsylvania State University's Presidential Task Force on Child Maltreatment, 2012

Member, Faculty Advisory Committee, College of Liberal Arts, 2010 to 2012

Honors Advisor, Shreyer Honors College, Pennsylvania State University, 2009 Academic Year

Faculty Research Advisor for the McNair Scholars Program, Summer 2008, Summer 2010

Member, Seed Grant Review Committee, Center for Family Research in Diverse Contexts 2010

Speaker on *How to present papers at conferences* at the annual achievement conference of the Office of the Vice Provost for Educational Equity, Spring 2008

SERVICE ON PH.D DISSERTATION COMMITTEES

2013 Natasha Wilson; Special Education, Pennsylvania State University (Member)

2012 Emily Smith-Greenway; Sociology and Demography, Pennsylvania State University (Member)

2011/13 Jessica Heckert: Human Development, Family Studies and Demography, Pennsylvania State University

2010 Michael Parks: Sociology, Pennsylvania State University

2010/12 David Perez: Higher Education, Pennsylvania State University
 2009/11 Raymond Tutu: Geography, Pennsylvania State University

SERVICE ON M.A. THESIS COMMITTEES

2013 Christopher Inkpen: Sociology, Pennsylvania State University
 2011/12 Lauren Bachan: Sociology, Pennsylvania State University

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Editorial Service

2011 – Editorial Board, *Encyclopedia of Migration*, Springer Publishers
 2009-2010: Editorial Team Member, *The Africana Studies Center Book of Scholarship: Expanding What we Know about the African Diaspora*, Africana Studies Center, Pennsylvania State University

Manuscript Reviewer

African Population Studies; Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science; American Journal of Sociology, American Sociological Review; Demographic Research; Demography; Ethnic and Racial Studies; International Migration; GeoJournal; International Migration Review; Journal of International Migration and Integration; Journal of Marriage and Family; Oxford University Press; Population Research and Policy Review; Rural Sociology; Social Problems; Social Science and Medicine; Sociological Forum; Sociological Perspectives; Urban Studies; World Politics.

Grant Reviewer

2011: Russell Sage Foundation - Immigration Program
 2012: WOTRO Science for Global Development – Migration, Development, and Conflict program

Other

2014: Member, Panel on the Integration of Immigrants into US Society, National Academy of Sciences
 2013: Expert witness, San Francisco Immigration Court, CA
 2013: Session organizer, 2014 PAA annual conference
 2013: Ad hoc member Social Sciences and Population Studies Study Section (NICHD)
 2013: Member, Organizing Committee, 2014 PAA annual conference
 2013: Discussant: Urbanization and child health disparities, PAA annual conference
 2012-2015: Member Dorothy Thomas Award Committee, Population Association of America
 2011: Discussant: Educational outcomes of immigrants, PAA annual conference

Consulting Activities

2011: Migration Policy Institute, Washington, DC.
 2011: United Nations Development Program
 2007: The World Bank: Health, Nutrition, and Population Division
 2006-07: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Division of Evaluation Policy and Planning

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association
 African Studies Association
 Population Association of America
 Union for African Population Studies
 International Sociological Association

International Union for the Scientific Study of Population