

SUSAN SCHAFFNIT, PHD

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SUMMARY

- Social scientist skilled at designing, implementing, and managing research
- Analytical thinker and confident data analyst working with quantitative and qualitative data in Stata (advanced), NVivo, and R
- Effective communicator with record of peer-reviewed publications, presentations, and successful collaborations with international research teams

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Epidemiology and Population Health **2015**

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine | London, UK

M.Sc. Human Evolution and Behavior (Distinction) **2010**

University College London | London, UK

B.A. Anthropology (Summa cum laude) **2008**

Beloit College | Beloit, USA

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral Researcher **2020-present**

Pennsylvania State University | Department of Anthropology | Remote (Seattle, USA)

- Exploring evolutionary dynamics of religion, family size, and child success

Postdoctoral Scholar **2017-2020**

University of California, Santa Barbara | Department of Anthropology | Santa Barbara, USA

- Designed and implemented mixed methods study on early marriage, women's health and empowerment within the Tanzanian Magu HDSS
- Wrote study protocol, designed quantitative and qualitative data collection tools, completed ethics applications in US and Tanzania
- Analyzed quantitative and qualitative data, presented results in peer-reviewed publications and invited lectures and conferences

Research Fellow **2015-2017**

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine | Department of Population Health | London, UK

Impact Evaluation of DREAMS Initiative to reduce incidence of HIV in Africa

- Managed and analyzed Kenyan HDSS data, developed qualitative data collection tools, wrote quantitative data analysis plans

Family Matters Project

- Analyzed longitudinal data from Netherlands on fertility using methods novel to demography

Teaching and Supervision of Graduate Students

- Communicated complex statistical methods to students with varying skill levels; wrote lessons in demography for a distance learning MSc in Demography

Research and Statistical Consultant

University of Tokyo | London, UK

2015

Marie Stopes International | London, UK

2013

- Analyzed survey data from Bangladesh and Malawi, summarized findings, communicated results to non-technical audiences through short reports and PowerPoint presentations

PUBLICATIONS

- ... **Schaffnit, S.B.**, Wamoyi, J., Urassa, M., Dardoumpa, M. & Lawson, D.W. When marriage is the best available option: perceptions of opportunity and risk in female adolescence in Tanzania. Under revision at [Global Public Health](#).
- Schaffnit, S.B.**, Wamoyi, J., Urassa, M., Dardoumpa, M. & Lawson, D.W. "I've never seen something like that": Discrepancies between lived experiences and the global health concept of child marriage in northern Tanzania. Under review at [PLOS ONE](#).
- 2020** Lawson, D.W., **Schaffnit, S.B.**, Hassan, A. & Urassa, M. Shared interests or sexual conflict? Spousal age gap, women's wellbeing, and fertility in rural Tanzania. [Evolution and Human Behavior](#).
- Lawson, D.W., Lynes, R., Morris, A. & **Schaffnit, S.B.** What does the American public know about 'child marriage'? [PLOS ONE](#).
- 2019** **Schaffnit, S.B.**, Hassan, A., Urassa, M. & Lawson, D.W. Parent-offspring conflict unlikely to explain 'child marriage' in northwestern Tanzania. [Nature Human Behavior](#).
- Schaffnit, S.B.**, Urassa, M. & Lawson, D.W. 'Child marriage' in context: Exploring local attitudes towards early marriage in rural Tanzania. [Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters](#).
- Birdthistle, I., Tanton, C., Tomita, A., de Graaf, K., **Schaffnit, S.B.**, Tanser, F. & Slaymaker, E. Recent levels and trends in HIV incidence rates among adolescent girls and young women in high-prevalence countries: A systematic review and meta-analysis. [Lancet Global Health](#).
- Hassan, A., **Schaffnit, S.B.**, Sear, R., Urassa, M. & Lawson, D.W. Fathers favor sons, mothers don't discriminate: a study of sex-biased parental care in northwest Tanzania. [Evolutionary Human Sciences](#).
- 2018** 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'e, K., Phillips-Howard, P., Shahmanesh, M., Zaba, B. & Ziraba, A. 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](#).
- 2017** **Schaffnit, S.B.** & Sear R. Supportive families versus support from families: the decision to have a child in the Netherlands. [Demographic Research](#).
- Schaffnit, S.B.** & Sear, R. Support for new mothers and the decision to have a second child in the United Kingdom: not all support is equal. [Population Studies](#).
- Sear, R. & **Schaffnit, S.B.** 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](#).
- Lawson D. W., **Schaffnit, S.B.**, Hassan, A., James, S. & Borgerhoff Mulder, M. Father absence but not fosterage predicts food insecurity, relative poverty and poor child health in northern Tanzania. [American Journal of Human Biology](#).
- 2016** Stulp, G., Sear, R., **Schaffnit, S.B.**, Mills, M. & Barrett, L. The reproductive ecology of industrial societies: the association between wealth and fertility. [Human Nature](#).
- 2014** **Schaffnit, S.B.** & Sear, R. Wealth modifies relationships between kin and women's fertility in high-income countries. [Behavioral Ecology](#).

Sheppard, P., **Schaffnit, S.B.**, Garcia, J. R. & Sear, R. Fostering relations: first sex and marital timings for children raised by kin and non-kin carers. Evolution and Human Behavior.

PRESENTATIONS

- 2019 (Nov)** Parent-offspring conflict unlikely to drive early marriage in NW Tanzania. Invited talk presented at *University of Washington*. Seattle, United States.
- (Apr)** Parent-offspring conflict unlikely to drive early marriage in NW Tanzania. *European Human Behavior and Evolution Association*. Toulouse, France.
- 2018 (Nov)** 'Child marriage' in context: understanding the drivers of early marriage in rural Tanzania. Invited talk presented at *UCLA Center for Behavior, Evolution, and Culture*. Los Angeles, United States.
- (Jul)** Does parent-offspring conflict drive early marriage? A test of predictions in northwest Tanzania. *Human Behavior and Evolution Society*. 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 talk 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. *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. *European Behavior and Evolution Association*. Bristol, United Kingdom.
- (Feb)** Modifiers of kin effects on women's fertility in the UK. *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. *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. *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. *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. *British Society of Population Studies*. Nottingham, United Kingdom.
- (Jan)** Kin and Female Fertility in the Developed World: interactions with paternal investment and socioeconomic status. *Centre for Behavior and Evolution*. Newcastle, United Kingdom.

TEACHING

Lecturer

- Boundaries of Childhood - in *Behavioral Ecology of the Family* (2019; UCSB)
- Evolutionary Explanations for the Demographic Transition - in *Human Behavioral Ecology* (2017-2019; UCSB)
- 'Child Marriage' in Context - in *International Development for Anthropologists* (2018, UCSB)
- Analyzing Clustered Data - in *Analyzing Survey and Population Data* (2016-2017, LSHTM)
- The Second Demographic Transition - in *Population Studies* (2015-2016; LSHTM)

Practical Facilitator

- *Advanced Stata* (2016; LSHTM)
- *Analyzing Survey and Population Data* (2015-2017; LSHTM)
- *Personalized Additional Study Skills Program* (2014-2016; LSHTM)
- *Statistics for Epidemiology and Population Health* (2013-2016; LSHTM)
- *Statistical Methods in Epidemiology* (2015-2016; LSHTM)

PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT AND CITIZENSHIP

Conference/Workshop Co-organizer

- *European Human Behavior and Evolution Association Conference* (2016; London)
- *London Evolutionary Research Network Conference* (2013; London)

Module Co-organizer

- *Personalized Additional Study Skills Program* (2014-2016; LSHTM)
- *Population Studies for Distance Learners* (2016-2017; LSHTM)

Affiliate, Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology, University of Washington (2020-present)

Reviewer, Behavioral Ecology; Demographic Research; Evolution and Human Behavior; Frontiers in Public Health; Human Nature; Journal of Adolescent Health; Journal of Biosocial Science; Journal of Child and Adolescent Mental Health; PLOS One; Population Studies; Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters, and others...

Committee Member, London Evolutionary Research Network (2013)

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