

Aja M. Sutton

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

February 2025 - Present — Research Associate

Department of Environmental Social Sciences,
Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability, Stanford University, CA, USA
PI: James Holland Jones (Professor of Environmental Social Sciences)

October 2024 - Present — Postdoctoral Scholar

Population Research Center,
Portland State University, Portland, OR, USA
PI: Ethan Sharygin (Director of the Population Research Center)

August 2023 - August 2024 — Postdoctoral Scholar

Department of Environmental Social Sciences,
Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability, Stanford University, CA, USA
PI: James Holland Jones (Professor of Environmental Social Sciences)

EDUCATION

2023 Ph.D. Geography, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA

- TADA-BSSR *NIH T32 Fellowship* in Data Science and Demography
- *Certificate in Demographic Methods*, Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology

2014 M.Sc. Palaeopathology, Durham University, Durham, United Kingdom

2012 M.A. History, Western University, London, ON, Canada

2011 B.A. (Hons.) History, and Classical Studies (Double Major), Queen's University, Kingston, ON, Canada

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Population health, social ecology, quantitative demography, temporal and spatial statistical methods, social & spatial epidemiology, climate change, human behavior & utility (decision) processes

BOOK CHAPTERS

Sutton, A. and Z. W. Almquist. (2023). Small Area Estimation for Demographic Analysis. In Parfait M. Eloundou-Enyegue (Ed). *Population and Development in the 21st Century - Between the Anthropocene and Anthropocentrism*. IntechOpen. DOI: 10.5772/intechopen.1001842

Gause, E., **A. Sutton**, and J. Mayer. (2025). The West African Ebola Epidemic 2014. In Jayson Funke,

Waquar Ahmed, Ipsita Chatterjee, Steve McCauley (Eds.) *Geography in the 21st Century: Defining Moments that Shaped Society*. ABC-Clio/Bloomsbury.

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

Buonasera, T., Eerkens, J., Malarchik, D., Panich, L. M., Canzonieri, C., Zimmer, C., Clough, C., Ostrander, T., **Sutton, A.**, Salemi, M., and Parker, G. (2024). Immune proteins recovered in tooth enamel as a biochemical record of health in past populations: Paleoproteomic analysis of Mission Period Native Californians. *Journal of Archaeological Science*, 171, 106069. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jas.2024.106069>

Karapanos, N.D., Eerkens, J. W., Ostrander, T., Russell, M. A., **Sutton, A. M.**, Lenzi, M., and Twigg, J. (2020). Dietary variation in nineteenth century San Francisco: Stable isotope analyses of twelve individuals from the Yerba Buena, Golden Gate, and Lone Mountain cemeteries. *Proceedings of the Society for California Archaeology*, 34.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Sutton, A., W., Walker, A., Hagopian, and Z. W. Almquist. (Preprint). Homelessness and access to amenities among encampments, shelters, and rental units in Seattle neighborhoods. <https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/52hfx>

IN PREPARATION

Sutton, A., Z. W. Almquist, and J. Wakefield. (Ante portas). Evaluating multilevel regression and poststratification with spatial priors with a Big Data behavioural survey.

Sutton, A., A. Z. Reynolds, and J. H. Jones. (Ante portas). Epidemic dynamics in the digital age: modelling the effects of social (media) influence on health-protective behaviours and infection burden.

Sutton, A., A. Z. Reynolds, and J. H. Jones. Early primiparity and alloparental contributions: a mathematical innovation for the weathering hypothesis.

Turner, M. A., **A. Sutton**, and J. H. Jones. Evolutionary theory for improved pandemic preparedness in heterogeneous populations.

CONFERENCE POSTERS & PRESENTATIONS

(Upcoming) 2025 **Sutton, A.**, A. Z. Reynolds, M. A. Turner, and J. H. Jones. Epidemic outcomes and population health in the digital age: social contagion, influence, and policy implications during the COVID-19 pandemic [Poster Presentation]. Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Washington DC, April 10-13.

2025 Jones, J. H., A. Z. Reynolds, and **A. Sutton**. When a teen birth is the rational choice [Poster Presentation]. Annual Meeting of the American Association of Biological Anthropologists, Baltimore, MD, March 12-15.

2024 **Sutton, A.**, W. Walker, P. Hebert, A. Hagopian, and Z. W. Almquist. Environmental hazards and neighborhood stressors among people living outdoors in Seattle, Washington [Oral Presentation]. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. Minneapolis, MN, October 27-31.

2024 Turner, M. A., I. M. de Rezende, A. Z. Reynolds, **A. M. Sutton**, H. S. Derwanz, and J. H. Jones. Analysis of an agent-based metapopulation model of SARS-CoV-19 variant arrival and spread in the Dourados Indigenous Reserve, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil [Online Poster]. Brazilian Society of Tropical Medicine, Medicina Tropical sob olhar de Saúde Única (MEDTROP), São Paulo, Brazil. 22-25 September.

- 2024 **Sutton, A.**, A. Z. Reynolds, M. A. Turner, M. Harris, and J. H. Jones. The effects of social influence on behavioral and epidemic dynamics and outcomes [Oral Presentation]. International Network for Social Network Analysis — Sunbelt 2024, Edinburgh, Scotland, June 24-30.
- 2024 **Sutton, A.**, A. Z. Reynolds, M. A. Turner, M. Hilde-Jones, and J. H. Jones. The individual rationality of early first-birth under conditions of deprivation [Oral Presentation]. Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Columbus, OH, USA, April 17-20.
- 2023 **Sutton, A.**, A. Hagopian, W. Walker, K. Salinas, B. Zhao, P. Hebert, and Z. W. Almquist. Seattle tent encampment locations in proximity to amenities and hazards, and the role of criminalization and removals in disrupting spatial networks [Oral Presentation]. International Network for Social Network Analysis — Sunbelt 2023, Portland, OR, USA, June 27-July 1.
- 2023 **Sutton, A.**, A. Hagopian, W. Walker, B. Zhao, P. Hebert, and Z. W. Almquist. The impact of encampment dispersal on mobility and access to support services among individuals experiencing homelessness in Seattle-King County, Washington [Poster Presentation]. Population Association of America Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, USA, April 12-15.
- 2022 **Sutton, A.**, Z. W. Almquist, J. Wakefield, A. Hazel, M. Kline, P. Smaldino, C. Moya, and J. H. Jones. Re-evaluating spatial multi-level regression with poststratification for small area estimation [Oral Presentation]. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, USA, August 5-9.
- 2022 **Sutton, A.**, Z. W. Almquist, J. Wakefield, A. Hazel, M. Kline, P. Smaldino, C. Moya, and J. Jones. Adherence to mask-wearing and trust in government: a Bayesian hierarchical analysis of COVID-19 social behavior in the United States [Oral Presentation]. Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, USA, April 6-8.
- 2021 **Sutton, A.** Mask-wearing and trust in government during the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States: an analysis using logistic regression [Lightning Talk Presentation]. Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology, Seattle, WA, USA, December 10.
- 2019 Strand, L., J. Mayer, M. Rosenthal, J. Russo, M. Sullivan, **A. Sutton**, S. D. Withers, and A. Basu. A remedy for despair? Short-term changes in economic conditions and opioid prescribing in Washington State [Poster Presentation]. International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA, USA, May 21.
- 2017 **Sutton, A.** and T. Ostrander. Outside looking in: Seattle as a cultural frontier, pre-contact to present [Oral Presentation]. Theoretical Archaeological Group North America Conference, Toronto, ON, Canada, May 19.
- 2017 **Sutton, A.** and T. Ostrander. Make no bones about it: practical tips for recognizing human vs. faunal remains [Oral Presentation]. Northwest Anthropological Conference, Spokane, USA, April 12-15.
- 2017 Ostrander, T., **A. Sutton**, and M. Bever. A case study evidencing pre-contact reinterment of inadvertently discovered human remains [Oral Presentation]. Northwest Anthropological Conference, Spokane, WA, USA, April 12-15.
- 2013 Gowland, R. and **A. Sutton**. ‘I shall wear purple’: gender and the life course in Anglo-Saxon England [Oral Presentation]. Leeds International Medieval Congress, for Institute for Medieval Studies, University of Leeds, Leeds, United Kingdom, July 1-4.

REPORTS

- 2023 United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation, Subnational Under-five and Neonatal Mortality Estimates, 2000–2021 Estimates developed by the United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation, United Nations Children’s Fund, New York.

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2023 Edward L. Ullman Doctoral Award for Excellence in Scholarship, Department of Geography, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA
- 2023 Arch C. Gerlach Endowed Fellowship, Department of Geography, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA
- 2023 Student Travel Award, International Network for Social Network Analysis
- 2023 Graduate School Conference Presentation Award, The Graduate School, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA
- 2022 Graduate Student Travel Award, Center for Statistics and the Social Sciences, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA
- 2020 - 2022 NIH T32 Fellowship in Data Science and Demography, Training in Advanced Data Analytics for Behavioral and Social Sciences Research, National Institutes of Health (TADA-BSSR NIH), Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA. Faculty mentors: Z. W. Almquist and J. Wakefield

INVITED ACADEMIC TALKS

- 2024 Incorporating multilevel regression and poststratification and spatial data for indirect estimation using survey estimates. Computational Demography Working Group, University of Washington & Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Seattle, WA, USA. May 22.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- 2024 Amenities, environmental hazards, and neighborhood stressors among people living outdoors in Seattle, Washington [Oral Presentation]. Policy Forum for Evergreen Treatment Services, Puget Sound, WA, USA. July 18.
- 2024 Panel Discussion: Homelessness is a Housing Problem [Oral Presentation and Panel Discussion]. Salesforce, Seattle, WA, USA. March 13.

SERVICE TO UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENT

- 2022 - 2023 Quarterly Graduate Student Lightning Talks Organizer, Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA
- 2020 - 2021 Diversity and Equity Committee Member, Department of Geography, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA
- 2019 Session Chair, Geography Undergraduate Research Symposium, Department of Geography, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA
- 2013 Human Osteology Laboratory Demonstrator, Durham Archaeology Days, Durham University, Durham, United Kingdom
- 2012 - 2013 Vice-President (and Acting President), St. Chad's College Middle Common Room, Durham University, Durham, United Kingdom

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

- 2021 - Present Managing Editor, Population Dynamics Lab, Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA, Editor-in-Chief: S. Curran
- 2019 Graduate Editor, Plenum: University of Washington Undergraduate Journal of

Geography, Department of Geography, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2018 - 2020 — Technical Laboratory Instructor, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA

Urban Geographic Information Science — Advanced; 60 students, Spring 2020

- Taught advanced GIS and mapping methods, incl. geospatial and intermediate spatial statistical analysis methods using ESRI products
- Supported development of student independent research projects relating to urban geography and urban populations
- Revised, updated, and evaluated assignments (technical skills and reporting) and provided constructive feedback
- Developed student learning resources

GIS and Mapping — Intermediate; 60 students, Winter 2020

- Taught intermediate GIS and mapping methods incl. geospatial analysis skills and effective geographic data processing and visualization using ESRI products; database management;
- Evaluated assignments (technical skills and reporting) and provided constructive feedback

Geographical Patterns of Health and Disease — Advanced; 80 students, Spring 2019

- Instructor of record
- Independently developed weekly complementary lectures and discussion session programs complementary to the course materials using contemporary examples from recent news or research bulletins, including group and independent exercises and activities to reinforce key concepts and major course themes
- Provided a special focus on bioethics in health practice and emergency health response decision-making
- Provided research project development feedback and writing support
- Organized and managed peer-sharing poster sessions for final research projects

Geography of Health and Healthcare — Intermediate; 80 students, Winter 2019

- Instructor of record
- Independently developed weekly discussion session programs highlighting core aspects of weekly course materials
- Independently developed group exercises and activities to reinforce key concepts and major course themes including political ecology of health event “story mapping” and introduction to ethical public health response scenarios
- Provided research project development feedback and writing support

Geodemographics — Introductory; 120 students, Autumn 2018 & 2019

- Taught introductory GIS and mapping methods, introduction to census data, quantitative data management and core demographic concepts
- Provided support for and evaluation of assignments using multiple platforms (e.g., Tableau, ESRI ArcMap, QGIS)

2011 - 2012 — Teaching Assistant, Western University, London, Ontario, Canada

Plague, Pox and Flu: Disease in Global History — Intermediate; 120 students, full year

- Managed and evaluated online discussion boards
- Provided research development and library resources advice
- Evaluated final essays and provided constructive feedback

PRE-DOCTORAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2022 - 2023 — Doctoral Student Researcher, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA Population

Health Initiative and REACH Evergreen Treatment Services, co-PIs: A. Hagopian and Z. W. Almquist

2021 - 2023 — Doctoral Student Researcher, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA

Laboratory: STAB (Space-Time Analysis, Bayes) Lab, PI: J. Wakefield

Projects:

- *Spatial methods for multilevel regression and poststratification*
- *United Nations Under 5 Mortality Rate (U5MR) Estimation Project*

2020 - 2023 — Doctoral Student Researcher, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA

Laboratory: The Social, Spatial and Dynamic Analysis Lab, PI: Z. W. Almquist

- Dissertation: *Modeling the social and political contexts of United States health protective interventions during the COVID-19 pandemic*

2012 - 2014 — Graduate Student Researcher, Durham University, Durham, UK

Department of Archaeology, PI: R. Gowland

- Thesis: *“As our strength diminishes”: Exploring early Anglo-Saxon concepts of old age in the bioarchaeological record from the fifth to seventh centuries CE*

2011 - 2012 — Graduate Student Researcher, Western University, London, ON, Canada

Department of History, PI: S. McKellar

- Thesis: *Monstrum ex Machina: Navigating the Social Meanings and Importance of Monsters and Freaks in the Late-Medieval and Modern Western World*

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2018 - 2023 — Osteoarchaeologist, Environmental Science Associates, Northern California Cultural Resources Group, Sacramento, CA, USA. Projects: *Asian Art Museum Human Remains Project*; *San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Baker Beach (Golden Gate) Historic Cemetery*

2014 - 2018 — Osteoarchaeologist, Independent Consultant. Greater Toronto Area, ON, Canada

AFFILIATIONS

2024 - Present — Contributing Writer, *Those Nerdy Girls*, <http://thosenerdygirls.org>

2023 - Present — External Research Affiliate, Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology
University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Population Association of America, American Public Health Association, International Network for Social Network Analysis, American Sociological Association