

Randi Saunders, PhD

Assistant Professor of Instruction, University of Texas at San Antonio

Contact: randi.saunders@utsa.edu

Professional Appointments

2025 - **Assistant Professor of Instruction, Dept. of Sociology & Demography**
University of Texas at San Antonio

Education

2017-2024 **University of Texas at Austin**
PhD Sociology
Doctoral Minors & Certificates: Applied Statistical Analysis, Population Studies

Dissertation: *Invisible Injuries: Young Adult Intimate Violence Victimization and Life Course Patterns of Social Integration and Allostatic Load Accumulation*
Chair: Dr. Bridget Goosby

2017-2019 **University of Texas at Austin**
MA Sociology
Thesis: *Early Parental Deaths and the Timing of Key Family Formation Events in the Transition to Adulthood*
Chair: Dr. Debra Umberson

2010-2014 **American University**
BA International Studies & BA Sociology

Courses Taught

University of Texas at San Antonio
Medical Sociology
Health Disparities

University of Texas at Austin
Introduction to Sociology of Health and Well-Being

Interests and Expertise

Teaching
Medical Sociology, Quantitative Methods, Experiential Learning

Research - Substantive
Stress and Trauma, Social Determinants of Health, Health Inequalities, Family Formation, Social Networks, Intimate Relationships

Research - Methodological
Survey Research, Structural Equation Modeling, Longitudinal Data Analysis, Mixed Methods, Biosocial Methods

Research Products

Manuscripts Under Review

Saunders, Randi. Early Parental Deaths and Obesity Risk in the Transition to Adulthood.

Saunders, Randi. Physical and Non-Physical Marital Violence and Women's Reproductive Autonomy in India.
Revise & Resubmit at Violence Against Women

Manuscripts in Progress

Research Products & Presentations

Saunders, Randi and Tara McKay. Social Networks of LGBT Elders, Affirming Healthcare, and Physical Health.

Saunders, Randi and Aprile Benner. Sexual and Intimate Partner Violence Victimization and Adult Allostatic Load Accumulation.

Saunders, Randi. Early Parental Death and the Transition to Parenthood Among US Young Adults.

Conference Presentations

2024 **Saunders, Randi** and Rachel Karen. Young Adults' Intergenerational Ties as a Dimension of Social Integration". Presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Montreal, Quebec.

Saunders, Randi (presenter). "Young Adult Intimate Partner Violence Victimization and Life Course Patterns of Social Integration" (poster). Presented at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting. Columbus, OH.

Saunders, Randi (presenter). "Young Adult Intimate Partner Violence Victimization, Social Integration, and Allostatic Load Accumulation: A Mediation Approach". Presented at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting. Columbus, OH.

2023 **Saunders, Randi** (presenter) and Tara McKay. "Social Networks, Access to Affirming Healthcare, and the Health and Well-Being of LGBT Elders in the U.S. South". Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Interdisciplinary Association of Population Health Scientists. Baltimore, MD.

Saunders, Randi (presenter). "Intimate Violence and Health from Young Adulthood to Midlife: A Biosocial Approach". Presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA.

Saunders, Randi (presenter). "Early Parental Loss and Subsequent Risk of IPV Victimization and Perpetration". Presented at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA.

Saunders, Randi (presenter) and Aprile Benner. "Young Adult Intimate Violence Victimization and Patterns of Allostatic Load Accumulation Over the Life Course". Presented at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA.

2022 **Saunders, Randi** (presenter) and Tara McKay. "Southern Older LGBT Adults' Social Networks, Access to Affirming Healthcare, and Self-Rated Health". Presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Los Angeles, CA.

Saunders, Randi (presenter) and Tara McKay. "Social Networks of Older LGBT Adults and Access to LGBT-Affirming Healthcare in the American South". Presented at the 17th International Conference on Social Stress Research. Savannah, GA.

Saunders, Randi (presenter). "Race, Early Parental Loss, and Young Adult Obesity Risk". Presented at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA.

2021 **Saunders, Randi** (presenter). "Adolescent Parental Loss and Young Adult Union Instability: Exploring an Underexamined Source of Disadvantage". Presented at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting. Online.

	2020	Saunders, Randi (presenter). "Early Life Parental Loss and the Timing of Family Formation Events." Accepted for the Population Association of America Annual Meeting. Washington, DC*.
	2019	Saunders, Randi (presenter). 2019. "Early Parental Loss and the Risk of Obesity in the Transition to Adulthood". Presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. New York, NY. Saunders, Randi (presenter). 2019. "Intimate Partner Violence and Contraceptive Use in India: The Missing Discourse on Coercive Control and Personal Autonomy". Presented at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting. Austin, TX.
	2018	Umberson, Debra (presenter), Rachel Donnelly, Mateo Farina, and Randi Saunders . "Race, Life Course, and Exposure to Death". Presented at the Gerontological Society of American Annual Meeting. Boston, MA. Saunders, Randi (presenter). "Who Defines Normal? Social Relationships and the Normalization of STI Testing for College Women". Presented at Thinking Gender, University of California at Los Angeles. Los Angeles, CA.
Honors and awards	2023-2024	American Sociological Association Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (ASA DDRIG) (\$9,678.00)
	2020-2022	NICHD Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (T32); Predoctoral Research Fellowship, Population Research Center, University of Texas at Austin
	2021-2022	Population Reference Bureau U.S. Policy Communication Training Fellowship
	2022	Professional Development Award, University of Texas at Austin (\$700)
	2019	Distinction on Comprehensive Exams in Demography and Health
	2019	Services for Students with Disabilities Appreciation Award, University of Texas at Austin
	2018, 2019	Professional Development Award, University of Texas at Austin (\$300)
Research Appointments	2024-2025	Affiliate Researcher, Project TAURUS Population Research Center, University of Texas at Austin PI: Dr. Jacob Cheadle, Dr. Aprile Benner & Dr. Bridget Goosby
	2021-2022	Graduate Research Assistant, Vanderbilt University Social Networks, Aging, and Policy Study Population Research Center, University of Texas at Austin PI: Dr. Tara McKay, Vanderbilt University
	2018-2019	Graduate Research Assistant, Health Experiences after Loss: Insulating the Next Generation Population Research Center, University of Texas at Austin PI: Dr. Debra Umberson
Professional Affiliations	2018-Present	American Sociological Association Section Memberships: Medical Sociology, Family Sociology, Sociology of Population
	2019-Present	Population Association of America

Professional service

2023-Present	Ad-Hoc Reviewer Population Research and Policy Review Journal of Adolescent Health Graduate Student Mentor Dept. of Sociology, UT Austin
2023	Paper Discussant American Sociological Association Annual Meeting Poster Judge Interdisciplinary Association of Population Health Scientists Annual Meeting
2022-2023	Graduate Student Representative UT Austin Quantitative Reasoning Flag Committee (undergraduate education)
2022	Mentor UT Austin Summer Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) in Family Demography
2018-2019	Graduate Student Orientation Panelist Dept. of Sociology, UT Austin

Professional and Applied Experience

2020; 2023	UT CONNECT Program Data Consultant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact and Evaluation Consultant, Good Apple Foods, Austin, TX (Jan 2020-June 2020) Evaluation and Survey Consultant, Golden Age Home, Lockhart, TX (June 2023-Aug 2023)
2016-2017	US Agency for International Development (USAID) Contractor
2015-2016	DC SAFE Domestic Violence Crisis Intervention Advocate & On-Call Supervisor

Skills and Certifications

Data Analysis	Stata, Mplus, NVivo
Survey Platforms	Qualtrics, REDCap
Certificate	Inclusive Classrooms Leadership
Certification	Mental Health First Aid

References

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Dr. Christina Caramanis | Lecturer in Sociology, University of Texas at Austin
christina.caramanis@utexas.edu |
| Dr. Jacob Cheadle | Professor of Sociology, University of Texas at Austin
j.e.cheadle@utexas.edu |
| Dr. Aprile Benner | Associate Professor of Human Development & Family Sciences, University of Texas at Austin
abenner@prc.utexas.edu |