

**Isaac Sasson**

Associate Professor of Sociology  
Tel Aviv University  
Tel Aviv 6997801, Israel  
Tel: +972-3-640-8967  
[isasson@tauex.tau.ac.il](mailto:isasson@tauex.tau.ac.il)

**ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

---

**Tel Aviv University**

2020– Associate Professor of Sociology (with tenure)  
2020–2020 Senior Lecturer (with tenure)  
2016–2020 Lecturer (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 (Docent in Sociology since 2025)*

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*

## ADMINISTRATIVE ROLES AT TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY

---

- Head of the Population Science Center in Development (2025–present)
- Head of the B. I. and Lucille Cohen Institute for Public Opinion Research (2024–present)
- Head of the Digital Society BA Program (2024–present)
- Head of the Data Science & AI Course Cluster, Faculty of Social Science (2023–present)

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

---

### Competitive grants

- 2026–2031 *Social Inequalities in Bereavement: From Demographic Rates to Lived Experience (DEM-LOSS)*. ERC Consolidator Grant
- 2022–2027 *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 (ISF)
- 2018–2019 *The Changing Locus of Lifespan Inequality in the United States*, Principal Investigator. German-Israeli Foundation for Scientific Research (GIF)
- 2018 *Inequality and Uncertainty in Length of Life*, Network Workshop Grant. European Consortium for Sociological Research (ECSR)
- 2016–2018 *Long-Term Mortality Forecast for Israel*, Principal Investigator, Israel National Insurance Institute (Bituah Leumi)

### Intramural funding

- 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 from the Yonathan Shapiro Foundation

## PUBLICATIONS

---

**Google Scholar (December 2025): Total Citations = 2,278; h-index = 15**

Supervisees and student co-authors denoted by †

### Articles in refereed journals

1. Shay, D.†, Shavit, Y., & **Sasson, I.** (2025). Beyond the Cradle: Effects of Family Income in the First 1,000 Days on Educational Achievement Later in Life. *European Sociological Review* (forthcoming).
2. Zheng, Y.†, Tyrovolas, S., Yip, P. S. F., & **Sasson, I.** (2025). Changes in life expectancy across selected countries in the Western Pacific Region and their underlying risk factors, 1990-2021. *BMC Public Health*, 25: 3933.

3. Muszynska-Spielauer, Magdalena, van Raalte, A., **Sasson, I.**, & Asada, Y. (2025). From Lifespan Inequality to Lifespan Inequity. *Social Indicators Research* (forthcoming).
4. **Sasson, I.** (2025). A New Research Agenda for Social Inequalities in Mortality: Challenges and Open Questions. *Population and Development Review*, 51 (1): 323–360.
5. Shay, D.†, Shavit, Y., & **Sasson, I.** (2024). Poverty in early childhood and future educational achievements. *Early Child Development and Care*, 5–6: 655–668.
6. **Sasson, I.**, & Weinreb, A. (2024). Israel as a demographic anomaly: Between Europe and the Middle East. *Strategic Assessment: A Multidisciplinary Journal on National Security*, 27(2): 70–84.
7. Bernstein, S. F.†, & **Sasson, I.** (2023). Black and white differences in subjective survival expectations: An evaluation of competing mechanisms. *SSM-Population Health*, 101339.
8. **Sasson, I.**, & Harpaz, Y. (2023). Demography as Destiny? Shifting Power Relations among Sectors in Israeli Society. *Israeli Sociology*, 24(2), 160–177. [Hebrew]
9. Permyner, I., **Sasson, I.**, & Villavicencio, F. (2023). Group- and individual-based approaches to health inequality: Towards an integration. *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Series A*, 186(2), 217–240.
10. **Sasson, I.**, & Regev, A.† (2022). Class-Based Inequalities in Health and Mortality in Israel: A Theoretical and Empirical Review. *Israeli Sociology*, 23(1), 109–132. [Hebrew]
11. Riffe, T., Acosta, E., **Sasson, I.**, Shomron, E.†, & 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.
12. **Sasson, I.** (2021). Age and COVID-19 mortality: A comparison of Gompertz doubling time across countries and causes of death. *Demographic Research*, 44, 379–396.
13. Cantu, P. A., Sheehan, C. M., **Sasson, I.**, & Hayward, M. D. (2021). Increasing Education-Based Disparities in Healthy Life Expectancy Among US Non-Hispanic Whites, 2000–2010. *The Journals of Gerontology: Series B*, 76(2): 319–329.
14. Wilson, B., Drefahl, S., **Sasson, I.**, Henery, P. M., & Uggla, C. (2020). Regional trajectories in life expectancy and life-span variation: Persistent inequality in two Nordic welfare states. *Population, Space and Place*, 26(8), e2378.
15. **Sasson, I.**, & Shamir, R. (2020). The 1931 census of Palestine and the statistical (un)making of an Arab landless class. *Middle Eastern Studies*, 56(2), 239–256.
16. **Sasson, I.**, & Hayward, M. D. (2019). Association between educational attainment and causes of death among white and black US adults, 2010–2017. *JAMA*, 322(8), 756–763.
17. van Raalte, A. A., **Sasson, I.**, & Martikainen, P. (2018). The case for monitoring life-span inequality. *Science*, 362(6418), 1002–1004.
18. Sheehan, C., Montez, J. K., & **Sasson, I.** (2018). Does the functional form of the association between education and mortality differ by US region?. *Biodemography and Social Biology*, 64(1), 63–81.

19. Crimmins, E., Saito, Y., Kim, J. K., Zhang, Y., **Sasson, I.**, & Hayward, M. D. (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*, 73(S1), 20–28.
20. **Sasson, I.**, & Weinreb, A. (2017). Land cover change and fertility in West-Central Africa: Rural livelihoods and the vicious circle model. *Population and Environment*, 38(4), 345–368.
21. Cetorelli, V, **Sasson, I.**, Shabila, N., & Burnham, G. (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).
22. **Sasson, I.** (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.
23. **Sasson, I.** (2016). Trends in life expectancy and lifespan variation by educational attainment: United States, 1990–2010. *Demography*, 53(2), 269–293.  
– *Demography’s* 3<sup>rd</sup> most requested article in 2016–2018.
24. Hayward, M. D., Hummer, R. A., & **Sasson, I.** (2015). Trends and group differences in the association between educational attainment and US adult mortality: Implications for understanding education's causal influence. *Social Science & Medicine*, 127, 8–18.
25. **Sasson, I.**, & Umberson, D. J. (2014). Widowhood and depression: New light on gender differences, selection, and psychological adjustment. *The Journals of Gerontology: Series B*, 69(1), 135–145.  
– Featured in *The Journals of Gerontology* Editor’s Choice Series.  
– Awarded the Southern Demographic Association’s Everett S. Lee Graduate Paper Award.
26. **Sasson, I.**, & Sakamoto, A. (2014). Non-poor components of population growth and immigration in the US, 1990–2010. *Social Indicators Research*, 115(1), 183–201.

#### Commentaries and letters

27. **Sasson, I.** (2025). Social inequalities as sources of extrinsic mortality: Implications of the two-tiered model. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 48: e119.
28. **Sasson, I.** (2023). Lessons for Measuring Jewish Identity from Racial Categorization in Population Censuses: Commentary on According to Their Numbers. *Contemporary Jewry*, 43: 225–228.
29. Cetorelli, V., **Sasson, I.**, Shabila, N., & Burnham, G. (2017). ISIS' Yazidi genocide. *Foreign Affairs*.
30. **Sasson, I.** (2017). Reply to trends in education-specific life expectancy, data quality, and shifting education distributions: A note on recent research. *Demography*, 54(3), 1215–1219.
31. Montez, J. K., **Sasson, I.**, & Hayward, M. D. (2016). Declining US life expectancy, 1990–2010. *Health Affairs*, 35(3), 550.

### Research reports and working papers

32. **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. *Stockholm Research Reports in Demography*, No. 2024:30 <https://doi.org/10.17045/sthlmuni.26117569>
33. Permanyer, Iñaki, and **Isaac Sasson**. (2024). Multivariate Decomposition of Lifespan Inequality: A Research Note. <https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/uk8hy>
34. Vaknin, D.†, Shavit, Y., & **Sasson, I.** (2019). Inequalities are created in early childhood: Early childhood poverty and future academic achievements. *State of the Nation Report: Society, Economy and Policy in Israel*, 313–359. Taub Center for Social Policy Studies in Israel.
35. **Sasson, I.** (2019). *Long-Term Mortality Forecast for Israel: Evaluating Current Methods and Alternatives*. Research report for the Israel National Insurance Institute. [Hebrew]

### **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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 in past 10 years)**

---

- 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)
- Data & Society (U+G seminar)

Supervision

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

## **SERVICE TO DEPARTMENT AND DISCIPLINE**

---

Editorial board membership

- *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)
- Member of the Louis Guttman Award Committee (2017, 2019)

Population Association of America

- Session Organizer & Chair, Socioeconomic and gender disparities in aging and health (2023)

- Session Discussant, Socioeconomic status and mortality in Europe (2021)
- Session Discussant, The impact of midlife mortality on population health (2019)
- Session Discussant, Health and social sector correlates of morbidity and mortality; Trends and causes of adult mortality in the United States (2018)
- Poster Judge (2017)

#### Reviewer

Member of Review Panel: Israel Science Foundation.

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

Journals: *Advances in Life Course Research; 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.*