

# JENNIFER WATLING NEAL

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Institute for Juvenile Research (M/C 747)  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
1747 W. Roosevelt Rd.  
Chicago, IL 60608

HOME ADDRESS AND  
PHONE REMOVED

E-mail: [jwtli1@uic.edu](mailto:jwtli1@uic.edu)

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Social Networks  
Childhood Aggressive Behavior  
School-Based Interventions  
Program Evaluation

## TEACHING INTERESTS

Statistics and Research Methods  
Children and Youth  
Social Network Analysis  
Program Evaluation

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2008-  
present **NIMH Postdoctoral Fellow**  
Institute for Juvenile Research  
University of Illinois at Chicago

## EDUCATION

2008 **Doctor of Philosophy:** University of Illinois at Chicago  
**Major:** Community and Prevention Research  
**Minor:** Statistics, Methods, and Measurement  
**Dissertation:** Examining relations in relational aggression: A social network approach  
**Committee Members:** Karina Olga Reyes (chair), Marc Atkins, David Henry, Pamela Popielarz, Edison Trickett

**Abstract:** In this set of studies, I explore associations between elementary school children's location within their grade peer networks and levels of relational aggression. First, I demonstrate how cognitive social structures can be used to gather accurate data about children's classroom peer networks in school-based settings with missing data. Second, I examine the relationships between key demographic characteristics including sex, age, and race, and peer network features. Third, I demonstrate how network features, including size, ego network density, and demographic homophily, affect teacher-rated and peer-nominated relational aggression above and beyond commonly demonstrated effects of children's sex and age.

2004 **Master of Arts:** University of Illinois at Chicago  
**Major:** Community and Prevention Research  
**Minor:** Statistics, Methods and Measurement  
**Thesis:** The impact of contextual exposure to aggression on children's normative beliefs and aggressive behavior  
**Committee Members:** Karina Olga Reyes (chair), David Henry, Edison Trickett

2001 **Bachelor of Science – Psychology,** University of Arizona (Summa Cum Laude)  
**Bachelor of Arts – Sociology,** University of Arizona  
**Minor:** Ecology and Evolutionary Biology  
**Thesis:** The role of parental involvement and teacher-child relationships in early school outcomes  
**Chair:** Angela Taylor

## GRANTS

- 2008-2011 Primary Investigator, National Institute of Mental Health, Ruth L. Kirschstein Postdoctoral National Research Service Award (F32), "Modeling the Effects of Social Networks on the Diffusion of School-Based Interventions", Priority Score: 128, Percentile Score: 4.4, \$167,480.
- 2008-2009 Co-Investigator, Midwestern Sociological Society Endowment Grant Award, "The Seeds of Collaboration: An Analysis of Sociology Graduate Student Social Networks", \$1100.
- 2005-2006 Primary Investigator, Provost Award for Graduate Research, University of Illinois at Chicago, "Examining Relations in Relational Aggression", \$2000.

## PUBLICATIONS

[Available at <http://www2.uic.edu/~jwatli1/>]

- Neal, J.W.** (2008). Cracking the missing data problem: Applying Krackhardt's cognitive social structures to school-based social network research. *Sociology of Education*, 81, 140-162.
- Neal, J.W.**, Shernoff, E.S., Frazier, S.L., Stachowicz, E., Frangos, R., & Atkins, M.S. (2008). Change from within: Engaging teacher key opinion leaders in the diffusion of interventions in urban schools. *The Community Psychologist*, 41(2), 53-57.
- Neal, J.W.** (2007). Why social networks matter: A structural approach to the study of relational aggression in middle childhood and adolescence. *Child and Youth Care Forum*, 36(5-6), 195-211.
- Atkins, M.S., **Neal, J.W.**, Letondre, J., & Gamm, S. (2007). Development of the Chicago Public School's ADHD Policy Manual: From community to university and back. In S. Evans, Z. Serpell, & M. Weist (Eds.), *Advances in school-based mental health, Volume 2*. Kingston, NJ: Civic Research Institute, Inc.
- Miller, R.L., **Watling, J.R.**, Staggs, S.L., & Rotheram-Borus, M.J. (2003). Growing up biracial in the United States. In D. R. Koslow & E. P. Salett (Eds.), *Race, ethnicity and self: Identity in multicultural perspective, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition*. Washington, DC: National MultiCultural Institute.

## MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

- Neal, J.W.** (under review). Network ties and mean lies: A relational approach to relational aggression.
- Neal, J.W.** (under review). Social aggression and social position in middle childhood and early adolescence: Burning bridges or building them?
- Neal, J.W.** (under review). Hanging out: Features of urban children's grade-level peer networks.

## MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Teacher practices and student social networks in urban elementary classrooms (Co-author with Elise Cappella, David Henry, and Marc Atkins).

Measuring social networks: A comparison of self report, cognitive social structures, and social cognitive mapping methods.

The seeds of collaboration: An analysis of sociology graduate student social networks.

The use of random permutation tests with clustered data (Co-author with Louis Fogg, David Henry, and Michael Schoeny)

#### SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

**Neal, J.W.** (2008, August). *Hanging out: Features of urban, elementary students' classroom social networks*. Roundtable paper to be presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Boston, MA.

Atkins, M., Mehta, T., Frazier, S., Cappella, E., Marinez-Lora, A., Shernoff, E., Rusch, D., **Neal, J.W.**, Stachowicz, E., Frangos, R., Dawes, N., Dirks, M., Rosen, P., Ogo, M.Y., Williamson, J., & Schoenwald, S. (2008, August). *Links to Learning: School and community mental health resources alignment in support of children's learning in high-poverty urban schools*. Paper to be presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Boston, MA.

Cappella, E., Shernoff, E.S., **Neal, J.W.**, Mehta, T., Marinez-Lora, A., Rusch, D., Stachowicz, E., Frazier, S.L., & Atkins, M.S. (2008, May). *Links to Learning in urban schools: Classroom context and program adaptation*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Prevention Research, San Francisco, CA.

Cappella, E., **Neal, J.W.**, Henry, D.B., & Atkins, M.S. (2008, March). *Teacher practices and student social networks in urban elementary classrooms*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, New York, NY.

Henry, D.B., Fogg, L., Schoeny, M., & **Neal, J.W.** (2008, March). *Permutation analysis*. Presentation to the Chicago Chapter of the American Statistical Association, Chicago, IL.

**Neal, J.W.** (2007, August). *Cracking the missing data problem: Applying Krackhardt's cognitive social structures to school-based social network research*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, New York, NY.

**Neal, J.W.**, Atkins, M., Frazier, S., Haislup, C., Leathers, S., & Gibbons, R. (2006, May). *Urban school teachers' social networks: Does who you know affect what you do?* Poster presented at the 18<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Association for Psychological Science, New York, NY.

**Neal, J.W.** & Trickett, E.J. (2006, May). *Predictors of cross-ethnic and co-ethnic friendships among Soviet Jewish refugees*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.

**Neal, J.W.** (2006, March). *Envisioning relations in relational aggression*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwestern Sociological Society, Omaha, NE.

McDonald, K.E., **Neal, J.W.**, Mason, G., Blanton, S., Tanyu, M., Taylor-Ritzler, T., Miller, R.L., Conrad, K.J., & Telleen, S. (2005, October). *What did US and international conference attendees have to say about their experiences at Evaluation 2004*. Presented at the joint conference of the Canadian Evaluation Society and the American Evaluation Association, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

- Bloodworth, M.R., Whalen, S.P., & **Neal, J.W.** (2005, October). *Complex change initiatives: Evaluating frameworks rather than programs*. Roundtable presented at the joint conference of the Canadian Evaluation Society and the American Evaluation Association, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
- Neal, J.W.**, Blanton, S., Mason, G., McDonald, K.E., Tanyu, M., Taylor-Ritzler, T., & Reeves, E. (2005, June). *Reflections on learning opportunities in conducting a conference evaluation*. Poster presented at the Biennial Conference of the Society for Community Research and Action, Champaign-Urbana, IL.
- Neal, J.W.**, Tanyu, M., Reeves, E., Blanton, S., Mason, G., McDonald, K., & Taylor-Ritzler, T. (2005, May). *Stakeholder-based evaluation: A conversation of implementation challenges*. Roundtable discussion presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.
- Neal, J.W.**, Reyes, O., & Henry, D.B. (2004, April). *Effects of exposure to aggression on children's beliefs and behaviors*. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.
- McDonald, K., Bloodworth, M., Howard, A., **Watling, J.R.**, Beard, S., Mason, G., & Townsend, S. (2003, November) *Apples and oranges, successes and failures: Diverse theorists contributions to context-specific evaluation*. Roundtable discussion at the American Evaluation Association Conference, Reno, NV.
- Bloodworth, M.R., **Neal, J.W.**, & Katz, S.L. (2003, August) *Three schools, three contexts: Adaptation of a preventive intervention*. Poster presented at the American Psychological Association Conference, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
- Katz, S.L., **Watling, J.R.**, Beyer, R., Bloodworth, M., & Weissberg, R.P. (2003, May) *Partners for health, academic, social, and emotional success (PHASES) program*. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.

#### TECHNICAL REPORTS

- Whalen, S.P., Bloodworth, M., Beyer, R., **Neal, J.W.**, Velazquez, V., Gong, Y., & Greene, G. (2005). *Early progress, early challenges: Exploring first year developments in the CPS community schools initiative*. Submitted to the Campaign to Extend Community Schools in Chicago.
- McDonald, K.E., **Neal, J.W.**, Tanyu, M., Mason, G., Taylor-Ritzler, T., Blanton, S., & Reeves, E. (2005). *Evaluation 2004: International attendees*. Submitted to the American Evaluation Association.
- Mason, G., Blanton, S., McDonald, K.E., **Neal, J.W.**, Tanyu, M., Taylor-Ritzler, T., & Reeves, E. (2005). *Evaluation 2004: Overall conference survey*. Submitted to the American Evaluation Association.
- Whalen, S.P., **Neal, J.W.**, & Gallogly, C. (2004). *Evaluation of the Campaign to Extend Community Schools in Chicago: Data portrait of CECSC school cohort one (2003-2004)*. Submitted to the Campaign to Extend Community Schools in Chicago.
- Whalen, S.P., Bloodworth, M., Beyer, R., Gallogly, C., Gong, Y., Greene, G., **Neal, J.W.**, Velasquez, V., & Wang, M. (2004). *Implementation of community schooling in Chicago: Early progress and challenges*. Submitted to the Campaign to Extend Community Schools in Chicago.

## ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL HONORS

2008	Leonard D. Eron Graduate Student Award for Outstanding Scholarly Accomplishment, University of Illinois at Chicago
2007-2008	Dean's Scholar Fellowship, University of Illinois at Chicago [Highest award available to UIC Graduate Students]
2006-2007	University Fellowship, University of Illinois at Chicago
2005-2006	University Fellowship, University of Illinois at Chicago
2001-2002	University Fellowship, University of Illinois at Chicago
2001	Phi Beta Kappa, University of Arizona
1991-2000	Berdina Grundstrum Award, University of Arizona
1997-2001	Regents Tuition Waiver, University of Arizona
1997	Provost Scholarship, University of Arizona

## SELECTED RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 5/05 – Present **Research Assistant**, Links to Learning (PI: Dr. Marc Atkins). Responsibilities include running analyses on teacher social networks, developing a school-based parental involvement curriculum for low-income African American parents, data collection including parent interviews and classroom observations, and data management using Illume software.
- 1/04 – 5/05 **Research Assistant**, Campaign to Extend Community Schools in Chicago (PI: Dr. Sam Whalen). Responsibilities included conducting semi-structured interviews with school personnel and members of community agencies, conducting on-site observations of schools, Filemaker database development, quantitative and qualitative analysis, and writing evaluation reports.
- 6/03 – 5/04 **Research Assistant**, Chicago Public Schools Newcomers' Dropout Prevention Program (PI: Dr. Olga Reyes). Responsibilities included developing focus group questions for teachers, parents, and students regarding parent school involvement among a Latino immigrant population, developing a parent involvement curriculum for Latino immigrant parents of elementary and high school students, and creating a professional development course for teachers.
- 9/01 – 6/03 **Research Assistant**, Partners for Health, Academic, Social, and Emotional Success (PI: Dr. Roger Weissberg). Responsible for consultation to school social workers and parent volunteers who were implementing a school-based social and emotional learning program for first to third grade students. Other relevant duties included data collection and analysis necessary for program evaluation.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

[Teaching portfolio is available at <http://www2.uic.edu/~jwatli1/>]

- 1/06 – 5/06 **Instructor**, University of Illinois at Chicago, Psychology Department  
Course: Introduction to Statistics.
- Teaching Assistant**, University of Illinois at Chicago
- Research Methods in Psychology
  - Community Psychology

- Introductory Psychology

### PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 6/08-Present      **Ad Hoc Reviewer**, American Journal of Evaluation
- 4/07                **Session Organizer**, Midwestern Sociological Society Annual Meeting  
*Applications of Social Network Analysis*
- 4/04 – 2/05        **Consultant**, American Evaluation Association  
Member of a team responsible for designing and implementing a stakeholder-based, mixed method evaluation of the 2004 American Evaluation Association Conference.
- 10/03 – 5/04      **Consultant**, Sinai Community Institute, Chicago, IL  
Conducted a formative evaluation of the *Sinai Mentoring Program*.
- 5/02-10/02        **Conference Organizing Team**, Midwestern Ecological-Community Conference

### TECHNICAL SKILLS

**Quantitative Analysis:** Multiple Regression, Social Network Analysis, Hierarchical Linear Models, Random Permutation Tests

**Software:** STATA, SPSS, SAS, UCINET, LISREL, Datstat Illume, Filemaker

### REFERENCES

Karina Olga Reyes

Associate Professor & Associate Chair  
Department of Psychology  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
1007 W. Harrison Street (m/c 285)  
Chicago, IL 60607  
(312) 413 – 2627  
kreyes@uic.edu

Marc Atkins

Professor  
Institute for Juvenile Research  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
1747 W. Roosevelt Road (m/c 747)  
Chicago, IL 60608  
(312) 413 – 1048  
atkins@uic.edu

Pamela Popielarz

Associate Professor  
Department of Sociology  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
1007 W. Harrison Street (m/c 312)  
Chicago, IL 60607  
(312) 413 – 3757  
pamela@uic.edu

Edison Trickett

Professor & CPR Division Chair  
Department of Psychology  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
1007 W. Harrison Street (m/c 285)  
Chicago, IL 60607  
(312) 996 – 2144  
trickett@uic.edu

David Henry

Associate Professor  
Institute for Juvenile Research  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
1747 W. Roosevelt Road (m/c 747)  
Chicago, IL 60608  
(312) 413 – 1728  
dhenry@uic.edu