

# Christopher Soria

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## Education

Year	Degree	Institution
2026	Ph.D. Demography	University of California, Berkeley
2022	M.A. Demography	University of California, Berkeley
2018	B.A. Sociology	University of California, Berkeley
2016	T.C. Sociology	City College of San Francisco

## Dissertation

“Examining the Relevance of Social Network Characteristics and Cognitive Aging: A Causal Inference Study” (Expected 2026)

Committee: William H. Dow (Chair), Claude Fischer, Dennis Feehan

## Research Interests

Health disparities and mortality; aging and dementia; partisan polarization and health behaviors; social networks; computational social science and applications of Large Language Models in demographic research.

## Publications

### Peer-Reviewed

Liu, M.-M., Llibre-Guerra, J., **Soria, C.**, Li, J., Zayas Llerena, T., Rodriguez, G., Acosta, D., Jiménez Velázquez, I., Llibre-Rodriguez, J. J., & Dow, W. H. (2025). The Caribbean American Dementia and Aging Study: Protocol for a population-based study of older adult health and dementia in Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico. *BMC Geriatrics*, 25, Article 669. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12877-025-06131-0>

Dow, W. H., **Soria, C.**, & Dow, H. T. (2025). Caribbean Hispanic Sociodemographic Heterogeneity: Comparing Older Adults by Country and U.S. Migration Status. *The Gerontologist*. [Forthcoming]

Llibre Guerra, J. J., Weiss, J., Li, J., **Soria, C.**, Rodriguez-Salgado, A., Llibre Rodriguez, J. J., Jiménez Velázquez, I. Z., Acosta, D., Liu, M. M., & Dow, W. H. (2024). Assessing the 10/66 Dementia Classification Algorithm for International Comparative Analyses with the US. *American Journal of Epidemiology*. Published online December 26, 2024.

**Soria, C.**, & Lawton, L. (2023). Connecting Fathers: Fathers’ Impact on Adult Children’s Social Networks. *The International Journal of Aging and Human Development*, 96(1), 19-32.

Zanwar, P. P., Wallace, K. L., **Soria, C.**, & Perianayagam, A. (2022). Commentary: Examining contextual factors contributing to differentials in COVID-19 mortality in US vs. India. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 10, 995751.

## Under Review

**Soria, C., & Fischer, C. (2025).** An Empirical Investigation into the Utility of Large Language Models in Open-Ended Survey Data Categorization.

## Working Papers

**Soria, C., Dorelien, A., Feehan, D., & Mahmud, A. (2025).** Political Beliefs, Partisanship, and Health Behaviors During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Unraveling the Influence of Political Environments on Health Behaviors.

**Soria, C., & Feehan, D. M. (2025).** The Role of Social Structure in County-Level Mortality Disparities.

Stenberg, M., **Soria, C., Quigley, S., Madsen, C., & Bedolla, L. (2026).** Determinants of Elite Graduate Admissions and the Public School Disadvantage.

## Presentations

### Invited Talks

**Soria, C.** "CatLLM: Augmenting Social Science Research with Large Language Models." University of Washington, Seattle, WA, October 29, 2025.

**Soria, C.** "Hispanic Migrant Cognitive Aging." University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, July 1, 2025.

**Soria, C.** "Partisan Differences in the Spread of Disease." Wonderfest Science Envoy Event, HopMonk Tavern, Novato, CA, March 18, 2025. [Recording](#)

**Soria, C.** "Partisan-Influenced Health Outcomes." KPOO Radio, San Francisco, CA, February 3, 2025.

**Soria, C.** "Measuring and Modeling the Impact of Partisan Differences in Health Behaviors on Respiratory Infectious Disease Dynamics." Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology (CSDE), University of Washington, November 1, 2024.

Guilbeault, D. & **Soria, C.** "Researching with LLMs: Integrating Large Language Models into the Research Toolkit." D-Lab Workshop, University of California, Berkeley, May 6, 2024.

### Conference Presentations

**Soria, C.** "Utilizing AI for Demographic Research: Applications of Large Language Models for Data Categorization and Theme Extraction."

Panel presentation, Population Reference Bureau, Population Association of America Annual Meeting, April 12, 2025.

**Soria, C., Dow, W., & Dow, H.** "Comparing Sociodemographic Characteristics of Older Hispanic Adults in U.S. Immigrant Populations with Those in Countries of Origin."

Population Association of America Annual Meeting, April 12, 2025.

**Soria, C., Stenberg, M., Quigley, S., Madsen, C., & Bedolla, L.** "Determinants of Elite Graduate Admissions and the Public School Disadvantage."

Pacific Sociological Association Conference, San Francisco, March 27, 2025.

**Soria, C., Stenberg, M., Quigley, S., Madsen, C., & Bedolla, L.** "Determinants of Elite Graduate Admissions and the Public School Disadvantage."

California Association for Institutional Research (CAIR) Conference, November 22, 2024.

**Soria, C.**, Dorelien, A., Feehan, D., & Mahmud, A. "Political Beliefs, Partisanship, and Health Behaviors During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Unraveling the Influence of Political Environments on Health Behaviors." Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Columbus, OH, April 2024.

**Soria, C.** "Father Connection & Support in Adulthood." Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Virtual, May 7, 2021.

**Soria, C.** "Through Father Meets World: How a Close Father Could Affect Adult Social Networks." CAL-ADAR Symposium, Boston, MA, November 13, 2018.

**Soria, C.** "The Well and the Lighthouse: How Family Structure Contributes to the Increasing Gender Gap in College Enrollment."

Pacific Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Long Beach, CA, March 30, 2018. Also presented at UC Berkeley Sociological Symposium, April 22, 2018.

## Research Funding

**NIH F31** (1F31AG087682-01A1), 2025–2027

"Examining the Relevance of Social Network Characteristics and Cognitive Aging: A Causal Inference Study"

**Libby Fee Research Fellow**, 2024

**Mentored Research Award**, 2024

## Honors & Awards

**Bashir Ahmed Graduate Fellowship**, 2025

**Diversity Fellowship**, 2022–2023

**Data Science for Social Justice Fellow**, 2022

**Chancellor's Fellowship**, 2021–2022

**The Danesha McCoy Award for Excellence in Scholarship**, 2018

**Trainee Fellowship**, Cal-ADAR: Advancing Diversity in Demography of Aging Research, 2016–2018

**High Distinction**, College of Letters & Science, 2018

**Highest Honors in Sociology**, 2018

**Alpha Kappa Delta Honor Society**, 2017

## Research Experience

**Graduate Student Researcher**, Caribbean American Dementia and Aging Study, UC Berkeley (2023–Present)

- Designed data collection and processing infrastructure using Python and Stata for multi-country study across Cuba, Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico
- Developed system of linked digital surveys segmented by unit of analysis (individual, household, neighborhood)
- Applied Large Language Models and Vision Models with human annotators to classify and score images for dementia assessments
- Managed real-time data collection, quality control, and analysis across three countries

**Graduate Student Researcher**, UC Berkeley Social Networks Study (2022–Present)

- Collaborated with Professor Claude Fischer on social network determinants of internal US mobility using causal inference methods
- Developed best practices for applying Large Language Models to social science research

**Graduate Student Researcher**, CenSoc, UC Berkeley (May 2022-May 2023)

- Produced complementary dataset for CenSoc data (N=49 Million) linking Social Security Administration death records to contextual variables
- Utilized Google API for geocoding and spatial analysis of zip codes
- Analyzed patterns of missingness in mortality records to identify representativeness issues

**Research Associate**, BluePath Solutions (Nov 2019-April 2020)

- Conducted literature reviews and interpreted clinical trial data for pharmaceutical research
- Developed budget impact models for new drug assessments

**Research Assistant**, UCLA Health Creative Health for Youth in Pain Project (Aug 2019-Feb 2020)

- Synthesized scientific literature on adolescent chronic pain for clinical and general audiences

**Research Assistant**, UC San Diego (Jan 2019-Aug 2019)

- Extracted and cleaned data from academic journals; contributed to research methodology

**Research Assistant**, UC Berkeley Social Networks Team (July 2017-Aug 2018)

- Applied linear, general linear, and ordinal logistic regression models using SPSS
- Conducted factor analyses and merged datasets; performed literature review on fatherhood research

**Scholar**, UC Berkeley Department of Demography, Cal-ADAR Program (Jun 2017-Aug 2018)

- Conducted independent research on differential effects of father absence by child gender
- Funded by National Institute on Aging under guidance of Dr. Leora Lawton

**Lead Research Apprentice**, UC Berkeley URAP (Sept 2016-Aug 2018)

- Supervised 10-person team extracting and digitizing microfilm data
- Led qualitative coding and analysis of historical documents

## Fieldwork

**Dominican Republic & Puerto Rico** (2024) - Caribbean American Dementia and Aging Study

- Coordinated data collection process and trained interviewers
- Developed strategies for enhancing response rates
- Supervised field interviewers and managed data organization

## Service & Outreach

**Science Envoy**, Wonderfest (2024-2025)

- Selected for competitive program training PhD students in science communication
- Delivered public talks translating research for general audiences

**Blogger**, Huffington Post & Medium (2016-2020)

- Published political analysis pieces, some receiving over 20,000 views

## Technical Skills

Category	Skills
Programming	R (proficient), Python (moderate), Stata (moderate)
Methods	Regression, factor analysis, causal inference, survey design, content coding, data engineering
AI/ML	Large Language Models for survey analysis and data categorization, AI-assisted data engineering

## Languages

English (native), Spanish (fluent)

## Open Source Projects

- **CatLLM** - Python package for categorizing open-ended survey responses using Large Language Models. [GitHub](#)
- **llm-web-research** - Python package for conducting web research using Large Language Models
- **CERAD Image Scoring** - Open-source tool for scoring dementia assessment images

## Professional Memberships

- Population Association of America
- Pacific Sociological Association