Data and the State

PUBPOL 2130 / INFO 3130

Demography

Lecture 12, Thursday Mar 6

Guest: Sharon Sassler

- Professor in Sociology and Public Policy at Cornell
- Demographer with a specialty in social and **family** demography
- Marriage, cohabitation, parenthood, life transitions
- Major data sources: **survey** data (especially longitudinal, or over time) and **panel** data (longitudinal with same subjects)
- Examples available to you for projects:
    - **NSFG**: National Survey of Family Growth, from Centers for Disease Control (link)
    - **PSID**: Panel Study of Income Dynamics, from University of Michigan (link)

A Brief Introduction to Demography

Sharon Sassler, Professor
Brooks School of Public Policy
Department of Sociology
House Dean, Flora Rose House

Cornell University

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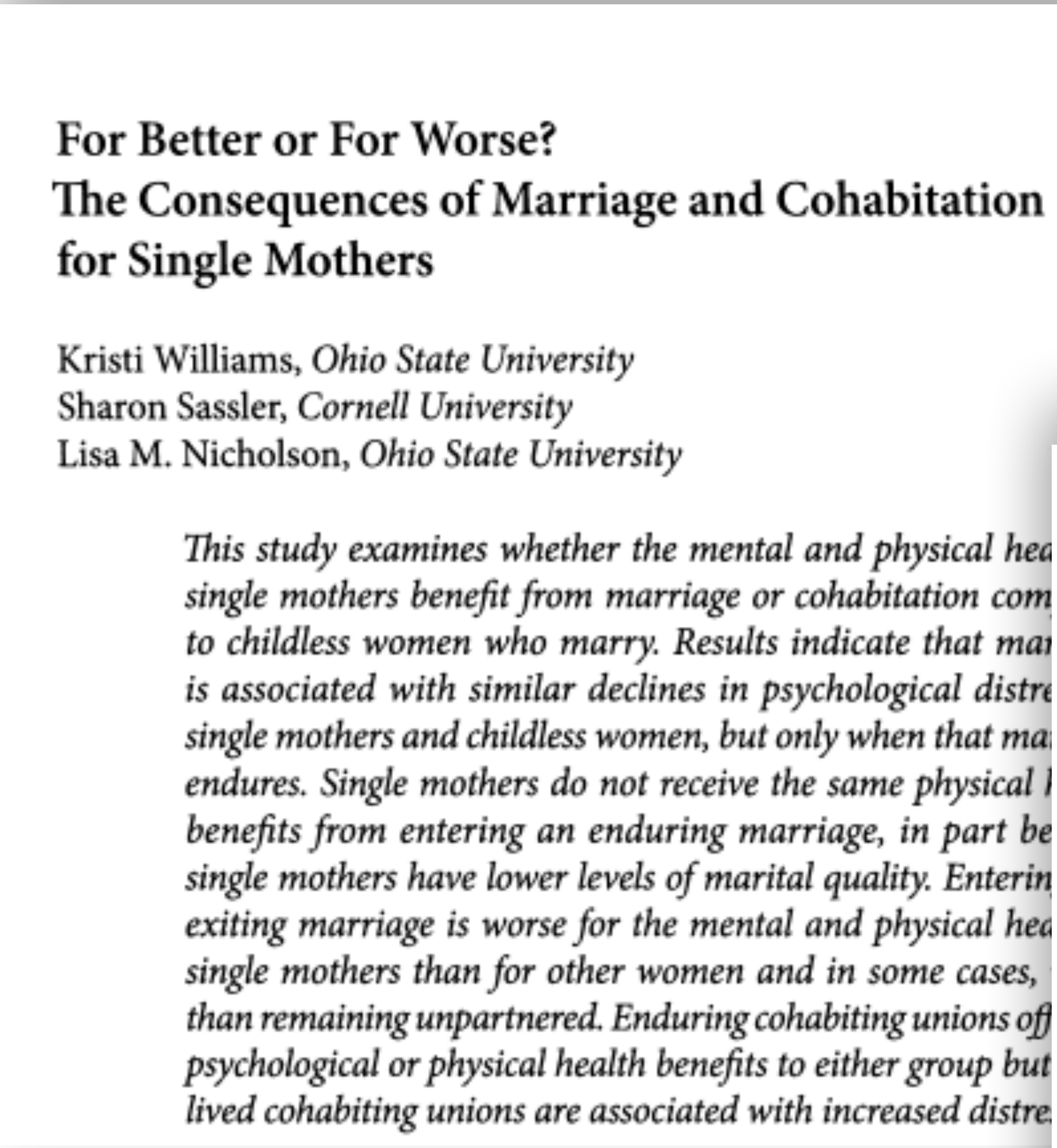
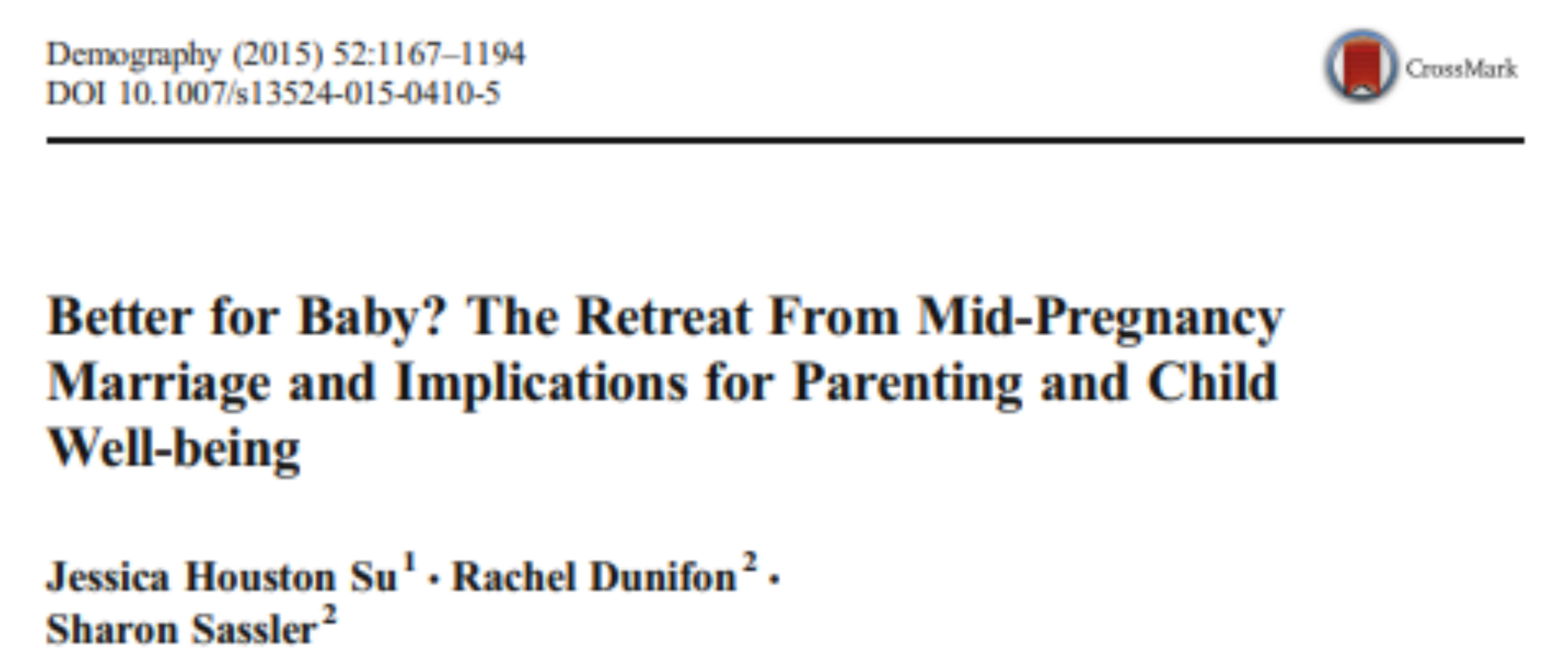
Is Marriage the best Anti-Poverty Policy?



For Better or For Worse?
The Consequences of Marriage and Cohabitation for Single Mothers

Kristi Williams, *Ohio State University*
Sharon Sassler, *Cornell University*
Lisa M. Nicholson, *Ohio State University*

This study examines whether the mental and physical hea
single mothers benefit from marriage or cohabitation com
to childless women who marry. Results indicate that ma
is associated with similar declines in psychological distre
single mothers and childless women, but only when that ma
endures. Single mothers do not receive the same physical
benefits from entering an enduring marriage, in part be
single mothers have lower levels of marital quality. Enterin
exiting marriage is worse for the mental and physical hea
single mothers than for other women and in some cases,
than remaining unpartnered. Enduring cohabiting unions of
psychological or physical health benefits to either group but
lived cohabiting unions are associated with increased distre

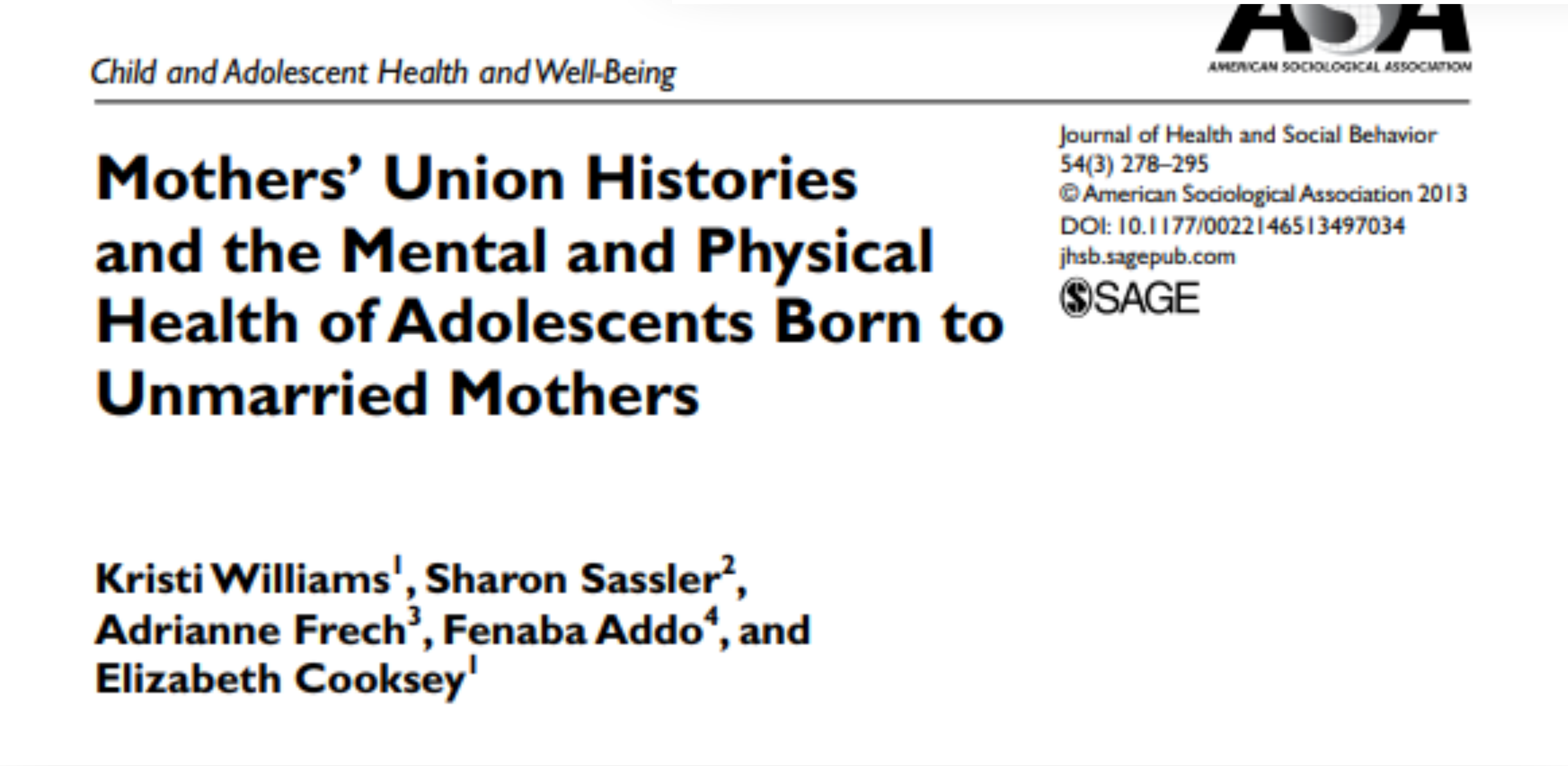


Demography (2015) 52:1167–1194
DOI 10.1007/s13524-015-0410-5

CrossMark

Better for Baby? The Retreat From Mid-Pregnancy Marriage and Implications for Parenting and Child Well-being

Jessica Houston Su[1] **· Rachel Dunifon**[2] **·**
Sharon Sassler[2]



Child and Adolescent Health and Well-Being

AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Mothers' Union Histories and the Mental and Physical Health of Adolescents Born to Unmarried Mothers

Journal of Health and Social Behavior
54(3) 278–295
© American Sociological Association 2013
DOI: 10.1177/0022146513497034
jhsb.sagepub.com
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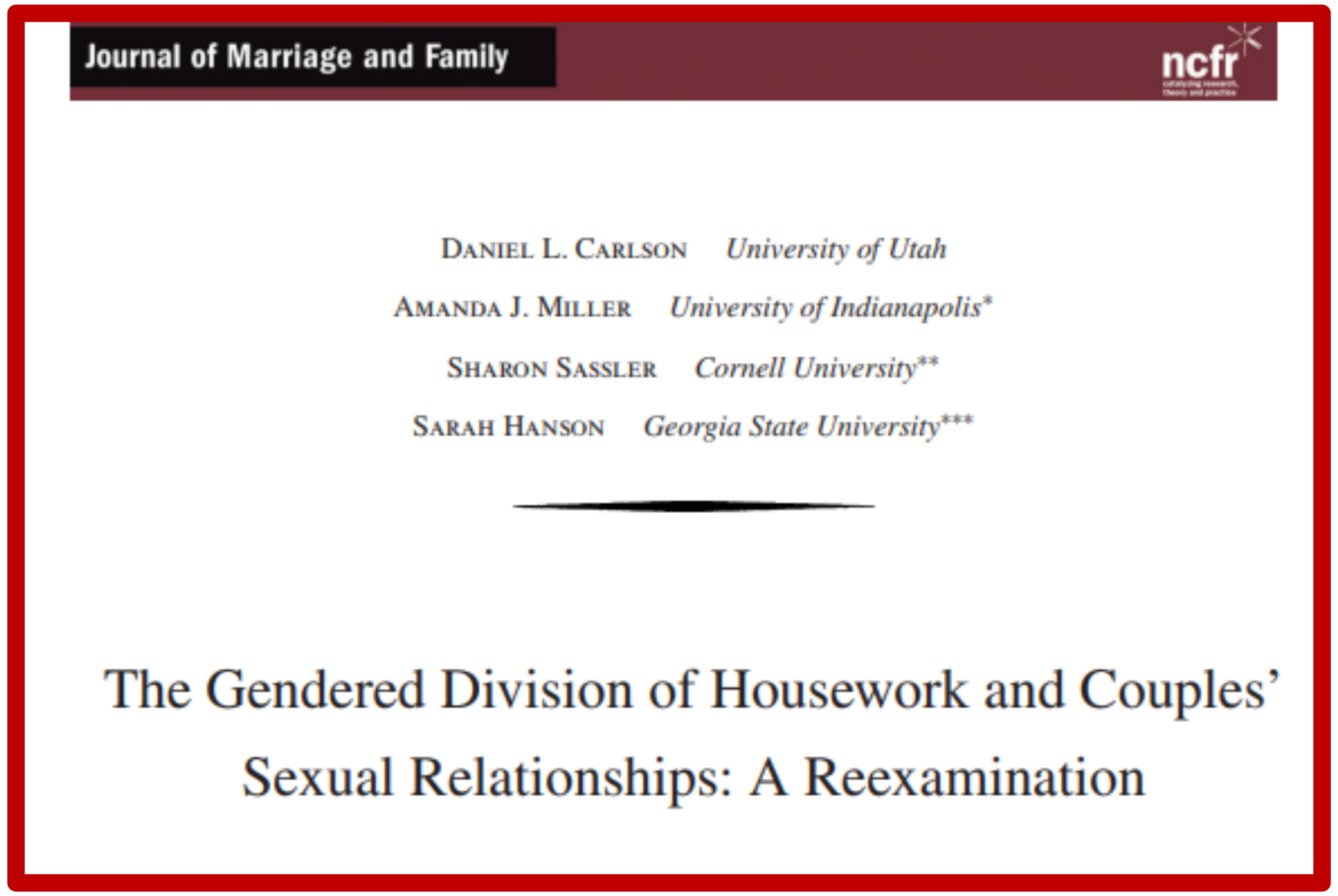
Kristi Williams[1]**, Sharon Sassler**[2]**,**
Adrianne Frech[3]**, Fenaba Addo**[4]**, and**
Elizabeth Cooksey[1]

Romantic & Sexual Relationships



Journal of Marriage and Family

ncfr

Daniel L. Carlson *University of Utah*
Amanda J. Miller *University of Indianapolis**
Sharon Sassler *Cornell University***
Sarah Hanson *Georgia State University****

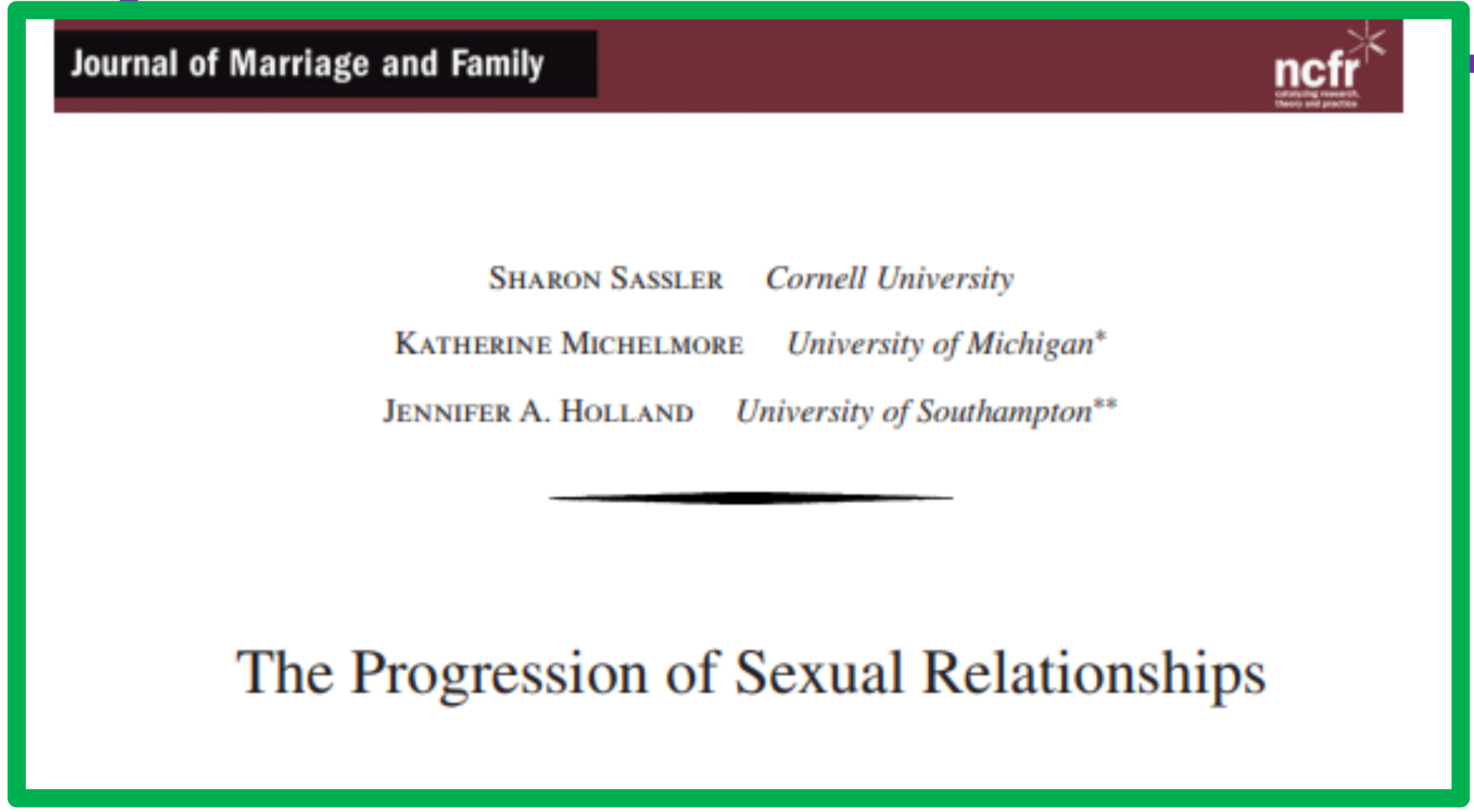
The Gendered Division of Housework and Couples' Sexual Relationships: A Reexamination

Demography (2018) 55:511–534
https://doi.org/10.1007/s13524-018-0649-8

CrossMark

Transitions From Sexual Relationships Into Cohabitation and Beyond

Sharon Sassler[1] · Katherine Michelmore[2] · Zhenchao Qian[3]



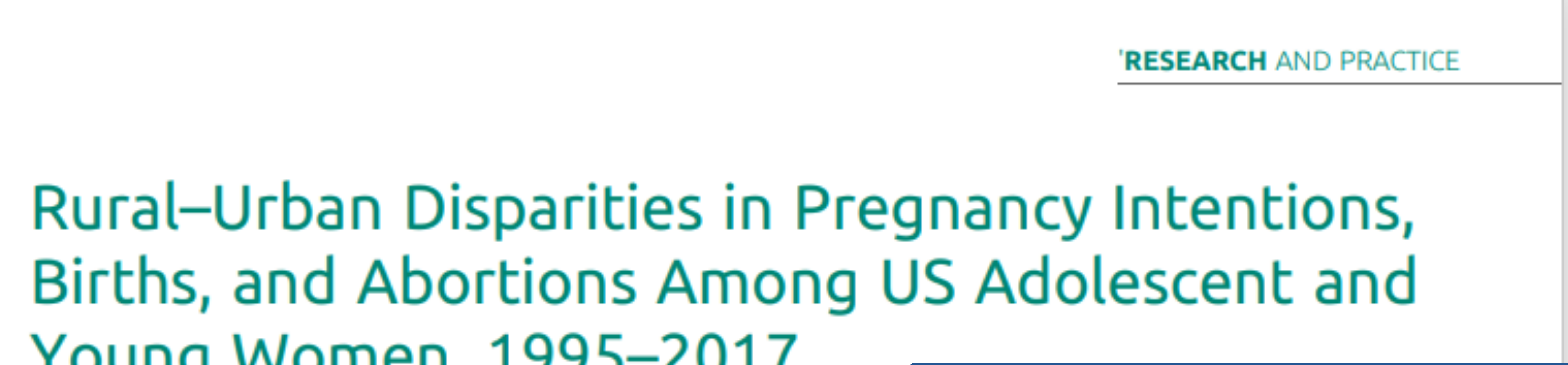
Journal of Marriage and Family

ncfr

Sharon Sassler *Cornell University*
Katherine Michelmore *University of Michigan**
Jennifer A. Holland *University of Southampton***

The Progression of Sexual Relationships

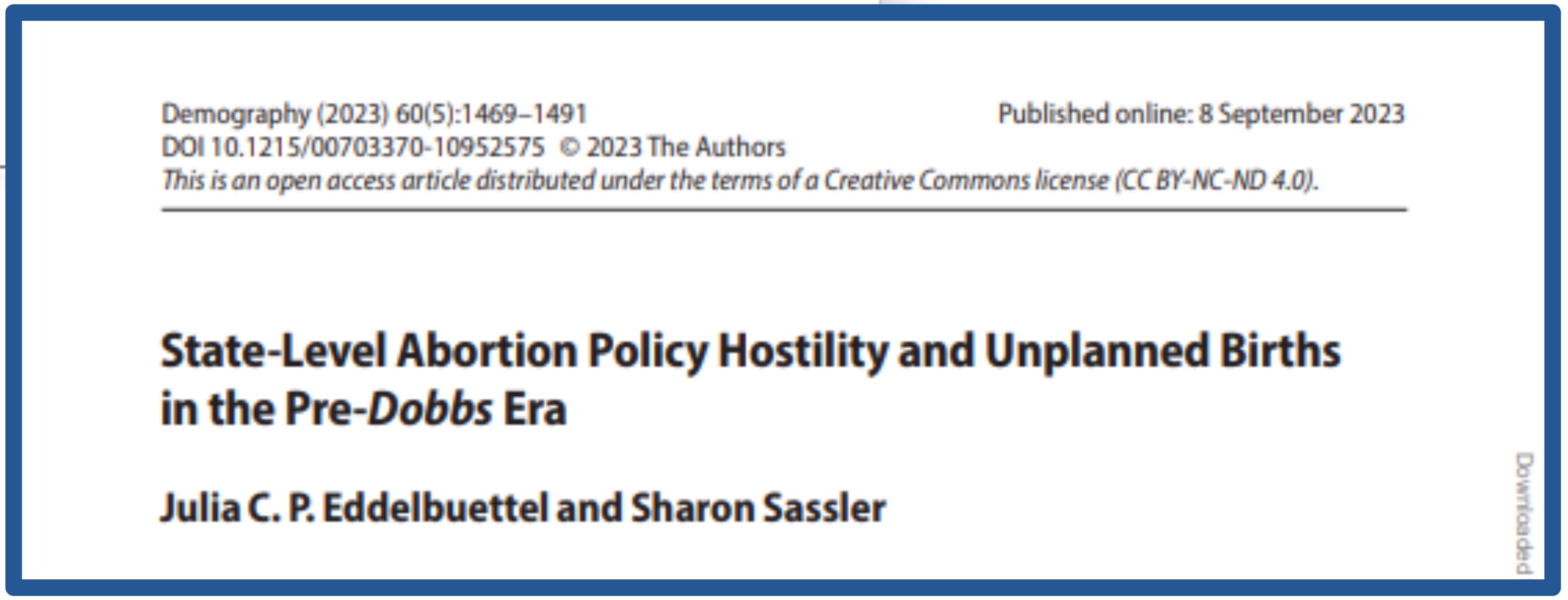
Pregnancies, Births, & Abortions



'RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

Rural–Urban Disparities in Pregnancy Intentions, Births, and Abortions Among US Adolescent and Young Women, 1995–2017

April Sutton, PhD, Daniel T. Lichter, PhD, and Sharon Sassler, PhD



Demography (2023) 60(5):1469–1491
DOI 10.1215/00703370-10952575

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State-Level Abortion Policy Hostility and Unplanned Births in the Pre-*Dobbs* Era

Julia C. P. Eddelbuettel and Sharon Sassler

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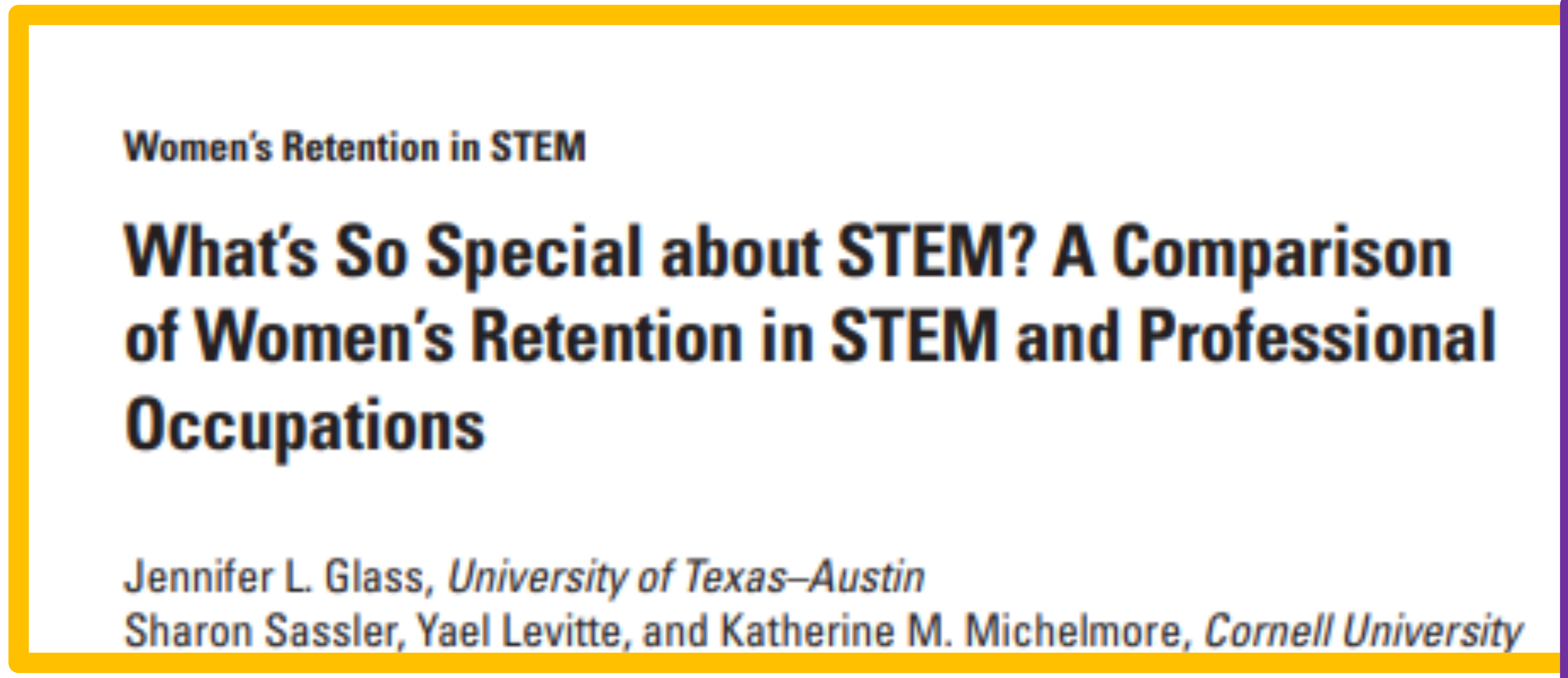
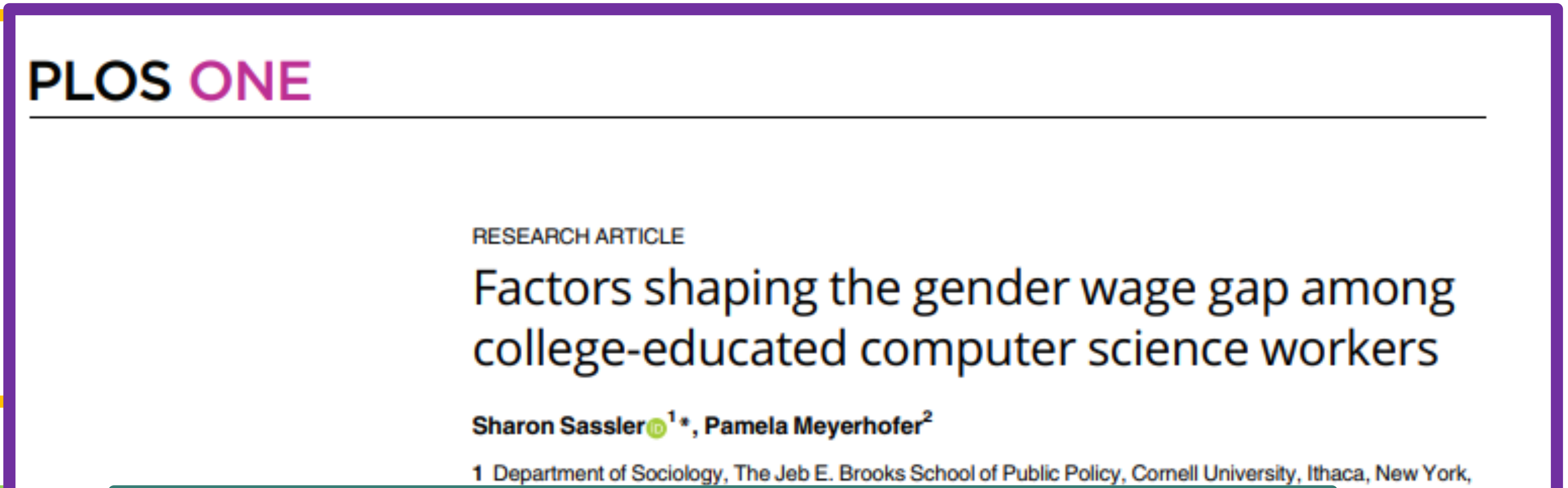
Women in STEM, the Gender Pay Gap


Women's Retention in STEM

What's So Special about STEM? A Comparison of Women's Retention in STEM and Professional Occupations

Jennifer L. Glass, *University of Texas–Austin*
Sharon Sassler, Yael Levitte, and Katherine M. Michelmore, *Cornell University*


PLOS ONE

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Factors shaping the gender wage gap among college-educated computer science workers

Sharon Sassler[1]*, Pamela Meyerhofer[2]

1 Department of Sociology, The Jeb E. Brooks School of Public Policy, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York,
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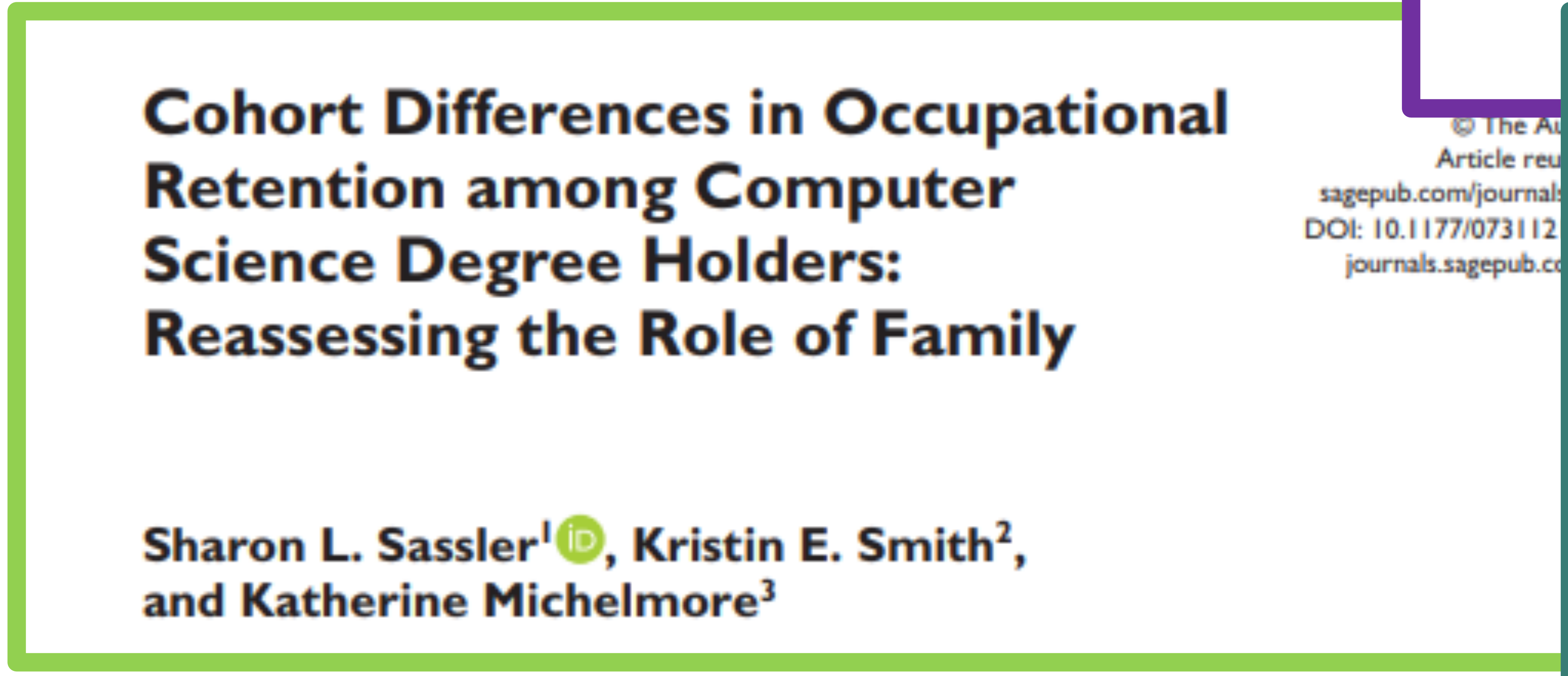
Cohort Differences in Occupational Retention among Computer Science Degree Holders: Reassessing the Role of Family

Sharon L. Sassler[1], Kristin E. Smith[2], and Katherine Michelmore[3]

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sagepub.com/journals
DOI: 10.1177/073112
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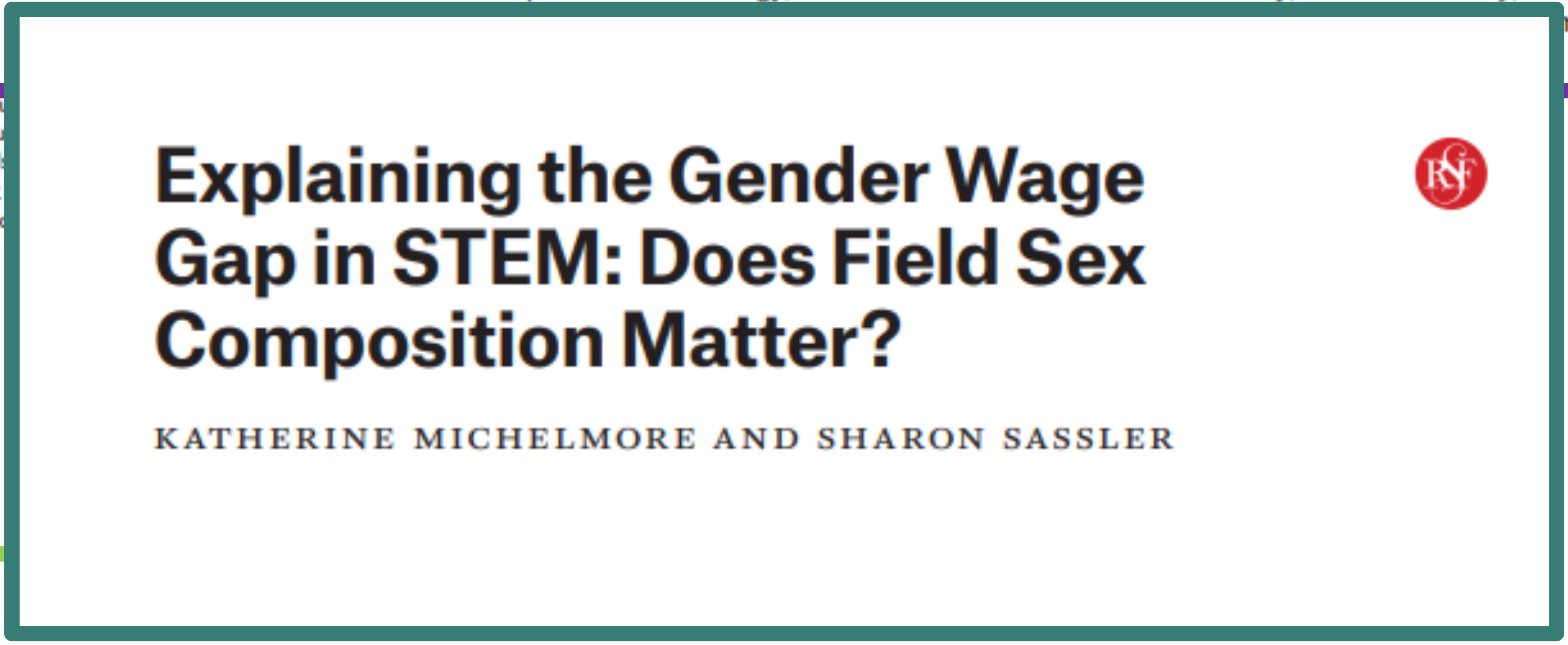
Explaining the Gender Wage Gap in STEM: Does Field Sex Composition Matter?

KATHERINE MICHELMORE AND SHARON SASSLER

Cornell University

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Data Sets?

- For family research → National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG), PRAMS (Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System), NSFH, NLSY (Natl Longitudinal Study of Youth79-Children of NLSY, NLSY97).
- For STEM? SESTAT data (NSF data collection), ACS (American Community Survey)

One of my data accomplishments?

- Improving a question on the NSFG
  - At the time you began living together, were you and [partner] engaged to be married or did you have definite plans to get married?”
  - Options: Yes/No

    Can you see any issues with that wording?
- Revised response options:
  - the NSFG modified its survey starting in 2011 to include three response options:
    - Yes, engaged;
    - Not engaged but had definite plans to get married;
    - No, neither engaged nor had definite plans.”

Improved question, or change in role of cohabitation?

Table 3. Union intentions at the initiation of a first cohabitation by sex, National Survey of Family Growth (2002, 2011-2015)

2002 [a]	Male	Female
Yes	43%	46%
No	57%	54%
	N = 1,783	N = 3,229
2011-2015 [b]		
Yes, engaged to be married	19%	23%
Not engaged but had definite plans to get married	26%	20%
No, neither engaged nor had definite plans	56%	56%
	N = 2,028	N = 3,517

[a] Source: Karen Guzzo. 2009. “Marital Intentions and the Stability of First Cohabitations” Journal of Family Issues 30(2):179-205 (Table 1).

[b] Source: Emily Parker. 2020 “Gender Differences in the Marital Plans and Union Transitions of First Cohabitations” Population Research and Policy Review Forthcoming (Table 1).

A change from 43% of men & 46% of women saying YES, they were engaged, to 19% of men and 23% of women saying yes to that question is a pretty big difference. There is still a gender difference.

Questions? Want to collaborate?

- Sharon.Sassler@Cornell.Edu