

# Richard A. Benton

University of Illinois  
School of Labor and Employment Relations  
209 LER Building, 504 E. Armory Avenue  
Champaign, IL 61820

Phone: (217) 265-5121  
Fax: (217) 244-9290  
Email: [rabenton@illinois.edu](mailto:rabenton@illinois.edu)  
Homepage: [www.richardabenton.org](http://www.richardabenton.org)

## Academic Positions

2015-present. University of Illinois.  
Assistant Professor, School of Labor and Employment Relations and (by courtesy) Sociology.

2014-2015. Duke University.  
Post-Doctoral Research Associate, Department of Sociology.

## Education

North Carolina State University  
2014 Ph.D. Concentration: *Economic Sociology and Organizations*.

North Carolina State University  
2010 M.S. Concentration: *Sociology*.

North Carolina State University  
2007 B.A. Concentration: *Sociology and Psychology*.

## Research Interests

Social Networks	Corporate Governance
Social Capital	Job Quality
Organizations, Formal and Complex	Income and Wealth Inequality

## Publications

### *Journal Articles*

Benton, Richard A. Forthcoming. "Brokerage and Closure in Corporate Control: Shifting Sources of Power for a Fractured Corporate Board Network," *Organization Studies*.

Benton, Richard A. and Jihae You. Forthcoming. "Governance Monitors or Market Rebels? Heterogeneity in Shareholder Activism," *Strategic Organization*.

Benton, Richard A. 2017. "The Decline of Social Entrenchment: Social Network Cohesion and Board Responsiveness to Shareholder Activism," *Organization Science*. 28(2):262-282.

Benton, Richard A. and Lisa Keister. 2017. "The Lasting Effect of Intergenerational Wealth Transfers: Human Capital, Family Formation, and Wealth," *Social Science Research*. 68:1-14.

Benton, Richard A. and Jihae You. 2017. "Endogenous Dynamics in Contentious Fields: Evidence from the Shareholder Activism Network, 2006-2013," *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World*. 3: 1-22

- Dodsworth, Robin and Richard A. Benton. 2017. "Social Network Cohesion and the Retreat from Southern Vowels in Raleigh," *Language in Society*. 46(3):371-405.
- McDonald, Steve and Richard A. Benton. 2017. "The Structure of Internal Job Mobility and Organizational Wage Inequality," *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*. 47:21-31
- Benton, Richard A. 2016. "Corporate Governance and Nested Authority: The Effects of Network Selection and Assimilation on the Balance of Power in American Corporations," *American Journal of Sociology*. 122(3):661-713. (lead article)
- Benton, Richard A. 2016. "Uniters or Dividers? Voluntary Organizations and Social Capital Acquisition," *Social Networks*. 44: 209-218.
- Keister, Lisa A. Richard A. Benton, James Moody. 2016. "Lifestyles through Expenditures: A Case-Based Approach to Saving," *Sociological Science*. 3: 650-684.
- Moody, James and Richard A. Benton. 2016. "Interdependent Effects of Cohesion and Concurrency for Epidemic Potential," *Annals of Epidemiology*. 26(4):241-248.
- Benton, Richard A. Steve McDonald, Anna Manzoni, David F. Warner. 2015. "The Recruitment Paradox: Network Recruitment, Structural Position, and East German Market Transition," *Social Forces*. 93(3): 905-932.
- Benton, Richard A. 2013. "Social Capital and Work Activity: Autonomy, Supervision, and Creativity in Interpersonal Networks," *Research in the Sociology of Work*. 24: 269-292.
- McDonald, Steve, Richard A. Benton, and David F. Warner. 2012 "Dual Embeddedness: Informal Job Matching and Labor Market Institutions in the United States and Germany," *Social Forces*. 91(1):75-97.

### Book

- Dodsworth, Robin and Richard Benton. Forthcoming. *New Approaches to Class and Networks in Sociolinguistics*. Routledge.

### Chapters and Invited Papers

- McDonald, Steve and Richard A. Benton. Forthcoming. "Social Capital and Economic Sociology," in *Oxford Handbook of Social Networks* edited by Ryan Light and James Moody.
- Benton, Richard A., Lisa A. Keister, and Hang Young Lee. 2017. "Real Estate Holdings Among the Super Rich," in *Cities and the Super-Rich* edited by Ray Forrest, Sin Yee Koh, and Bart Wissink. Palgrave.
- Benton, Richard A. and Steve McDonald. 2013. "The Social Capital of Interlocking Directorates: Status Conferral, Influence Brokerage, and Information Diffusion," in *Social Capital: Theory, Measurement and Outcomes* edited by C. Douglas Johnson.
- McDonald, Steve and Richard A. Benton. 2013. "Social Capital" in *Sociology of Work: An Encyclopedia* edited by Vicki Smith. Sage Publications.

## Grants, Honors, and Awards

### *Grants*

2018-20 National Science Foundation. "Nationally Representative Survey on Financialization, Work Organization, and Job Training." NSF Division of Social and Economic Sciences. [\(SES-1823511\)](#) \$379,723. (PI; Co-PI: Andrew Weaver).

2016-19 Russell Sage Foundation Grant. ["Intergenerational Transfers and Wealth Inequality."](#) \$123,354. (Co-PI; PI: Lisa A. Keister).

2013. National Science Foundation. "Corporate Board Interlocks: Information, Status, and Institutional Context." Dissertation Improvement Grant. NSF Division of Social and Economic Sciences. [\(SES-1332034\)](#) \$6,942.

### *Honors and Awards*

2017. Fellowship. Stanford University Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (CASBS) [Summer Institute on Organizations and their Effectiveness.](#)

2014. Howard Odum Annual Graduate Student Paper Award - Southern Sociological Society.

2012. Alan C. Kerckhoff Award - International Sociology Association Research Committee on Social Stratification and Mobility (RC28).

## Professional Presentations

### *Invited and Keynote Presentations*

2018 (scheduled) "Eyes On The Horizon? Fragmented Elites and the Short-Term Focus of the American Corporation" Invited Speaker at the University of Michigan, Interdisciplinary Committee on Organizational Studies ([ICOS](#)) Seminar.

2018 (scheduled) "Eyes On The Horizon? Fragmented Elites and the Short-Term Focus of the American Corporation" Invited presentation at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Lubar School of Business.

2018 (scheduled) "Eyes On The Horizon? Fragmented Elites and the Short-Term Focus of the American Corporation" Invited presentation at Duke University, Duke Network Analysis Center Seminar Series.

2018 "Exploring the Long Run Wealth Effects of Inheritances." Invited Panelist. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Center for Opportunity and Equality (COPE) Conference, ["Wealth Inequalities: Measurement and Policy."](#) Paris, France. (4/26/2018).

2018 "Eyes On The Horizon? Fragmented Elites and the Short-Term Focus of the American Corporation" Invited paper presented at Advances in the Study of Corporate Networks Workshop, Copenhagen Business School, May 17-18, 2018

2018 "The Lasting Effect of Intergenerational Wealth Transfers: Human Capital, Family Formation, and Wealth" Invited paper presented at the Labor and Employment Relations Association-American Economic Association Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA.

2016 "School Co-Attendance Networks and the Southern Vowel Shift" Invited Keynote Speaker. [Data Driven Approach to Networks and Language Workshop.](#) Ecole normale superieure de Lyon. Lyon, France. (5/11/2016)

2015 "Interdependent Effects of Cohesion and Concurrency for Epidemic Potential" with James Moody, Invited Thematic Paper Session on Networks and Sexual Behaviors. Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association.

2015 "School Co-Attendance Networks and the Southern Vowel Shift" with Robin Dodsworth. Duke University, Duke Network Analysis Center Seminar Series.

### *Conference Presentations*

2018 (scheduled) "Eyes On The Horizon? Fragmented Elites and the Short-Term Focus of the American Corporation." Paper presented at the 6th Annual Economic Sociology Conference, University of North Carolina. Chapel Hill, NC. October 19, 2018.

2018 (scheduled) "Market Constraint, Wage Inequality, and Eroding Job Quality." Paper presented at the 11th Annual Wharton People and Organizations Conference, Plenary Session. Philadelphia, PA. September 28-29, 2018.

2018 "Market Constraint, Wage Inequality, and Eroding Job Quality." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management, Chicago, IL. August 9-14, 2018.

2018 "Market Constraint, Wage Inequality, and Eroding Job Quality." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of Labor and Employment Relations Association, Baltimore, MD. June 14-17, 2018.

2018 "Eyes On The Horizon? Fragmented Elites and the Short-Term Focus of the American Corporation" Paper presented at IC2S2-18, 4th Annual International Conference on Computational Social Science, Northwestern University. July 12-15, 2018.

2017 "Contention and Accommodation in Shareholder Activism" Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management. Atlanta, GA.

2017 "Brokerage and Closure in Corporate Control: Structural Sources of Power for a Fractured Corporate Elite" Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

2016 "Social Entrenchment: Social Network Cohesion and Board Responsiveness to Shareholder Activism, 1998-2013" Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management. Anaheim, CA.

2016 "Social Entrenchment: Social Network Cohesion and Board Responsiveness to Shareholder Activism, 1998-2013" Regular Paper Session at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. Seattle, WA.

2016 "Social Entrenchment: Social Network Cohesion and Board Responsiveness to Shareholder Activism, 1998-2013" Paper presented at the International Sunbelt Social Network Conference. Newport Beach, CA.

2015 "Uniters or Dividers? Voluntary Organizations and Social Capital Acquisition" Invited presentation for the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. (11/2/2015)

2015 "Corporate Governance Outcomes and Structural Cohesion in Director Interlock Networks" Paper presented at the International Sunbelt Social Network Conference. Brighton, UK

2015 "Managerial Entrenchment and Cohesion among the American Corporate Elite" Session on the Consequences and Control of Financialization, Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society. New Orleans, LA

2015 "Real Estate Holdings among the Super Rich" Cities and Super-Rich Workshop, City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong.

2014 "Corporate Governance and Nested Authority: The Effects of Selection and Influence on the Balance of Power in American Corporations" Sunbelt XXXIV, the annual meeting of the International Network for Social network Analysis, St. Pete Beach, FL.

2013 "Socially Embedded Corporate Governance: Selection and Influence in Interlocking Directorates." Section on Economic Sociology. American Sociological Society annual meeting, New York NY.

2013 "The Structure of Contacts and Resources across the Social Hierarchy: Social Contacts, Tie Strength, and Stratification." Networks and Inequality MiniConference. Southern Sociological Society annual meeting, Atlanta, GA

2012 "Institutional Transference and Labor Market Informality: The Case of German Reunification, 1991-2001." Section on Economic Sociology Paper Session. American Sociological Society annual meeting, Denver CO.

2012 "Stratification, Social Capital, and Market Transition: The Case of German Unification" with Steve McDonald, Anna Manzoni, and David F. Warner. Summer Meeting of the International Sociological Association Research Committee on Social Stratification and Mobility, Charlottesville, VA.

2012 "Social Capital and Work Activity: How Are Work Autonomy and Supervisions Related to Network Resources?" Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA

2012 "Dual Embeddedness and Institutional Transference: Network-based Job Finding and Macro-Institutional Dynamics in Germany and the United States" with Steve McDonald and David F. Warner. Duke Network Analysis Center Seminar Series. Durham, NC

2011 "Visualizing the Abstract: Using Word Clouds to Visualize Sociological Texts." with Nicholas Solebello. Southern Sociological Society annual meeting, Jacksonville FL.

2010 "Informal Job Matching and Labor Market Institutions: Non-Searching for Jobs in the United States and Germany." with Steve McDonald and David F. Warner Southern Sociological Society annual meeting, Atlanta GA.

## Teaching

### *University of Illinois*

2018 ["Summer Research Opportunities Program \(SROP\)"](#) Faculty Mentor. Research program

2016-present Recognized on University of Illinois List of Teachers Ranked Excellent by their Students

2015-present Organizational Fundamentals (LER 523).

2016-present Power and Influence in Organizations (LER 569).

### *North Carolina State University*

2012-2014 Sociology of Jobs and Work.

2012 Technology in Society and Culture.

2011-2012 Current Social Problems.

2010 Social Research Methods: Undergraduate Lab.

## Service

Website administrator and monthly newsletter collaborator for the Organizations, Occupations, and Work section of the American Sociological Association (2014-2016)

Occasional Reviewer for: National Science Foundation, American Sociological Review, Social Forces, Organization Science, Social Problems, Sociological Theory, Research in Social Stratification and Mobility, Corporate Governance: An International Review, Computational and Mathematical Organization Theory, Journal of Social Structure, Sociological Perspectives, Journal of Economics and Business, Managerial Science.

### *Committee Memberships - University of Illinois*

Department Colloquium Committee (Chair) (2017-2018)

Academic Affairs Committee (2015-2017)

Tim Judge Fellowship Selection Committee (2016)

Library Committee (2016)

Last updated: September 7, 2018

[www.richardabenton.org](http://www.richardabenton.org)