

DR. S. B. SCHAFFNIT

POPULATION HEALTH SCIENTIST • EVOLUTIONARY ANTHROPOLOGIST
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SUMMARY

Expertise

Reproductive health
Family demography
Marital transitions
Evolutionary anthropology

Statistical Skills

Stata (Advanced), R, SPSS
Longitudinal and cross-sectional data analysis
Data management

General Research Skills

Mixed methods study design
Impact evaluation
Primary data collection
Writing for diverse audiences

International work experience: Tanzania (Mwanza); Kenya (Kisumu); United Kingdom (London)

Language: English (native); Swahili (conversational)

EXPERIENCE

2017 - present

Santa Barbara, USA

Postdoctoral Scholar in Applied Evolutionary Anthropology

University of California, Santa Barbara

- Designed and implemented mixed methods study on early marriage in Kisesa, Tanzania
 - Wrote study protocol, designed quantitative surveys, planned focus group discussions, wrote ethics applications, created data analysis plans, programmed surveys for tablets using ODK
- 3 months of fieldwork in the Mwanza Region of Tanzania (Jul – Sep 2017) in collaboration with Tanzanian National Institute of Medical Research (NIMR)
 - Trained and managed field staff (5 enumerators, 3 facilitators, 2 drivers, and 5 social scientists)
 - Collected and analyzed quantitative and qualitative data

2015 – 2017

London, UK

Research Fellow in Population Health (25 months)

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

- Impact evaluation of PEPFAR's DREAMS Initiative to reduce incidence of HIV among adolescent girls and young women in Kenya, South Africa, and Zimbabwe (PI Isolde Birdthistle; funded by *Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation*)
 - Collated ethics applications, managed and analyzed data, developed qualitative data collection tools, supported production of study protocol, conducted systematic review, wrote quantitative analysis plan, provided data management and analysis support to Kenyan Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) staff in Kisumu, Kenya, and presented findings at workshops with KEMRI and CDC staff
- Family Matters Project (PI Rebecca Sear; funded by *European Research Council*)
 - Analyzed longitudinal data from Netherlands using advanced statistical methods
 - Invited to participate in workshop in Netherlands on the role of families in reproductive decision making
- Developed and enhanced distance learner course materials for MSc in Demography & Health
 - Wrote the complete *Analyzing Survey and Population Data* module (11 sessions)
 - Wrote sessions on *Contemporary Mortality Trends in Developed Countries*; *The Second Demographic Transition and Family Change*; *Demographic Ageing and Its Consequences*

2015

London, UK

Statistical Consultant (1 month)

University of Tokyo

- Cleaned and analyzed cross-sectional data on water, sanitation, and hygiene in Uganda

2013

London, UK

Research Consultant (2 months)

Marie Stopes International

- Cleaned and analyzed cross-sectional data from Bangladesh on medications for abortions
- Produced tables and graphs for peer-reviewed journal submissions and internal MSI briefs

EDUCATION

- 2011-2015**
London, UK
- Ph.D. Epidemiology and Population Health**
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- Thesis: *Intergenerational Support and Women's Fertility in High-Income Countries: An Evolutionary Analysis*
 - Analyzed large, longitudinal and cross-sectional demographic datasets from high-income countries (Generations and Gender Survey; Millennium Cohort Study; Kinsey Data)
 - Fully funded on the Family Matters Project by the European Research Council (PI Dr. Rebecca Sear)
 - Resulted in 2 first-author publications and 7 conference presentations prior to thesis submission
 - Courses in: Advanced Stata; Structural Equation Modelling; Demographic Methods; Dealing with Missing Data; Survival Analysis; Multilevel Modelling
- 2009-2010**
London, UK
- M.Sc. Human Behavior and Evolution (Distinction)**
University College London
- Thesis: *Kin Residency, Sexual Conflict and Lateral Pressures on Fertility Outcomes in Tanzania*
 - Analyzed Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) data from Tanzania
 - Courses in: Anthropological Research Methods; Human Behavioral Ecology
- 2004-2008**
Beloit, USA
- B.A. Anthropology (Summa cum laude)**
Beloit College
- Honors Thesis: *The End of Objectivity: The Application of Anthropology to Human Rights*
 - Studied abroad at *University of Dar es Salaam* in Tanzania
 - Thesis: *Prevalence of Scoliosis in Primary School Children of the Endulen Area in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Tanzania*
 - Screened over 400 school children for scoliosis, conducted interviews with school employees, presented results at the Endulen Hospital to hospital staff and local leaders

TEACHING

- **Practical Facilitator**, LSHTM, London, UK
 - *Advanced Stata* (2016)
 - *Analyzing Survey and Population Data* (2015-2017)
 - *Personalized Additional Study Skills Program* (2014-2016)
 - *Statistics for Epidemiology and Population Health* (2013-2016)
 - *Statistical Methods in Epidemiology* (2015-2016)
- **Supervisor**, LSHTM, London, UK
 - Supervisor for 2 MSc students (2014-2016)
- Co-supervisor for 2 PhD students (2015-present)
- **Lecturer**
 - Evolutionary Explanations for the Demographic Transition – in *Human Behavioral Ecology* (2017-2018; UCSB)
 - Analyzing Clustered Data – in *Analyzing Survey and Population Data* (2016-2017; LSHTM)
 - The Second Demographic Transition – in *Population Studies* (2015-2016; LSHTM)

PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT & CITIZENSHIP

- **Conference/Workshop Co-organizer**
 - *European Human Behavior and Evolution Association Conference* (2016)
 - *London Evolutionary Research Network* (2013)
- **Module Co-Organizer**, LSHTM, London, UK
 - *Personalized Additional Study Skills Program* (2014-2016)
 - *Population Studies for Distance Learning* (2016)
- **Reviewer**, Behavioral Ecology, PLOS One, Demographic Research, Journal of Adolescent Health, Journal of Biosocial Science, Journal of Child and Adolescent Mental Health, Human Nature, Evolution and Human Behavior
- **Committee Member**, *London Evolutionary Research Network* (2013), London, UK; organized talks, debates and one annual conference for London-area evolutionary researchers

PUBLICATIONS

- Birdthistle, I., **Schaffnit, S.B.**, Floyd, S., Chimbindi, N., Chiyaka, T., Cowan, F., Glynn, J., Gourlay, A., Hargreaves, J., Hensen, B., Kabiru, C., Kwaro, D., Ondeng'oe, K., Phillips-Howard, P., Shahmanesh, M., Zaba, B., & Ziraba, A. (2018). Evaluating the impact of the DREAMS Partnership to reduce HIV incidence among adolescent girls and young women in four settings: A study protocol. *BMC Public Health*. doi: 10.1186/s12889-018-5789-7
- Schaffnit, S.B.** & Sear, R. (2017). Supportive families versus support from families: the decision to have a child in the Netherlands. *Demographic Research*, 37(14), 414-454. doi: 10.4054/DemRes.2017.37.14
- Schaffnit, S.B.** & Sear, R. (2017). Support for new mothers and the decision to have a second child in the United Kingdom: not all support is equal. *Population Studies*, 71: 345-361, doi: 10.1080/00324728.2017.1349924
- Sear, R., & **Schaffnit, S.** (2017). It's not just about the future: The present payoffs to behavior vary in degree and kind between the rich and the poor. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 40. doi:10.1017/S0140525X1700111X [Commentary on Pepper & Nettle (2017) The behavioral constellation of deprivation: Causes and consequences.]
- Lawson D. W., **Schaffnit, S.B.**, Hassan, A., James, S. & Borgerhoff Mulder, M. (2017). Father absence but not fosterage predicts food insecurity, relative poverty and poor child health in northern Tanzania. *American Journal of Human Biology*, 29(3): 1-17. doi: 10.1002/ajhb.22938
- Stulp, G., Sear, R., **Schaffnit, S.B.**, Mills, M., & Barrett, L. (2016). The reproductive ecology of industrial societies: the association between wealth and fertility. *Human Nature*, 27(4):445-470. doi: 10.1007/s12110-016-9272-9
- Schaffnit, S.B.** & Sear, R. (2014). Wealth modifies relationships between kin and women's fertility in high-income countries. *Behavioral Ecology*, 25(4), 834-842. doi: 10.1093/beheco/aru059
- Sheppard, P.*, **Schaffnit, S.B.***, Garcia, J. R. & Sear, R. (2014). Fostering relations: first sex and marital timings for children raised by kin and non-kin carers. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 35(3): 161-168. doi: 10.1016/j.evolhumbehav.2013.12.002 ***co-first author**
- Birdthistle, I., de Graaf K., **Schaffnit, S.B.**, Abassa A., Slaymaker, Tanser, F, Floyd, S. (in prep). A systematic review of HIV incidence rates among adolescents and young adults in high-prevalence countries.
- Lawson, D.W., **Schaffnit, S.B.**, & Hedges, S. (in prep). Understanding and improving childhood: insights from evolutionary anthropology.

PRESENTATIONS

- 2018 (Jul)** Does parent-offspring conflict drive early marriage? A test of predictions in northwest Tanzania. *Human Behavior and Evolution Association*. Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- (May)** Does parent-offspring conflict drive early marriage? A test of predictions in northwest Tanzania. *California Workshop for the Evolutionary Social Sciences*. Santa Barbara, United States.
- (Mar)** Understanding early marriage in context: marital timing and women's wellbeing in Kisesa, Tanzania. Invited paper presented at *Understanding Harmful Cultural Practices: Origins, Drivers and Behavior Change Workshop*. Santa Barbara, United States.
- 2015 (Oct)** Supportive Families and Men's and Women's Fertility Choices in the Netherlands: Family Support Norms and Within-Family Fluctuations in Support Can Elicit Different Outcomes. Invited paper presented at *Power of the Family Workshop*. Wageningen, Netherlands.
- (Mar)** Intergenerational support and women's fertility in high-income Countries: an evolutionary analysis. Presented at the *Population Studies Group Seminar* at LSHTM. London, United Kingdom.
- 2014 (Apr)** Kin effects on women's second birth timings in the UK: the role of fertility intentions. Paper presented at the *European Behavior and Evolution Association*. Bristol, United Kingdom.
- (Feb)** Modifiers of kin effects on women's fertility in the UK. Paper presented at *Cooperation and Conflict in the Family*. Sydney, Australia.
- 2013 (Sep)** Fostering Relations: timings of first sex and marriage for children raised by kin and non-kin carers. Paper presented at the *British Society of Population Studies*. Swansea, United Kingdom.
- (Jul)** Fostering Relations: timings of first sex and marriage for children raised by kin and non-kin carers. Paper presented at the *Human Behavior and Evolution Society*. Miami, United States.

(Mar) Kin proximity and women's fitness in high income countries: testing the predictions of the cooperative breeding and local resource competition models. Paper presented at the *European Behavior and Evolution Association*. Amsterdam, Netherlands.

2012 (Sep) Kin and Partner Effects on Women's Fertility in the Developed World: interactions with socioeconomic status. Paper presented at the *British Society of Population Studies*. Nottingham, United Kingdom.

(Jan) Kin and Female Fertility in the Developed World: interactions with paternal investment and socioeconomic status. Poster presented at *Centre for Behavior and Evolution*. Newcastle, United Kingdom.

FUNDING AND AWARDS

Funding

- Studentship. Rebecca Sear (PI). *Family Matters: Intergenerational Influences on Fertility*. European Research Council; 2011-2015
 - Competitive scholarship covering tuition, salary, materials and training for three years (grant number: ERC StG-2010 263760-FAMMAT)
- Mouat and Whiteford Endowed Research Fund, Beloit College Anthropology Department, Beloit, WI, USA; 2007
 - Competitive grant awarded for funding undergraduate honors thesis research
- Presidential Scholar, Beloit College, Beloit, WI, USA; 2004-2008
 - \$50,000 competitive scholarship awarded for undergraduate studies based on academic achievement and community involvement

Minor Funding

- European Human Behavior and Evolution Association travel bursary; 2013 & 2014
- Epidemiology and Population Health, LSHTM travel funding; 2013
- British Society of Population Studies travel bursary; 2012

Academic Awards

- **James E. Lockwood Award for Excellence in Anthropology**, Beloit College Anthropology Department; 2008
- **Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society**, Beta of Wisconsin Chapter, Beloit, WI, USA; elected into PBK in 2008
- **Dean's List**, Beloit College, Beloit, WI, USA; 2004-2008
- **Order of Omega**, Greek Leadership Honor Society; inducted 2007
- **Rho Lambda**, National Sorority Leadership Recognition Society; inducted 2007; President (2007-2008)