

Madonna Harrington Meyer



University Professor
Professor of Sociology, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs
Laura J. and L. Douglas Meredith Professor for Teaching Excellence
Senior Research Associate, Center for Policy Research
Faculty Affiliate, Aging Studies Institute
Faculty Research Affiliate, Lerner Center for Public Health Promotion and Population Health
Syracuse University, 426 Eggers Hall, Syracuse, NY 13244-1020
Phone: (315) 443-2346, maharrin@syr.edu

Education

- 1987-91 Ph.D., Sociology, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL. *Universalism vs. Targeting as a Basis of Social Distribution: Gender, Race, and Long Term Care in the United States*
- 1984-87 M.A., Sociology, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.
- 1977-81 B.A., Sociology and Urban Studies, Hamline University, St. Paul, MN.

Employment History

- 2020- Faculty Research Affiliate, Lerner Center for Public Health Promotion and Population Health, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY
- 2019- University Professor, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY.
- 2014-2017 Chair, Department of Sociology, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY.
- 2012- Faculty Affiliate, Aging Studies institute, Syracuse University
- 2005- Professor, Department of Sociology, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY.
- 2004-2008 Director, SU Gerontology Center, The Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY.
- 1997- Senior Research Associate, Center for Policy Research, The Maxwell School, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY.
- 1997-2005 Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY
- 1991-1997 Assistant to Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Illinois, Urbana.

Publications

Books/Special Issues

- 2025 Heflin, Colleen M. and Madonna Harrington Meyer, *Food for Thought: Understanding Older Adult Food Insecurity*, Russel Sage Foundation. <https://doi.org/10.7758/rzos2617>
<https://www.russellsage.org/publications/book/food-thought>
- 2024 Harrington Meyer, Madonna. *Grandma's Joy*, Palmetto Publisher,
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/grandmas-joy-madonna-harrington-meyer/1145345168?ean=9798822931251>
- 2020 Harrington Meyer, Madonna and Ynesse Abdul-Malak, *Grandparenting Children with*

Disabilities, Springer Publications. <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-39055-6>

- 2016 Harrington Meyer, Madonna and Elizabeth A. Daniele, editors, *Gerontology: Changes, Challenges, and Solutions*, Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger Publishing.
- 2016 Harrington Meyer, Madonna and Ynesse Abdul-Malak, editors. *Grandparenting in the United States*. Amityville, NY: Baywood Press.
- 2014 Harrington Meyer, Madonna. *Grandmothers at Work: Juggling Families and Jobs*, New York, NY: NYU Press.
*Winner, GSA Kalish Book Award, 2014
- 2007 Harrington Meyer, Madonna and Pamela Herd. *Market Friendly or Family Friendly? The State and Gender Inequality in Old Age*. New York, NY: Russell Sage Foundation.
*Winner, GSA Kalish Book Award, 2008
- 2006 Harrington Meyer, Madonna, and Janet Wilmoth, editors, Special Issue of *Research on Aging*.
- 2000 Harrington Meyer, Madonna, editor. *Care Work: Gender, Labor, and the Welfare State*. New York, NY: Routledge Press.

Recent Articles, Chapters, Briefs

- 2026 Harrington Meyer, Madonna and Winston Junior Scott, forthcoming, "Making US Food Pantries more Old-Age Friendly," *Journal of Aging and Social Change*.
- 2026 Harrington Meyer, Madonna and Colleen Heflin, forthcoming, "Why the US Must Measure Food Insecurity in Old Age," *Milbank Quarterly Opinion*.
- 2025 Heflin, Colleen and Madonna Harrington Meyer, "Strengthening SNAP's Ability to Address Old Age Food Insecurity," *Contexts*, 24(4), 86-87.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/15365042251386867>
- 2025 Heflin, Colleen M. and Madonna Harrington Meyer. "How is Food Insecurity Measured in the United States and What Share of Older Adults are Food Insecure?" Lerner Center Population Health Research Brief Series. Research Brief #131.
<https://doi.org/10.14305/rt.lerner.2025.14>.
- 2025 Heflin, Colleen M. and Madonna Harrington Meyer. "Policy Recommendations to Reduce Old Age Food Insecurity in the United States." Center for Policy Research. Policy Brief #20. <https://doi.org/10.14305/rt.cpr.2025.4>.
- 2025 Harrington Meyer, Madonna and Colleen M. Heflin. "Nonfinancial Factors Shape Food Insecurity Among U.S. Older Adults." Lerner Center Population Health Research Brief Series. Research Brief #133. <https://doi.org/10.14305/rt.lerner.2025.16>.
- 2025 Harrington Meyer, Madonna and Colleen, M. Heflin. "Budget Tradeoffs Shape Food

Insecurity Among U.S. Older Adults.” Lerner Center Population Health Research Brief Series. Research Brief #132. <https://doi.org/10.14305/rt.lerner.2025.15>.

- 2025 Heflin, Colleen M. and Madonna Harrington Meyer. “The Limits of SNAP in Addressing Older Adult Food Insecurity.” Lerner Center Population Health Research Brief Series. Research Brief #134. <https://doi.org/10.14305/rt.lerner.2025.17>.
- 2025 Harrington Meyer, Madonna and Colleen M. Heflin. “Community-Based Food Program Limits in Reducing Older Adult Food Insecurity.” Lerner Center Population Health Research Brief Series. Research Brief #135. <https://doi.org/10.14305/rt.lerner.2025.18>.
- 2024 Harrington Meyer, Madonna and Anna Delapaz, “Why is Food Insecurity High among U.S. Grandparents Caring for Grandchildren?” Lerner Center for Public Health Promotion and Center for Aging and Policy Studies, *Population Health Research Brief Series*. <https://surface.syr.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1238&context=lerner>

Recent Grants

- 2025-2028 NIAT32 Faculty Mentor in Population, Health and Aging (Monnet and Weimers, PIs) under review.
- 2020-2023 “Hunger SNAPS: Food Insecurity among Older Adults: Qualitative Component,” Madonna Harrington Meyer (PI), Russell Sage Foundation Presidential Award, \$50,000.

Recent Invited Presentations

- 2026 “It’s Time to Address Food Insecurity among Older Adult,” Florida State University, February 13.
- 2025 “Comprehensive Exams and Proposal writing,” Proseminar, Sociology, Syracuse University, October
- 2025 “Grandparenting and Food Insecurity in the US,” Women and Public Policy Program, Kennedy School, Harvard University, November 10
- 2025 “What’s at Stake for Older Adult Food Insecurity?” with Colleen Heflin, Center for Policy Research, Syracuse University, October
- 2025 “Commenter on *Surviving and Striving* by Autumn Green and Amanda Freeman,” Russell Sage Book Workshop, New York City, March
- 2024 “Comprehensive Exams and Proposal writing,” Proseminar, Sociology, Syracuse University, October.
- 2024 “Response to Keynote: Matt Flynn,” Aging and Social Change, University of Galway, Galway Ireland, September.

2024 “Invisible Civic Engagement: the Case of Grandmothers Caring for Grandchildren with Disabilities,” Special Thematic Session, American Sociological Association, Montreal, August

Recent Conference Presentations

- 2026 “Strategies Low-income Older Adults use to Stretch Food,” Gerontological Society of America, Washington DC. November
- 2026 “How Living Arrangements Shape Grandparent Food Insecurity, “ Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science, Portland, Or, September
- 2026 “‘I’m Going to Make Sure the Kids Eat Even If I Don’t:’ Low-Income Grandparenting and Food Insecurity,” with Anna Delapaz, American Sociological Association, NYC, August
- 2026 “Seven Ways Low-Income Older Adults Struggle with Food Pantries,” with Winston J. Scott, American Sociological Association, NYC, August
- 2026 “How Food Insecurity Reshapes Patterns of Grandparenting,” with Anna Delapaz, Working Family Research Network, Montreal, June 18-20.
- 2026 “Making Food Pantries More Responsive to Older Adults,” The Agriculture, Food & Human Values Society (AFHVS), Association for the Study of Food and Society (ASFS), Burlington VT June 7-10
- 2026 “The Cost of Care: Food Insecurity and Economic Hardships among Low-Income Grandparents in the U.S.” with Anna Delapaz, Reimagining the Economics of Late Life Institutions, Systems, and Investments Conference. NYU, New York, May 1
- 2025 “Joy and Hardship: Older Adults using Food Pantries in the US,” with Winston Scott, Aging and Social Change, Linköping University, Linköping University, Norrköping, Sweden, October 22-24.
- 2024 “A Qualitative Look at Work and Retirement Patterns for Grandmothers Caring for Grandchildren with Disabilities,” with Ynesse Abdul-Malak, London, England, The Global Congress on Gender & Sexuality Studies, October 21-22.
- 2024 “Grandparenting and Food Insecurity in the US,” with Anna Delapaz, Aging and Social Change, University of Galway, Galway Ireland, September 19-20.
- 2024 “The Complexities of Food Insecurity in Old Age,” ESS, February, Washington DC