

# Simona Simona

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			<a href="#">Google Scholar</a> <a href="#">GitHub</a>

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## Research Interests and Competences

Research Methods; Population Health; Computational Social Science, Social Impact Assessment

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## Education

### Ph.D. in Sociology with Quantitative Social Science Methods, 2020

University of Glasgow, Glasgow, United Kingdom

Thesis: *Structural Violence and Maternal Healthcare Utilisation in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Bayesian Multilevel Analysis*

**Visiting student**, Institute of Health and Social Policy, McGill University, Canada, 2019

### Master of Research (MRes) Sociology and Research Methods, 2013

University of Glasgow, Glasgow, United Kingdom

Thesis: *An Analysis of factors associated with sexual violence against women in Zambia.*

### Bachelor of Arts (BA) Sociology with Psychology, 2007

University of Zambia, Lusaka, Zambia

Research report: *A micro-level analysis of heterosexual rape in Zambia: the case of Lusaka District.*

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## Related Professional Training/Qualifications

**Machine learning**, University of Glasgow Q-Step Summer School, August 2019

**Multilevel Modelling and Missing data with MLwiN and Stat JR**, Centre for Multilevel Modelling, University of Bristol, January, 2019.

**Introduction to Agent-Based Modelling**, Santa Fe Institute, United States [Certificate], 2018

**Agent-Based Modelling for Social Sciences Summer School**, University of Brescia, Italy, 2018

**Application of Big Data in the Social Sciences**, NCRM, University of Cardiff, 2018

**Multilevel modelling**, ICPSR Summer Program, University of Glasgow, 2017

**Introduction to scientific computing with Python**, Urban Big Centre, University of Glasgow, 2017

**Applied Bayesian Modelling**, ICPSR Summer Program, University of Michigan, United States, 2017

**Applied Multilevel Modelling**, ICPSR, Summer Program, University of Michigan, United States, 2017  
**Combining Data from Multiple Administrative and Survey Sources for Statistical Purposes**, University of Southampton, 2017  
**Introduction to Python Programming**, University of Glasgow, 2017  
**Quantitative data analysis using the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) data**, Kampala, Uganda, March, 2015.  
**Qualitative data analysis: Theory and practice**, Stellenbosch University, South Africa, 2015

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## Employment

**Lecturer**, Department of Social Work and Sociology, University of Zambia. I teach courses in Sociology, Research Methods and Social Statistics at both undergraduate and postgraduate level, from April 2020 to Date.

**Postdoctoral Research Associate**, Public Health, University of Glasgow, Institute of Health and Wellbeing, from April 2020 to April 2021. I worked as a lead statistician for the Wellcome trust and MRC projects. I was in charge of data extraction, management and statistical modelling components of the projects using SQL and several packages in R.

**Guest Lecturer**, Quantitative Methods, School of Social and Political Science, University of Glasgow, UK, from September, 2020 to April, 2021

**Tutor (Teaching Fellow)**, University of Glasgow, School of Social and Political Sciences, from September 2019 to April 2020. I taught in the following courses:

- Research Design (Postgraduate)
- Quantitative Data Analysis with R (Postgraduate)
- Class and Stratification (Postgraduate)
- Quantitative Research Methods in Social Sciences with IBM SPSS (Honours)
- Quantitative Methods I and II with R (Q-Step Undergraduate Courses)

**Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA)**, University of Glasgow, School of Social and Political Sciences, 2017/18 and 2018/19 academic years. I participated in teaching the following courses:

- Research Design (Postgraduate)
- Quantitative Data Analysis with R(Postgraduate)
- Quantitative Research Methods in Social Sciences with IBM SPSS (Honours)
- Quantitative Methods I and II (Q-Step undergraduate courses)
- Computing with R (Undergraduate and Postgraduate)

**Lecturer in Sociology, Research Methods and Social Statistics**, University of Zambia, September 2013 to September 2016

**Staff Development Fellow, University of Zambia**, Department of Social Development Studies, January 2008 to September, 2012

## Seminars and workshops Conducted

**Applied statistics**. School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Glasgow. Find the presentation [here](#)

**Introduction to R**. Q-Step Centre Summer School, University of Glasgow. Details [here](#)

**Scottish Graduate School of Social Sciences (SGSSS) Summer School**, June, 2019. I taught the following workshops at the summer school in Edinburgh, Scotland:

- **A Gentle Introduction to R**. Details, including slides scripts and data for the course can be accessed [here](#)
- **Data management with R**. Details, including slides scripts and data for the course can be accessed [here](#)

**Introduction to R**. I presented a workshop at the University of Zambia in March 2019. Further details [here](#)

**Facilitator**, the Demographic and Health Survey fellow's workshop, Dar es salaam, Tanzania. Sponsored by USAID and ICF International, April and May, 2016

**Facilitator**, the Demographic and Health Survey fellow's workshop in quantitative data analysis and DHS data use, Pretoria, South Africa. Sponsored by USAID and ICF International, March, 2016.

**Facilitator**, Qualitative data analysis using NVivo, short course, University of Zambia, August, 2015

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## Supervision - University of Glasgow and University of Zambia

I have supervised several students' research projects in social sciences and statistics for undergraduates and Honours at the University of Glasgow and the University of Zambia.

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## Research Projects

Mental health and psychosocial needs of at-risk migrant populations in sub-Saharan Africa. 2021. Study commissioned by the Moving Well Project International Inc. Role: ***Co-Principal investigator***

Structural Violence and Maternal Healthcare Utilisation in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Bayesian Multilevel Analysis. October 2016 to March 2020. PhD research study. Role: ***Principal investigator***

Socioeconomic Status and Sterilisation Uptake In Nine States of India. Institute of Health and Social Policy. 2020. Role: ***Principal investigator***

Boys to Men: A study of males aged between 15 and 21. The study examines the phenomena of Gender based violence in relation to boys and young men in Zambia. It was commissioned by the Ministry of Gender, Zambia and conducted by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and the University of Zambia (June to August 2016). Role: ***Co-Principal investigator***

Factors Related to Children's Placement in Catholic-affiliated Residential Care Facilities in Zambia Project. The study is sponsored by the Catholic Relief Services. (January to July, 2016). Role: ***Data analyst***

Intimate partner violence (IPV) in Zambia: Socio-demographic determinants and Use of Maternal Health Care. Sponsored by USAID through ICF International (February to September, 2015). Role: ***Principal investigator and team leader***

Stressful Life Events, Mobility and HIV Risk Behaviour among truck drivers in three towns along the Copperbelt in Zambia: A qualitative study. This study is in collaboration with school of social work Columbia University (February 2014 to August, 2015). Role: ***Co-investigator***, Principal investigator: Lynn Michalopoulos (Columbia University)

Trauma, Post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and HIV risk among female fish traders in Kafue Wetlands. This is in collaboration with Columbia University, School of Social Work (January 2014 to June, 2015). Role: ***Data analyst***.

Scaling up demand for HIV/AIDS Prevention Services and Expanded Care and Support through Churches in Zambia. The study was commissioned by United States Aid for International Development (USAID) (2011). Role: ***Research assistant***

Socio-cultural factors influencing uptake of voluntary testing and counselling (VCT), antiretroviral therapy services and adherence to ART, a collaboration between the University of Zambia and University of Basel (2010). Role: ***Research assistant***

## Awards and Fellowships

University of Glasgow Principal's Early Career Mobility Scheme award for visiting scholarship at the Institute of Health and Social Policy, McGill University, Canada (May to July, 2019)

University of Glasgow Q-Step PhD scholarship in Sociology specialising in Quantitative social science methods (September, 2016 to October, 2019)

University of Hull PhD scholarship in Sociology and Social Anthropology (September, 2016 to 2019) [declined]

Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) Fellowship, Sponsored by United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through ICF International, for purposes of training in the use of Demographic and Health Survey datasets (February to September, 2015)

The Commonwealth Commission Scholarship, to undertake an MRes in Sociology and Research Methods at the University of Glasgow, United Kingdom (September, 2012 to September, 2013)

University of Witwatersrand (South Africa) merit scholarship to undertake a Master of Arts degree in Sociology (January 2011) (declined)

Staff Development Fellowship, University of Zambia, trainee lecturer in the Department of Social Development Studies (August 2009 to August 2013)

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## Conferences and Presentations

A Bayesian Multilevel Analysis of Gender Relations and Maternal Healthcare in sub-Saharan Africa. Institute of Health and Social Policy, McGill University, Canada. July, 2019.

Gender Relations and Maternal Healthcare in sub-Saharan Africa. A Bayesian Multilevel Analysis. University of Zambia, March, 2019

Researching Health Inequalities using Multilevel Models. Sociology Conference, University of Glasgow, May, 2017

Intimate Partner violence and Maternal Healthcare in Zambia, Workshop for the Demographic and Health Survey programme, South Africa, March, 2016

Trauma, Substance Use and HIV Risk Behaviour among Female Fish Traders from the Kafue Flatlands in Zambia, [with Lynne Michalopoulos], International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies annual meeting. Washington DC. November 2015.

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## Software and Programming

R, Python, SPSS, STATA, MLwiN, NetLogo, SQL,  $\text{\LaTeX}$ / R Markdown, Front-end web development (HTML, CSS and JavaScript)

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## Publications

1. **Simona, S.** 2020. Gender Relations and Maternal Healthcare Utilisation in sub-Saharan Africa: A Bayesian Multilevel Analysis. [Submitted]. Manuscript [here](#)
2. **Simona, S** and Shadrack Dare. 2020. Researching the Influence of Structural Factors on Maternal Healthcare Utilisation in sub-Saharan Africa: A systematic review of Multilevel Models [submitted]. Manuscript [here](#)
3. Michalopoulos, L., Jiwatram-Negrón, T., Meinhart, M., Ncube, N., **Simona, S.** 2020. Trauma exposure and mental health outcomes among male truck drivers from Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and

the Democratic Republic of Congo: A cross sectional study. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment and Trauma*, 1-17

4. **Simona, S.**, Muchindu, M and Ntalasha, H. 2018. Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in Zambia: Socioeconomic Determinants and Association with Use of Maternal Healthcare in Zambia. *International Journal of Social Science Studies*, 6(6): 42-54.
  5. Ntalasha, H., **Simona, J. S.**, Moyo, F et al. 2018. An assessment of Quality Assurance in HIV and AIDS-Related Services in Chivuna Rural Health Facility of Southern Zambia. *World Journal of AIDS*, 8: 37-53.
  6. Michalopolous, L., Baca-Atlas, S., **Simona J. S.**, Jiwatram-Negron, T., Ncube, A and Chery, M. B. 2017. "Life at the River is a Living Hell": Qualitative study of trauma, mental health, substance use and HIV risk behaviour among female fish traders from the Kafue Flatlands in Zambia. *BMC Women's Health*, 17:15.
  7. Michalopolous, L., Nomagogu, N., **Simona J. S.**, Kansankala, B., Sinkala, E and Raidoo, J. 2016. A Qualitative study of migrant-related stressors, Psychological outcomes and HIV risk behaviour among truck drivers in Zambia. *African Journal of AIDS Research*, 15(13): 219-226.
  8. Ntalasha, H., Malungo, J.S. and **Simona, S.J.** (2015). Public Perception of ART to Entry and Retention in HIV Continuum of Care. Findings from a Rural setting of Chivuna. *ZANGO Journal of Contemporary Issues* Vol 31
  9. **Simona, J. S.**, Muchindu, M and Ntalasha, H. 2015. Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in Zambia: Socioeconomic Determinants and Association with Use of Maternal Healthcare in Zambia. ICF International Working paper 121. Available [here](#)
  10. Ntalasha, H., Malungo, J. R. S., Merten, S., **Simona J. S.** 2015. Influence of food supplements on testing for HIV and AIDS and adhering to treatment in a resource poor rural setting: A case of Chivuna, Southern Zambia. *Science Journal of Public Health*, 3(3): 314-320.
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## Publications Under Preparation

1. **Simona Simona.** [Exploring Male Participation in Maternal Healthcare in a Patriarchal Population: An Agent-Based Model](#). Outlet: *Plos One*
  2. **Simona Simona.** Does Place Matter in Egalitarianism? Rural-Urban Differences in Gendered Social Change in Zambia. Outlet: *Social Indicator Research*
  3. **Simona Simona.** Globalisation and Maternal Health care Utilisation in sub-Saharan Africa: A Multi-level Analysis
  4. **Simona Simona.** A Multilevel Analysis of Civil liberties, Socioeconomic Entitlements and Maternal Health Utilisation in sub-Saharan Africa
  5. **Simona Simona.** **Book:** [Quantitative Social Science Research Methods: With Applications in R](#)
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## Other Engagements

**Co-Founder and Board Vice President:** [Moving Well Project International](#)

**Founder and Chairperson:** [African Data Institute](#)

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## Referees

**Prof. Jacob Malungo**

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