

Orsola Torrisi

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Personal and McGill webpages

 [otorrisi](#) |  orcid.org/0000-0003-1760-679X

Research interests: Armed violence · crises and disasters · family dynamics · reproductive health · registration of vital events · quantitative and survey methods · low- and middle-income countries

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor of Social Demography

McGill University, Department of Sociology

2024-

Montreal, Canada

Research Affiliate

The London School of Economics (LSE), Department of Social Policy

2022-

London, UK

Postdoctoral Associate

New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD), Division of Social Science and Public Policy

2022-24

Abu Dhabi, UAE

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Demography/Population Studies

The London School of Economics (LSE)

Dec. 2022

London, UK

Dissertation: Armed conflict and family outcomes:

The consequences of exposure to war on fertility, teen marriage and intimate partner violence.

Examining Committee: Prof. Jane Falkingham, Prof. Eric Schneider

*Awarded the 2022-23 LSE Titmuss Prize for outstanding PhD Thesis in Social Policy

*Awarded the 2023 Valeria Solesin Prize for best PhD Thesis in Demography by the Italian Statistical Society

European Doctoral School of Demography

Max Plank Institute for Demographic Research & University of Southern Denmark

2018-19

Odense/Rostock

MSc Social Research Methods

The London School of Economics (LSE)

2016-17

London, UK

MSc Health, Population and Society

The London School of Economics (LSE)

2015-16

London, UK

BA Political Economy

King's College London (KCL)

2012-15

London, UK

2014 – Study Abroad Program at the Institut des Sciences Politiques Paris (Sciences Po)

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed academic journals

Torrisi, O., Damerow, S., Fisker, A., Fernandes, A. and Helleringer, S. (2025). “Gender disparities in death registration during the COVID-19 pandemic in a low-resource setting” *Demographic Research*, <https://doi.org/10.4054/DemRes.2025.53.32>.

Svallfors, S., Caudillo, M., and **Torrisi, O.** (2025). The consequences of community violence on contraceptive use and provision in Mexico. *Demography*, 12319849. <https://doi.org/10.1215/00703370-12319849>

Perelli-Harris, B., and **Torrisi, O.** (2025). The uncertainty of forced displacement: how language and violence shaped forced migrants' journeys during Russia's invasion of Ukraine. *International Migration Review* (online first). <https://doi.org/10.1177/01979183251359172>

Torrisi, O., Fisker, A., Fernandes, A. and Helleringer, S. (2025). Improving retrospective data on recent household deaths: a multi-arm randomized trial in Guinea-Bissau. *International Journal of Epidemiology*, 54(2), dyaf009. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ije/dyaf009>

Torrisi, O. (2024). Teen unions and intimate partner violence in South America. *Population and Development Review*, 51(2), 613–655. <https://doi.org/10.1111/padr.12696>

Torrisi, O., Svallfors, S., and Gargiulo, M. (2024). Obstetric violence in the context of community armed violence: the case of Mexico. *Social Science & Medicine*, 117348. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2024.117348>

Torrisi, O., and Sieverding, M. (2024). Union formation characteristics, marital quality and displacement: the case of young adults in Jordan. *Genus*, 80(1), 1–25. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s41118-024-00219-y>

Torrisi, O. (2024). Violent instability and modern contraception: Evidence from Mali. *World Development*, 177, 106538. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2024.106538>

Torrisi, O., Banda, J., Reniers, G., and Helleringer, S. (2024). Revisiting the recommended duration of mobile phone interviews in low- and middle-income countries: findings from a randomised trial in Malawi. *Field Methods*, 1525822X241237042. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1525822X241237042>

Karlinsky, A., and **Torrisi, O.** (2023). The casualties of war: An excess mortality estimate of lives lost in the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. *Population Research and Policy Review*, 42(3), 41. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11113-023-09790-2>

Aburto, J. M., Riffe, T., Di Lego, V., van Raalte, A., Kashyap, R., and **Torrisi, O.** (2023). The global contribution of violence to lifetime uncertainty. *Science Advances*, 9(5), eadd9038. <https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.add9038>

Torrisi, O. (2022). Wedding amidst war? Armed conflict and female teen marriage in Azerbaijan. *European Journal of Population*, 38(5), 1243–1275. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10680-022-09645-0>

Torrisi, O. (2022). Young-age exposure to armed conflict and women's experiences of intimate partner violence. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 85(1), 7–32. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jomf.12876>

Torrisi, O. (2020). Armed conflict and the timing of childbearing in Azerbaijan. *Population and Development Review*, 46(3), 501–556. <https://doi.org/10.1111/padr.12359>

Book chapters

Torrisi, O., Leone T. and Le Voir, R. (2025). "Sexual and Reproductive Health and Family Planning in Armed Conflict and Violence". In Hagopian, A. and M. Birch (Eds.) *Handbook on Conflict and Health*. de Gruyter.

Research reports

Perelli-Harris, B., **Torrisi, O.**, Head, M., and Brackstone, K. (2023). Demographic and household composition of refugee and internally displaced Ukraine populations: Findings from an online survey. *IOM Migration Research Series*, N° 74. International Organization for Migration (IOM), Geneva.

Cetorelli, V., Ashraph, S., **Torrisi, O.**, and Ilyas, B. (2023). A demographic documentation of ISIS's attack on the Yazidi villages of Tel Banat and Tel Qasab. *LSE Middle East Centre Reports*, London.

Torrisi, O., Perelli-Harris, B., Head, M., and Brackstone, K. (2022). Health Needs Survey for Ukrainian displaced persons. *Center for Population Change, University of Southampton, Report 1*, Southampton.

Talani, L., **Torrisi, O.**, Rosina, M., Monteleone, G., and Deliperi, R. (2022). Onward migration and the case of the Italo-Bangladeshi community's relocation to the United Kingdom. *COMITES*, London (research commissioned by the Italian Consulate in the UK).

Cetorelli, V., Ashraph, S., **Torrisi, O.**, and Ilyas, B. (2019). A demographic documentation of ISIS's attack on the Yazidi village of Kocho.

LSE Middle East Centre Reports, London.

Murphy, M., Luy, M., and **Torrisi, O.** (2019). Stalling of mortality in the United Kingdom and Europe: an analytical review of the evidence. *LSE Social Policy Working Paper 11-19*, London.

Work in progress

Gerber, T., **Torrisi, O.** and Brick, T. "The societal consequences of war. Social science perspectives, lessons from Ukraine, and a new sociological agenda" (Under review)

Torrisi, O., Pesando, L.M., Sarkar, K., and Kornrich, S. "Passing down tradition: The changing landscape of intergenerational family norms in urban India" (Under review)

Pesando, L.M., Wu, H., Batyra, E. and **Torrisi, O.** "The (unintended) consequences of changing the legality of polygyny" (Under review)

Torrisi, O., Elnakib, S., Zimmerman, L., Robinson, C. and Amani-Chakani, M. "Conflict, displacement, and marriage documentation in Yemen" (Under review)

Torrisi, O., Zimmerman, L., Robinson, C., Hussein, T. and Elnakib, S. "Registration of family events among Rohingya in Bangladesh" (Under review)

"The impact of local violent crime on maternal mortality and morbidity in Mexico" with Svallfors, S., and Caudillo, M.

"Local violent crime, pregnancy loss and termination" with Svallfors, S., and Caudillo, M.

"Inflation experience and fertility" with Özcan, B.

"'Polycrisis' and fertility intentions in a high fertility context" with Sieverding, M.

"Violence and teen fertility: Global trends and regional divergence" with Omenti, R., and Köksal, S.

"Determinants and consequences of traumatic birth experiences" with Svallfors, S., Koksal, S. and Gazeley, U.

"Wealth disparities in marriage registration in Africa" with Iwo, R., Hipolito, H. and Helleringer, S.

TEACHING & SUPERVISION

McGill University (2024-present)

- Demographic Methods (PhD-level), *Course convenor*
- Sociology of Population (Grad-level), *Course convenor*
- Statistics in Social Research (UG-level), *Course convenor*
- Independent Research Study Supervisor (UG-level), *Academic supervisor*

NYU Abu Dhabi (2023-24)

- Statistics for the Social and Behavioral Sciences (UG-level), *Course convenor*

London School of Economics (2018-22)

- Quantitative Research Methods for Social Policy (UG-level), *Graduate Teaching Assistant*
* 2021 – Awarded the LSE Class Teacher Award for teaching excellence.
- Population Analysis: Methods and Models (MSc-level), *Graduate Teaching Assistant*
- Population and Development (MSc-level), *Invited lecturer*

Other experiences

- Basic Math and Calculus teacher for Syrian refugees, American University of Beirut and Kayany Foundation

Student supervision and evaluation committees

- PhD Thesis Committee Member, L. Stone, McGill University
- PhD Thesis Committee Member, Z. Cherri, McGill University
- PhD Thesis Committee Member, A. Helou, McGill University
- PhD Thesis Committee Member, M. Amani-Chakani, McGill University
- PhD Thesis Committee Member, T. Ghebretecle, McGill University
- PhD Thesis Advisor, R. Rammal, McGill University
- MA Thesis Advisor, I. Huda, McGill University
- Undergraduate Thesis Advisor (4 students), McGill University
- Undergraduate Honors Thesis Advisor (1 student), NYUAD

GRANTS

- César Nombela Research Talent Attraction Grant
Community of Madrid & Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, 2026-31
- Ethical & Responsible Social Science Research on Contexts of Armed Conflict (~ US\$ 500,000)
National Science Foundation (NSF), 2024-27
with Williams, N., Buckley, C., Hagopian, A. and Mateo, E.
- Social Sciences and Humanities Development Seed Grant (CAD\$ 8,000)
McGill University, 2024
- Paper Presentation Grant (CAD\$ 1,500)
McGill University, 2024
- NYUAD Postdoctoral Award Grant (US\$ 6,000)
New York University Abu Dhabi, 2023-24
- Eleanor Will Fund Grant (US\$ 3,000)
LSE Department of Social Policy, 2022
- Yazidi Documentation Project Grant (~ US\$ 25,000)
Centre for Justice and Accountability (CJA), 2020-24
with Dr Cetorelli, S. Ashraph and Ilyas. B
- European Doctoral School of Demography Scholarship (~US\$ 27,000)
Max Plank Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR) & University of Southern Denmark (SDU)
- Oxford Spring School Scholarship (US\$ 1,500)
University of Oxford
- Doctoral Studentship (~£145,000)
UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)

- Masters Studentship (~£23,000)
UK ESRC and Population Investigation Committee

HONOURS & AWARDS

- Anne Shepherd Early Career Award 2025
Given by the British Society for Population Studies to one promising early career demographer
- Titmuss Prize for outstanding PhD Thesis 2024
Awarded by the LSE for the most exceptional PhD thesis in the Department of Social Policy
- Valeria Solesin Prize for best PhD thesis in Demography 2023
Given by the Italian Statistical Society (SIS) for the best doctoral dissertation in demography
- Honorary Research Visit Award 2022
Invited research visit at the University of Wisconsin–Madison
- Class Teacher Award for teaching excellence 2021
Awarded by the LSE Department of Social Policy
- Brian Abel-Smith Prize for best MSc thesis 2016
Awarded by the LSE Department of Social Policy for Best MSc Thesis in the department
- Brian Abel-Smith Prize for best overall performance 2016
Awarded by the LSE for Best Overall Performance in MSc Health, Population and Society
- Certificat de Sciences Sociales et Humaines 2014
Awarded by Sciences Po for outstanding academic performance

TRAINING & CERTIFICATES

- CITI Program IRB Administration, Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) 2023
- CITI ProgramSocial-Behavioural-Educational Researchers Program, CITI 2023
- Berkeley Formal Demography Annual Workshop, University of California, Berkeley 2022
- Good Clinical Practice in Social and Behavioural Research, National Institutes of Health (NIH) 2022
- Oxford Spring School in Advanced Research Methods, University of Oxford 2018

SELECTED CONFERENCES & TALKS

“Long-term demographic perspectives on population dynamics in violent contexts”

- Invited lecture, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), Nov. 2025

“Family, reproductive health and global violence: Demographic perspectives beyond the immediate consequences of human conflict”

- Early Career Plenary, British Society for Population Studies (BSPS), Swansea, September, 2025.

“Population dynamics and global conflict”

- Plenary Session Speaker, International Population Conference (IPC), Brisbane, July 2025.

“The impact of armed conflict on women and girls’ sexual and reproductive health and rights”

- Invited Oral Evidence Talk. UK Parliament, Parliament to All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) Hearing on Global Inquiry on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and Conflict, March 2025.

“Maternal health outcomes, mortality and local violence in Latin America”

- Population Association of America (PAA), Washington DC, April 2025.

“Gender disparities in death registration during the COVID-19 pandemic in a low-resource setting”

- Population Association of America (PAA), Washington DC, April 2025.
- International Population Conference (IPC), Brisbane, July 2025.

“Violence and adolescent fertility: Global trends and regional divergence”

- Population Association of America (PAA), Washington DC, April 2025.

*Awarded PAA Poster Award

“The consequences of community violence on contraceptive use and provision in Mexico”

- Invited Talk. Université de Montréal, Montreal, Dec. 2024.
- Latin American Population Association Conference, Bogotá, Dec. 2024.
- American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Conference, Montreal, August 2024.

“The consequences of exposure to armed violence on family outcomes and reproductive health”

- Invited Talk. Cornell Population Center, Cornell University, Ithaca, April 2024.

“Armed conflict, the family and reproductive health”

- Keynote Talk. IUSSP Workshop on Conflict and Demography, Southampton (UK), March 2024.

“Counting deaths in armed conflicts”

- Invited Talk. Department of Sociology, University of Washington (Seattle), January 2024.

“Obstetric violence in the context of community armed violence: the case of Mexico”

- Population Association of America (PAA), Columbus, April 2024.
- British Society for Population Studies (BSPS) Annual Conference, Keele, Sept. 2023.
- Latin American Population Association Conference, Bogotá, Dec. 2024.

“Violent insurrection and modern contraception: Evidence from Mali”

- Population Association of America (PAA), Columbus, April 2024.
- British Society for Population Studies (BSPS) Annual Conference, Keele, Sept. 2023.
- Invited Talk (online). Population Health in Armed Conflict Network, June 2023.

“Forced displacement and armed conflict in Ukraine”

- International Migration Research Network (IMISCOE), Warsaw, Poland, July 2023.

“The casualties of war: an excess mortality estimate of lives lost in the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh conflict”

- Invited Talk. Department of Global Health, University of Washington (Seattle), May 2023.

“Revisiting the recommended duration of mobile phone interviews in low- and middle-income countries”

- Population Association of America (PAA), New Orleans, April 2023.

“The impact of early union formation on intimate partner violence in Colombia”

- Population Association of America (PAA), New Orleans, April 2023.
- AISPopDays Conference, Rome, January 2023.
- British Society for Population Studies (BSPS) Annual Conference, Winchester, Sept. 2022.

“Young-age exposure to armed conflict and women’s experiences of intimate partner violence”

- Population Association of America (PAA), Atlanta, April 2022.
- Invited Talk. Global Health Symposium, University of South Carolina, Feb. 2022.
- Asian Population Association (APA), Aug. 2021.

“Wedding amidst war? Armed conflict and teen marriage in Azerbaijan”

- Population Association of America (PAA), May 2021.
- British Society for Population Studies (BSPS) Annual Conference, Sept. 2020.

“Armed conflict and the timing of childbearing in Azerbaijan”

- Population Association of America (PAA), April 2020.
- British Society for Population Studies (BSPS) Annual Conference, Cardiff, Sept. 2019.

RESEARCH & WORK EXPERIENCE

Research posts

Research Assistant to Prof. Lagarde, M.

The London School of Economics (LSE), Department of Health Policy

2020-21

London, UK

Principal Researcher	2020-21
<i>King's College London and Italian Consulate in the UK</i>	London, UK
Research Assistant to Dr Samuel and Dr Lucivero	2019
<i>King's College London & Oxford University</i>	London, UK
Research Assistant to Prof. Murphy, M.	2018-19
<i>The London School of Economics (LSE), Department of Social Policy</i>	London, UK
Research Assistant to Dr Cetorelli, V.	2017-19
<i>The London School of Economics (LSE), LSE Middle East Centre</i>	London, UK
Research Intern	2015-16
<i>American University of Beirut</i>	Beirut, Lebanon

Other posts

Consultant Junior Demographer	2020-22
<i>Centre for Justice and Accountability (CJA), and LSE Middle East Centre</i>	London, UK
Junior Consultant	2014-19
<i>Garm Consulting Ltd</i>	London, UK
Research Intern to Ambassador Lorenzo Fanara	2014-15
<i>Italian Embassy in the UK</i>	London, UK
Intern	2014
<i>Kayany Foundation</i>	Beirut, Lebanon

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & MEMBERSHIPS

Institutional service:

2024–present – Sociology Majors and Minors Committee, McGill University
 2024–present – CPD Social Statistics Seminar Series (weekly) Organiser, McGill University
 2024–2025 – Department Representative to Faculty of Arts, McGill University
 2024–2025 – Graduate Admission Committee, McGill University

Community: *Population Health in Armed Conflict Network (PHAC)* <https://phacnetwork.utah.edu/>

Editorial Service: Early-Career Editorial Board, *Social Science Research*

Peer Review: Demography, Population and Development Review, European Journal of Population, Population Research and Policy Review, Health and Place, Population, Space and Place, Social Forces, Genus, British Medical Journal, Journal of Family Violence, Violence against Women, Feminist Economics, International Journal of Population Data Science, Science Advances, American Journal of Sociology, Population and Environment, Social Science Research, Studies in Family Planning, Demographic Research, Conflict and Health.

Memberships: Population Association of America (2019–); European Association for Population Studies (2019–); British Society for Population Studies (2017–); International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (2020–); Asian Population Association (2020–); Population Health in Armed Conflict Network (2020–); Household in Conflict Network (2021–); Italian Association for Population Studies (2021–); Italian Statistical Society (2021–); LSE Population Centre (2020–); McGill Center for Population Dynamics (2024–).

Grant-Project Evaluator: 2023 – Sapienza, University of Rome, Research Funding Call.

Conference Session Chair / Organiser

Organiser – “Gender and sexuality-based violence”, PAA 2025 (3 sessions).
 Organiser – “Family violence in conflict and displacement”, IPC 2025.
 Organiser – “Demography of conflict and disasters”, BSPS 2022–24.

Chair – “Advances in Mortality Data Collection in Low- and Middle-Income Countries”, PAA 2024.
Chair – “Contextual Influences on Fertility”, PAA 2023.
Chair – “Context in early life & adolescence: reproductive outcomes and family planning”, PAA 2022.
Chair – “Family and households: Intergenerational effects”, BSPS 2019.

SKILLS

Software: R, STATA, QGIS, ArcGis, SurveyCTO, NVivo.

Languages: Italian (native), English (full professional), French (intermediate), Spanish (basic).

REFERENCES

Berkay Özcan

Professor of Social and Public Policy, Division of Social Research and Public Policy
New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD)

Stéphane Helleringer

Professor of Social Research and Public Policy, Division of Social Research and Public Policy
New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD)

Eric Schneider

Professor of Economic History, Department of Economic History
London School of Economics (LSE)

Jane Falkingham

Professor of Demography, Faculty of Social Sciences
University of Southampton

Brienna Perelli-Harris

Professor of Demography, Faculty of Social Sciences
University of Southampton

Ted Gerber

Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Jenna Nobles

Professor of Demography, Department of Demography
University of California, Berkeley

Arjan Gjonça

Associate Professor of Demography, Department of International Development
London School of Economics (LSE)