

LESLIE J. ROOT

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Academic Appointments

- 2021-present NICHHD-funded Postdoctoral Associate, University of Colorado Population Center, Boulder (supervisor: Amanda Stevenson)
Developing a method for constructing a national register for fertility research using restricted data from the Census Bureau and Treasury Department.
Estimating the effects of access to contraception on fertility and other domains of people's lives.
- 2020-2021 NIH-funded Postdoctoral Scholar, Department of Demography, University of California, Berkeley (supervisor: Joshua Goldstein)
Developed models to formalize how cohort-specific censoring in historical data affects mortality estimates. Supporting work on historical record linkage.

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: Jennifer Johnson-Hanks (chair), Joshua Goldstein, 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

Research and Teaching Interests

Fertility, formal demographic methods, fertility intentions, abortion, demography of the United States, demography of the former Soviet Union, population discourse and policy, critical approaches to demographic measurement

Publications

Peer-reviewed articles

Alexander, M., & Root, L. (2022). Competing effects on the average age of infant death. *Demography* 59(2), 587–605. doi: [10.1215/00703370-9779784](https://doi.org/10.1215/00703370-9779784).

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>

Manuscripts under review

Stevenson, A., Root, L., & Menken, J. The maternal mortality consequences of losing abortion access. *Demography*.

Stevenson, A., & Root, L. Years lived after autonomous pregnancy decisions as a measure of abortion's benefit for people's lives. *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*.

Advanced manuscripts

Root, L. Demographic and ethical discourses in Russia's anti-abortion movement.

Root, L., Stevenson, A., and Genadek, K. Using U.S. administrative and Census Bureau data to generate fertility estimates to measure the impact of COVID-19.

Root, L., Stevenson, A., Genadek, K., Yeatman, S., Mollborn, S., & Menken, J. New estimates of parity-specific fertility hazards by state and race/ethnicity in the United States.

Selected manuscripts in preparation

Alexander, M. and Root, L. Extending a new method for λ_0 calculation to low- and middle-income countries.

Stevenson, A., Root, L., & Menken, J. A rationale for and demonstration of all-sex fertility rates in the U.S. context.

Stevenson, A., Root, L. & Menken, J. The state-level correlation between abortion restrictions and maternal mortality.

Other academic writing

Root, L. forthcoming. Russian population dynamics in the Putin era. In *The Routledge Handbook of Russian Politics and Society, 2nd edition*, ed. Graeme Gill. 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/>

External Research Grant Support

Completed

U.S. Department of State Title VIII Fellowship for advanced research in the former Soviet Union, 2017, \$7000.

Pending or under review

Principal Investigator - Beyond Boom and Bust: Heterogeneous Fertility Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic. R03 NICHD, 2022-2023, under review (score: 13th percentile).

Internal Research Grant Support

Active

Principal Investigator - Quantifying the impact of abortion restrictions in Colorado. Colorado Population Center Seed Funding, 2022, \$15,000.

Fellowships and Awards

2018-2019	UC Berkeley Graduate Division Doctoral Completion Fellowship
2017	U.C. Berkeley Department of Demography Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award
2014-2018	U.S. National Institutes of Health Traineeships [NICHD, 2014-2016; NIA, 2016-2018]
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

Selected Presentations at Professional Meetings

- 2022 Root, L., Stevenson, A., Genadek, K., Yeatman, S., Mollborn, S., & Menken, J. "New Estimates of Parity-Specific Fertility Rates Essential to Understanding Reproductive Inequality in the U.S.," poster to be presented at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia
- Root, L., Stevenson, A., Genadek, K. "Using U.S. Administrative and Census Bureau Data to Generate Fertility Estimates to Measure the Impact of COVID-19," paper presented at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia
- 2020 Root, L. "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]
- 2019 Root, L. "When abortion is stigmatized, who gets abortions? Mixed-methods evidence from Russia," poster presented at the Fertility poster session at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Austin, Texas
- Root, L. "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
- 2018 Root, L. "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
- Root, L. "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 Root, L. "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 Root, L. “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.

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

Root, L. “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 Root, L. “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

Invited Talks

2022 “A new formula for calculating the average age of infant death,” World Health Organization Life Tables Working Group

2021 “Subnational fertility rates with US administrative data,” Institute of Behavioral Science Speaker Series, CU Boulder

2020 “Fertility in Transition in 21st Century Russia,” Department of Demography Brown Bag Seminar, UC Berkeley

2019 “What comes after ‘abortion culture’?” Invited talk at Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health (ANSIRH) – UCSF Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health, Oakland, California

Invited panelist, *The Future of Families* expert workshop, Institute for the Future, Palo Alto, California

Interviews and Media Appearances

KNX News 97.1 FM/Coronavirus Daily Podcast. (2021, November 9). Pfizer wants to give vaccinated people a boost. Plus, a pandemic baby boom may be on the way.

<https://www.audacy.com/knxnews/podcasts/coronavirus-daily-35534/pfizer-wants-to-give-vaccinated-people-a-boost-plus-a-pandemic-baby-boom-might-be-on-the-way-927220835>

Bodenheimer, R. (2021, August 25). COVID-19 may have long-term effects on childbearing in the U.S. *California Magazine*. <https://alumni.berkeley.edu/california-magazine/just-in/2021-08-25/covid-19-may-have-long-term-effects-childbearing-us>

Bovy, P. M. (2021, May 14). “Other people’s babies.” *The Signal*. <https://www.thesgnl.com/2021/05/birthrates-demography-leslie-root/>

Rothrock, K. (2020, December 7). Leslie Root on Russian demography. *The Russia Guy podcast*. <https://therussiaguy.buzzsprout.com/>

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 Professional Experience

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

2010-2014 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)

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

Service

Ad hoc peer reviewer for *Demographic Research*, *Demography*, *Journal of Adolescent Health*, *Population Research and Policy Review*

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

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