

LESLIE J. ROOT

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Academic Appointments

- 2021-present Postdoctoral Scholar, University of Colorado Population Center, Boulder
Demographer on the Colorado Fertility Project, an NICHD-funded grant under PI Amanda Stevenson to study the impacts of access to contraception on people's lives.
- 2020-2021 Postdoctoral Scholar, Department of Demography, University of California, Berkeley
Researcher on the CenSoc Project, an NIH-funded project under PI Joshua Goldstein to link historical Censuses to Social Security records for a wide range of studies of health and mortality.

Education

- 2020 Ph.D., Demography, University of California, Berkeley
Qualifying exam topics: demographic methods, human fertility, population policy
Dissertation: Fertility in Transition in 21st-Century Russia
Committee: Joshua Goldstein, Jennifer Johnson-Hanks (chair), Ann Swidler
- 2015 M.A., Demography, University of California, Berkeley
- 2010 M.A., Eurasian, Russian, and East European Studies, Georgetown University
Capstone paper: "From the Post-Soviet to the Transnational: Circassian Politics in Global Context"
- 2006 B.A., Linguistics, Yale University

Publications

Peer-reviewed articles

Alexander, M., & Root, L. (2022). Competing Effects on the Average Age of Infant Death. *Demography*, forthcoming April 2022. Pre-print available:

<https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv/z4qg9/>

Root, L., & Johnson-Hanks, J. (2016). Gender, Honor, and Aggregate Fertility. *American Journal of Economics and Sociology*, 75(4), 904–928. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajes.12159>

Goldstein, L., Nam, H., Kulthreshtha, M., Root, L., and Best, C. (2008). Distribution of Tongue Tip Articulations in Hindi versus English and the Acquisition of Stop Place Categories. *Proceedings in Laboratory Phonology 11*.

Other academic writing

Root, Leslie. forthcoming. "Russian Population Dynamics in the Putin Era." in *The Routledge Handbook of Russian Politics and Society, 2nd edition*. Routledge.

Popular writing

Root, L. (2021, June 2). "Why We Shouldn't Worry about Falling Birthrates." *Washington Post*. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2021/06/02/why-we-shouldnt-worry-about-falling-birthrates>

Root, L., Guzzo, K. B., & Gemmill, A. (2019, November 27). Don't panic over declining fertility rates—And don't let anyone guilt you. *Washington Post*. https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/dont-panic-over-declining-fertility-rates--and-dont-let-anyone-guilt-you/2019/11/27/82528582-1077-11ea-b0fc-62cc38411ebb_story.html

Pickett, R., and Root, L. (2019, August 14) Delicacy is Essential With Population – letter in response to "Why Isn't Anyone Talking about Population?". *East Bay Express*. <https://www.eastbayexpress.com/oakland/letters/Content?oid=27301150>

Root, L. (2019, March 18). Racist terrorists are obsessed with demographics. Let's not give them talking points. *Washington Post*. https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2019/03/18/racist-terrorists-are-obsessed-with-demographics-lets-not-give-them-talking-points/?utm_term=.a933a82d3f70

Root, L. (2016, April 5). Russian Orthodox Church Anti-Abortion Movement Extends Its Grip to Chechnya and Abkhazia. *Muftah.org*. <http://muftah.org/russian-orthodox-church-anti-abortion-movement-extends-its-grip-to-chechnya-and-abkhazia/>

Grants, Fellowships, Awards

2018-2019	UC Berkeley Graduate Division Doctoral Completion Fellowship
2017	U.S. Department of State Title VIII Fellowship for advanced research in the former Soviet Union
2017	U.C. Berkeley Department of Demography Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award
2014-2018	U.S. National Institutes of Health Traineeship [NICHD and NIA]

- 2009-2010 U.S. Department of Education Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, Advanced Turkish
- 2009 U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship, Intermediate Turkish
- 2008-2009 U.S. Department of Education Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, Advanced Russian
- 2006-2008 Fulbright U.S. Student Fellowship: English Teaching Assistantship
- 2005 Yale College Dean's Research Fellowship

Conference Activity and Invited Talks

- 2021 "Subnational fertility rates with US administrative data" Institute of Behavioral Science Speaker Series, CU Boulder
- 2020 "Region-Level Fertility Patterns since 2014" presented at the Health and Demography roundtable at the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies annual meeting [online]
- "Fertility in Transition in 21st Century Russia" Department of Demography Brown Bag Seminar, UC Berkeley
- 2019 "When abortion is stigmatized, who gets abortions? Mixed-methods evidence from Russia," poster presented at the Fertility poster session at the Population Association of American Annual Meeting, Austin, Texas
- "What comes after 'abortion culture'?" Invited talk at Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health (ANSIRH) – UCSF Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health, Oakland, California
- "Abortion and Reproductive Rights in the New Russia" presented at the Health and Demography roundtable at the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies annual meeting, San Francisco, California
- Invited panelist, *The Future of Families* expert workshop, Institute for the Future, Palo Alto, California
- 2018 "Russian Fertility: Understanding What to Expect," presented at the Health and Demography roundtable at the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies annual meeting, Boston, Massachusetts

“Preparing for Oral Interview Fieldwork in the Social Sciences,” presented at the Language Teaching and Learning roundtable at the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies annual meeting, Boston, Massachusetts

2017 “Between Bongaarts and Putin: Explaining Russia’s Fertility Trough and Rebound,” presented at the Contemporary and Historical Fertility Transitions session at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois

2016 “Russia’s Fertility Fall and Rebound: Data, Measurement, Causes,” presented at the Health and Demography roundtable at the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies annual meeting, Washington, D.C.

“Ethnicity, Nationalism, and Census in Crimea,” paper presented at the UC Berkeley Center for European Studies conference, *A Polarizing Europe*

“Geographic Differentials in Russian Male Mortality Improvement,” poster presented at the Adult Mortality poster session at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Washington, DC

2015 “Mortality improvement in Russia, 2003-2014,” presented at the Health and Demography roundtable at the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies annual meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Teaching Experience

Instructor, *Fundamentals of Population Science*, Summer 2018

Head teaching assistant, *Introduction to Population Analysis*, Fall 2019

Head teaching assistant, *Sex, Death, and Data*, Fall 2016

Teaching assistant, *Economic Demography*, Spring 2016-2020 [Head TA 2018]

English teaching assistant, Department of Russian and Foreign Languages, Taganrog Institute of Management and Economics, Taganrog, Russia, 2007-2008

English teaching assistant, Department of Foreign Languages, Far Eastern Federal University, Vladivostok, Russia, 2006-2007

Other Research Experience

2017 Dissertation fieldwork, Taganrog, Russia

2016 Research assistant to Dr. Amal Harrati, constructing sex-, race- and SES-specific lifetables for the state of California

2016 Research assistant to Dr. Jennifer Johnson-Hanks, project on gender in demography

2010 Research assistant to David Satter, popular press book on Russia’s communist past

2009 Research assistant to Dr. Melanie Feakins, project on urban geography in St. Petersburg

Other Relevant Professional Experience

- 2010-2014 U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship Program administration, American Councils for International Education, Washington, DC
- Resident Director, Intermediate and Advanced Russian (2010)
 - Program Assistant (2010-2011)
 - Program Officer: Turkish, Azerbaijani and Bengali programs (2012)
 - Program Officer: Communications, Recruitment and Selection (2012-2014)

Service

Ad hoc peer reviewer for *Demographic Research*, *Demography*, *Journal of Adolescent Health*
Panel chair and discussant for the Population Association of America annual meeting,
Association for Slavic and East European Studies convention

Professional Skills

Data analysis – R, Stata, SAS, MAXQDA, Excel
Russian – fluent
Turkish – advanced proficiency
Azerbaijani – reading knowledge
Spanish – reading knowledge
Ukrainian – reading knowledge

Professional Memberships

Population Association of America
American Sociological Association
Society of Family Planning
Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies
Association for Women in Slavic Studies