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Education

<i>Degree/Position</i>	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Institution</i>
Postdoctoral fellow	2016	University of Texas at Austin
Ph.D. in Social Welfare	2014	University of Wisconsin-Madison
Master of Social Work	2008	Western Michigan University
Bachelor of Social Work	2007	Western Michigan University

Current Employment (2016-present)

The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Sociology and Criminology
Assistant Professor of Sociology
Faculty member of the Child Maltreatment Solutions Network

Current Support

- 2018-2022 R01 HD095946, NICHD (PI)
System and Social Determinants of the Health of Foster Children
Total Funding: \$1,111,446
- 2017-2021 NICHD P50 Capstone Center for Multidisciplinary Research in Child Abuse and Neglect (Co-I, Dissemination and Outreach Core [DOC])

Peer-Reviewed Journal Publications (* indicates student co-author)

Hanrath, Lily*, and Sarah A. **Font**. In press. "Gender Disparities in Criminal Sentencing for Child Physical Abuse and Neglect." *Crime & Delinquency*.

Font, Sarah A. and Kathryn Maguire-Jack. In press. "It's Not Just Poverty: Educational, Social, and Economic Functioning Among Young Adults Exposed to Childhood Neglect, Abuse, and Poverty." *Child Abuse & Neglect*. doi:10.1016/j.chiabu.2020.104356

- Media Coverage: [There's a Big Difference Between Child Poverty and Neglect](#), by Naomi Schaefer Riley. *Institute for Family Studies*. (March 26, 2020).

Font, Sarah A., Maria Cancian, Lawrence M. Berger, and Anna DiGiovanni*. In press. "Intergenerational Patterns of Child Protective Services Involvement." *Child Abuse & Neglect*.

doi:10.1016/j.chiabu.2019.104247

Font, Sarah A. and Kathryn Maguire-Jack. In press. “The Organizational Context of the Decision to Substantiate in Child Protective Services Cases.” *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. doi: 10.1177/0886260519834996

Font, Sarah A., Maria Cancian, and Lawrence M. Berger. 2019. “Prevalence and Risk Factors for Early Motherhood among Low-Income, Maltreated, and Foster Youth.” *Demography*. 56:261-284. doi:10.1007/s13524-018-0744-x

Font, Sarah A., and Marina H. Potter*. 2019. “Socioeconomic Resource Environments in Biological, Kinship, and Non-Relative Family Care and Children’s Cognitive Performance.” *Sociological Inquiry*, 89(2):263-287. doi:10.1111/soin.12262

Maguire-Jack, Kathryn, Sarah A. **Font**, and Rebecca Dillard*. 2020. “Child Protective Services Decision-Making: The Role of Children's Race and County Context.” *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 90(1), 48-62 . doi:[10.1037/ort0000388](https://doi.org/10.1037/ort0000388)

Panlilio, Carlomagno C., Sheridan Miyamoto, Sarah A. **Font**, and Hannah Schreier. 2019. “Assessing Risk of Commercial Sexual Exploitation among Youth Involved with the Child Welfare System.” *Child Abuse and Neglect* (Special Issue on Measurement) 87(1): 88-99. doi:10.1016/j.chiabu.2018.07.021

Potter*, Marina H. and Sarah A. **Font**. 2019. “Parenting Influences on Sexual Risk-taking in Adolescents: Differences by Child Welfare Placement Status.” *Children & Youth Services Review* 96 (1): 134-144. Doi: 10.1016/j.chilyouth.2018.11.038

Font, Sarah A., Kierra M. P. Sattler*, and Elizabeth Gershoff. 2018. “When Home is Still Unsafe: From Family Reunification to Foster Care Reentry.” *Journal of Marriage and Family* 80(5):1333-1343. doi:10.1111/jomf.12499

Font, Sarah A., Lawrence M. Berger, Maria Cancian, and Jennifer L. Noyes. 2018. “Permanency and the Educational and Economic Attainment of Foster Youth in Early Adulthood.” *American Sociological Review* 83(4):716-743. doi:10.1177/0003122418781791

- Media Coverage: [Wisconsin Study Finds Foster Care Besting Reunification on Education Outcomes](#)
Chronicle of Social Change (July 23, 2018).

Font, Sarah A., Kierra Sattler*, and Elizabeth Gershoff. 2018. “Measurement and Correlates of Foster Care Placement Changes.” *Children & Youth Services Review* 91:248-258. doi: 10.1016/j.chilyouth.2018.06.019

Gershoff, Elizabeth T., Sarah A. **Font**, Catherine A. Taylor, Ann Budzak Garza, Denyse Olson-Dorff, and Rebecca H. Foster. 2018. “A Short-Term Evaluation of a Hospital No Hit Zone

Policy to Increase Bystander Intervention in Cases of Parent-to-Child Violence.” *Children and Youth Services Review* 94:155–62.

Sattler*, Kierra M. P., Sarah A. **Font**, and Elizabeth T. Gershoff. 2018. “Age-Specific Risk Factors Associated with Placement Instability among Foster Children.” *Child Abuse & Neglect* 84:157–69. doi: 10.1016/j.chiabu.2018.07.024

Gray, Lori, Sarah **Font**, Yvonne Unrau and Ann Dawson. 2018. “The Effectiveness of a Brief Mindfulness-Based Intervention for College Freshmen Who Have Aged Out of Foster Care.” *Innovative Higher Education* 43(5):339-352. doi:10.1007/s10755-018-9433-3

Yang, Mi-Youn, Sarah A. **Font**, McKenzie Ketchum, and Youn Kyoung Kim. 2018. “Intergenerational Transmission of Child Abuse and Neglect: Effects of Maltreatment Type and Depressive Symptoms.” *Children and Youth Services Review* 91:364–71. doi:10.1016/j.childyouth.2018.06.036

Font, Sarah A., and Jamie Cage*. 2018. “Dimensions of Physical Punishment and Their Associations with Children's Cognitive Performance and School Adjustment.” 2017. *Child Abuse & Neglect* 75:29-40. doi: 10.1016/j.chiabu.2017.06.008

Slack, Kristen S., Sarah A. **Font**, Kathryn Maguire-Jack, and Lawrence Berger. 2017. “Predicting child protective services (CPS) involvement among low-income US families with young children receiving nutritional assistance.” *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 14:1197. doi:10.3390/ijerph14101197

Font, Sarah A., and Elizabeth T. Gershoff. 2017. “Contextual Factors Associated with the Use of Corporal Punishment in U.S. Public Schools.” *Children and Youth Services Review*, 79: 408-417. doi: 10.1016/j.childyouth.2017.06.034

Sattler*, Kierra M. P. and Sarah A. **Font**. 2017. “Resilience in Young Children Involved with Child Protective Services.” *Child Abuse and Neglect* 75:104-114. doi:10.1016/j.chiabu.2017.05.004

Maguire-Jack, Kathryn and Sarah A. **Font**. 2017. “Community and Individual Risk Factors for Maltreatment.” *Child Maltreatment*, 22(3): 215-226. doi:10.1177/1077559517711806

Berger, Lawrence M., Sarah A. **Font**, Kristen S. Slack, and Jane Waldfogel. 2017. “Income and Child Maltreatment in Unmarried Families: Evidence from the Earned Income Tax Credit.” *Review of Economics of the Household* 15(4): 1345-1372. doi: 10.1007/s11150-016-9346-9

Maguire-Jack, Kathryn, and Sarah A. **Font**. 2017. “Intersections of Individual and Neighborhood Disadvantage: Implications for Child Maltreatment.” *Children & Youth Services Review* 72:44-51. doi:10.1016/j.childyouth.2016.10.015

Slack, Kristen S., Sarah A. **Font**, and Jennifer Jones. 2017. "The Complex Interplay of Adverse Childhood Experiences, Race, and Income." *Health & Social Work* 42(1):e24–e31.

Font, Sarah A., Elizabeth T. Gershoff, Catherine A. Taylor, Ann Budzak Garza, Denyse Olson-Dorff, Rebecca H. Foster, Amy Terrero, Monica Nielson-Parker, and Lisa Spector. 2016. "Staff Responses to Parents Hitting Children in a Hospital Setting." *Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics* 37(9):730-736.

Gershoff, Elizabeth T., Sarah A. **Font**, Catherine A. Taylor, Amy Terrero, Monica Nielson-Parker, Lisa Spector, Rebecca H. Foster, Ann Budzak Garza, and Denyse Olson-Dorff. 2016. "Medical Center Staff Attitudes about Spanking." *Child Abuse & Neglect* 61(November):55-62.

Gershoff, Elizabeth T. and Sarah A. **Font**. 2016. "Corporal Punishment in U.S. Public Schools: Prevalence, Disparities in Use, and Status in State and Federal Policy." *Social Policy Report*, 30(1).

- Media Coverage:

[Gershoff and Font: School corporal punishment should be banned](#)

Houston Chronicle (co-authored op-ed). (November 8, 2016).

[Opinion: Stop beating black children](#). *New York Times*. (March 10, 2017)

[Black Children Are More Likely To Get Hit By School Teachers, Report Says](#). *Huffington Post*. (October 10, 2016).

Font, Sarah A, and Kathryn Maguire-Jack. 2016. "Pathways from Childhood Abuse and Other Adversities to Adult Health Risks: The Role of Adult Socioeconomic Conditions." *Child Abuse & Neglect* 51(January):390-399. doi:10.1016/j.chiabu.2015.05.013

Kim Hirsch, Bomi, MiYoun Yang, Sarah **Font**, and Kristen Slack. 2016. "Physically Hazardous Housing and Risk for Child Protective Services Involvement." *Child Welfare*, 94(1):87-104.

Font, Sarah A. 2015. "Child Protection Investigations in Out-Of-Home Care: Perpetrators, Victims and Contexts." *Child Maltreatment* 20(4), 251-257. doi:10.1177/1077559515597064

Font, Sarah A, and Kathryn Maguire-Jack. 2015. "Decision-Making in Child Protective Services: Influences at Multiple Levels of the Social Ecology." *Child Abuse & Neglect* 47(September):70-82. doi:10.1016/j.chiabu.2015.02.005

Font, Sarah A. 2015. "Is Higher Placement Stability in Kinship Care By Virtue or Design?" *Child Abuse & Neglect* 42(April):99-111. doi:10.1016/j.chiabu.2015.01.003

Font, Sarah. A., and Lawrence M. Berger. 2015. "Child Maltreatment and Children's Developmental Trajectories in Early to Middle Childhood." *Child Development* 86(2):536-556. doi:10.1111/cdev.12322

Font, Sarah. A. 2015. "Are Children Safer with Kin? A Comparison of Maltreatment Risk in Out-Of-Home Care." *Children & Youth Services Review* 54:20-29.
doi:10.1016/j.chidyouth.2015.04.012

Berger, Lawrence M., and **Font**, Sarah A. 2015. "The Role of Families in Children's Health." *Future of Children* 25(1):155-176.

Berger, Lawrence M., J. Michael Collins, Sarah A. **Font**, Leah Gjertson, Kristen Slack, and Timothy Smeeding. 2015. "Home Foreclosure and Child Protective Services Involvement." *Pediatrics* 136(2):299-307.

Warren, Emily J., and Sarah A. **Font**. 2015. "Housing Insecurity, Maternal Stress, and Child Maltreatment: An Application of Family Stress Theory." *Social Service Review* 89(1):9-39.

Font, Sarah A. 2014. "Kinship and Nonrelative Foster Care: The Effect of Placement Type on Child Well-Being." *Child Development* 85(5):2074-2090.

Maguire-Jack, Kathryn, and Sarah A. **Font**. 2014. "Predicting Recurrent Maltreatment among High-Risk Families: Applying the Decision-Making Ecology Framework." *Children and Youth Services Review* 43:29-39.

Font, Sarah A. 2013. "Service Referral Patterns among Black and White Families Involved with Child Protective Services." *Journal of Public Child Welfare* 7(4):370-391.

Font, Sarah A., and Kathryn Maguire-Jack. 2013. "Academic Engagement and Performance: Estimating the Impact of Out-of-Home Care for Maltreated Children." *Children & Youth Services Review* 35:856-864.

Font, Sarah A., and Emily J. Warren. 2013. "Inadequate Housing and the Child Protection System Response." *Children & Youth Services Review* 35(11):1809-1815.

Font, Sarah A. 2012. "Burnout in Child Welfare: Examining the Role of Employment Characteristics and Workplace Opportunities." *Social Service Review* 86(4):636-659.

Font, Sarah A., Lawrence M. Berger, and Kristen S. Slack. 2012. "Examining Racial Disproportionality in Child Protective Services Case Decisions." *Children & Youth Services Review* 34(11):2188-2200.

Unrau, Yvonne A., Sarah A. **Font**, and G. Rawls. 2012. "Readiness for College Engagement among Students Who Have Aged Out of Foster Care." *Children & Youth Services Review* 34(1):76-83.

Unrau, Yvonne A., Sarah A. **Font**, and Sandra R. Murphy. 2011. "Placement Moves of Foster Children as Perceived by Foster Parents Residing in Urban and Semi-Urban Communities." *Journal of Public Child Welfare* 5(4):390-407.

Other Publications/Written Works

Font, Sarah A., and Elizabeth T. Gershoff. 2020. *Foster Care and “Best Interests of the Child”*: Integrating Research, Policy, and Practice. Springer Advances in Child and Family Policy and Practice. <https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783030411459>

Font, Sarah A. 2020. *Data Challenges and Opportunities in Child Welfare*. Washington, DC: American Enterprise Institute. <https://www.aei.org/research-products/report/data-challenges-and-opportunities-in-child-welfare/>

Font, Sarah A., Sheridan Miyamoto, and Casey Pinto. 2020. *Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation in Pennsylvania*. PA: Center for Rural Pennsylvania. Available at: <https://www.rural.palegislature.us/documents/reports/Child-Sexual-Abuse-and-Exploitation-2020.pdf>

- Media Coverage/Interviews:

[“The perfect storm:” How COVID-19 has multiplied the risk for children in abusive households](#) Pennsylvania Capital-Star. (March 26, 2020).

[State handling of child abuse records and appeals process criticized in new report](#) The Tribune-Democrat [Harrisburg, PA] (January, 25, 2020)

[Project PA | The process of investigating child abuse](#) Local 21 Harrisburg [Television]. (February, 21, 2020)

Font, Sarah A., Kathryn Maguire-Jack, and Rebecca Dillard. Forthcoming. “The Decision to Substantiate Allegations of Child Maltreatment”, in *Decision Making and Judgement in Child Welfare and Protection: Theory, Research, and Practice* [Editors John D. Fluke, Monica Lopez, Rami Benbenishty, Erik J. Knorth, and Donald J. Baumann]. Oxford University Press.

Font, Sarah A. 2017. “Psychological, Economic, and Physical Health Consequences of Child Maltreatment.” In L. Dixon, D. Perkins, L. A. Craig, and C. Hamilton-Giachrisis (Eds.), *What works in child protection: An evidence-based approach to assessment and intervention in care proceedings*. Wiley-Blackwell.

Font, Sarah A. 2016. A Defense of "Soft Coercion" in the Child Welfare System and Targeted Programs - A Response to Pelton (2016). [Letter to the Editor]. *Child Abuse and Neglect*.

Selected Invited Presentations

Do We Measure the Wrong “Outcomes”? Revisiting Priorities for Children in Foster Care. December 4, 2019. American Enterprise Institute: Private Working Group.

In Whose Best Interests? How the Policies and Practices of the Child Welfare System Affect Child Wellbeing. May 3, 2019, 10AM-11:30AM. University of Wisconsin-Madison: Title IV-E Spring Dialogue.

Previous Awards and Funding Received

- 2017-2019 R21 HD091459, NICHD (Site PI/Co-I)
Emerging Adulthood for Maltreated and Foster Youth
Total Funding: \$423,000
- 2018-2019 Center for Rural Pennsylvania (Co-PI)
Incidence Rates and Risk Factors for Commercial Sexual Exploitation of
Children (CSEC) in Rural and Urban Counties in Pennsylvania
Total Funding: \$49,953
- 2018 Center for Justice Research (Co-PI. \$4,800)
Effects of Permanency on the Adulthood Criminality of Former Foster Care Youth
- 2017 Seed Grant (PI, \$7,500)
Population Research Institute, Pennsylvania State University
- 2014 Postdoctoral training fellowship
NICHD, T32 Training Program in Population Studies
Awarded to University of Texas at Austin Population Research Center
- 2014 Honorable mention—Outstanding Social Work Doctoral Dissertation
Society for Social Work and Research
- 2013 Population Health Dissertation Grant
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health and Society Scholars Program
- 2013 Irving Piliavin Award
University of Wisconsin – Madison, School of Social Work
- 2012 Doctoral Student Research Paper Award
University of Wisconsin – Madison, School of Social Work

Courses Taught

At Penn State

Soc 497 Public Policy & Social Welfare (Spring 2019)

CMAS 258 / HDFS 258 / HDFS 297J Introduction to Child Maltreatment & Advocacy Studies
(Fall 2016, 2017, 2019)

CRIM 537 Crimes Against Children (Spring 2018)

At University of Wisconsin - Madison

SW534 Introduction to Social Statistics (Summer 2012, 2013)