NINA CESARE, PH.D.

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Postdoctoral Associate, Boston University School of Public Health, Boston MA

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ABOUT

I am a social science researcher and educator with a passion for using data-driven insight to promote social and equity. My work is interdisciplinary and focuses on novel approaches toward collecting, aggregating and analyzing social data. I am looking to transfer the communication and analysis skills I acquired in academia to organizations dedicated to generating a positive social impact.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral Associate, Boston University School of Public Health　　　September 2018 - Present

- Leads data collection, processing and quality assessment for a social determinants data repository that spans multiple years and geographic units as part of a multi-year collaboration with digital health company Sharecare. Also leads the development of a novel social determinats of health index that correlates positively with individual wellbeing. Contributes analytic information and data visualization for annual national reports of U.S. state and county wellbeing published in conjunction with Sharecare.

- Contributes to the development and implementation of methods for integrating and analyzing traditional and non-traditional social data. Applications range from the detection of food-borne illness using social media to analyzing perceptions of miscarriage and pre-term birth on Twitter. Results have been published in the *Journal of Medical Internet Research* and *Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology.*

Digital Data Researcher, Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation　　　October 2016 - August 2018

- Developed machine learning methods for inferring the demographic traits of Twitter users, and used this information to assess the comprehensiveness and quality of Twitter data for public health research at the U.S. county level.

- Co-led the assembly of manuscripts assessing obesity and physical activity using data from Twitter, later published in *BMJ Open Sport & Exercise Medicine* and *Palgrave Communications.*

Graduate Research Assistant, University of Washington　　　October 2016 - August 2018

- Was responsible for the collection, management and analysis of Twitter data. Projects required expertise on a variety of sociologically relevant topics, including racial segregation and community policing.

- Developed methods of estimating demographics from user profile photos using Amazon's Mechanical Turk.

- Presented results at the Population Association of America Annual Conference and published results in *Sociological Method & Research* and *Demography*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Core Course Instructor, Boston University School of Public Health　　　Fall 2019

- Led instruction for *Individuals, Community and Population Health*, a curriculum requirement for incoming Masters of Public Health students at Boston University. This course lays the foundation for future work in program design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation by building the knowledge and skills necessary to improve the health of individuals, communities, and populations.

- Responsibilities included customizing lecture material and assignments to best meet student needs, as well as mentoring first year graduate students interested in developing careers in public health.

Graduate Instructor, University of Washington Summer 2016

- Designed and taught an undergraduate sociology elective titled *The Sociology of Big Data, Privacy and Surveillance.* This course helped students develop a well-rounded understanding of the benefits and challenges that 'big data' pose for social science research methods and ethics.

- Responsibilities included generating a department-approved syllabus, designing and delivering lectures, grading assignments and mentoring students.

SOFTWARE AND PROGRAMMING SKILLS

- Advanced R user with ten years of coding expertise and experience instructing and mentoring new coders. Includes advanced knowledge of tidyverse packages for data analytics and visualization.

- Experience using Python for data management, text analysis and web scraping

- Experience using STATA and SAS for statistical programming

- Experience using Unix command line for file management and remote computing

- Experience using GitHub for version control

- Proficient at typesetting documents using LaTeX

- Adept at utilizing the Microsoft suite, including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, and Teams

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology, University of Washington December 2017
Dissertation: United We Tweet?: A Quantitative Analysis of Racial Differences in Twitter Use
Dissertation co-chairs: Katherine Stovel and Emma Spiro
Certificate: Special Concentration in Social Statistics

Master of Arts in Sociology, University of Washington December 2013
Thesis: Collective Identification, High Risk Protest, and Social Media Use in the Occupy Wall Street Movement

Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, Ohio University Honors Tutorial College June 2011
Minor: Spanish

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Cesare, Nina, Olubusola Oladeji, Kadjia Ferryman, Derry Wijaya, Karen D. Hendricks-Munoz, Alyssa Ward and Elaine O. Nsoesie. 2019. "Discussions of miscarriage and preterm births on Twitter." *Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology.* https://doi.org/10.1111/ppe.12622.

Cesare, Nina, Quynh C. Nguyen, Christan Grant, and Elaine O. Nsoesie. "Social Media Captures Demographic and Regional Physical Activity." *BMJ Open Sports & Exercise Medicine* 5(1). doi: 10.1136/bmjsem-2019-000567.

Cesare, Nina, Hedwig Lee, Tyler McCormick, Emma Spiro and Emilio Zagheni. 2018. "The Promises and Pitfalls of Using Digital Traces for Demographic Research.". *Demography* 55(5): 1979-–1999.

Cesare, Nina and Jennifer Branstad. 2017. "Mourning and Memory in the Twittersphere." *Mortality* 2(2): 82-97.

AWARDS

Best Poster: International Conference on Computational Social Science June 2016
Center for Statistics and the Social Sciences: Graduate Student Research and Training Grant January 2014