

Aven Peters

Department of Sociology
Northwestern University

aven.peters@u.northwestern.edu
avenpeters.owlstown.net

EDUCATION

Northwestern University

Ph.D. in Sociology. Expected June 2027.

- Certificate in Gender & Sexuality Studies
- Dissertation: *Gendered Ruptures: Theoretical and Methodological Tools for Measuring Femininity, Masculinity, and Gender (Non)Conformity.*
- Special Fields Paper: *Queer Demography*

University of Chicago

M.A. in Social Sciences. August 2021.

- Concentration in Quantitative Methods & Social Analysis

University of Chicago

B.A. in Mathematics and Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (Honors). June 2020.

- *Magna Cum Laude*

RESEARCH AND TEACHING EXPERTISE

Gender identity and expression; Disability studies; Social determinants of health; Demography

PUBLICATIONS

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

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

WORKING PAPERS

Peters, Aven. “Doing Gender, Doing Politics: Race, Gender, and Political Expression.”

- Revise and Resubmit at ***RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation 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.” In preparation.

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

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

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

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

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Northwestern University

Instructor of Record

Measuring Queer Lives (Advanced Undergraduate, Spring 2026)

Teaching Assistant (led lab or discussion section)

Analysis of Social Data (Advanced Undergraduate, Winter 2026)

Math Camp for Incoming Graduate Students (Graduate, Summer 2024 & Summer 2025)

Categorical Regression (Graduate, Spring 2024)

Linear Regression (Graduate, Winter 2024)

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

Introduction to Sociology (Introductory Undergraduate, Spring 2023)

Teaching Assistant or Grader (no lab or discussion section)

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

Sociological Theory (Advanced Undergraduate, Winter 2025)

ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods

Teaching Assistant

Regression II (Graduate, Summer 2024)

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

University of Chicago

Teaching Assistant

Urban Policy Analysis (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)

Presider, 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)