

# Aven Peters

Department of Sociology  
Northwestern University  
1810 Chicago Ave  
Evanston, IL 60208

avenpeters.owlstown.net  
aven.peters@u.northwestern.edu  
+1 (805) 338-0006

## EDUCATION

Ph.D., Sociology, Northwestern University. Certificate in Gender & Sexuality Studies. Expected June 2027.

Dissertation: Gender on a Continuum: New Theoretical and Methodological Tools for Measuring Femininity, Masculinity, and Gender (Non)Conformity.  
Special Fields Paper: Queer Demography.

M.A., Social Sciences, University of Chicago. August 2021.

Concentration: Concentration in Quantitative Methods & Social Analysis.

B.A., Mathematics and Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (Honors), University of Chicago. June 2020. *Magna Cum Laude*.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Journal Articles

**Peters, Aven.** 2026. “(Dis)orderly Bodies: Gender Identification and Disability in Social Context.” *American Journal of Sociology* 131(4):773-828.

- *American Sociological Association (ASA) Section on Disability in Society Graduate Student Paper Award (2026)*
- *Robert F. Winch Award for Outstanding Published/Presented Paper (Northwestern Sociology, 2026)*

Lozano, Paula, **Aven Peters**, Alia Southworth, Yicklun Mo, Helen Lam, Fornessa Randal, Karen Kim. 2024. “Smoking Behavior among Asian Americans during the Initial Phase of the COVID-19 Pandemic: The Influence of Pandemic Stressors and Depression.” *Tobacco Induced Diseases* 22:10.18332/tid/176923.

Sharp, MaryGrace, Paula Lozano, Alia Southworth, **Aven Peters**, Helen Lam, Fornessa Randal, Michael Quinn, Karen Kim. 2024. “Mixed Methods Approach to Understanding COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy among Immigrants in Chicago.” *Vaccine* 42(22):125552.

Lozano, Paula, Fornessa Randal, **Aven Peters**, Briseis Aschebrook-Kilfoy, Muhammad Kabriya, Jiajun Luo, Sameep Shah, Paul Zakin, Andrew Craver, Liz Stepniak, Loren Saulsberry, Sonia Kupfer, Helen Lam, Habibul Ahsan, Karen Kim. 2023. “The Impact of Neighborhood Disadvantage on Colorectal Cancer Screening among African Americans in Chicago.” *Preventive Medicine Reports* 34:102235.

## Manuscripts In Preparation

**Peters, Aven.** “Doing Gender, Doing Politics: Race, Gender, and Political Expression.” Selected for possible inclusion in an issue of the *Russell Sage Journal of the Social Sciences*.

**Peters, Aven,** and Christine Percheski. “Same Start, Diverging Health: State Tobacco Policies and Health in Midlife among Siblings.” Invited to submit full paper for a special issue of *The Milbank Quarterly*.

Gonsalves, Tara, **Aven Peters,** Cristian Valenzuela (equal second-authorship). “Gender Classification in the Everyday.”

## AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Graduate Student Paper Award, ASA Section on Disability in Society, 2026.

Robert F. Winch Award for Outstanding Published/Presented Paper, Department of Sociology, Northwestern University, 2026 (\$500).

Summer Research Grant (declined), The Sexualities Project at Northwestern, Northwestern University, 2025 (\$2,000).

Robert F. Winch Award for Outstanding Teaching Assistant, Department of Sociology, Northwestern University, 2025 (\$500).

Conference Travel Grant, The Graduate School, Northwestern University, 2023 (\$800).

Summer Research Grant, The Sexualities Project at Northwestern, Northwestern University, 2023 (\$1,079).

First Place, Graduate and Professional Student Division, *All of Us* Research Scholars Program, 2023 (\$1,000).

Conference Travel Grant, Network for Data-Intensive Research on Aging, 2023 (\$700).

## INVITED TALKS

“(Dis)orderly Bodies: Gender Identification and Disability in Social Context.” Northwestern Department of Sociology Colloquium, April 16, 2026.

“Doing Gender, Doing Politics: Race, Gender, and Political Expression.” Russell Sage Foundation, June 26, 2026.

“Barriers to Healthcare Among Transgender Participants.” *All of Us* Researchers Convention, March 31, 2023.

## CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

## **Paper Panels**

“Doing Gender, Doing Politics: Measuring the Political Content of Continuous Gender Scales.” Population Association of American Annual Meeting, May 6-9, 2026.

“Producing Populations: The Productive Tension of Queer Demography.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 8-12, 2025.

“Reclaiming Demography’s Radical Potential: Towards a Trans Demography.” Second International Trans Studies Conference, September 4-7, 2024.

“‘The Best of Both Worlds’: Duality and Normativity among Crossdressers, 1977-1981.” Second International Trans Studies Conference, September 4-7, 2024.

“(Dis)orderly Bodies: Gender Identification, Disability, and Inequality across the Life Course.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 9-13, 2024.

“Health Disparities between Transgender and Non-Transgender People across the Life Course.” Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, April 3-6, 2024.

“Barriers to Healthcare among Rural LGBTQ Adults across the Life Course.” Data-Intensive Research Conference, August 2-3, 2024.

## **Refereed Roundtables**

2023            “Disparities in Healthcare Access across the Life Course: Comparing Cisgender and Transgender Adults.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 17-21.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Instructor of Record**

Measuring Queer Lives, Northwestern University (Advanced Undergraduate Seminar, Spring 2026)

### **Teaching Assistant (led lab or discussion section)**

Analysis of Social Data, Northwestern University (Advanced Undergraduate, Winter 2026)

Math Camp for Incoming Graduate Students, Northwestern University (Graduate, Summer 2024 and Summer 2025)

Categorical Regression, Northwestern University (Graduate, Spring 2024)

Linear Regression, Northwestern University (Graduate, Winter 2024)

Introduction to Statistics and Statistical Software, Northwestern University (Graduate, Fall 2023)

Introduction to Sociology, Northwestern University (Introductory Undergraduate, Spring 2023)

**Teaching Assistant or Grader (no lab or discussion section)**

Gender, Health, and Medicine, Northwestern University (Advanced Undergraduate, Spring 2025)

Sociological Theory, Northwestern University (Advanced Undergraduate, Winter 2025)

Regression II, ICPSR Summer Program (Graduate, Summer 2024)

Race, Ethnicity, and Quantitative Methods, ICPSR Summer Program (Graduate, Summer 2024)

Urban Policy Analysis, University of Chicago (Introductory Undergraduate, Fall 2020)

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

Graduate Research Assistant, Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University, September 2024 – March 2025.

Data Analyst, Center for Asian Health Equity, University of Chicago Medicine, February 2022 – June 2023.

Research Analyst, Ipsos Insight, LLC, July 2021 – January 2022.

**SERVICE**

**To Northwestern University**

AI Task Force (2026)

Undergraduate Affairs Committee (2024-2025)

Quantitative and Computational Methods Workshop Coordinator (2024-2025)

Graduate Admissions Committee (2023-2024)

Graduate Mentoring Committee (2023-2024)

**To the Discipline**

Reviewer, *Demographic Research*

Presider, American Sociological Association, Section on the Sociology of Body and Embodiment (2025)

President, American Sociological Association, Section on the Sociology of Sex and Gender (2025)

## LANGUAGES

English (native)

Spanish (advanced reading and writing; intermediate speaking)

Arabic (intermediate reading and writing; basic speaking)