

# Michelle A. Eilers

Population Research Center  
Department of Sociology  
The University of Texas at Austin

meilers@prc.utexas.edu  
(979) 743-6605  
Updated April 2021

## Education

---

### **The University of Texas at Austin**, Austin, TX

Graduate student in Sociology with Demography specialization, Ph.D. expected 2023  
Population Research Center Trainee, 2017-present, and NICHD Fellow, 2019-2020

### **London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine**, London, UK

MSc. Demography and Health, 2015

Thesis: Access to and quality of emergency obstetric care and delivery services in Ethiopia, 2014

### **Tufts University**, Medford, MA

B.A. Anthropology, B.A. Community Health, 2010 *magna cum laude*

Thesis: Effectiveness of *Utasanjam usuña* birthing room for Aymara women of northern Chile, *awarded high honors*

## Research Interests

---

Demography – Sexual and Reproductive Health – Causal Inference – Sociology of Gender

## Publications

---

**Eilers, Michelle A.**, C. Emily Hendrick, Rafael Pérez-Escamilla, Daniel A. Powers, Joseph E. Potter. 2020. “Breastfeeding Initiation, Duration, and Supplementation Among Mexican-Origin Women in Texas.” *Pediatrics* 145(4): e20192742.

Goldberg, Rachel E., Marta Tienda, **Michelle A. Eilers**, Sara S. McLanahan. 2019. “Adolescent Relationship Quality: Is there an Intergenerational Link?” *Journal of Marriage and Family* 81(4): 812-29.

Sedgh, Gilda, Lawrence Finer, Akinrinola Bankole, **Michelle A. Eilers**, Susheela Singh. 2015. “Adolescent pregnancy, abortion, and birth rates across countries: a cross-sectional review and assessment of recent trends.” *Journal of Adolescent Health* 56(2):223-230.

Japuntich, Sandra, **Michelle A. Eilers**, Sharon Shenhav, Elyse Park, Jonathan Winickoff, Yuchiao Chang, Michele Reyen, Neal Benowitz, Nancy Rigotti. 2015. “Secondhand tobacco smoke exposure among hospitalized nonsmokers with coronary heart disease.” *JAMA Internal Medicine* 175(1):133-136.

Sedgh, Gilda, Susheela Singh, Akinrinola Bankole, **Michelle A. Eilers**. 2012. “Legal abortion levels and trends by woman’s age at termination.” *International Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health* 38(3):143-153.

## Papers Under Review

---

Hopkins, Kristine, Courtney Remington, Saul D. Rivas, **Michelle A. Eilers**, Christina Wallace Huff, L. David Moore, R. Moss Hampton, and Tony Ogburn. “Obtaining Buy-in for Immediate Postpartum Long-acting Reversible Contraception Programs.”

## Papers in Progress

---

**Eilers, Michelle A.** and Abigail Weitzman. “When Attitudes and Desires Compete: Young Women’s Sexual Behavior and Contraceptive Use Amidst Conflicting Desires and Morals.”

**Eilers, Michelle A.** “Desire to Avoid Pregnancy and the Desire for Sex: Psychosocial Determinants of Sex and Contraceptive Use”

- Paper to be presented at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting (May 2021) and the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting (August 2021).

**Eilers, Michelle A.** “Moral Attitudes and Sex in the Transition to Adulthood: Is there a Dynamic Relationship for Young Women?”

**Eilers, Michelle A.** “Women’s Experiences with Crisis Pregnancy Centers Before Obtaining Abortion.”

Potter, Joseph E., **Michelle A. Eilers**, Kari White, Kristine Hopkins, Daniel Powers, and Daniel Grossman. “Rapid Repeat Births Among Texas Women.”

## Conference Presentations

---

**Eilers, Michelle A.** “Moral Attitudes and Sexual Behavior Among Young Women: Is there a Reciprocal Relationship?”

- Paper presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting (ASA). Virtual, August 2020.

- Poster selected for the 2020 Population Association of America Annual Meeting (PAA). \*

Potter, Joseph E., **Michelle A. Eilers**, Elizabeth J. Ela, Kristine Hopkins, Daniel Powers, and Kari White. 2020. “Access to Contraception and Rapid Repeat Births among Low-Income Texas Women.” Paper selected for the 2020 Population Association of America Annual Meeting (PAA). \*

**Eilers, Michelle A.** and Abigail Weitzman. “Young Women’s Sexual Behavior and Contraceptive Use Amidst Conflicting Desires and Morals.” Paper presented at the 2019 Population Association of America Annual Meeting (PAA). Austin, TX.

**Eilers, Michelle A.** “Women’s Experiences in Pregnancy Resource Centers in Texas.” Project presented at the 2018 Psychosocial Workshop. Denver, CO.

**Eilers, Michelle A.**, Sandra Japuntich, Sharon Shenhav, Michele Reyen, Jonathan Winickoff, Elyse Park, Nancy Rigotti. “Secondhand Smoke Exposure Patterns among Patients Hospitalized with Coronary Heart Disease.” Poster presented at the 2011 Society of Research on Nicotine and Tobacco Annual Meeting. Toronto.

---

\*Cancelled due to COVID-19

## Invited Presentations

---

“Research Design and Experimental Methods.” February 2021. Guest Lecture for undergraduate courses *Intro to Social Demography* and *Love, Sex, and Relationships*, UT Austin.

“Understanding Women’s Experiences at Crisis Pregnancy Centers in the Context of the Texas Legislative Session.” October 2020. Outreach and Advocacy Workshop on the Alternatives to Abortion Program, co-hosted by the Texas Policy Evaluation Project (TxPEP), Avow Texas, and the Texas Pregnancy Care Network.

“Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study Introduction and Research Opportunities.” December 2016. Guttmacher Institute. New York, NY.

## Fellowships and Awards

---

- 2021** University Graduate Continuing Fellowship, UT Austin (\$44,000)  
Philanthropic Educational Organization P.E.O. Scholar Award (\$20,000)  
Norval Glenn Best Graduate Student Paper Award, UT Austin Sociology Department (\$500)
- 2019** NICHD Training Fellowship, UT Austin Population Research Center (\$21,000 + tuition)  
Summer Research Fellowship, Department of Sociology, UT Austin (\$5,000)
- 2018** Summer Research Fellowship, Department of Sociology, UT Austin (\$5,000)
- 2014** North American Friends Studentship, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (£10,000)
- 2013** Bixby Fellowship for Professional Development for field work in Ethiopia, Guttmacher Institute
- 2010** Ellen C. Myers Memorial Prize, Tufts University (\$3,000)
- 2009** Alice Rowan Swanson Fellowship, School for International Training (\$2,700)
- 2008** Gilman Scholarship, U.S. Department of State (\$4,000)

## Invited Workshops

---

Population Research Bureau U.S. Health Policy Communication Workshop and Fellowship, 2020-2021

Berkeley Formal Demography Workshop, June 2018

## Research Experience

---

**Population Research Center**, University of Texas at Austin

*Graduate Research Assistant (2020- )*: Constructing longitudinal dataset of intimate partner violence from the National Crime Victimization Survey, U.S. Census administrative data, and immigration laws passed in the United States since 2000.

**Texas Policy Evaluation Project (TxPEP)**, University of Texas at Austin

*Graduate Research Assistant (2017-2020)*: Led longitudinal data analyses of breastfeeding trajectories

and demographic differentials; demographic predictors of rapid repeat births; and indirect estimation of under reported abortion using a proximate-determinants framework. Developed survey instrument and in-depth interview guide of experiences of women who visited crisis pregnancy centers prior to abortion. Co-developed crisis pregnancy center education workshop for reproductive justice advocacy groups.

**Center for Research on Child Wellbeing**, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ

*Research Specialist II (2015-2017)*: Led data cleaning and processing for public release of the Year 15 wave of the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing study (PI Sara McLanahan). Managed operations of the mDiary Study of Adolescent Relationships, an online survey of adolescent relationship formation and dynamics (PIs Marta Tienda and Rachel Goldberg).

**Guttmacher Institute**, New York, NY

*Research Assistant II (2011-2014)*: Supervised data entry and management, supported research trainings and field work with study partners on Ethiopia Abortion Incidence study. Analyzed DHS data from 31 countries on reasons for family planning non-use.

**Tobacco Treatment and Research Center**, Massachusetts General Hospital

Boston, MA. *Clinical Research Coordinator (2010-2011)*: Led survey and biomarker data collection for a study of secondhand smoke exposure among cardiac inpatients. Wrote intervention materials and IRB application for a secondhand smoke exposure reduction intervention.

**Professional Service** \_\_\_\_\_

Planning team, 2019 Psychosocial Meeting at the PAA Annual Meeting, Austin, TX

Demography and Health Program Representative, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (2014/15)

Ad hoc reviewer for *Journal of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care*

Member, American Sociological Association, 2020 - present

Member, Population Association of America, 2013-present

Member, Society of Family Planning, 2017-present