

# Christopher Soria

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## EDUCATION

2026 PhD. 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, San Francisco, 3.7 GPA. Dean's List

## RESEARCH FUNDING

2025-2027 NIH F31

2024 Libby Fee Research Fellow

2024 Mentored Research Award

## HONORS/AWARDS

2022-23 Diversity Fellowship

2022 Data Science for Social Justice Fellow 2022

2021-22 Chancellor's Fellowship

2018 The Danesha McCoy Award for excellence in scholarship.

2016-2018 Trainee Fellowship in Cal-ADAR: Advancing Diversity in Demography of Aging Research.

2018 High Distinction in the College of Letters & Science.

2018 Highest Honors in Sociology.

2017 Alpha Kappa Delta Honor Society.

2016 Winner of Best Designed iOS app for CodePath Org.

2015-2016 Dean's List at City College of San Francisco.

## EXPERIENCE

### ***Graduate Student Research (Data Engineering)***

- Generated a data collection and processing scheme using Python, Stata
- Helped generate digital surveys to be distributed across the Caribbean (Cuba, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico) to assess the social determinants of dementia
- Managed the data collection process, receiving data from 3 different countries, collating, looking for areas of improvement, and analyzing data in real-time
- Utilized Large Language Models in combination with Vision Models and Human Annotators to classify and score images used for dementia assessments
- Designed a system of linked surveys segmented by their unit of analysis, making it easier for interviewers to juggle the complicated process of collecting data on several individuals within a household, the household itself, and the neighborhood

### ***Graduate Student Researcher (UC Berkeley Social Networks Study)***

- Utilized Large Language Models to identify ways to accelerate the social science research process

- Worked with Professor Claude Fischer on a project for understanding the social network determinants of internal US mobility using causal inference
- Produce a research paper on best practices on using Large Language Models for social science researchers

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

- Produced a dataset to complement the CenSoc datasets (N=49 Million) to help match Social Security Administration death data to various contextual variables
- Utilized Google API to extract information about zip codes (geolocation, distance between places, elevation, etc)
- Analyzed millions of death records for patterns of missingness to identify potential unequal representation of the broader US population

***Quality Assurance Analyst***, AllianceOnce (Aug 2020-2021)

- Monitored bank employee phone calls from customers to ensure policy, customer service, and regulatory standards were being maintained, correct information was being provided, and guided supervisors in coaching their agents
- Produced systems of automation using Excel (organizing data, data matching, mail merges) that significantly improved my team's output and work efficiency
- Helped implement systems that automated communication between team members and members from other interested parties, tracked changes, and updated progress on daily tasks and activities

***Enumerator***, United States Census Bureau (Aug 2020-Nov 2020)

- Collected data for the 2020 US Census by conducting in-person interviews, independently submitting questionnaires, updating the questionnaire status for specific households, and reaching out to the community to obtain information
- Coordinated with a team of enumerators to gather data on the local homeless population for census purposes

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

- Annotated internal training materials, external research based sales presentations, and budget impact models and insured information was presented in accordance to FDA and pharmaceutical company guidance
- Conducted literature reviews and summarized findings
- Interpreted clinical trial data and presented in easy to understand manner for fact sheets
- Searched for the most adequate datasets for given research projects
- Learned at a high level how to construct data backed budget impact models for new drugs

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

- Built an impact on treatment and identified gaps in current scientific research
- Translated scientific literature on the causes and contributing factors of adolescent chronic pain for a general audience
- Presented findings in weekly team meetings and summarize key findings

***Administrator and Online Ads Analyst***, Self Employed (Sept 2018-Nov. 2019)

- Applied research experience to create marketing campaigns that target desired demographics.
- Led Google and Facebook ad campaigns and track results
- Generated excel sheets to monitor the status of offers made, offers accepted, and “dead” leads
- Helped install a communication infrastructure for a company so that employees could track each other’s progress with real estate leads and offers made
- Created an information center so that all employees can receive training and access to necessary platforms
- Generated offer algorithms based off of real estate market value, cost of repairs, and comparable properties

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

- Extracted data from academic journals and inputted into excel using proper convention
- Contributed to research methodology and proposed new research ideas based on the dataset
- Checked for accuracy of data and cleaned up errors

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

- Leveraged linear, general linear, and ordinal logistic regression models using SPSS.
- Interpreted and ran factor analyses in order to identify issues of multicollinearity.
- Cleaned data including merging datasets to create new variables using SPSS syntax.
- Conducted a multidisciplinary literature review on the current state of fatherhood research.
- Presented research and participated in regular meetings with a large, multidisciplinary research team, including the design of follow-up in-depth interviews.

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

- Learned how to apply statistical concepts for research purposes
- Used syntax in SPSS for more efficient data analysis
- Generated my own research from beginning to end (identifying research question, theory, literature review, hypotheses, method, data analysis) in a scholarship program funded by the National Institute for Aging. I worked under the guidance of Drs. Leora Lawton and others.
- Used SPSS to model multivariate linear regressions to measure whether boys react differently to father “absence” relative to girls
- Conducted extensive literature review drawing from psychological, sociological and neuroscience research

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

- Trained, supervised, and reviewed the work of the 10-person team extracting microfilm data and using a system of uploading and tracking, proper naming conventions. Provided constructive feedback.
- Participated in “coding” articles, observed themes, and helped analyze qualitative data
- Occasionally led weekly team meeting

***Private Client Banker***, JPMorgan Chase (Sept 2011-May 2015)

- Advised a very diverse base of individuals and businesses on wide variety of financial topics and organized follow-up

- Collaborated with a team of specialized bankers and financial advisors for client needs
- Passed exams related to taxation, business structures and financial instruments
- Responsible for bank operations and team members at branch, at times

## RESEARCH

### *Peer-Reviewed Publications*

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.

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.

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.

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]

### *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. Working Paper.

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

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

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

## PRESENTATIONS

Soria, Christopher. “The Well and the Lighthouse: How Family Structure Contributes to the Increasing Gender Gap in College Enrollment” Presented at the annual meeting of the Pacific Sociological Association, Long Beach, CA, March 30, 2018. Also presented at the UC Berkeley Sociological Symposium, April 22, 2018.

Soria, Christopher. “Through Father Meets World: How a Close Father Could Affect Adult Social Networks.” Presented at the annual CAL-ADAR symposium, Boston, Massachusetts, November 13, 2018.

Soria, Christopher. "Father Connection & Support in Adulthood." To be orally presented at the annual Population Association of America conference. Virtual Presentation, May 7, 2021.

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. April 2024

Guilbeault, Douglas and Soria, Christopher. "Researching with LLMs: Integrating Large Language Models into the Research Toolkit." D-Lab Workshop, University of California, Berkeley (Remote via Zoom), May 6, 2024.

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

Soria, Christopher, Stenberg, Matthew, Quigley, Sara, Madsen, Catherine, & Bedolla, Lisa. "Determinants of Elite Graduate Admissions and the Public School Disadvantage." Presented at the CAIR (California Association for Institutional Research) conference, November 22 2024.

Soria, Christopher. 'Partisan Differences in the Spread of Disease.' Presented at the Wonderfest 'Ask a Science Envoy: Anthropocene Alarm; Partisan Contagion' event, co-presented with Marin Science Seminar, HopMonk Tavern, Novato, CA, March 18, 2025. Recorded presentation available at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7QrItZ\\_NSt0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7QrItZ_NSt0)

Soria, Christopher, Stenberg, Matthew, Quigley, Sara, Madsen, Catherine, & Bedolla, Lisa. 'Determinants of Elite Graduate Admissions and the Public School Disadvantage.' Presented at the Pacific Sociological Association Conference, San Francisco, March 27, 2025.

Soria, Christopher, Dow, William, & Dow, Henry. 'Comparing Sociodemographic Characteristics of Older Hispanic Adults in U.S. Immigrant Populations with Those in Countries of Origin.' Presented at the Population Association of America (PAA) Annual Meeting, April 12, 2025.

Soria, Christopher. 'Utilizing AI for Demographic Research: Applications of Large Language Models for Data Categorization and Theme Extraction.' Panel presentation organized by the Population Reference Bureau, Population Association of America (PAA) Annual Meeting, April 12, 2025.

## OTHER EXPERIENCES

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

Wonderfest's Science Envoy Program identifies promising PhD students and trains them to become effective science communicators. The program, funded partly by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, offers workshops taught by experts in various communication skills including public speaking, storytelling, and audience engagement. Participants emerge as articulate Science Envoys who share their research with public audiences, helping bridge the gap between complex scientific work and general understanding.

***Blogger***, Huffington Post et al (2016-2020)

My posts about political developments during the 2016 election were featured numerous times (some receiving over 20,000 views). I also wrote for my medium.com, where I also was selected as a featured writer numerous times.

***Student Senator***, City College of San Francisco (2015-2016)

After being elected to be a student senator on the Associated Students Council of City college of San Francisco, I was tasked with helping run the council and had input on matters of budget, events, as well as student engagement activities. My role was to act as fiduciary for the students of my campus by pushing for policies and programs which helped aide in their success. I was designated to work in close liaison with 9 resource centers on campus.

## SKILLS

- Quantitative (factor analysis, predictive and comparative statistics, variable logic)
- Qualitative research methods (survey methodology, content coding, theme observation)
- Data analysis and engineering
- Public speaking and presentations

## SOFTWARE

- SPSS Syntax (Proficient)
- Stata (moderate), Python (moderate), and R (proficient)

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

*Member*, Pacific Sociological Association

*Member*, Population Association of America