

Isaac Sasson

Associate Professor of Sociology
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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 in Sociology (with tenure)
2016–2020 Lecturer in Sociology (tenure-track)

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 – Present

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

Extramural research grants

- 2023–2027 *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*, Principal Investigator. Israel Science Foundation
- 2018–2019 *The Changing Locus of Lifespan Inequality in the United States*, Principal Investigator. 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*, Principal Investigator, Israel National Insurance Institute

Intramural grants and awards

- 2025 *Identifying barriers to data linkage consent in Israel*, Shamgar Center for Digital Law and Innovation
- 2019 Center for Innovative Learning Award for *Big Data Methods for Social Science*, Tel Aviv University
- 2016 Research grant, Yonathan Shapiro Foundation

PUBLICATIONS (supervisees and student co-authors denoted by asterisk)

Google Scholar (September 2025): Total Citations = 2,172; h-index = 15

Articles in refereed journals

1. **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.
2. **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): 135–145.
 - Featured in the *Journals of Gerontology* Editor's Choice Series.
 - Awarded the Southern Demographic Association's Everett S. Lee Paper Award.
3. 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.
4. **Sasson, Isaac**. (2016). Trends in Life Expectancy and Lifespan Variation by Educational Attainment: United States, 1990–2010. *Demography*, 53(2): 269–293.
 - *Demography's* 3rd most requested article in 2016–2018.
5. **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.

6. 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).
7. **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.
8. 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. *Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Social Sciences*, 73(S1): 20–28.
9. 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.
10. van Raalte, Alyson A., **Isaac Sasson**, and Pekka Martikainen. (2018). The Case for Monitoring Life-span Inequality. *Science*, 362(6418): 1002–1004.
11. **Sasson, Isaac**, and Mark D. Hayward. (2019). Association between Educational Attainment and Causes of Death among White and Black US Adults, 2010–2017. *JAMA – Journal of the American Medical Association*, 322(8): 756–763.
12. **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.
13. 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.
14. 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. *Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Social Sciences*, 76(2): 319–329.
15. **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.
16. 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.
17. **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]
18. 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.
19. Bernstein, Shayna Fae*, and **Isaac Sasson**. (2023). Black and white differences in subjective survival expectations: An evaluation of competing mechanisms. *SSM–Population Health*, 101339.

20. **Sasson, Isaac**, and Yossi Harpaz. (2023). Demography as Destiny? Shifting Power Relations among Sectors in Israeli Society. *Israeli Sociology*, 24(2): 160–177. [Hebrew]
21. Shay, Dana*, Yossi Shavit, and **Isaac Sasson**. (2024). Poverty in early childhood and future educational achievements. *Early Child Development and Care*, 5–6: 655–668.
22. **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): 70–84.
23. **Sasson, Isaac**. (2025). A New Research Agenda for Social Inequalities in Mortality: Challenges and Open Questions. *Population and Development Review*, 51 (1), 323–360.
24. Muszynska-Spielauer, Magdalena, Alyson van Raalte, **Isaac Sasson**, and Yukiko Asada. (2025). From Lifespan Inequality to Lifespan Inequity. *Social Indicators Research* (forthcoming).
25. Zheng, Yan*, Stefanos Tyrovolas Paul S. F. Yip, and **Isaac Sasson**. (2025). Changes in life expectancy across selected countries in the Western Pacific Region and their underlying risk factors, 1990-2021. *BMC Public Health* (forthcoming).

Commentaries and other publications

26. Montez, Jennifer Karas, **Isaac Sasson**, and Mark D. Hayward. (2016). Declining US Life Expectancy, 1990–2010. *Health Affairs* 35(3): 550.
27. Cetorelli, Valeria, **Isaac Sasson**, Nazar Shabila, and Gilbert Burnham. (2017). ISIS' Yazidi Genocide. *Foreign Affairs* (June 8).
28. **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.
29. **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.
30. **Sasson, Isaac**. (2025). Social inequalities as sources of extrinsic mortality: Implications of the two-tiered model. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* (forthcoming).

Research reports and working papers

31. **Sasson, Isaac**. (2019). *Long-Term Mortality Forecast for Israel: Evaluating Current Methods and Alternatives*. Report for the Israel National Insurance Institute (Bituah Leumi). [Hebrew]
32. 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.
33. **Sasson, Isaac**, Linus Andersson, Alyson van Raalte, and Diego Alburez-Gutierrez. (2024). Social Inequalities in Bereavement across the Life Course: A Study of Four-Generation Kinship Networks in Sweden. <https://doi.org/10.17045/sthlmuni.26117569>
34. Permanyer, Iñaki, and **Isaac Sasson**. (2024). Multivariate Decomposition of Lifespan Inequality. <https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/uk8hy>

INVITED TALKS

- 2024 Department of Sociology & Demography Unit, Stockholm University (Sweden)
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, University of Oxford (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 Department of Sociology & Demography Unit, Stockholm University (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 (select presentations since 2016)

Population Association of America 2016, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2024, 2025
European Population Conference 2020, 2022, 2024
International Network on Health Expectancy (REVES) 2016, 2019, 2021, 2023, 2025
Human Mortality Database Symposium 2019, 2022, 2025

TEACHING AND STUDENT SUPERVISION

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

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

Supervision

- Postdoctoral fellows: Shayna Bernstein (2020–2023); Yan Zheng (2023–2025); Luda Garmash (2023–)
- PhD students:
 - Supervisor: Dana Shay (2020–)
 - Committee member: Gal Deutsch (2019–2025); Sara Kiviti (2022–)
- MA students (with thesis): 10 students since 2016 (8 graduated, 2 ongoing)

SERVICE TO DISCIPLINE

Editorial boards

- *Demographic Research* (2025–), Associate Editor
- *Demography* (2024–), Editorial Board Member
- *Israeli Sociology* (2019–), Editorial Board Member

Advisory roles at the Israel Central Bureau of Statistics

- Member of Population Forecasts Advisory Committee (2021–)
- Member of Demographic Advisory Committee (2017–)

International workshops & symposia organized

- New Perspectives on Lifespan Inequality, held as webinar due to Covid (2021)
- Inequality and Uncertainty in Length of Life, workshop held at Tel Aviv University (2018)

Engagement in professional associations

Israeli Sociological Society

- Chair of the 2023 Annual Meeting (national conference attended by 450 sociologists)
- Board Member (2021–2024)
- Louis Guttman Award Committee Member (2017, 2019)

Population Association of America

- Session Organizer & Chair (2023)
- Session Discussant (2018, 2019, 2021)
- Poster Judge (2017)

Reviewer

Member of Review Panel: Israel Science Foundation.

Grant proposals: Danmarks Frie Forskningsfond; Israel Science Foundation; Swiss National Science Foundation.

Journals: *Aging and Mental Health*; *American Journal of Epidemiology*; *American Journal of Sociology*; *American Sociological Review*; *BMC Public Health*; *BMJ Open*; *Demography*; *Demographic Research*; *European Journal of Epidemiology*; *European Journal of Population Studies*; *European Sociological Review*; *Israeli Sociology*; *JAMA*; *Journal of Adolescent Health*; *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*; *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*; *Journals of Gerontology, Series B*; *Nature Health*; *Population and Development Review*; *Population and Environment*; *Population Research and Policy Review*; *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*.