

Isaac Sasson

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Tel Aviv University

2024– Director, B. I. and Lucille Cohen Institute for Public Opinion Research
2020– Associate Professor of Sociology (with tenure)
2020–2020 Senior Lecturer (with tenure)
2016–2020 Lecturer (Assistant Professor)

London School of Economics

2015–2016 Postdoctoral Fellow in Population Health, Department of Social Policy

Hebrew University of Jerusalem

2014–2015 Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Sociology and Anthropology

EDUCATION

2014 PhD, Sociology (Demography specialization), University of Texas at Austin
2012 MS, Statistics, University of Texas at Austin
2010 MA, Sociology, University of Texas at Austin
2009 BSc, Environmental Studies; Sociology and Anthropology (Magna cum Laude), Hebrew University of Jerusalem

VISITING POSITIONS AND AFFILIATIONS

Visiting Scholar, Nuffield College, University of Oxford
January – February 2024

Visiting Scholar, Department of Sociology, Harvard University
September 2023 – June 2024

Guest Researcher, Stockholm University Demography Unit (SUDA)
September 2020 – June 2021

Visiting Researcher, Centre for Demographic Studies (CED), Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
February 2020, September 2023

Visiting Fellow, Department of Political and Social Sciences, European University Institute (EUI)
September–December 2019

Guest Researcher, Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR)
October 2017, July 2018

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2023–2028 Applied systems analysis excellence center (Co-PI with Itai Sened, Vered Blass, and Hadas Mamane). Israel Ministry of Innovation, Science & Technology
- 2022–2025 The social dynamics of lifespan inequality (PI). Israel Science Foundation
- 2019 Center for Innovative Learning Award for *Big Data Methods for Social Science*, Tel Aviv University
- 2018–2019 The Changing Locus of Lifespan Inequality in the United States (PI). German-Israeli Foundation for Scientific Research
- 2018 Inequality and Uncertainty in Length of Life (Network Workshop Grant). European Consortium for Sociological Research
- 2016–2018 Long-Term Mortality Forecast for Israel (PI). Israel National Insurance Institute
- 2016 Research grant from the Yonathan Shapiro Foundation

PUBLICATIONS (supervisees and student co-authors marked with asterisk)

Articles in refereed journals

- Sasson, Isaac and Alex Weinreb. (2024). Israel as a demographic anomaly: Between Europe and the Middle East. *Strategic Assessment: A Multidisciplinary Journal on National Security*, 27(2). (In Press).
- Shay, Dana*, Yossi Shavit, and Isaac Sasson. (2023). Poverty in early childhood and future educational achievements. *Early Child Development and Care* (In Press).
- Sasson, Isaac, and Yossi Harpaz. (2023). Demography as Destiny? Shifting Power Relations among Sectors in Israeli Society. *Israeli Sociology*, 24(2), 160–177. [Hebrew]
- Bernstein, Shayna Fae*, and Isaac Sasson. (2023). Black and white differences in subjective survival expectations: An evaluation of competing mechanisms. *SSM-Population Health*, 101339.
- Permanyer, Iñaki, Isaac Sasson, and Francisco Villavicencio. (2023). Group- and individual-based approaches to health inequality: Towards an integration. *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Series A*, 186(2), 217–240.
- Sasson, Isaac and Atalia Regev*. (2022). Class-Based Inequalities in Health and Mortality in Israel: A Theoretical and Empirical Review. *Israeli Sociology*, 23(1), 109–132. [Hebrew]
- Riffe, Tim, Enrique Acosta, Isaac Sasson, Erez Shomron* and the COVerAGE-DB team. (2021). Data Resource Profile: COVerAGE-DB: a global demographic database of COVID-19 cases and deaths. *International Journal of Epidemiology*, 50(2): 390–390f.
- Sasson, Isaac. (2021). Age and COVID-19 mortality: A comparison of Gompertz doubling time across countries and causes of death. *Demographic Research*, 44: 379–396.
- Cantu, Phillip, Connor M. Sheehan, Isaac Sasson, and Mark D. Hayward. (2021). Increasing Educational Disparities in Healthy Life Expectancy among U.S. Non-Hispanic Whites, 2000–2010. *The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Social Sciences* 76(2): 319–329.

- Wilson, Ben, Sven Drefahl, Isaac Sasson, Paul M. Henery, and Caroline Ugglä. (2020). Regional trajectories in life expectancy and life-span variation: Persistent inequality in two Nordic welfare states. *Population, Space and Place* 26(8): e2378.
- Sasson, Isaac, and Ronen Shamir. (2020). The 1931 Census of Palestine and the Statistical (Un)making of an Arab Landless Class. *Middle Eastern Studies* 56(2): 239–256.
- Sasson, Isaac, and Mark D. Hayward. (2019). Association between Educational Attainment and Causes of Death among White and Black US Adults, 2010–2017. *JAMA* 322(8): 756–763.
- van Raalte, Alyson A., Isaac Sasson, and Pekka Martikainen. (2018). The Case for Monitoring Life-span Inequality. *Science* 362(6418): 1002–4.
- Sheehan, Connor, Jennifer Karas Montez, and Isaac Sasson. (2018). Does the Functional Form of the Association between Education and Mortality Differ by U.S. Region?. *Biodemography and Social Biology* 64(1): 63–81.
- Crimmins, Eileen, Yasuhiko Saito, Jung Ki Kim, Yuan Zhang, Isaac Sasson, and Mark Hayward. (2018). Educational Differences in the Prevalence of Dementia and Life Expectancy with Dementia in the United States: Changes from 2000 to 2010. *The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Social Sciences* 73(S1): 20–28.
- Sasson, Isaac, and Alexander Weinreb. (2017). Land Cover Change and Fertility in West-Central Africa: Rural Livelihoods and the Vicious Circle Model. *Population and Environment* 38(4): 345–68.
- Cetorelli, Valeria, Isaac Sasson, Nazar Shabila, and Gilbert Burnham. (2017). Mortality and Kidnapping Estimates for the Yazidi Population in the Area of Mount Sinjar, Iraq, in August 2014: A Retrospective Household Survey. *PLOS Medicine* 14(5): e1002297.
- Featured article in *PLOS Medicine's* 15th anniversary (2019).
- Sasson, Isaac. (2016). Trends in Life Expectancy and Lifespan Variation by Educational Attainment: United States, 1990–2010. *Demography* 53(2): 269–93.
- *Demography's* 3rd most requested article in 2016–2018.
- Sasson, Isaac. (2016). Diverging Trends in Cause-Specific Mortality and Life Years Lost by Educational Attainment: Evidence from United States Vital Statistics Data, 1990–2010. *PLOS ONE* 11(10): e0163412.
- Hayward, Mark D., Robert A. Hummer, and Isaac Sasson. (2015). Trends and Group Differences in the Association between Educational Attainment and U.S. Adult Mortality: Implications for Understanding Education's Causal Influence. *Social Science & Medicine* 127: 8–18.
- Sasson, Isaac, and Debra J. Umberson. (2014). Widowhood and Depression: New Light on Gender Differences, Selection, and Psychological Adjustment. *The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences* 69(1): 135–45.
- Featured in *The Journals of Gerontology* Editor's Choice Series.
 - Awarded the Southern Demographic Association's Everett S. Lee Graduate 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.

Commentaries and other publications

- Sasson, Isaac. (2023). Lessons for Measuring Jewish Identity from Racial Categorization in Population Censuses: Commentary on According to Their Numbers. *Contemporary Jewry*, 43: 225–228.
- Sasson, Isaac. (2017). Reply to Trends in Education-Specific Life Expectancy, Data Quality, and Shifting Education Distributions: A Note on Recent Research. *Demography* 54(3): 1215–19.
- Cetorelli, Valeria, Isaac Sasson, Nazar Shabila, and Gilbert Burnham. (2017). ISIS' Yazidi Genocide. *Foreign Affairs* (June 8).
- Montez, Jennifer Karas, Isaac Sasson, and Mark D. Hayward. (2016). Declining US Life Expectancy, 1990–2010. *Health Affairs* 35(3): 550.

Research reports

- Sasson, Isaac. (2019). *Long-Term Mortality Forecast for Israel: Evaluating Current Methods and Alternatives*. Report for the Israel National Insurance Institute (Bituah Leumi). [Hebrew]
- Vaknin, Dana, Yossi Shavit, and Isaac Sasson. (2019). Emerging Early Childhood Inequality: Poverty and Future Academic Achievement. *State of the Nation Report: Society, Economy and Policy in Israel*, 313-359. Taub Center for Social Policy Studies in Israel.

INVITED TALKS

- 2024 Population Research Center, University of Texas at Austin (USA)
- 2024 Center for Demography and Ecology, University of Wisconsin-Madison (USA)
- 2024 Center for Population and Development Studies, Harvard University (USA)
- 2024 Nuffield College Sociology Group, Oxford University (UK)
- 2023 ISS Social Stratification Section, Haifa University (Israel)
- 2021 Department of Sociology & Anthropology, Ben Gurion University (Israel)
- 2020 Aging Research Center, Karolinska Institute (Sweden)
- 2020 Stockholm University Demography Unit (Sweden)
- 2020 Centre for Demographic Studies, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Spain)
- 2019 Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex (UK)
- 2019 Department of Political and Social Sciences, European University Institute (Italy)
- 2019 5th Human Mortality Database Symposium panel (Germany)
- 2019 Healthy Aging Symposium, Tel Aviv University (Israel)
- 2018 Department of Political and Social Sciences, University of Pavia (Italy)
- 2017 Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (Germany)
- 2017 Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Haifa (Israel)
- 2017 Network on Life Course Health Dynamics and Disparities in 21st Century America (USA)
- 2016 Faculty of Actuarial Science and Insurance, Cass Business School (UK)
- 2015 ALPHA Research Centre, London School of Economics (UK)
- 2015 Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Hebrew University (Israel)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (since 2016)

(PAA = Population Association of America; EPC = European Population Conference; REVES = International Network on Health Expectancy)

- 2024 PAA, Columbus, OH (oral presentation)
- 2023 REVES, Padova (oral presentation)
- 2022 PAA, Atlanta, GA (2 presentations)
- 2021 REVES, virtual meeting (oral presentation)
- 2021 PAA, virtual meeting (oral presentation)
- 2020 EPC (oral presentation; cancelled due to COVID)
- 2020 PAA (oral presentation; cancelled due to COVID)
- 2019 REVES, Barcelona, Spain (oral presentation)
- 2018 PAA, Denver, CO (2 oral presentations, 1 poster)
- 2017 PAA, Chicago, IL (1 oral presentation, 1 poster)
- 2016 REVES, Vienna, Austria (oral presentation)
- 2016 PAA, Washington DC (oral presentation; withdrawn due to illness)

TEACHING AND STUDENT SUPERVISION

Courses taught (U=undergraduate; G=graduate):

- Intro to Population Studies (U)
- Big Data Methods for Social Science (U)
- Hierarchical and Longitudinal Data Analysis (G)
- Theories of Social Stratification and Inequality (G)
- Quantification and Social Knowledge seminar (U+G)
- Data & Society seminar (U+G)

Student supervision

- Postdoctoral fellows: Shayna Bernstein (2020–2023); Yan Zheng (2023–); Luda Garmash (2023–)
- PhD students:
 - Supervisor: Dana Shay (2020–); Helena Movchan (2023–); Inbar Eliav (2023–)
 - Committee member: Gal Deutsch (2019–); Sara Kiviti (2022–)
- MA students (with thesis): 9 students since 2016 (6 graduated, 3 ongoing)

SERVICE TO DISCIPLINE

Editorial Board Member

Israeli Sociology (2019–)

Israel Central Bureau of Statistics

Member, Population Forecasts Advisory Committee (2021–)

Member, Demographic Advisory Committee (2017–)

International Workshops & Symposia Organized

2021 *New Perspectives on Lifespan Inequality* (held as webinar due to covid-19)

2018 *Inequality and Uncertainty in Length of Life*, workshop held at Tel Aviv University

Israeli Sociological Society (ISS)
Chair of the 2023 Annual Conference
Board Member (2021–2024)
Member, Louis Guttman Award Committee (2017, 2019)

Population Association of America (PAA)
2023 Session Organizer/Chair (*Socioeconomic and gender disparities in aging and health*)
2021 Discussant (*Session 227: Socioeconomic status and mortality in Europe*)
2019 Discussant (*Session 434: The impact of midlife mortality on population health*)
2018 Discussant (*Session 119: Health and social sector correlates of morbidity and mortality; Session 169: Trends and causes of adult mortality in the United States*)
2017 Poster Judge

Review Panel Member, Israel Science Foundation

Reviewer

Grants: *Israel Science Foundation; Danmarks Frie Forskningsfond.*

Journals: *Aging and Mental Health; American Journal of Epidemiology; American Journal of Sociology; American Sociological Review; BMJ Open; Demography; Demographic Research; European Journal of Population Studies; European Sociological Review; Israeli Sociology; Journal of Adolescent Health; Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies; Journal of Health and Social Behavior; Journals of Gerontology, Series B; Population and Environment; Population, Space and Place; Population Studies; Research on Aging; Scandinavian Journal of Public Health; Scientific Reports; Social Forces; Social Indicators Research; Social Problems; Social Science & Medicine.*