



Retirement and Disability
Research Center
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

News from the UW RDRC

JSIT Research Award Recipients Announced, Spotlight on Older Workers and Labor Force Research, New Resources and Publications Posted

Introducing the 2023 JSIT Research Award Recipients

Five scholars from the 2023 Junior Scholar Intensive Training (JSIT) cohort were awarded funding for research proposals developed and refined through the [summer workshop](#) and JSIT mentorship program. The funded projects examine a variety of topics that have implications for SSA programs and beneficiaries.

The 2023 JSIT Research Award Recipients:

- **Hyun Ju Kim**, University of New Hampshire, *Who will benefit from the 2026 ABLE Age Adjustment Act?*
- **Ravaris Moore**, New York University, *Violent Victimization, Lost Earnings, and Implications for Social Security Trust Funds and Social Security Earnings-Based Tax Revenue*
- **Somalis Chy**, University of Wisconsin-Madison, *Work Credit Accumulation & SSDI Eligibility Among Young Adults*
- **Meredith Slopen**, City University of New York, *Does access to paid sick leave facilitate the employment and employment intensity of older workers?*
- **Lauren Toppenberg**, Columbia University, *Disability, food insecurity, and multiple program participation across the social welfare system*

For more information on JSIT and the 2023 scholars, mentors, and speakers, visit: <https://cfsrdrc.wisc.edu/2023-jsit-summer-workshop>

Spotlight on Research:
Older Workers in the Labor Force



Melissa P. McInerney
Tufts University



Erin T. Bronchetti
Swarthmore College



Daniel Schneider
Harvard University



Leah Abrams
Tufts University

The Long-run Effects of Workplace Injuries on Older Workers: Earnings, SSDI, SSI, and Early Retirement

The majority of older workers have jobs that require some physical effort, and one-quarter experience a new disability after age 55. Roughly 25 percent of these work-limiting disabilities are incurred on the job. Work-related injuries and illnesses may impact individuals differently than non-work-related impairments because of job protections and benefits in the Workers' Compensation (WC) program. However, little is known about the effects of these late-in-career workplace injuries on workers' financial wellbeing, retirement outcomes, or participation in government programs.

This study provides new evidence on the longitudinal impacts of workplace injuries and illnesses on older workers. The effects of work-related injuries are evaluated using linked Health and Retirement Study (HRS) and Social Security Administration (SSA) data on older workers' earnings, retirement timing, and program participation. These estimates are then compared to the impacts of work-limiting disabilities that are incurred outside of work. In addition, the research explores the extent to which harmful effects of a workplace injury are mitigated when employers offer on-the-job accommodations to injured workers, allowing them to return to work sooner and/or avoid large earnings losses.

Older Workers, Working Longer? The Role of Precarious Work

As US life expectancy improves, the population and workforce are growing older, raising concerns about the finances of the Social Security program, the productivity of the national economy, and the economic security of older adults. Researchers and policymakers have pointed to longer working lives as one potential solution. However, many middle aged and older adults are employed in precarious, high-strain working conditions that may impede continued work into old age, posing risk for economic insecurity and poor wellbeing in retirement. This research study examines how detailed measures of job quality are related to job satisfaction, job exits, and economic insecurity among approximately 29,000 workers ages 50 or older employed in the low-wage service sector. Data comes from The Shift Project, which has surveyed over 100,000 respondents currently or recently working at some of the largest service-sector employers in the United States across 13 bi-



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annual cross-sections from Fall 2016 through Fall 2022. To characterize job quality in this sector, the study captures wages, electronic surveillance and sanctioning, schedule instability, paid leave, and automation and sales technology. Together, these job characteristics indicate workers' job demands, job control, effort-reward balance, and potential accommodations for family circumstances. This research will provide a uniquely detailed portrait of prevailing labor market conditions for aging workers in the service sector and demonstrate how they matter for workers' job satisfaction, retirement decisions, and ultimately their economic well-being.

Webinars, Podcasts & Publications

Newly Released and Upcoming Webinars:

- **Register today** for our October 24th, noon CT, webinar titled **Returning to Work After An Injury or Disability: How Employer Accommodation Programs Can Help Employees**. Researcher Dr. [Stephanie Rennane](#) will present work from [WI22-03](#). [Seth Seabury](#) and [Marcy Hintzman](#) will discuss policy implications. [Register for the webinar here](#).
- A recording of our August webinar titled **Family Proximity and Co-Residence in Retirement** highlights the work of [WI22-03](#), which looks at how residential changes to live near or with family coincide with retirement, and how this varies across demographic groups, as well as how these associations correspond with early OASI claiming. A recording is available [here](#).
- [UW RDRC Archived Webinars](#)

Newly Released and Upcoming Podcasts:

- Episode 4: **Interview with Stephanie Moulton: The COVID-19 Pandemic and Older Adults' Employment and Economic Security: Insights from Earnings and Credit Panel Data | Summer 2023**
- **Episode 5: Coming Soon:** Interview with Anita Mukherjee: **Set It and Forget It: Financing Retirement in an Age of Defaults | Fall 2023**
- [UW RDRC Archived Podcasts](#)

Newly Released Publications:

- JSIT22-01: [Disability Determination, Employment Histories, and Age at First SSI Receipt](#), Callie Freitag
- JSIT22-02: [The Retirement Implications of Non-Standard Work](#), Mina Addo
- JSIT22-03: [Employment Among Adolescent Children of SSDI Recipients](#), Cody Vaughn
- JSIT22-05: [Long-Term Care and Family Caregiving Across Racial and Ethnic Groups](#), Binderiya Byambasuren
- [UW RDRC Working Papers](#)

- [UW RDRC Research Briefs](#)



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