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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

Employment

2021 - present	Associate Professor of Sociology The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Sociology and Criminology Faculty member of the Child Maltreatment Solutions Network
2016-2021	Assistant Professor of Sociology (same place)

Current Support

2018-2022	R01 HD095946, NICHD (PI) System and Social Determinants of the Health of Foster Children Total Funding: \$1,111,446
2017-2022	P50 HD551411, NICHD (Co-I, Dissemination and Outreach Core [DOC]) Capstone Center for Multidisciplinary Research in Child Abuse and Neglect

Peer-Reviewed Journal Publications

(*author was student at time of original submission; ^ author was postdoctoral fellow at time of original submission)

1. Kennedy, Reeve[^], Marina H. Potter*, and Sarah A. **Font**. "[Meta-analysis of race disparities in outcomes of foster children](#)", *Journal of Violence, Trauma, & Abuse*, in press..
2. Palmer Lindsey[^], Sarah A **Font**, Andrea Eastman, Lillie Guo, and Emily Putnam-Hornstein. "What Does Child Protective Services Investigate as Neglect? A Population-Based Study" *Child Maltreatment*..

3. **Font**, Sarah A., Michael C. Caniglia*, Reeve Kennedy[^], and Jennie G. Noll. 2022. [“Child Protection Intervention and the Sexual and Reproductive Health of Females Ages 13-17.”](#) *JAMA Pediatrics*, in press.
4. Potter, Marina*, Reeve Kennedy[^], and Sarah A. **Font**. 2022. [“Rates and Predictors of Child Maltreatment Re-Perpetration against New Victims and Prior Victims”](#) *Child Abuse & Neglect*, in press.
5. **Font**, Sarah A. and Reeve Kennedy[^]. 2022. [“The Centrality of Child Maltreatment to Criminology.”](#) *Annual Review of Criminology*, 5.
6. Russotti, Justin, Sarah A. Font, Sheree L. Toth, and Jennie G. Noll. 2022. [“Developmental Pathways from Child Maltreatment to Adolescent Pregnancy: A Multiple Mediational Model.”](#) *Development and Psychopathology*, in press.
7. Kennedy, Reeve S[^]., Sarah A. **Font**, Ann-Christin Haag, and Jennie G. Noll. 2021. [“Childhood Sexual Abuse and Exposure to Peer Bullying Victimization.”](#) *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*.
8. **Font**, Sarah A., and Hyun Woo Kim. 2021. [“Sibling Separation and Placement Instability for Children in Foster Care.”](#) *Child Maltreatment*, in press.
9. Font, Sarah A., Lawrence M. Berger, Jessie Slepicka, and Maria Cancian. 2021. [“Foster Care, Permanency, and Risk of Prison Entry.”](#) *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency* 58(6):710–54.
10. Maguire-Jack, Kathryn., Sarah A. **Font**, Rebecca Dillard, Daji Dvalishvili, and Sheila Barnhart. 2021. [“Neighborhood Poverty and Adverse Childhood Experiences over the First 15 Years of Life.”](#) *International Journal of Child Maltreatment*, 4: 93-114.
11. DiGiovanni, Anna*, and Sarah A. **Font**. 2021. [“Revisiting Conventional Wisdom: What Do We Know from 30 Years of Research on Sibling Placement in Foster Care?”](#) *Children & Youth Services Review*, 126.
12. **Font**, Sarah A. and Elizabeth T. Gershoff. 2020. [Foster Care: How We Can, and Should, Do More for Maltreated Children.](#) *Social Policy Report* 33(3):1-40.
13. **Font**, Sarah A. and Kathryn Maguire-Jack. 2020. [“The Scope, Nature, and Causes of Child Maltreatment.”](#) *Annals of the American Academy of Social and Political Sciences* 692(1), 26-49.
14. Guastaferrero, K., Sarah A. **Font**, Sheridan Miyamoto, Kathleen M. Zadzora, Katie Walters, K. O'Hara, Allison Kemner, and Jennie G. Noll. In Press. [“Provider Attitudes and Self-Efficacy when Delivering a Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Module: An Exploratory Study.”](#) *Health Education & Behavior*.
15. Guastaferrero, Kate, John M. Felt[^], Sarah A. **Font**, Christian Connell, Sheridan Miyamoto, Allison Kemner, Kathleen M. Zadzora, and Jennie G. Noll. In press. [“Parent-Focused Sexual Abuse Prevention: Results from a Cluster Randomized Controlled Trial.”](#) *Child Maltreatment*.
16. Ruiz, Andrea L.* and Sarah A. **Font**. 2020. [“Role of Childhood Maltreatment on Weight and Weight-Related Behaviors in Adulthood.”](#) *Health Psychology* 39(11): 986-996.
17. Hanrath, Lily*, and Sarah A. **Font**. 2020. [“Gender Disparities in Criminal Sentencing for](#)
18. [Child Physical Abuse and Neglect.”](#) *Crime & Delinquency* 66(12): 1703-1728

19. Sattler, Kierra M. P.^ and Sarah A. **Font**. In press. [“Predictors of Adoption and Guardianship Dissolution: The Role of Race, Age, and Sex among Children in Foster Care.”](#) *Child Maltreatment*, 26(2): 216-227.
20. **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*.
** Media Coverage: [There’s a Big Difference Between Child Poverty and Neglect](#), by Naomi Schaefer Riley. *Institute for Family Studies*. (March 26, 2020).
21. **Font**, Sarah A., Maria Cancian, Lawrence M. Berger, and Anna DiGiovanni. 2021. [Patterns of intergenerational child protective services involvement.](#) *Child Abuse & Neglect*.
22. **Font**, Sarah A. and Kathryn Maguire-Jack. 2021. [“The Organizational Context of the Decision to Substantiate in Child Protective Services Cases.”](#) *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 36(15-16): 7414-7435.
23. Maguire-Jack, Kathryn, Sarah A. **Font**, and Rebecca Dillard*. 2020. [Child protective services decision-making: The role of children’s race and county factors.](#) *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 90(1), 48-62 .
24. **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.
25. **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.
26. 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.
27. 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.
28. **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.
29. **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.
**Media Coverage: [Wisconsin Study Finds Foster Care Besting Reunification on Education Outcomes](#) *Chronicle of Social Change* (July 23, 2018).
30. **Font**, Sarah A., Kierra Sattler*, and Elizabeth Gershoff. 2018. [Measurement and Correlates of Foster Care Placement Changes.](#) *Children & Youth Services Review* 91:248-258.
31. 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.

32. 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.
33. **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
34. 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
35. **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.
36. 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.
37. 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
38. 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
39. 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
40. **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.
41. 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.
42. 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).
 - a. - Media Coverage: [Gershoff and Font: School corporal punishment should be banned](#) *Houston Chronicle (co-authored op-ed)*. (November 8, 2016).
 - b. [Opinion: Stop beating black children](#). *New York Times*. (March 10, 2017)
 - c. [Black Children Are More Likely To Get Hit By School Teachers, Report Says](#). *Huffington Post*. (October 10, 2016).
43. **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

44. 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.
45. **Font**, Sarah A. 2015. ["Child Protection Investigations in Out-Of-Home Care: Perpetrators, Victims and Contexts."](#) *Child Maltreatment* 20(4), 251-257.
46. **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.
47. **Font**, Sarah A. 2015. ["Is Higher Placement Stability in Kinship Care By Virtue or Design?"](#) *Child Abuse & Neglect* 42(April):99-111.
48. **Font**, Sarah A., and Lawrence M. Berger. 2015. ["Child Maltreatment and Children's](#)
49. [Developmental Trajectories in Early to Middle Childhood."](#) *Child Development* 86(2):536-556.
50. **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.
51. Berger, Lawrence M., and **Font**, Sarah A. 2015. ["The Role of Families in Children's Health."](#) *Future of Children* 25(1):155-176.
52. 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.
53. 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.
54. **Font**, Sarah A. 2014. ["Kinship and Nonrelative Foster Care: The Effect of Placement Type on Child Well-Being."](#) *Child Development* 85(5):2074-2090.
55. 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.
56. **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.
57. **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.
58. **Font**, Sarah A., and Emily J. Warren. 2013. ["Inadequate Housing and the Child Protection System Response."](#) *Children & Youth Services Review* 35(11):1809-1815.
59. **Font**, Sarah A. 2012. ["Burnout in Child Welfare: Examining the Role of Employment Characteristics and Workplace Opportunities."](#) *Social Service Review* 86(4):636-659.
60. **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.
61. 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.

Editorials, Reports, and Policy Papers

Font, Sarah A. and Naomi Schaefer Riley. 2022. [Longer stays in foster care can harm Illinois children](#). *Chicago Tribune*.

Font, Sarah A. and Lindsey Palmer. 2022. “[Timely Permanency for Children in Foster Care: Revisiting Core Assumptions about Children’s Options and Outcomes](#).” *Court Review* [Journal of the American Judges Association]. Special issue on the Adoption and Safe Families Act.

Font, Sarah A. “[Reflections on the Use of Evidence in Child Welfare](#)”. 2022. *Research on Social Work Practice*.

Font, Sarah A. and Naomi Schaefer Riley. 2021. [Opinion: Why are states putting child sex abuse victims back in the home of their abusive parents?](#) *USA Today*.

Schaefer Riley, Naomi, Brett Drake, Sarah **Font**, and Emily Putnam-Hornstein. 2021. [What Child Protection Is For](#). Washington, DC: American Enterprise Institute.

Font, Sarah. 2021. “[Making Meaning of Cumulative Child Welfare System Involvement](#).” *American Journal of Public Health* 111(6):993–95.

Font, Sarah Anne and Naomi Schaefer Riley. 2021. [Child welfare after the pandemic](#). *New York Daily News*.

Font, Sarah A. January 19, 2021. [What Lessons Can the Child Welfare System Take from the COVID-19 Pandemic?](#) Washington, DC: American Enterprise Institute.

Font, Sarah A. July 30, 2020. [The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Children in Foster Care](#) [Blog Post]. Penn State Social Science Research Institute: Insights from Experts.

Font, Sarah A. 2020. [Data Challenges and Opportunities in Child Welfare](#). Washington, DC: American Enterprise Institute.

Font, Sarah A., Sheridan Miyamoto, and Casey Pinto. 2020. [Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation in Pennsylvania](#). PA: Center for Rural Pennsylvania.

- 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. 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*.

Books and Book Chapters

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.

Font, Sarah A., Kathryn Maguire-Jack, and Rebecca Dillard. 2020. "The Decision to Substantiate Allegations of Child Maltreatment", in *Decision Making and Judgment 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-Giachritsis (Eds.), *What works in child protection: An evidence-based approach to assessment and intervention in care proceedings*. Wiley-Blackwell.

Previous Awards and Funding Received

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| 2020 | Penn State ICDS Seed Grant (Co-PI)
Creation of a maternal-child Medicaid birth cohort to investigate risks of child welfare system involvement in low income households
Total Funding: \$25,000 |
| 2020 | Penn State Population Research Institute Seed Grant (PI)
Parental Incarceration and Educational Inequalities
Total Funding: \$7,500 |
| 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

Soc513 Graduate Research Methods (Fall 2021)

Soc 497 Public Policy & Social Welfare (Spring 2019, Fall 2020)

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)