

# Laura Sochas

London School of Economics  
Social Policy Department  
Houghton Street  
WC2A 2AE London UK  
[l.sochas@lse.ac.uk](mailto:l.sochas@lse.ac.uk)

## Education

- PhD candidate in Demography & Population Studies** 2016-2020  
Social Policy Department  
London School of Economics, UK  
Thesis: *A social justice approach to explaining maternal health inequalities in Zambia.*  
Supervisors: Dr Tiziana Leone and Prof Ernestina Coast  
Planned submission: First quarter 2020
- Visiting researcher at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health** Apr-Jul 2019  
Global Health and Population Department  
Project: Economics of gender roles and gender discrimination  
Collaborator: Dr Jocelyn Finlay
- MSc in Social Research Methods** 2015-2016  
London School of Economics, UK  
Degree class: Distinction  
*Causal inference, generalised linear models, multi-level modelling, demographic methods, population and health projections, qualitative methods, research design.*
- Masters of Public Administration (International Development)** 2009–2011  
London School of Economics, UK  
Degree class: Distinction
- BA Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (Hons)** 2004–2007  
Oxford University, Merton College, UK  
Degree class: First Class Honours

## Peer-reviewed publications

**Sochas, L.** (2020) The predictive power of health system environments: a novel approach to explaining inequalities in access to maternal healthcare. **BMJ Global Health**. February 2020; 4:e002139  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmjgh-2019-002139>

**Sochas, L.** (2019) Women who break the rules: Social exclusion and inequities in pregnancy and childbirth experiences in Zambia. **Social Science & Medicine**. 232, pp.278-288. [doi: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2019.05.013](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2019.05.013)

**Sochas, L., Channon, A. & Nam, S.** (2017) Counting indirect crisis-related deaths in the context of a low-resilience health system: the case of maternal and neonatal health during the Ebola epidemic in Sierra Leone. **Health Policy and Planning**. 32 (suppl. 3), pp.ii32-ii39. <https://doi.org/10.1093/heapol/czx108>

ten Hoope Bender, P., Nove, A., **Sochas, L.**, Matthews, Z., Homer, C., Pozo Martin, F. (2017) The 'Dream Team' for sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn and adolescent health: an adjusted service target model to estimate the ideal mix of health care professionals to cover population need. **Human Resources for Health**. 15:46. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12960-017-0221-4>

Campbell, J., **Sochas, L.**, Cometto, G., Matthews, Z. (2016) Evidence for action on improving the maternal and newborn health workforce: the basis for quality care. **International Journal of Gynaecology and Obstetrics**. 132 (1). January 2016. pp.126-9. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijgo.2015.11.003>

## Work in progress

Leone, T., **Sochas, L.**, Coast, E. "Depends who's asking: interviewer effects in Demographic and Health Surveys abortion data". **Demography**. Stage: Revise & resubmit.

**Sochas, L.** "Are interactions between healthcare access barriers stalling progress on equity of access? A test of the Concurrent Barrier Hypothesis". Stage: Advanced draft (target journal: World Development; March 2020).

**Sochas, L.** "Decomposing inequalities in maternal healthcare access in Zambia: barriers faced or barriers overcome?". Stage: Advanced draft (target journal: Social Science & Medicine; April 2020).

**Sochas, L.**, L. Carrino, M. Avendano-Pabon. "The end of the grind or the beginning of the end? The causal impact of retirement on UK women's health". Stage: Advanced draft (target journal: Social Science & Medicine; Spring 2020).

Leone, T., **Sochas, L.**, Fetters, T., Coast, E. "Implementing abortion services for adolescents in Zambia, Ethiopia and Malawi: an assessment of cost and impact". Stage: Data collection (target journal: Health services and management; Spring 2020).

## Knowledge exchange and impact - publications & reports

**Sochas, L.**, Peterson, A. (2020) [Dear random effects, we love you. Signed, Social inequality scholars](#). LSE Social Policy blog. February 27<sup>th</sup> 2020.

**Sochas, L.** (2019) [Which deaths should count in a Global Health Epidemic?](#) Justice in Global Health Emergencies & Humanitarian Crises blog (University of Edinburgh). October 1st 2019.

Strong, J., Nandagiri, R., **Sochas, L.** (2019) [Reproductive health and rights: What's social policy got to do with it?](#) LSE Social Policy blog. August 30<sup>th</sup> 2019.

**Sochas, L.** (2019) [Health clinic rules in Zambia drive inequities in maternal well-being](#). Africa at LSE blog. June 5th 2019.

**Sochas, L.** (2019) Facility rules and maternal health inequities. Policy Brief for the attention of the Government of the Republic of Zambia.

UN Every Woman Every Child (2015) [Saving Lives Protecting Futures, Progress Report on the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health](#). **Contributed analysis and writing to chapter 3.**

International Confederation of Midwives, WHO and UNFPA. (2014) [State of the World's Midwifery report for 2014: 'A universal pathway. A woman's right to health'](#). June 2014. **Contributed substantially to data collection, analysis and writing.**

**Sochas, L.**, Grainger, C., Gorter, A., Griffith, D., Bodam-Whetham, L. (2013) [What can vouchers do for universal coverage?](#) Options Consultancy Services Briefing Paper.

## Presentations

**Sochas, L.** (2020, upcoming) "Are interactions between healthcare access barriers stalling progress on equity of access? Proposing and testing the Concurrent Barrier Hypothesis". Oral presentation at the **2<sup>nd</sup> IUSSP Population, Poverty and Inequality Research Conference** in Paris, France. 22-24 June 2020.

**Sochas, L.** (2019) "A decomposition analysis of inequalities in maternal healthcare access in Zambia using healthcare access barriers". Oral presentation at the **British Society for Population Studies** in Cardiff, Wales. 10th September 2019.

**Sochas, L.**, Ludovico Carrino, Mauricio Avendano-Pabon (2019) "The end of the grind or the beginning of the end? Inequalities in the causal effect of retirement on mental health of UK women". Oral presentation at the **IUSSP Population, Poverty and Inequality Research Conference** in Ann Arbor, Michigan. 27-29 June 2019.

**Sochas, L.** (2019) "Women Who Break the Rules: Intersectional Inequalities in Pregnancy and Birth Experiences in Zambia ". Oral presentation at the **Population Association of America** annual conference in Austin, Texas. 13th April 2019.

**Sochas, L.** (2019) "Barriers to Maternal Healthcare Access in LMICs: How Pushing the Analytical Envelope Could Have Important Implications for Equity". Poster presentation at the **Population Association of America** annual conference in Austin, Texas. 13th April 2019.

Leone, T., **Sochas, L.**, Coast, E. (2019) "Depends Who's Asking: Interviewer Effect on Abortion Data in the Sub-Saharan African DHS". Poster presentation at the **Population Association of America** annual conference in Austin, Texas. 13th April 2019.

**Sochas, L.** (2017) "To what extent can concurrent barriers explain inequalities in access to health? Evidence from maternal health care in Eastern and Southern Africa". Oral presentation at the **XXVIII IUSSP International Population Conference**. 1st November 2017.

**Sochas L.**, Channon, A. & Nam, S. (2017) "Maternal, neonatal and stillbirth deaths caused by decreased utilisation of essential maternal care in the context of the 2014 Ebola epidemic in Sierra Leone". Oral presentation at the **Population Association of America** annual conference. April 2017.

**Sochas L.** (2017) "Did Removing User Fees Improve Access to Maternal Health Care in Zambia? A Difference-In-Difference Study". Oral presentation at the **LSE International Health Policy Conference**. February 2017

Campbell, J., Pozo-Martin, F., **Sochas, L.** (presenting author), Homer, C., ten Hoope Bender, P. (2015) "Equity and effective coverage in post-2015: what are the workforce implications?" Oral presentation at the **Prince Mahidol Award Conference**. Bangkok, Thailand. January 2015.

**Sochas, L.** & Campbell, J. (2014) "Modelling geographic accessibility to health workers providing MNH care: an exploratory method. Poster presentation at the **CMMPH conference on Midwifery** and the post-MDG agenda". Bournemouth UK. February 2014.

## Invited talks

**Sochas, L.** (2019) "Which deaths (should) count in global health epidemics and how to count them". LSE International Development Cumberland Lodge retreat. Windsor, UK. 20<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

**Sochas, L., Channon, A. & Nam, S.** (2017) "Exploring the impact of Ebola on MNH utilisation and mortality in Sierra Leone - An innovative method to quantify indirect mortality effects of a public health crisis". Maternal Death and Surveillance and Response seminar series at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. January 2017

## Teaching employment

Imperial College London: "**Maternal health**" - Curriculum development, lectures & seminars. Short module (2 lectures & 2 seminars) for the Global Health MPH. Masters level. February 2020

London School of Economics: "**Survey research methods**" - Assisted during seminars, provided feedback and grading on students' survey research designs. Summer School intensive course. Masters level. July 2019

Imperial College London: "**Population dynamics and demographic transitions**" - Guest lecture. Masters level. February 2019 & February 2020

Kings College London: "**Key Concepts in Global Health**" - Designed and led seminars, led on feedback and grading. Full module. Bachelor level. October-May 2017

Willy Brandt School of Public Policy: "**Introduction to Research Methods**" - Curriculum development, lectures & seminars. Half-module. Masters level. Summer 2017

London School of Economics: "**Introduction to Global Population Change**" - Designed and led seminars, contributed to grading. Half-module. Bachelor level. October-December 2016

## Academic research employment

*Research officer.* Adolescents, contraception and abortion in Malawi, Ethiopia and Zambia, London School of Economics. PI: Ernestina Coast. 2019-2020

*Research officer.* Causal impact of retirement on health in UK women. Worklong project, Kings College London. PI: Mauricio Avendano Pabon. 2019

*Research officer.* Interviewer effects and abortion in African DHS, London School of Economics. PI: Tiziana Leone. 2019

## Other employment

**Options Consultancy Services, Technical Advisor.** 2011-2016

Conducted applied research in global health (impact evaluation and forecasting, health systems analysis); provided technical and management support to global research projects and multi-country advocacy programmes; contributed to proposal development. Country focus: Nigeria; Sierra Leone; Nepal.

**European Commission delegation in Lesotho, Intern and consultant.** 2008-2009

Contributed to the design of projects related to civil society, health, and food security; evaluated requests for funding; represented the European Commission on technical working groups related to health.

## Workshops - invited expert

Integrating values into evidence based medicine (INVITE) workshop. Goal: Develop content to support integration of values into health policy. London. October 2019

Technical consultation on maternal health indicators, IMHM project, Women and Health Initiative of the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. London. December 2018

Maternal health consortium meeting, Maternal Health Task Force at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Entebbe. February 2018

## Professional membership and service

Member of: British Society of Population Studies, Population Association of America, International Union for the Scientific Study of Populations, Integrating Values into Evidence-Based Medicine Network.

Reviewer for: Social Science & Medicine, SSM-Population Health, Health Policy Planning, and faculty-level internal peer review groups (Social Policy quantitative reading group, Global Health Initiative reading group).

Session chair for: the British Society of Population Studies annual conference (2018 and 2019); LSE Global Health Initiative public event (2019)

## Awards

**PAA annual conference best poster award**, 2019. This award recognises 5 winning posters out of roughly 100, in each poster session.

**ESRC overseas institutional visit**, April-June 2019. This award funded a three months research visit to the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

**ESRC fieldwork funding**, June-July 2018. This award funded a two months fieldwork visit to Zambia.

**LSE Class Teacher Award**, 2016-17. Awarded by the head of Department, this award was made in recognition of: *“Laura’s thoughtful, committed and informed approach led to improvements in the delivery of class materials in response to student feedback. She provided an engaging and participatory experience for students, who recognised this in their own feedback.”*

**ESRC advanced quantitative methods award**, 2017-2019. This funding is awarded to students who utilise advanced quantitative methods in their PhD research.

**ESRC doctoral studentship**, 2015-2019. This competitive scholarship covers tuition, a living stipend, and research funds.

## Additional training

**Efficient handling of missing data in statistical models (MLwiN)**. 2018 – 1 day  
Provided by Professor Harvey Goldstein, University of Bristol

**Confident spatial analysis in R and GeoDa (advanced)**. 2018 – 1 day  
Provided by Nicholas Bearman via NCRM, University of Southampton

**Cognitive Interviewing** for testing survey questions. 2017 – 2 days  
Provided by Pam Campanelli via NCRM, University of Southampton

**Advanced ArcGIS**. 2017 – 2 days  
Provided by the Geodata Institute, University of Southampton

**Introduction to ArcGIS and GIS analysis.** 2013 – 2 days

Provided by Dr Christopher Grundy, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

**Lives Saved Tool (LiST).** 2012 – 3 days

Provided by Dr Ingrid Friberg, John Hopkins School of Public Health

## Additional skills

Software: Stata, R, ArcGIS, Nvivo, Spectrum (e.g. Demproj, Lives Saved Tool)

Languages: English (bilingual); French (bilingual); Spanish (elementary)

## References

**Tiziana Leone**

Associate Professor in Health and International Development

Department of International Development

London School of Economics

*Link to candidate: co-supervisor & employer (teaching and research)*

[t.leone@lse.ac.uk](mailto:t.leone@lse.ac.uk)

**Ernestina Coast**

Professor of Health and International Development

Department of International Development

London School of Economics

*Link to candidate: co-supervisor & employer (research)*

[e.coast@lse.ac.uk](mailto:e.coast@lse.ac.uk)

**Mauricio Avendano Pabon**

Professor of Public Policy and Global Health

Kings College London

*Link to candidate: employer (teaching and research)*

[mauricio.avendano\\_pabon@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:mauricio.avendano_pabon@kcl.ac.uk)

**Zoe Matthews**

Professor of Global Health and Social Statistics

Department of Social Statistic and Demography

University of Southampton

*Link to candidate: mentor and collaborator*

[Zoe.Matthews@soton.ac.uk](mailto:Zoe.Matthews@soton.ac.uk)