## **ISAAC SASSON**

Curriculum Vitae

University of Texas at Austin
Department of Sociology & Population Research Center
305 E. 23rd Street, Stop G1800
Austin, TX 78712
isasson@prc.utexas.edu

## **EDUCATION**

- Ph.D. Sociology (Demography), University of Texas at Austin, Present Committee: Alex Weinreb (Chair), Mark Hayward, Robert Hummer, Daniel Powers, Debra Umberson, Shripad Tuljapurkar (Stanford)
- M.S. Statistics, University of Texas at Austin, 2012
  Report: Approaches to Modeling Self-rated Health in Longitudinal Studies
- M.A. Sociology, University of Texas at Austin, 2010
  Thesis: The Effect of Land Degradation on Fertility in West Africa
- B.Sc. Environmental Science, Sociology & Anthropology (magna cum laude), Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2009

### **AREAS OF INTEREST**

Sociology and demography of health; Disparities in adult mortality; Life course theory; Population and environment; Statistical methods; Sociology and philosophy of science

### **PUBLICATIONS**

Sasson, Isaac, and Debra J. Umberson. 2014. "Widowhood and Depression: New Light on Gender Differences, Selection, and Psychological Adjustment." *Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences* 69(1):135-45.

- Featured "Editor's Choice" in *The Journals of Gerontology*
- Awarded the Southern Demographic Association's Everett S. Lee Paper Award

Sasson, Isaac, and Arthur Sakamoto. 2014. "Non-poor Components of Population Growth and Immigration in the U.S., 1990-2010." Social Indicators Research 115(1):183-201.

### **PAPERS UNDER REVIEW**

Sasson, Isaac, and Alexander Weinreb. "AIDS as Dominant Theme in Contemporary African Demography: An Evaluation." (Revise & resubmit)

Sasson, Isaac. "Approaches to Modeling Self-rated Health in Longitudinal Studies: Best Practices and Recommendations for Multilevel Models."

### **WORK IN PROGRESS**

- "The Effect of Environmental and Political Uncertainty on Fertility in West Africa." (with Alexander Weinreb)
- "The Educational Gradient in U.S. Cohort Mortality: A Further Look into Selection, Compression, and Educational Composition."
- "Race, Stress, Eating Behavior, and Body Weight." (with Debra Umberson, Hui Liu, and Patricia Thomas)

#### **INVITED TALKS**

2014 "What Can Lifespan Variation Tell Us About the Future of Mortality? The Curious Case of High School Educated Americans." Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

2013 Hayward, Mark D., Robert A. Hummer and Isaac Sasson. "Historical Trends and Group Differences in the Association between Educational Attainment and U.S. Adult Mortality." Harvard Center for Population & Development Studies, Cambridge, MA.

Sasson, Isaac. "The Educational Gradient in Cohort Mortality: A Relative Distribution Approach." Regular Session, Southern Demographic Association (SDA) Annual Meeting, Montgomery, AL.

Sasson, Isaac, and Alexander Weinreb. "Land Degradation and Fertility in sub-Saharan West Africa: Disaggregating the Demographic Response." Regular Session, XXVII IUSSP International Population Conference, Busan, South Korea.

Sasson, Isaac. "Approaches to Modeling Self-rated Health in Longitudinal Studies: Best Practices and Recommendations for Multilevel Models." Regular Session, Population Association of America (PAA) Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.

2012 Sasson, Isaac, and Debra Umberson. "Depression and Widowhood: New Light on Gender Differences, Selection, and Adaptation." Regular Session, Gerontological Society of America (GSA) Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.

Sasson, Isaac. "Gender Differences in Depression Following Late Widowhood: A Population Perspective." Regular Session, Southern Demographic Association (SDA) Annual Meeting, Williamsburg, VA.

Sasson, Isaac. "Non-Poor Population Growth as a Population Characteristic: U.S. 1990-2010." Poster Session, Population Association of America (PAA) Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.

Recipient of PAA Poster Award

Umberson, Debra, Hui Liu, Isaac Sasson and Letisha Brown. "Race, Stress, Eating Behavior, and Body Weight." Regular Session, Population Association of America (PAA) Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.

2011 Umberson, Debra, Isaac Sasson, Patricia Thomas, Hui Liu and Mieke Thomeer. "Widowhood and Health Trajectories: Race/Gender Intersection." Regular Session, Gerontological Society of America (GSA) Annual Meeting, Boston, MA.

Sasson, Isaac, and Debra Umberson. "Approaches to Modeling Self-Rated Health in Longitudinal Studies." Regular Session, Southern Demographic Association (SDA) Annual Meeting, Tallahassee, FL.

Sasson, Isaac, and Arthur Sakamoto. "Revisiting Malthus for Developed Nations: Non-Poor Population Growth as a Population Characteristic." Round Table, American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV.

Sasson, Isaac. "Environmental Resources, Land Degradation and Fertility in West Africa: Do We Need Better Measures or Better Theory?" Regular Session, Population Association of America (PAA) Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.

## FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

**UT-Austin** 

- 2014 Graduate School Continuing Fellowship, UT-Austin
- 2013 Graduate Fellow, Division of Statistics & Scientific Computation, UT-Austin
- 2012 Everett S. Lee Graduate Student Paper Award, Southern Demographic Association
  Pass with distinction, comprehensive exams in *Demography* and *Health over the Life Course*, Department of Sociology, UT-Austin
  - Fellowship in Quantitative Research Methods, College of Liberal Arts, UT-Austin Best Master's Report in Statistics Award, Division of Statistics & Scientific Computation,
  - Poster Award, Population Association of America
- 2010 Doug Forbes Graduate Research Award, Population Research Center, UT-Austin Summer Fellowship, Department of Sociology, UT-Austin
- 2009 Dean's List, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- 2007 Dean's List, Faculty of Social Sciences, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2013 Workshop on Education and Health: Contextualizing Causality, Harvard Center for Population & Development Studies, Harvard University (November 8)
  - Philosophy of the Social Sciences Summer Seminar, Yale University (July 29-August 9; funding awarded)
  - Workshop on Demography, Economics, Psychology, and Epidemiology of Aging, RAND Summer Institute (July 10-11; funding awarded)
  - Environmental Demography Short Course, Institute of Behavioral Science and Population Center, University of Colorado Boulder (June 12-14; funding awarded)
- 2012 Workshop on Computational Social Science Modeling and Complexity, Santa Fe Institute (June 17-30; competitive admission)
- 2011 Power Analysis for Proposal Writing, Summer Statistics Institute, University of Texas at Austin (May 23-26)
  - Stanford Workshop on Migration as Adaptation, Institute for Research in the Social Sciences, Stanford University (April 28-30; funding awarded)
- 2010 Workshop on Spatial Pattern Analysis, Center for Spatially Integrated Social Science, University of California, Santa Barbara (July 19-23; funding awarded)

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

- 2013 Statistical Consultant. Freescale Semiconductor and UT-Austin Statistics Division (Project: Estimating robust statistics using maximum entropy densities)
- 2011-13 Statistical Consultant. Population Research Center, University of Texas at Austin (In-house consulting for graduate students and research affiliates)
- 2010-13 Graduate Research Assistant to Debra Umberson and Robert Hummer. Population Research Center, University of Texas at Austin
- 2012 Project Consultant. Population Research Institute, Pennsylvania State University (Project: Disparities in health and mortality by nativity and immigrant status; PI: Jennifer Van Hook)

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

(Courses taught at the University of Texas at Austin)

SOC 354K: Sociology of Health & Illness (Summer 2013)

SOC 308: Intro to Sociology of Health & Well-being (Summer 2012)

## **LANGUAGES**

English: bilingual proficiency Hebrew: native speaker

# **SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

## Reviewer

Journal of Health and Social Behavior; Population and Environment; Social Indicators Research

Program Committee Member, 2013 REVES Network on Health Expectancy Meeting

IE Pre-graduate School Mentor, UT-Austin (Spring 2011)

# Member

Population Association of America
American Sociological Association
(Sections: Methodology; Population; Aging and the Life Course)
International Union for the Scientific Study of Population
Southern Demographic Association