

## *Curriculum Vitae*

### **Sara Goldrick-Rab**

University of Wisconsin-Madison  
1025 West Johnson Street, Room 575J  
Madison, WI 53706  
Phone: 608-265-2141  
E-mail: srab@education.wisc.edu

#### **Employment**

- 2004- **University of Wisconsin-Madison**  
Assistant Professor of Educational Policy Studies & Sociology
- Scholar, Wisconsin Center for the Advancement of Postsecondary Education
- Affiliations: La Follette School of Public Affairs, Institute for Research on Poverty, Women's Studies program, Wisconsin Center for Education Research, Interdisciplinary Training Program in the Education Sciences

#### **Education**

- 2004 Ph.D. in Sociology, University of Pennsylvania  
Thesis: *Swirling Students: Putting a New Spin on College Attrition*  
Committee: Douglas Massey (chair), Paul Allison, Jerry Jacobs, Grace Kao  
Exams: Gender & Labor Markets (high pass), Urban Sociology
- 2001 M.A. in Sociology, University of Pennsylvania  
Thesis: *Sex Discrimination in Restaurant Hiring Practices*  
Committee: Jerry Jacobs, Paula England, Matt Huffman
- 1998 B.A. in Sociology, George Washington University

#### **Awards, Fellowships, Grants**

- 2009-2010 *Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation*. "The Wisconsin Covenant Evaluation: Phase 1." PI (with PI Douglas N. Harris). (\$151,000)
- 2008-2009 *Lumina Foundation*. "Cost Effective Ways to Increase College Graduation." PI (with PI Douglas N. Harris). (\$110,000).
- 2008-2010 *Smith Richardson Foundation*. "The Impact of Need-Based Financial Aid on College Graduation: A Randomized Trial of the Wisconsin Scholars Grant." PI (with PI Douglas N. Harris). (\$500,000)
- 2008-2009 *William T. Grant Foundation*. "The Causal Effects of Financial Aid on the Educational Experiences of Low-Income College Students." PI (with PI Douglas N. Harris). (\$441,000)

- 2008-2009 *Spencer Foundation*. “The Effect of Need-Based Financial Aid on College Persistence.” PI (with PI Douglas N. Harris). (\$33,000)
- 2008 *Spencer Foundation*. “The Effect of Need-Based Financial Aid on College Persistence.” PI (with PI Douglas N. Harris). (\$75,000)
- 2007 *Society for the Study of Social Problems*. C. Wright Mills Award. Finalist.
- 2006-2007 *National Academy of Education/Spencer Foundation*. Postdoctoral Fellowship. “Investigating the Postsecondary Transitions of Urban Public School Students.” (\$55,000)
- 2006-2008 *Andrew Mellon Foundation*. “Assessing Equity and Excellence in Public Higher Education: Evidence from a Large Flagship Public University.” Co-PI (with Robert Haveman, John Witte, and Barbara Wolfe). (\$285,000)
- 2006-2007 *University of Wisconsin-Madison, Graduate School Research Committee*. “Investigating the Postsecondary Transitions of Urban Public School Students.” PI. (\$29,000)
- 2006- *University of Wisconsin-Madison, Teaching Academy*. Fellow.
- 2005-2007 *American Educational Research Association*. “How Complex Postsecondary Educational Transitions Shape Student Success.” PI. (\$35,000)
- 2005-2006 *Association for Institutional Research*. “How Complex Postsecondary Educational Transitions Shape Student Success.” PI. (\$30,000)
- 2005-2006 *University of Wisconsin-Madison, Graduate School Research Committee*. “An Examination of the Educational Expectations of Technical College Students.” PI. (\$13,000)
- 2004-2005 *University of Wisconsin-Madison, Graduate School Research Committee*. “Situating Swirling Students: Exploring the Role of Social Context in Postsecondary Pathways.” PI. (\$20,000)
- 2004 *National Forum on Higher Education for the Public Good*. Rising Scholar in Higher Education Award.
- 2003 *Spencer Foundation*. Dissertation Fellowship. “Putting a New Spin on College Attrition.” (\$20,000)
- 2003 *American Educational Research Association*. Dissertation Fellowship. “Putting a New Spin on College Attrition.” (\$15,000)
- 1998 *Phi Beta Kappa*. George Washington University.

## **Publications**

### **Book**

Shaw, K., Goldrick-Rab, S., Mazzeo, C., & Jacobs, J. (2006). *Putting Poor People to Work: How the Work-First Idea Eroded College Access for the Poor*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation. (Finalist, **C. Wright Mills Award**, Society for the Study of Social Problems)

### **Journal Articles**

Goldrick-Rab, S. (forthcoming). "Postsecondary Education and the Formation and Stability of Families." *Future of Children*.

Goldrick-Rab, S. & Han, S. (2010). "The "Class Gap" in the "Gap Year": Academic Coursetaking, Family Formation and Socioeconomic Differences in Delaying the Transition to College." *Review of Higher Education*.

Goldrick-Rab, S. & Pfeffer, F. (2009). "Beyond Access: Explaining Social Class Differences in College Transfer." *Sociology of Education*. 82(2), 101–125. (Media coverage, *Inside Higher Education*, April 17, 2009)

Goldrick-Rab, S., Harris, D., Mazzeo, C., & Kienzl, G. (2009). "Transforming America's Community Colleges: A Proposal to Expand Opportunity and Promote Economic Prosperity." *Blueprint for American Prosperity*. The Brookings Institution: Washington, DC. Reprinted in part by the *Spotlight on Poverty and Opportunity* (<http://www.spotlightonpoverty.org>).

Goldrick-Rab, S. (2007). "What Higher Education Has to Say About the Transition to College." *Teachers College Record*. Volume 109 Number 10. (with contributions from D.F. Carter and R. Wagner).

Shaw, K. & Goldrick-Rab, S. (2006). "The Effect of Work-First Federal Policies on Access to Community Colleges for Latinos." *New Directions in Community Colleges*. Spring, n.133, pp.61-70.

Goldrick-Rab, S. (2006). "Following Their Every Move: How Social Class Shapes Postsecondary Pathways." *Sociology of Education*. January, v79n1. pp. 61-79.

Goldrick-Rab, S. & Mazzeo, C. (2005). "What 'No Child Left Behind' Means for College Access." *Review of Research in Education*. Winter, v29. pp. 107-130.

Goldrick-Rab, S. & Shaw, K. (2005). "Racial and Ethnic Differences in the Impact of Work-First Reforms on Access to Postsecondary Education." *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*. Winter, 27(4), 291-307.

Shaw, K. & Rab, S. (2003). "Market Rhetoric Versus Reality in Policy and Practice: The Workforce Investment Act and Access to Community College Education and Training." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*. v586, March, 172-193.

Mazzeo, C., Rab, S., & Eachus, S. (2003). "Work-First or Work Only: Welfare Reform, State Policy and Access to Postsecondary Education." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*. v586, March, 144-171.

## Book Chapters

Goldrick-Rab, S. (forthcoming). "Accountability for Community Colleges: A Way Forward." In K. Carey and M. Schneider, *Accountability in Higher Education* (working title). American Enterprise Institute, Washington DC.

Goldrick-Rab, S., Harris, D., & Trostel, P. (2009). "Why Money Matters (or Doesn't) for College Success: An Interdisciplinary Approach." In J. Smart (Ed) *Higher Education: Handbook of Theory and Research*, v. 24, pp. 1-45.

Goldrick-Rab, S. (2009). "The Puzzle and Paradox of Student Mobility in Higher Education." P. Pasque, N. Bowman, and M. Martinez (Eds), *Understanding and Achieving Higher Education for the Public Good*. Kenneshaw State University Press.

Goldrick-Rab, S. & Shaw, K. (2007). "Tracking How New Ideas Become Higher Education Policy and Practice: The Challenges of Gathering Comparative Policy Implementation Data." In D. Heller and K. Shaw (Eds), *Key Issues In Higher Education*. Chapter 4. Stylus.

Goldrick-Rab, S. (2007). "Reducing Inequality in an Age of Student Mobility: Challenges Facing American Higher Education." Chapter 7 in R. Teese, S.Lamb, and M. Duru-Bellat (Eds), *Education and Equity: International Perspectives on Theory and Policy*. Volume 3. Springer Publishing.

## Research Reports, Reviews, Commentaries

Goldrick-Rab, S. (forthcoming). *Connecting Students and Colleges in an Age of Mobility: Challenges for Policymakers and Practitioners*. Center for American Progress: Washington, DC.

Goldrick-Rab, S. (2009). "Commentary: America Must Put Community Colleges First." *Chronicle of Higher Education*. May 15.

Carl, B., Goldrick-Rab, S., Lexmond, M. & Lindsey, D. (2009). *Tracking Postsecondary Enrollment and Persistence of Milwaukee Public School Students: Graduates of the Classes of 2005-2007*. Milwaukee Public Schools Research Report, March.

Goldrick-Rab, S. & Roksa, J. (2008). *A Federal Agenda for Promoting Student Success and Degree Completion*. Center for American Progress: Washington, DC.

Goldrick-Rab, S. (2008). Review of "Minding the Gap." *Review of Higher Education*. 31(3): 362-63.

Goldrick-Rab, S. & Harris, D. (2007). *The Wisconsin Covenant: Toward a Truly Merit-Based System of Higher Education*. Wisconsin Center for the Advancement of Postsecondary Education: Madison, WI. (**Endorsed** by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and the Wisconsin State Journal)

Goldrick-Rab, S. (2007). *Promoting Academic Momentum at Community Colleges: Challenges and Opportunities*. Working Paper No.5. February. Community College Research Center: New York.

Goldrick-Rab, S. (2006). "Rich Man, Poor Man: Review of Aiding Students, Buying Students in America." *Thought and Action*.

Goldrick-Rab, S., Benson, J. & Yom-Toy, A. (2006). *Access Wisconsin: An Exploration of College-Going in the Context of High School and District Characteristics*. Wisconsin Center for the Advancement of Postsecondary Education: Madison, WI.

Goldrick-Rab, S. (2005). *Connecting College Access with Success*. Wisconsin School News. Wisconsin School Boards Association. September. pp. 26-27.

### **Articles in Submission**

Goldrick-Rab, S. "Success for All? Challenges and Opportunities for Improving Community College Student Outcomes." Under review at *Review of Educational Research*.

Deil-Amen, R. & Goldrick-Rab, S. "Institutional Transfer and the Management of Risk in Higher Education." Under review at *Sociology of Education*.

### **Articles in Preparation**

Goldrick-Rab, S. & Pfeffer, F. "The Effects of Undergraduate Reverse Transfer."

Harris, D.N. & Goldrick-Rab, S. "Cost-Effective Ways to Increase College Attainment."

Pfeffer, F. & Goldrick-Rab, S. "How Complex Postsecondary Transitions Shape Postsecondary Success."

Goldrick-Rab, S., Pfeffer, F., & Brand, J. "Heterogeneity and the Interpretation of Community College Effects."

### **Conference Participation (selected)**

Presenter. "Postsecondary Education and the Formation and Stability of Families." 2009 *Future of Children* conference on "Fragile Families" (Princeton, NJ).

Presenter. "Causal Effects of Financial Aid on College Retention: Early Results from the Wisconsin Scholars Longitudinal Study." 2009 meetings of the Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management (Washington, DC).

Presenter. "Institutional Transfer and the Management of Risk in Higher Education." 2009 meetings of the American Sociological Association (San Francisco).

Presenter. "How Sociology Informs State and Federal Education Policies." 2009 meetings of Section on Sociology of Education at American Sociological Association meeting (San Francisco).

Presenter. "Preliminary Findings from the First Year of the Wisconsin Scholars Longitudinal Study." 2009 meetings of the Student Financial Aid Research Network (Indianapolis).

Discussant. "Strategies for Reform." 2009 meetings of the Society for Research in Educational Effectiveness (Washington, DC).

Presenter. "The Causal Effect of Financial Aid on Postsecondary Transitions." 2009 meetings of the Sociology of Education Association (Monterey) and the American Educational Finance Association (Nashville).

Presenter. "How Complex Postsecondary Transitions Shape Postsecondary Success." 2009 meetings of the Sociology of Education Association, (Monterey) and 2009 meetings of the American Educational Research Association (San Diego).

Presenter. "College Choice in Chicago." 2008 meetings of the National Academy of Education (Seattle).

Presenter. "Second Chance or Diverted Dream? An Examination of Undergraduate Reverse Transfer." 2007 meetings of the American Sociological Association (New York).

Presenter. "How School Context Affects the Success of First-Generation College Students." 2007 Student Financial Aid Research Network Conference. Pell Institute (Portland).

Presenter. "Contemporary Growth and Inequality in the Community College Sector." 2006 meetings of the American Educational Research Association (Chicago).

Presenter. "The Ecological Context of College Access." 2006 meetings of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (Madison).

### **Recent Seminar Presentations**

2009: UW-Madison Institute for Research on Poverty; UW-Madison Interdisciplinary Training Program; University of Pennsylvania IES Program; University of California-Irvine Department of Education; Institute for Higher Education, University of Georgia

2008: La Follette School of Public Affairs; Center for American Progress

### **Professional Development**

2009: Cells to Society: Center for Social and Health Disparities at Northwestern University, Summer Biomarker Institute. Thomas McDade, Emma Adams, P. Lindsay Chase-Lansdale (directors). Competitive admission.

2006: Spencer Foundation workshop on Quasi-Experimental and Experimental Methods. Northwestern University. Thomas Cook and William Shadish (directors). Competitive admission.

### **Public and Community Service**

#### **Speaking Engagements (selected)**

- Convocation, Keynote Address, Madison Area Technical College, WI (8/18/2009)
- Board of Directors, Association of Community College Trustees (7/31/2009)
- The Lumina Foundation, "Achieving the Dream" Developmental Education Summit (7/23/09)
- U.S. House of Representatives, Community College Caucus, Briefing (7/10/2009)
- Hechinger Institute on Education and the Media, Webinar on Community Colleges (5/20/2009)
- The Brookings Institution, Blueprint for America series (5/7/2009)

- The Lumina Foundation, Making Opportunity Affordable Initiative. (4/10/2009, 6/10/2009)
- Wisconsin Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (4/7/09)
- Wisconsin Office of the Governor, Wisconsin Covenant Foundation. (3/12/09)
- Ford Foundation/QMSS Summer Workshop, Columbia University (7/21/08)
- “Moving through College.” National Scholarship Providers Association. (11/06).
- The Education Trust. “Student Mobility and College Completion.” (4/06)

### **Media Engagement (selected)**

- Regular Contributor, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, “Brainstorm” (blog, beginning June 2, 2009)
- Co-Founder, *The Education Optimists*. [www.eduoptimists.blogspot.com](http://www.eduoptimists.blogspot.com) (launched 2008)
- Invited participant, Hechinger Institute on Education and the Media “Public Communication for Early-Career Education Researchers.” 4/09.
- *Time* magazine (coverage of my research), 7/20/2009
- *Inside Higher Education* (coverage of my research), 4/17/2009
- *Badger Herald* (quoted), 3/6/09
- *Capital Times* (quoted), 9/26/06
- *Chicago Tribune* (cited), 12/13/08
- *Chronicle of Higher Education* “College Costs” Discussion Group (2008-2009)
- *Chronicle of Higher Education* (quoted, cited), 8/15/05, 5/8/08, 8/13/08, 12/8/08, 2/10/09
- *Congressional Quarterly Researcher* (quoted) 1/24/08
- *Daily Cardinal* (quoted), 11/7/06, 10/18/07
- *Education Week* (letter to the editor), 4/5/05
- *Employment and Training Reporter* (cited), 12/5/05
- *Fast Focus* (cited), 3/11/09
- *Green Bay Press Gazette* (letter to the editor), 7/25/05
- *Inside Higher Education* (cited), 6/23/08
- *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel* (cited), 5/15/07
- *New York Times* (quoted), 7/3/08
- *On Wisconsin* (quoted), 11/06
- *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* (quoted), 9/6/08
- *Quick and the Ed*, The Education Sector (cited), 8/13/08
- *Wisconsin Public Radio* (interviewed), 9/2/06, 9/7/06, 12/03/08, 12/10/08, 7/13/09
- *Wisconsin State Journal* (Quoted), 7/27/08, 12/27/08

### **Technical Advising**

- Informal Research Consultant, White House Council of Economic Advisers (2009- )
- Research Consultant, American Enterprise Institute (2009- )
- Research Consultant, Lumina Foundation (2009- )
- Research Consultant, Brookings Institution (2008- )
- Research Consultant, Center for American Progress (2008- )
- Research Consultant, Milwaukee Public Schools Postsecondary Access Initiative (2006- )
- Research Consultant, Community College Research Center (2007- )
- Research Consultant, Wisconsin Regional Industry Skills Education Initiative (2007- )
- Affiliated Primary Investigator, Consortium for Chicago School Research (2006- )
- Reviewer, Mathematica Policy Research Fast Response Program (2006- )
- Research Consultant, Social Science Research Council (2005-2007)
- Grant Reviewer, Spencer Foundation (ad hoc)

- Grant Reviewer, National Science Foundation (ad hoc)
- Research Consultant, Brandon Roberts Associates (2003-2005)
- Research Consultant, Workforce Strategy Center (2003-2005)

### **Service to the Discipline**

#### **Leadership**

- Member, American Sociological Association, Sociology of Education Council (2009-2010)
- Editorial Board, *Sociology of Education* (2007-2010)
- Editorial Board, *Journal of Research in Community College Pedagogy* (2009- )

#### **Award Committee Membership**

- Association for Institutional Research, Graduate Study Fellowship Program (2007-2011)
- American Sociological Association, David L. Stevenson Award (2008)
- Eastern Sociological Society, Rose Laub Coser Award (2009)

#### **Professional Society Membership**

- American Education Finance Association
- American Educational Research Association
- American Sociological Association
- Association for Institutional Research
- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
- Association for the Study of Higher Education
- International Sociological Association, Research Committee 28
- Population Association of America
- Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness
- Society for the Study of Social Problems

#### **Other Activities**

- Conference Organizer, Population Association of America, “Inequality in Access to College and College Performance” session, 2010
- Conference Organizer, American Education Finance Association, Higher Education Sessions, 2010
- Section Dinner Organizer, American Sociological Association’s Section on the Sociology of Education, 2005 and 2009
- Invited Participant. “Change or..? Thinking Big in a Crisis.” Convening of Jobs for the Future and the Education Sector (Washington, DC). 2009
- Invited Participant. “A New Research Agenda for the Sociology of Higher Education.” The Steinhardt Institute for Higher Education Policy. 2005.

#### **Manuscript Reviewer**

American Education Research Journal, American Journal of Education, American Journal of Sociology, American Sociological Review, Demography, Developmental Psychology, Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, Higher Education, Journal of Family Issues, Research in Higher Education, Review of Higher Education, Social Forces, Social Science Quarterly, Sociological Forum, Sociology of Education, Stanford University Press

## **Teaching and University Service**

### 2004-present **University of Wisconsin-Madison**

*Introduction to Debates in Higher Education Policy* (2004f, 2006s, 2009s)  
*Community Colleges: Issues and Research* (2005s)  
*Gender and Higher Education* (2005f)  
*Sociology of Education* (2005s/f)  
*Sociology of Higher Education* (2008, independent study)  
*WISCAPE Graduate Research Circle* (2005-2006)

## **Department and University Service**

- *Planning and Design Team Member*. Colloquium on 2-year Colleges. (2009)
- *Organizer*, Department of Educational Policy Studies Visitation Weekend (2009)
- *Organizer*, Department of Educational Policy Studies Spring Conference (2006, 2009)
- *Faculty Recruiter*, Graduate School Partner Institution Outreach (2008- )
- *Chair*, University Committee on Undergraduate Recruitment, Admissions, and Financial Aid (2008-2010)
- *Member*, Department of Educational Policy Studies Search Committee (2005, 2008)
- *Member*, Department of Sociology, Preliminary Examination in Sociology of Education Committee (2006- )
- *Member*, School of Education Graduate Research Scholars Advisory Panel (2008- )
- *Member*, UW System Board of Regents Diversity Award Committee (2008-2009)
- *Chair*, Department of Educational Policy Studies NSF Grant Committee (2008- )
- *Speaker*, UW System Professional Development Conference (2008)
- *Member*, School of Education Search Committee (2006, 2007)
- *Speaker*, Spencer Doctoral Research Program (2004, 2006, 2008)
- *Member*, University Committee on Undergraduate Recruitment, Admissions, and Financial Aid (2005-2008)
- *Member*, School of Education Equity and Diversity Committee (2005- )
- *Member*, School of Education Sexual Harassment Committee (2005-2008 )
- *Speaker*, Graduate Student Collaborative (2006, 2008)
- *Member*, UW System PK-16 "Education Trust" team (2006)
- *Mentor*, McNair Program (2005-2006)
- *Faculty Fellow*, Bradley Learning Community (2005-2006)
- *Member*, University Search Committee for Director of Financial Services (2005)
- *Dissertation Defense Examiner*, Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis (2005)
- *Member*, Department of Educational Policy Studies Lecturers Committee (2004-2005)
- *Member*, UW-Madison School of Education Graduate Assistant Committee (2004-2006)
- *Member*, Department of Educational Policy Studies Awards Committee (2004-2005)
- *Dissertation Defense Examiner*, Department of Sociology (2004)

## **Advising**

*Chair*, Dissertation Committee, Department of Educational Policy Studies  
Peter Kinsley, 2013 (expected)  
Suzanne Sublette, 2010 (expected)  
Eleonora Hicks, 2011 (expected)  
You Geon Lee, 2011 (expected)

*Chair*, Master's Thesis Committee, Department of Educational Policy Studies

Sara Lazenby, 2010 (expected)

Timothy St. Louis, 2010 (expected)

Derria Byrd, 2010 (expected)

Annie Lien

Stephanie Cowan, 2008

*Chair*, Master's Thesis Committee, Department of Sociology

Lauren Schudde, 2010 (expected)

*Member*, Dissertation Committee

James Benson, 2009 (Sociology, expected)

Brian An, 2009 (Sociology, expected)

Marjorie Cook, 2010 (ELPA, expected)

Binzhen Wu, 2006 (Economics)

Hyunjoon Park, 2004 (Sociology)

*Member*, Master's Thesis Committee

Courtney Luedke (Sociology)

Robert Kelchen (Economics)

Roberta Bornhoeft, 2009 (ELPA)

Megan Angus, 2005 (Educational Policy Studies)