Spencer L. James

March 15, 2021

appointments *Brigham Young University*

2012-2017. Assistant Professor, School of Family Life

2018-. Associate Professor, School of Family Life

Director, Global Families Research Initiative

Affiliate, Africana Studies Program

education *The Pennsylvania State University*

2012. Ph.D, Sociology and Demography

2011. Doctoral Certificate in Quantitative Methods

*Brigham Young University*

2008. M.S., Sociology

2006. B.S., Sociology-Research and Analysis (Cum Laude)

interests Global Families; Family and Child Wellbeing; Marriage and Family; Romantic Relationship Quality, Dissolution, and Formation; Social Demography; Quantitative Methods; Survey Research

publications *book*

Brian J. Willoughby and **Spencer L. James**. 2017. “The Marriage Paradox: Why Emerging Adults Love Marriage Yet Push It Aside.” *Oxford University Press*.

*journal articles*

*\* denotes equal authorship*

**Spencer L. James**, David A. Nelson, McKell A. Jorgensen-Wells, and Danielle Calder-Kamalu. “Marital Quality Over the Life Course and Child Wellbeing from Childhood to Early Adolescence.” Forthcoming in *Development and Psychopathology*.

McKell A. Jorgensen-Wells, **Spencer L. James**, and Erin K. Holmes. “Attachment Development in Adolescent Romantic Relationships: A Conceptual Model.” Forthcoming in *Journal of Family Theory and Review*.

Laurie DeRose, W. Bradford Wilcox, Javiera Reyes, Pamela Leyva Townsend, and **Spencer L. James**. 2021. “Has the New Natalism Reduced the Religious Fertility Advantage?” Forthcoming in *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*.

Braquel Egginton, Erin K. Holmes, **Spencer L. James**, and Alan J. Hawkins. 2021. “The Power of Three: A Latent Class Analysis of the Three Parent-Child Relationships in Stepfamilies and Their Influence on Emerging Adult Outcomes”. Forthcoming at *Journal of Divorce and Remarriage*.

Veronica Hanna-Walker, Dean M. Busby, Chelom E. Leavitt, and **Spencer L. James**. 2021. “Missing Piece of the Puzzle: Evaluating a General Meaning of Sex Measure”. Forthcoming at *Family Process*.

**Spencer L. James**, Jeremy B. Yorgason, Erin K. Holmes, David R. Johnson, and Dean M. Busby. 2021. “Is It Still Possible to Collect Nationally Representative Marriage Data in the United States?” Forthcoming at *Family Relations* (special section on family research methodologies).

\*McKell A. Jorgensen-Wells, & \***Spencer L. James**. (2020). Social Capital and Age at Sexual Debut: Race Differences in South Africa. *Social Sciences*, *9*(11), 197.

Stephen F. Duncan, Thomas White, and **Spencer L. James*.*** (2020). Understanding Men’s Involvement in Marital Interventions. *Journal of Couple & Relationship Therapy*.

Joana Salifu Yendork and **Spencer L. James**. 2020. “COVID-19 in Ghana: Changes and the Way Forward.” *Journal of Comparative Family Studies*, 51*.*

Sherinah Saasa and **Spencer L. James**. 2020. “COVID-19 in Zambia: Implications for Family, Social, Economic, and Psychological Wellbeing.” *Journal of Comparative Family Studies*, 51*.*

Willoughby, Brian J., **Spencer L. James**, Jeremy B. Yorgason, and Erin K. Holmes. 2020. “What Does Marriage Mean to Us? Marital Centrality among Newlywed Couples.” *Journal of Family Issues*.

Dean M. Busby, Nathan D. Leonhardt, and **Spencer L. James**. “A Closer Look at Sexual Passion in Relationships.” 2020. *Journal of Child and Family Studies* 29:2940-2953.

Tiffany L. Clyde, Jocelyn S. Wikle, Alan J. Hawkins, and **Spencer L. James**. 2020. “The Effects of Premarital Education Promotion Policies on U.S. Divorce Rates.” Forthcoming at *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*.

Brian J. Willoughby, **Spencer L. James**, Ian Marsee, Madison Memmott, and Renée Peltz Dennison. 2020. “‘I’m Scared Because Divorce Sucks’: Parental Divorce and the Marital Paradigms of Emerging Adults.” Forthcoming at *Journal of Family Issues*.

Thomas White, Stephen F. Duncan, Jeremy B. Yorgason, **Spencer L. James**, and Erin K. Holmes. “Marital Interventions: Participation, Helpfulness, and Change in a Nationally Representative Sample.” Forthcoming at *Family Relations*.

Jessica E. Lambert, Alyssa Banford Witting, **Spencer L. James**, Thulitha Wickrama, and Lakmal Ponnamperuma. “[Toward Understanding Posttraumatic Stress and Depression among Trauma-Affected Widows in Sri Lanka](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/m/pubmed/29733668/).” Forthcoming at *Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy*.

**Spencer L. James** and Jini L. Roby. 2019. “[Comparing Reunified and Residential Care Facility Children’s Wellbeing in Ghana: The Role of Hope](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0190740918304328?via%3Dihub).” *Children and Youth Services Review* 96:316-325.

**Spencer L. James**, Jini L. Roby, Lindsay J. Powell, and Bryan A. Teuscher. 2017. “[Does Family Reunification from Residential Care Facilities Serve Children’s Best Interest? A Propensity-Score Matching Approach in Ghana](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0190740917304127).” *Children and Youth Services Review* 83:232-241.

Kevin Shafer, **Spencer L. James*,*** and Jeffry H. Larson. 2016. “[Gender Differences in the Association between Relationship Effort and Relationship Quality](http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10826-015-0294-4).” *Journal of*

*Child and Family Studies* 25(4) 1145-1154.

**Spencer L. James**. 2015. “[Variation in Marital Quality in a National Sample of Divorced Women](http://psycnet.apa.org/psycinfo/2015-17750-001).” *Journal of Family Psychology* 29(3) 479-489.

**Spencer L. James. 2015**. “[Variation in Trajectories of Women’s Marital Quality](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0049089X14001434).” *Social Science Research* 49:16-30.

Todd L. Goodsell, **Spencer L. James**, Jeremy B. Yorgason, and Vaughn R.A. Call. 2015. “[Intergenerational Assistance to Adult Children: Gender and Number of Sisters and Brothers](http://jfi.sagepub.com/content/early/2013/07/31/0192513X13497348.full).” *Journal of Family Issues* 36(8): 979-1000.

Brian J. Willoughby, Melissa Medaris, **Spencer L. James**, and Kyle Bartholomew. 2015. “[Changes in Marital Beliefs among Emerging Adults: Examining Marital Paradigms over Time](http://eax.sagepub.com/content/early/2014/12/16/2167696814563381).” *Emerging Adulthood* 3:219-228.

**Spencer L. James**. 2014. “[Longitudinal Patterns of Marital Quality: The Case of Divorce, Cohabitation, and Race-Ethnicity](http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/01494929.2014.938797#.VIuBFCvF98E).” *Marriage and Family Review* 50(8): 738-763.

**Spencer L. James** and Paul R. Amato. 2013. “[Self-Esteem and the Reproduction of Social Class](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ssqu.12019/abstract).” *Social Science Quarterly* 94(4):933-955.

Kevin Shafer and **Spencer L. James**. 2013. “[Gender and SES Differences in First and Second Marriage Formation](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jomf.12024/abstract).” *Journal of Marriage and Family* 75(3): 544- 564.

**Spencer L. James** and Brett A. Beattie. 2012. “[Reassessing the Link between Women’s Premarital Cohabitation and Marital Quality](http://sf.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2012/10/25/sf.sos126).” *Social Forces* 91(2): 635-662.

**Spencer L. James** and Kevin Shafer. 2012. “[Temporal Differences in Remarriage Timing: comparing Divorce and Widowhood](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3494456/).” *Journal of Divorce and Remarriage* 53(7): 543-558.

Paul R. Amato, Jennifer Buher-Kane, and **Spencer L. James**. 2011. “[Reconsidering the ‘Good Divorce’](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3223936/pdf/nihms301917.pdf).” *Family Relations* 60(5): 511-524.

**Spencer L. James**, Ralph B. Brown, Todd L. Goodsell, Josh Stovall, and Jeremy Flaherty. 2010. “[Adapting to Hard Times: Family Participation Patterns in Local Thrift Economies](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3011891/pdf/nihms-257816.pdf).” *Family Relations* 59(4):383-395.

Paul R. Amato and.  **Spencer L. James**. 2010. “[Divorce in Europe and the United States: Commonalities and Differences across Nations](http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/19424620903381583).” *Family Science* 1(1): 2-13.

Tim B. Heaton, **Spencer L. James**, and Yaw Ohenba-Sakyi. 2009. “[Religion and Socioeconomic Attainment in Ghana](https://www.jstor.org/stable/25593773?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents).” *Review of Religious Research* 51(1): 71-86.

book chapters

Amato, Paul R. and **Spencer L. James**. 2018. Changes in spousal relationships over the marital life course. In Duane F. Alwin, Diane H. Felmlee, and Derek A. Kreager (Eds.), *Social networks and the Life Course*. New York: Springer International.

- Covered in [The Sunday Times](https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/survive-20-years-and-marriage-is-bliss-jkd80blbk), [The Daily Mail](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5644463/Secret-happy-marriage-revealed-20-years-rest-bliss.html), [The Independent](https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/love-sex/marriage-happy-years-relationship-couple-partner-best-time-a8316506.html), and [The Sun](https://www.thesun.co.uk/fabulous/6116947/married-engaged-this-year-most-happiest-relationship/).

**Spencer L. James** and Jeremy B. Yorgason. “Longitudinal Research.” In Chris Proulx, Kevin Roy, April Few-Demo, and Kari Adamson (Eds.), *Sourcebook of Family Theory and Research*.

public scholarship (non peer-reviewed)

Jason S. Carroll, Spencer L. James, and Hal Boyd. 2020. “Religion in the Home”. The Wheatley Institution.

Spencer L. James. 2019. “Social Indicators of Marital Health and Well-Being.” Part of the State of Our Unions Project.

Jason S. Carroll, Spencer L. James, W. Bradford Wilcox, Richard Reeves, and Laurie DeRose. 2019. “Faith, Feminism, and Marriage: Institutions, Norms, and Relationship Quality.” Part of the World Family Map Project.

W. Bradford Wilcox, Spencer L. James, and Wendy Wang. 2019. “Declining Divorce in Jacksonville: Did the Culture of Freedom Initiative Make a Difference?”

W. Bradford Wilcox and **Spencer L. James**. 2018. “Divorce is Down in Duval County: A Preliminary Evaluation of the Culture of Freedom’s Initiative in Florida.”

Harry Benson and **Spencer L. James**. 2018. “The Long Term Effect of Marriage on Social Mobility.” Published with the Marriage Foundation, UK.

Harry Benson and **Spencer L. James**. 2016. “Europe’s Marriage Gap between Rich and

Poor.” Published with the Marriage Foundation, UK.

Harry Benson and **Spencer L. James**. 2016. “Marriage Boosts Self-Esteem for Teenage Boys and Girls: A Robust Analysis of BHPS Data.” Published with the Marriage Foundation, UK.

Harry Benson and **Spencer L. James**. 2015. “Out of the Blue: Family Breakdown in the UK.” Published with the Marriage Foundation, UK.

**Spencer L. James**, W. Bradford Wilcox, and Alan J. Hawkins. 2015. “Has First Things First Strengthened Family Life? A County-Level Analysis.”

book reviews

**Spencer L. James**. 2016. Review of “Sacred Divorce: Religion, Therapeutic Culture, and Ending Life Partnership”, by Kathleen E. Jenkins. Rutgers University Press. *Sociology of Religion*.

manuscripts Spencer L. James and Jane Rose Njue. “How Domestic Violence Alters the Relationship Between Maternal Education and Child Wellbeing in sub-Saharan Africa.”

Spencer L. James, Spencer Sandberg, Delanie Doyle, and Veronica Hanna. “Differences in Child Well-Being by Family Type in The Democratic Republic of Congo.”

Hailey Holmgren, Larry J. Nelson, Sarah M. Coyne, Spencer L. James, and Dean M.

Busby. “The Moderating Role of Shyness on the Relationship Between Media Communication and Romantic Relationship Satisfaction.”

Savannah Kroff, Sarah M. Coyne, and Spencer L. James. “Does This Profile Picture Make Me Look Fat?: The Influence of Social Media, Television, and Pornography on the Muscular Ideal in Men.”

Jeremy B. Yorgason, Spencer L. James, Erin K. Holmes, and Dean M. Busby. “A National

Portrait of American Marriage: The CREATE Study.”

Spencer Sandberg and Spencer L. James. “Family Structure and Child Poverty in South Africa: Evidence from the National Income Dynamics Study.”

Spencer L . James, Anis Ben Brik, McKell A. Jorgensen-Wells, Rosario Esteinou, Iván Darío Moreno Acero, Belén Mesurado, Patricia Debeliuh, and Olivia Nuñez Orellana. “Relationship Quality and Support for Family Policy during the COVID-19 Pandemic.”

Spencer L . James, Anis Ben Brik, Spencer Sandberg, Virginia Leiter, Rosario Esteinou, Iván Darío Moreno Acero, Belén Mesurado, Patricia Debeliuh, and Olivia Nuñez Orellana. “COVID-19 and Child Wellbeing in Sub-Saharan Africa: How Children in Kenya, Tanzania, and Côte d’Ivoire Fared During the Pandemic.”

selected   
presentations

2021. Spencer L. James. Panelist at UN Side Event “[The Impact of COVID19 Pandemic on Families and Children: Global Evidence and Policy Implications.](https://www.un.org/development/desa/family/2021/01/28/59th-commission-for-social-development-8-17-february-2021/)”

2020. Spencer L. James. “Families and the Economy”. Fortifying Families Webinar Series, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Latter-Day Saint Charities in New York and Geneva (United Nations Offices).

2020. Spencer Sandberg and Spencer L. James. “The Effects of Family Structure on Children’s Education, Health, and Father Involvement in South Africa.” National Council on Family Relations.

2020. Spencer L. James. Discussant for “Theorizing Social Capital and Human Economic Cost.” Theory Construction and Research Methods.

2020. David Allsop, Dean M. Busby, Spencer L. James, Erin K. Holmes, and Jeremy B. Yorgason. “Newlywed Relational Satisfaction Diverging Trajectories and Predictors.” National Council on Family Relations.

2019. Smith, M. E., Boyack, M. N., Brown-Hamlett, J. L., Hill, M. S., Chelladurai, J. M., Hill, E. J., Yorgason, J. B., Holmes, E. K., James, S. L. “Work-family spillover, couple teamwork, and relationship satisfaction: Results from a nationally representative sample of newly-married couples.” Utah Council on Family Relations.

2018. Spencer L. James and Jane Rose Njue. “Does Domestic Violence Influence the Relationship Between Maternal Education and Child Wellbeing? Evidence from sub-Saharan Africa.” Utah Demography Conference.

2018. Spencer L. James and Jini L. Roby. “Why Hope Matters for Africa’s Most Vulnerable Children: RCF and Reunified Children in Ghana.” ‘What Works for Africa’s Poorest Children’ Conference in Kampala, Uganda.

2018. Spencer L. James and Jane Rose Njue. “Maternal Education, Domestic Violence, and Child Wellbeing in sub-Saharan Africa.” National Council on Family Relations.

2018. Spencer L. James. “Comparing the Well-Being of Reunified and Institutionalized Children in Ghana.” National Council on Family Relations.

2018. Wen, Gao, David A. Nelson, Mikaila Schoenfield, and Spencer L. James. “The Correspondence Between Relational Aggression and Relational Intent Attributions: Considering Gender and Impulse Control in China.” International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development.

2017. Spencer L. James, Delanie Doyle, and Veronica Hana. “Household and Community

Nucleation and Under 5 Child Wellbeing in The Democratic Republic of the

Congo.” National Council of Family Relations

2017. Spencer L. James, Jeremy B. Yorgason, and Erin K. Holmes. “Is It Still Possible to

Collect Nationally Representative Data in the United States? A Case Study from the  
CREATE Project." Theory Construction and Research Methods workshop.

2017. Spencer L. James and Jini L. Roby. "Does reintegration serve children’s best interest? A comparative study in Ghana using propensity scoring.” International Society for Child Indicators.

2016. Spencer L. James, Jeremy B. Yorgason, Erin K. Holmes, and Nathan Stoddard. “Mental and Physical Health Correlates in a National Sample of Early Marriages.” National Council on Family Relations.  
 2016. Spencer L. James, Jini L. Roby, and Kelsey Hamstead. “Family Reintegration or Residential Care Facilities?” International Alternative Care Conference. 2016. Jerevie Canlas, Richard B. Miller, E. Jeffrey Hill, Jeremy B. Yorgason, and Spencer L. James. “The Influence of Family Relationship Satisfaction and Perceived Work- Life Harmony on Mental Health among Asian Working Mothers in Singapore.”  
 2015. Erin K. Holmes, Spencer L. James, and Nathan Stoddard. “How Does the Chronicity of Parental Depressive Symptoms Influence Adolescent Psychosocial Maturity and Depression?” National Council on Family Relations.  
 2015. Brian J. Willoughby and Spencer L. James. “The Influence of Peers on Emerging Adults’ Beliefs about Marriage.” Society for the Study of Emerging Adulthood.  
 2015. Dallin Belt, Spencer L. James, and Brian J. Willoughby. “Identity Formation as a Marker of Marital Readiness for Emerging Adults.” Society for the Study of Emerging Adulthood.  
 2015. Spencer L. James, Jini L. Roby, Lindsay J. Powell, and Bryan A. Teuscher. “Differences in Child Well-Being Between Institutionalized and Reunified Children in Ghana: Propensity-Score Approach.” International Society for Child Indicators.  
 2015. Jini L. Roby, Bryan A. Teuscher, Spencer L. James, and Lindsay J. Powell. “Reintegration From Institutional Care: Lessons Learned in the Planning, Assessment, and Follow-Up Processes. International Society for Child Indicators. 2015. Lindsay J. Powell, Spencer L. James, Bryan A. Teuscher, and Jini Roby. “Institutionalized Care in Ghana: The Influence of Wellbeing and Social Connection on Children’s Prosocial Behavior.” International Society for Child Indicators. 2015. Bryan A. Teuscher, Lindsay J. Powell, Jini L. Roby. “Social Attachment and Hope Among Children Living in Institutions in Ghana.”  
 2014. Spencer L. James. “Explaining the Effect of Cohabitation on Marital Quality in Britain.” International Association of Relationship Research.  
 2013. Kyle Bartholomew, Melissa Medaris, Brian J. Willoughby, Spencer L. James, and Laura Padilla-Walker. “The Role of Parental Management of Relationships on Marital Beliefs.” National Council on Family Relations.  
 2013. Melissa Medaris, Kyle Bartholomew, Brian J. Willoughby and Spencer L. James. Changes in Marital Beliefs among Emerging Adults: Associations with Personality, Demographics, and Relational Behavior.” National Council on Family Relations.  
 2013. “Using Stata to Simplify and Expand the Uses of Mplus: The RunMplus Command.” Theory Construction and Research Methodology Workshop Session (with W. Justin Dyer).   
 2013. Jon Gobeil and Spencer L. James. “Assessing the Fourth Estate: Comparing the Conditions of Aggressive Questioning Practices in U.S. Presidential and UK Prime Ministerial News Conferences, 2002-2009.” American Sociological Association. 2013. Spencer L. James. “Longitudinal Patterns of Marital Quality: The Case of Divorce, Cohabitation, and Race Ethnicity.” Population Association of America. 2012. Spencer L. James. “Longitudinal Patterns of Marital Quality Prior to Divorce.” Population Association of America.

grants & 2019-Mentoring Environment Grant, Brigham Young University, $20,000.

awards 2014-17. Nelson Galbraith Faculty Development Award, Brigham Young University School

of Family Life. $5,000 annually.

2014. “Evaluation of a Child Reunification Program in Ghana.” Marjorie Pay Research Award. $22,500.

2013. “The Marital Paradigm Study: Wave Three.” Emmeline B. Wells Grant. $17,000.

2012. “Marital Paradigm Study: Wave Two.” Brigham Young University Mentored

Environment Grant. $8,000.

2009. Ruth L. Kirchstein National Research Awards for Individual Pre-doctoral

Fellowships (T32), NICHD Family Demography Predoctoral Traineeship, August

2009-July 2012 ($20,772 annually + $1,800 research support)

citizenship & *editorial*  
professional Associate Editor:

activities Journal of Comparative Family Studies (2018-)Editorial Board Member:

Journal of Marriage and Family (2019-)

Family Relations (2019-)

International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health (2020-)

International Journal of African Studies (2020-)

Ad-hoc reviewer for *Journal of Marriage and Family, Social Science Research, American*

*Sociological Review, Family Relations, Journal of Social and Personal Relationships, Personal*

*Relationships, Emerging Adulthood, Journal of Comparative Family Studies, Marriage and Family Review,*

*Advances in Life Course Research, The Sociological Quarterly, Contemporary Sociology, Journal of Positive*

*Psychology, Population Review and Policy Research,* *Sociology of Religion,* and *Religious Educator*

*membership*  
 National Council on Family Relations

International Association of Relationship Research

International Society for Child Indicators

Society for the Study of Emerging Adulthood

Population Association of America

American Sociological Association

*service*  
Proposal reviews, NCFR /Theory Construction and Research Methodology, 2012-2019; Steering Committee, African Families Group, NCFR; ASA Family Section Student Paper Award committee, 2011.  
Co-organizer (with Adam Galovan) for the 2019 Theory Construction and Research Methodology Workshop.

references Available upon request.