

Sarah K. Cowan

New York University
295 Lafayette Street, Fourth Floor
New York, NY 10012-9605

sarahkcowan@nyu.edu

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EMPLOYMENT

- 2015- Assistant Professor, Sociology New York University
Tenure clock stopped for two years for parental leave and one year for Covid-19
- 2021- Founder and Executive Director, Cash Transfer Lab
- 2013-2015 Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Postdoctoral Scholar,
Columbia University

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, May 2013, Sociology and Demography
- M.A. University of California, Berkeley, 2008, Sociology
- M.A. University of California, Berkeley, 2007, Demography
- B.A. Yale University, 2002, Ethics, Politics and Economics, *cum laude*

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

- 2021-2025 Cash Transfer Lab: Initial Focus on the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend, Start Small Foundation, \$3,500,000
- 2020 Re-examining the Link Between Pregnancy Intentions and Early Life Outcomes, Institute for Human Development and Social Change, \$14,995
- 2018 If you give people cash, what happens to their reproductive lives?, Economic Security Project, \$22,000
- 2017-2018 Stephen Charney Vladeck Junior Faculty Fellowship, NYU Wagner, \$26,000
- 2016-2018 Developing New Abortion Attitude Measures for the General Social Survey, Anonymous Foundation: \$285,000. Co-PI with Michael Hout.
- 2014-2015 Who Knows Cancer Patients?, Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Seed Grant, \$15,500
How Secrets Organize Social Life, Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Seed Grant, \$4,500

- 2012-2013 National Institute of Child Health and Human Development: Pre-Doctoral Training Grant
- 2011-2012 National Science Foundation: Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant, \$10,000
Tides Center, Harvard University: Face Value Fellowship, \$20,000
Demography Department, UC Berkeley: Dissertation Research Grant, \$12,000
Institute of Governmental Studies, UC Berkeley: Mike Synar Graduate Research Grant, \$3,000
Institute of Business and Economics Research, UC Berkeley: \$1,500
UC Berkeley: Abigail Hodgen Award, \$3,500
- 2010-2011 UC Berkeley: Dean's Normative Time Fellowship
- 2008-2010 National Science Foundation: Graduate Research Fellowship
- 2006-2008 National Institute of Child Health and Human Development: Training Grant
- 2006-2008 Helen P. Wolpert Foundation: Academic Distinction Fellowship
- 2002 Yale University: Robert E. Linck Prize for academic excellence
Yale University: Department of Ethics, Politics and Economics Honors
- 2001-2001 Yale University: Paul Mellon Undergraduate Research Grant, \$500

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

* indicates student co-author

Anderson, Elizabeth M.* Sarah K. Cowan, Jenny A. Higgins, Nicholas B. Schmuhl, Cynthia K. Wautlet. 2022. "Willing but unable: Physicians' referral knowledge as barriers to abortion care," *Social Science and Medicine – Population Health* 17:101002.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmph.2021.101002>

Cowan, Sarah K., Tricia Bruce, Brea Perry, Bridget Ritz*, Stuart Perrett* and Elizabeth Anderson*. Forthcoming. "The Moral Limits to Helping Loved Ones: the Case of Abortion in the United States." *Science Advances*.

Cowan, Sarah K. and Kiara Douds* Forthcoming. "The Effects of Income on Birth Rates: The Case of a Universal Cash Transfer." *Social Forces*.

Media Coverage: New York Times; KCBS

Cowan, Sarah K., Michael Hout, Stuart Perrett*. Forthcoming. "Updating A Time-Series of Survey Questions: The Case of Abortion Attitudes in the General Social Survey." *Sociological Methods & Research*.

Mark, Nicholas* and Sarah K. Cowan. Forthcoming "Do Pregnancy Intentions Matter? Revisiting Relationships With Pregnancy, Birth, and Maternal Outcomes." *Demography*.

Cowan, Sarah K., Nicholas Mark* and Jennifer Reich. 2021. "COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy Is the New Terrain for Political Division among Americans." *Socius* 7.

Gemmill, Alison and Sarah K. Cowan. 2021. "Low perceived susceptibility to pregnancy as a reason for contraceptive nonuse among women with unintended births." *Demographic Research* 44:759-774.

Award: Winner of the Editor's Choice Designation from *Demographic Research*

Cowan, Sarah K. 2020. "Secrets and social networks." *Current Opinion in Psychology* 31: 99-104.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.copsyc.2019.07.038>

Sahai, Swupnil, Timothy Jones*, Sarah K. Cowan and Tian Zheng. 2018. "Estimating Personal Network Size with Non-random Mixing via Latent Kernels." In: Aiello L., Cherifi C., Cherifi H., Lambiotte R., Lió P., Rocha L. (eds) *Complex Networks and Their Applications VII. Complex Networks 2018*. Studies in Computational Intelligence, vol 812. Springer.

Cowan, Sarah K., and Delia Baldassarri. 2018. "It could turn ugly': Selective disclosure of attitudes in political discussion networks." *Social Networks* 52: 1-17.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socnet.2017.04.002>

Cowan, Sarah K. 2017. "Enacted Abortion Stigma in the United States" *Social Science and Medicine* 177:259-268.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2017.01.011>

Media coverage: Glamour magazine

Weitzman, Abigail, Sarah K. Cowan and Kate Walsh. 2017. "The Prevalence of and Barriers to Bystander Intervention on Behalf of Sexual Assault and Intimate Partner Violence Victims." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260517696873>

Media coverage: Vice

Cowan, Sarah K. Lawrence Wu, Susanna Makela*, Paula England. 2016. "Alternative Estimates of Lifetime Prevalence of Abortion Through Indirect Survey Techniques." *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health* 48: 229-234.
<https://doi.org/10.1363/48e11216>

Cowan, Sarah K. 2015. "Periodic Discordance Between Vote Equality and Representational Equality in the United States." *Sociological Science* 2:442-453.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.15195/v2.a21>

Cited in an amicus brief to the Supreme Court of the United States from the Democratic National Committee regarding the case *Evenwel v. Abbott*

Media coverage: Huffington Post

Keene, Danya E., Sarah K. Cowan, and Amy Castro Baker*. 2015. "When You're in a Crisis Like That, You Don't Want People to Know': Mortgage Strain, Stigma, and Mental Health." *American Journal of Public Health* Vol. 105, No. 5, pp. 1008-1012.
doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2014.302400

Cowan, Sarah K. 2014. "Secrets and Misperceptions: The Creation of Self-Fulfilling Illusions" *Sociological Science* 1: 466-492. <http://dx.doi.org/10.15195/v1.a26>

Media coverage: The New York Times, National Public Radio, Salon, Daily Kos, The New Republic, Huffington Post, The Daily Beast, MTV among others.

Awards: The Robert K. Merton Prize for Analytical Sociology from the International Network of Analytical Sociologists

Honorable Mention for Best Paper from the Communication, Information Technologies and Media section of the American Sociological Association

Cowan, Sarah K. 2013. "Cohort Abortion Measures for the United States." *Population and Development Review* 39(2):289-307.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1728-4457.2013.00592.x>

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Bruce, Tricia C., Sarah K. Cowan and Kendra Hutchens. "Social Imaginaries and Real Consequences: The Case of Abortion in the United States." *Revise and Resubmit American Sociological Review*.

Cowan, Sarah K. "Intergroup Contact in a Complex World."

Cowan, Sarah K. and Katrina Kimport. "Pregnancy Intentions in the Real World."

Kimport, Katrina and Sarah K. Cowan. "Discussion of Men in the Contraceptive Counseling Visit."

Douds, Kiara* and Sarah K. Cowan. "The Effects of Income on Newborn Health: The Case of A Universal Cash Transfer."

Mark, Nicholas* and Sarah K. Cowan “Heterogeneous Effects of Pregnancy Intentions on Maternal and Infant Well-Being.”

Hobby, Erica, Nicholas Mark*, Alison Gemmill and Sarah K. Cowan ”Does the Relationship Between Pregnancy Intentions and Well-Being Persist?”

Turney, Kristin, Amanda Geller and Sarah K. Cowan ”Disclosure among Youth Stopped by the Police: Repercussions for Mental Health”

Hout, Michael, Stuart Perrett* and Sarah K. Cowan ”Reconsidering Americans’ Abortion Opinions: Still Politically and Demographically Polarized”

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Cowan, Sarah K. “What if a President Served for 42 Years?” *CNN.com*, June 15, 2011. Front page. Subsequent coverage: WZTK radio station.

Cowan, Sarah K. “How Much Is Your Vote Worth?” (Opinion) *The New York Times*, November 2, 2008, page WK11.

Reprinted in Miroff, Bruce, Raymond Seidelman, Todd Swanstrom and Tom De Luca. 2009. *The Democratic Debate: American Politics in an Age of Change*. 5th ed. Wadsworth Publishing and forthcoming in the 6th ed.

Subsequent media coverage: KQED radio, current.com, politicalmaps.com, numerous online publications.

Crow, Sarah E., Jacqueline Anderson and Sarah K. Cowan, “Working Against the Clock: Time Limits in California Welfare, First Annual Report,” June 2004. California Policy Research Center.

Muniz, Maria, LeeAnne Huang and Sarah K. Cowan, “Self-Help Centers in California Courts, First Annual Report,” November 2003. Berkeley Policy Associates for the California Administrative Office of the Courts.

Valvano, Vincent, Deana Goldsmith, Sarah Cowan, Stacy Robinson, Maria Muniz and Laura French, “Evaluation of the Colorado Works Program: Fourth Annual Report, Part 1 - TANF and Colorado Works Expenditures, Caseload Trends, and TANF-Funded Child Welfare Activities,” November 2002. Berkeley Policy Associates for the Colorado Department of Labor.

AWARDS

- 2021 Editor's Choice *Demographic Research*
- 2016 Robert K. Merton Prize for Analytical Sociology from the International Network of Analytical Sociologists.
- 2015 Honorable Mention for Best Paper from the Communication, Information Technologies and Media section of the American Sociological Association.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS

- 2022 "The Effects of Income on Birth Rates: The Case of a Universal Cash Transfer."
Vanderbilt University, Department of Sociology
- 2021 "Keynote: Pilots, Data and the Drive Towards Cash Policies."
North American Basic Income Guarantee Congress
"The Effects of Income on Birth Rates: The Case of a Universal Cash Transfer."
Wagner School for Public Policy Seminar Series
- 2020 "The Effects of Income on Birth Rates: The Case of a Universal Cash Transfer."
Texas A& M University, Department of Sociology
- "Perceived Infertility and Insusceptibility to Pregnancy Among Mothers of Newborns in the United States."
Population Association of America annual meeting: cancelled due to Covid-19
- "Not Merely Favor or Oppose: New Measures of Abortion Public Opinion Unearth Greater Variation."
American Sociological Association annual meeting
- "Discordant Benevolence: How and Why People Help Others in the Face of Conflicting Values."
Eastern Sociological society annual meeting
American Sociological Association annual meeting
- 2019 "Intergroup Contact and Competing Allegiances in a Complex World"
Stony Brook University, Department of Sociology
University of Pennsylvania, Department of Sociology
- "Low Perceived Risk of Pregnancy as a Reason for Unprotected Intercourse"
Eastern Sociological Society annual meeting
- "Examining Income and Childbearing, the Composition of Mothers and Newborn Health"
Population Association of America annual meeting
Guttmacher Institute
Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science

- 2018 “Interrogating Pregnancy Intentions in the Clinical Encounter”
 Eastern Sociological Society annual meeting
 Analytical Sociology annual meeting
- “Intergroup Contact and Competing Allegiances in a Complex World”
 Northwestern University, Department of Sociology
- 2017 “Indirect Survey Methods to Estimate Abortion Prevalence”
 Guttmacher Institute, Expert panel on measuring abortion incidence and prevalence
- “Intergroup Contact and Competing Allegiances in a Complex World”
 Yale University, CIQLE
 NYU School of Medicine, Department of Population Health
 Stanford University School of Business Conference on Culture and Social Networks
 Ohio State University, Department of Sociology
- “How Secrets Shape the Social World”
 Hunter College, Department of Sociology
- 2016 “Intergroup Contact and Competing Allegiances in a Complex World”
 Brown University, Population Studies and Training Center
 Princeton University, Department of Sociology
- “A Structural Approach to Intergroup Contact”
 Pennsylvania State, Population Research Institute
- “The Prevalence of and Barriers to Bystander Intervention on Behalf of Sexual Assault
 and Intimate Partner Violence Victims”
 Population Association of America annual meeting
- 2015 “ASA Presidential Plenary: Abortion in America”
 American Sociological Association annual meeting
- “Toward a Measure of Contact Prevalence”
 Eastern Sociological Society annual meeting
 Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholars conference
 International Network of Analytical Sociology conference
- “A Structural Approach to Intergroup Contact”
 Yale University, School of Public Health
- 2014 “Secrets and Misperceptions: A Case of Self-Fulfilling Illusions”
 Stanford University, Graduate School of Business
 Columbia University, Networks and Time Series

- 2013 “Secrets and Misperceptions: A Case of a Self-Fulfilling Illusions”
 New York University, Department of Sociology
 University of California San Francisco, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
 Stanford University, Social Psychology Workshop
- “It could turn ugly’: Selective Disclosure of Political Views and Biased Network Perception”
 International Network of Analytical Sociologists conference
- 2012 “Telling Secrets, Keeping Secrets and Creating Social Worlds”
 Psychosocial Annual Meeting
 Population Association of America annual meeting
 International Network of Analytical Sociologists conference
 American Sociological Association annual meeting
 Cornell University, Department of Sociology
 Case Western Reserve University, Department of Sociology
- “What do Adolescents Do When They Hookup?”
 American Public Health Association annual meeting
- 2011 “Cohort Abortion Measures for the United States”
 Population Association of America annual meeting
 American Sociological Association annual meeting
 The Guttmacher Institute
- “Telling Secrets, Keeping Secrets and Creating Social Worlds”
 UC Berkeley, Department of Demography
- 2010 “A Network Look at Abortion Disclosure”
 Psychosocial annual meeting
- 2009 “Apportionment and the Right to Vote: A Further Inquiry into American Franchise”
 American Sociological Association annual meeting
 American Studies Association annual meeting
- 2008 “The Causes and Consequences of America’s Distance from One Person, One Vote”
 Population Association of America annual meeting, Poster

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2020 2020 Abortion Core Revision Committee for the General Social Survey
Centers for Disease Control Review Committee
Reproduction Scholars Mentor
- 2019 Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science Poster Judge
- 2018 Measuring Abortion in the United States Advisory Panel, Guttmacher Institute
- 2017 Award Committee, International Network of Analytical Sociologists
Mapping the Future of Analytical Sociology Committee
- 2016 Scholar Strategy Network Session “Abortion in America”

TEACHING

Undergraduate: Sociology of Medicine; Research Methods

Graduate: Sexualities, Fertility and the Sociology of Reproduction

ADVISING

Dissertation Committee

Shelly Ronen

Jessie Ford

Eliza Brown

Kiara Douds

Nicholas Mark

Masters Thesis Advisor

Katie Bent-Koerick

Shiva Rouhani

Qian Zho

Undergraduate Thesis Advisor

Samantha Cunningham

Gabby Velasco

Phoebe Tuite

CONSULTANT

- 2019 Brennan Center for Justice
- 2018 Southern Poverty Law Center, Mississippi
- 2015 Representative Jackie Speier, US House of Representatives