

Emma Flanagan, PhD

Curriculum Vitae

3102 Wyman Park Drive
Baltimore, MD 21218

(815)988-1932
eflanag7@jh.edu

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Postdoctoral Fellow

Poverty and Inequality Research Lab
Johns Hopkins University

July 2026 - present

EDUCATION

PhD, Human Ecology: Human Development and Family Studies

August 2025

Minor: Public Policy

University of Wisconsin, Madison - Madison, WI

Dissertation: "Delivery of Social Benefits: How Families Experience the Receipt of Social Safety Net Supports"

Advisor: Sarah Halpern-Meekin, PhD

Committee Members: Carolyn Barnes, PhD, Judith Bartfeld, PhD, & Quentin Riser, PhD

MS, Human Ecology: Human Development and Family Studies

June 2022

University of Wisconsin, Madison - Madison, WI

MS Human Ecology: Human Development and Family Studies

Thesis: "Inability to Pay Housing Costs in Wisconsin: Job Loss and Unemployment Insurance during the COVID-19 Pandemic"

BS, Psychology

May 2019

Saint Louis University - St. Louis, MO

Minors: Biology, Public Health, Urban Poverty Studies

PAPERS

Flanagan, E., & Halpern-Meekin, S. (2026). Uncertainty as a Psychological Cost: Mothers' Perceptions of Financial Resources During the COVID-19 Pandemic. *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences*, 12(2), 34-56. <https://doi.org/10.7758/RSF.2026.12.2.02>

Flanagan, E., & Riser, Q. (2026). The effects of pandemic supplemental nutrition assistance program waivers on program participation. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 188(109150). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2026.109150>

Flanagan, E., Halpern-Meekin, S., Hoiting, J., Kerr, M., & Kirkorian, H. (2026). Views of preschool-age children's screen time among mothers with low incomes. *Journal of Family Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/fam0001483>

Shager, H., Drazen, Y., & **Flanagan, E.** (2025, June). "Wisconsinites' Opinions About & Experiences With Child Care: Evidence From The WisconSays Survey." *Institute for Research on Poverty*. <https://www.irp.wisc.edu/wp/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/WisconSays-Child-Care-Questions-Report-06062025.pdf>

Flanagan, E., Landrum, G. & Halpern-Meekin, S. (under review). "I didn't want to chance that with my kids": Mothers' Views of COVID-19 Vaccines over Time.

- Flanagan, E., Barnes, C., & Halpern-Meekin, S.** “‘Somebody has to be the Front Line’”: *Discretion Among Public Library Staff Assisting with Social Services*. Manuscript in preparation.
- Flanagan, E. & Halpern-Meekin, S.** *Couples’ Financial Sharing in the Context of an Unconditional Cash Transfer*. Manuscript in preparation.

PRESENTATIONS

- Flanagan, E.** (2025, October). “‘Somebody has to be the Front Line’”: *Discretion Among Public Library Staff Assisting with Social Services*. Wisconsin South Central Library System. Madison, WI.
<https://vimeo.com/1129251428>
- Flanagan, E.** (2025, April). “Somebody has to be the front line”: *Discretion among public library staff assisting with social services*. Graduate Research Fellows Meeting. Madison, WI.
- Flanagan, E.** (2025, April). Dissertation Grants. Guest Lecture – School of Human Ecology.
- Flanagan, E.** (2024, November). *Extending Recertifications: Pandemic SNAP Waivers’ Impacts on SNAP Enrollment*. APPAM. National Harbor, MD.
- Flanagan, E.** (2024, August). *Extending Recertifications: Pandemic SNAP Waivers’ Impacts on SNAP Enrollment*. 26th Annual Retirement and Disability Research Consortium Meeting. Washington, D.C.
- Flanagan, E. & Halpern-Meekin, S.** (2024, June). *Encounters with Learning Costs and the Role of Dependability: Mothers’ Perceptions of Financial Resources During the Onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic*. Russell Sage Foundation. New York, NY.
- Flanagan, E. & Halpern-Meekin, S.** (2022, November). *Perceived Learning Costs: Mothers’ Approaches to Financial Resources during the COVID-19 Pandemic*. Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Conference. Washington D.C.
- Flanagan, E. & Halpern-Meekin, S.** (2022, October). *Perceived Learning Costs: Mothers’ Approaches to Financial Resources during the COVID-19 Pandemic*. Household Finance Seminar, Center for Financial Security. Madison, WI.
- Washbush, A. & **Flanagan, E.** (2022, April). *How Have Food Pantries Experienced the Pandemic? Results from Wisconsin Food Pantry Coordinators*. Health and Hunger Summit. Wisconsin Dells, WI.
- Flanagan, E., Lovan, E. & Sims, J.** (2019, May). *Attitudes Toward Formerly Incarcerated Individuals: Impacts of Race and Belief in Just World on Perceived Conscientiousness and Recidivism*. Saint Louis University Psychology Senior Symposium. St. Louis, MO.
- Sokol, B., Peterson, A. & **Flanagan, E.** (2018, April). *Readers 2 Leaders 2018*. Local and Global Social Justice Conference. St. Louis, MO.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Institute for Research on Poverty Dissertation Research Fellowship	Summer 2024 – Summer 2025
Russell Sage Foundation Dissertation Research Grant	Summer 2024 – Summer 2025
Institute for Research on Poverty Graduate Research Fellow	Fall 2021– present
Graduate School Student Research Grant Competition Award	Fall 2024
School of Human Ecology Dissertation Award	Summer 2024
School of Human Ecology Summer Time Academic Research Award	Summer 2023
Institute for Research on Poverty Graduate Research Fellows Conference Travel Award	Fall 2022
Saint Louis University Vice Presidential Scholarship	2015– 2019
Senior Leadership Award	2019
Senior Service Award	2019
Saint Louis University Learning Community Medallion Recipient	2019
Dean’s List	Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Baby's First Years: Mothers' Voices, University of Wisconsin, Madison	August 2020 – May 2025
Research Assistant, Extension, University of Wisconsin, Madison	May 2024 – May 2025
Research Assistant, Co-Create, University of Wisconsin, Madison	January 2022 – May 2024
Consultant, Dane County Farmers' Market Double Dollars Program, Madison, WI	August 2023 – January 2024
Child Welfare Research Intern, The Urban Institute, Washington, D.C.	June 2022 – September 2022
Undergraduate Research Assistant, Readers 2 Leaders, Saint Louis University	January 2018 – May 2019
Undergraduate Research Assistant, Social Psychology Lab, Saint Louis University	September 2018 – May 2019
Undergraduate Research Assistant, Neuroscience Lab, Saint Louis University	September 2016 – May 2018

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

<i>Teaching Assistant, University of Wisconsin, Madison</i>	
HDFS 516: Stress and Resilience in Families Across the Lifespan	Spring 2023
HDFS 663: Developmental and Family Assessment	Fall 2021, Spring 2022
HDFS 535: A Family Perspective on Policymaking	Fall 2020, Spring 2021

RELEVANT EMPLOYMENT

Policy and Program Analyst, Advanced Wisconsin Department of Health Services – Bureau of Children's Services. Madison, WI	June 2025 – June 2026
Policy and Program Analyst Intern, Wisconsin Department of Children and Families – Bureau of Working Families. Madison, WI	May 2023 – October 2023
Housing Specialist – Eviction Prevention/Volunteer, Tenant Resource Center. Madison, WI	January 2021 – August 2021
Americorps Member/Housing Navigator, Missoula Interfaith Collaborative – Family Promise. Missoula, MT	August 2019 – July 2020
Consultant, Saint Louis University Center for Service and Community Engagement. St. Louis, MO	January 2018 – August 2019

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

HDFS Graduate Student Organization Peer Mentor Chair	August 2024 – May 2025
Social Justice Center Volunteer – Resource Advocate	September 2023 – May 2025
HDFS Graduate Student Organization Community Outreach Chair	Fall 2023 – Spring 2024
School of Human Ecology Peer Mentor	Fall 2022 – Spring 2024
HDFS Graduate Student Organization Social Chair	Fall 2022 – Spring 2023

Weekly Learning Community Small Group Leader
Team Leader – Saint Louis University Annual Giving Program

September 2018 – May 2019
May 2017 – December 2017

RESEARCH SOFTWARE

R, Stata, Dedoose

REFERENCES

Sarah Halpern-Meekin, PhD – Advisor – sarah.halpernmeekin@wisc.edu
Judi Bartfeld, PhD – Dissertation Committee Member – bartfeld@wisc.edu
Quentin Riser, PhD – Dissertation Committee Member – qriser@wisc.edu