

Isaac Sasson

Associate Professor of Sociology
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Tel Aviv University

2020– Associate Professor
2020–2020 Senior Lecturer (with tenure)
2016–2020 Lecturer (tenure-track)

Department of Social Policy, London School of Economics

2015–2016 Postdoctoral Fellow in Population Health

Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

2014–2015 Postdoctoral Fellow

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

AFFILIATIONS AND VISITING POSITIONS

Head of the Boris Mints Demography Lab, Tel Aviv University
March 2020 – Present

Visiting Researcher, Stockholm University Demography Unit (SUDA)
Fall semester 2020

Visiting Researcher, Centre for Demographic Studies, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
February 2020

Visiting Fellow, Department of Political and Social Sciences, European University Institute
Fall semester 2019

Core Faculty Member, Herczeg Institute on Aging, Tel Aviv University
October 2018 – Present

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

Member, Network on Life Course Health Dynamics and Disparities in 21st Century America
2017 – Present

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2022–2025 “The social dynamics of lifespan inequality” research grant, Israel Science Foundation research grant (~\$150,000)
- 2019 Center for Innovative Learning Award for “Big Data Methods for Social Science,” Tel Aviv University (\$4,000)
- 2018–2019 “The Changing Locus of Lifespan Inequality in the United States” research grant, German-Israeli Foundation for Scientific Research and Development (€15,000)
- 2018 “Inequality and Uncertainty in Length of Life” network workshop grant, European Consortium for Sociological Research (€5,000)
- 2016–2018 “Long-Term Mortality Forecast for Israel” research grant, Israel National Insurance Institute (~\$30,000)
- 2016 Seed grant from the Yonathan Shapiro Foundation (\$4,000)

PUBLICATIONS (student co-authors marked with asterisk)

Articles in refereed journals

- 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, 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.

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). 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). 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.

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.

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

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] <https://www.btl.gov.il/Mediniyut/BakashatNetunim/dohot/Documents/TachazitTmuta.pdf>

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. <http://taubcenter.org.il/inequalities-are-created-in-early-childhood-eng/>

INVITED LECTURES

- 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 (cancelled) (UK)
- 2015 ALPHA Research Centre, London School of Economics (UK)
- 2015 Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Hebrew University (Israel)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (past 5 years)

(PAA = Population Association of America; EPC = European Population Conference; REVES = International Network on Health Expectancy; BSPS = British Society for Population Studies)

- 2022 PAA, Atlanta, GA
- 2021 REVES, virtual meeting (oral presentation)
- 2021 PAA, virtual meeting (oral presentation)
- 2020 EPC (oral presentation; cancelled due to COVID-19)
- 2020 PAA (oral presentation; cancelled due to COVID-19)
- 2019 REVES, Barcelona, Spain (oral presentation)
- 2018 PAA, Denver, CO (2 oral presentations and 1 poster)
- 2017 PAA, Chicago, IL (1 oral presentation and 1 poster)
- 2016 REVES, Vienna, Austria (oral presentation)
- 2016 PAA, Washington DC (oral presentation; withdrawn due to illness)
- 2015 PAA, San Diego, CA (oral presentation)
- 2015 BSPS, Leeds, UK (oral presentation)

TEACHING AND STUDENT SUPERVISION (past 5 years)

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

- Intro to Population Studies (U)
- Big Data Methods for Social Science (U+G)
- Hierarchical and Longitudinal Data Analysis (G)

- Theories of Social Stratification and Inequality (G)
- Quantification and Social Knowledge (U+G) – with Dr. Michal Kravel-Tovi

Student supervision:

- Postdoctoral Fellows: Shayna Bernstein (2020–present)
- Doctoral committees: Gal Deutsch (2019–present); Dana Shay (2022–present)
- MA thesis supervision: 10 students since 2016 (5 graduated, 5 ongoing)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Editorial Board Member, *Israeli Sociology* (2019 – Present)

Demographic Advisory Committee to the Israel Central Bureau of Statistics (2017 – Present)

Israeli Sociological Society

Board Member (2021 – Present)

Louis Guttman Award Committee (2017, 2019)

Population Association of America

2022 Session Organizer (*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

Reviewer

Aging and Mental Health; American Journal of Sociology; American Sociological Review; BMJ Open; Demography; Demographic Research; 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 Studies; Research on Aging; Social Forces; Social Indicators Research; Social Problems; Social Science & Medicine.