

# Spencer Sandberg, MSW

sandbers@bc.edu

## Positions

Teaching Assistant                      August – December 2024  
*Research Methods in Social Work; Dr. Tina Matz*

Teaching Assistant                      August – December 2023  
*Research Methods in Social Work; Dr. Indrani Saran*

Teaching Assistant                      January – May 2023  
*Social Welfare System; Dr. Vincent Fusaro*

Teaching Assistant                      August – December 2022  
*Basic Skills in Macro Practice; Dr. Vincent Fusaro*

Teaching Assistant                      August 2021 – May 2022  
*Research Methods in Social Work & Advanced Statistics and Data Analysis in Social Work; Dr. Steve Hoffman*

Social Work Intern                      2021-Present Utah State Prison  
ConQuest Substance Abuse Programming  
Social Work Intern                      2021 Utah State Hospital  
Case Management Intern                2019 Wasatch Mental Health Stride Program

## Education

PhD. (Anticipated)    2026 Boston College School of Social Work

M.S.W.                      2022 Brigham Young University  
3.98 GPA

B.S.                      2020 Brigham Young University Magnum Cum Lauda  
Family Studies  
3.97 GPA

## FUNDED GRANTS AND RESEARCH PROJECTS

2023-2024 Role: Co-Investigator

Funded by: International Growth Centre, UK and Boston College Schiller Institute Effect of Transition to Clean Brick Technologies on the Social and Economic Well-Being of Brick Workers in Bangladesh  
Amount ~ 60,000 USD

## PUBLICATIONS

Saasa, S. K., Yirenya-Tawiah, A. E., & Sandberg, S. (2025). Childhood adversity and social exclusion among African immigrants: The mediating and moderating role of emotional distress. *Cultural Diversity & Ethnic Minority Psychology*.

Limb, G. E., Mora-Ellertson, I., Coverston, M., Edwards, M., Sproul, L., & **Sandberg, S.** (2025). Attachment Style and Sexual Risk Behaviors among American Indians Raised in Stepfamilies. *Health & Social Work, 50*(2), 101-109.

**Sandberg, S.**, Saasa, S., & Yirenya-Tawiah, A. (2023). Social exclusion and substance use among African immigrants: The role of discrimination. *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment, 33*(4), 502-520

Saasa, S., Ward, K. P., **Sandberg, S.**, & Jacobson, J. (2021). Financial Hardship, Neighborhood Cohesion and Child Externalizing Behaviors: An Extension of the Family Stress Model among Immigrant Mothers. *Children and Youth Services Review, 128*, 106153.

## IN PRESS

## UNDER REVIEW

Garcia MF., **Sandberg S.**, Schwartz S. J., Maldonado-Molina M. M., Oh S., Mejía-Trujillo J., Pérez-Gómez A., Bates M. M. & Salas-Wright C. P. (under review). Navigating Discrimination and Community Support: Effects on Depression in Venezuelan Migrant Youth in Colombia. Submitted to the *Cultural Diversity & Ethnic Minority Psychology* (February 2025).

**Sandberg, S.**, Kumar, P., Kandikuppa, S. (under review). Does the Use of Bank Accounts Vary across Gender and Region? Evidence from India on One of the World's Largest Financial Inclusion Scheme. Submitted to *World Development Perspectives* (March 2025).

Rao, S., Balakrishna, R., **Sandberg, S.**, Reddy, H., Antonaccio, C., & Kumar, P. (under review). Fuel Use Patterns and Preferences in a “Smokeless Village”: A Convergent Mixed-Methods Study in Southern India. Submitted to *Annals of Global Health* (2 May 2025).

Duque, M., Garcia, M., Salas-Wright, C., Antonaccio, C., **Sandberg, S.** (under review). Typologies of Climate-Related Trauma Exposure: A Person Centered Approach. Submitted to *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology* (30 August 2024).

**Sandberg, S.**, Kumar, P. (under review). Climate Change, Poverty, and Migration. Submitted to *Encyclopedia of Social Work*, Oxford University Press (May 2025).

## WORKING PAPERS (drafts available)

Yirenya-Tawiah, A., **Sandberg, S.**, Saasa, S. Perceived Parental Involvement and Self-Efficacy Among Children in Zambia.

**Sandberg, S.**, Kumar, P., Kandikuppa, S. Understanding Just Transition in Bangladesh: Does Shift to Improved Brick Kilns lead to Well-being of Brick Works?

## POLICY BRIEF

Kumar, P., Kandikuppa, S., **Sandberg, S.** (2025). Improved brick kilns are crucial for a just transition in Bangladesh. *International Growth Center Policy Brief*. First published online 2 April 2025.  
<https://www.theigc.org/publications/improved-brick-kilns-are-crucial-just-transition-bangladesh>

## BOOK CHAPTER CONTRIBUTION

Holmes, E. K., Galovan, A. D., Thomas, C. R., Clyde, T. L., (2021). Becoming Parents: Risk, Protective Factors, and Key Methodological Considerations for Future Research. In Vangelisti, A. L. (Ed. 3) *The Routledge Handbook of Family Communication*. Routledge.

## INVITED PRESENTATION

**Sandberg, S.**, Kumar, P. (2025, March 20). *Understanding Just Transition in Bangladesh: Does Shift to Improved Brick Kilns lead to Well-being of Brick Works?* [Poster presentation]. Graduate Research Symposium, Boston College.

Rao, S., Balakrishna, R., **Sandberg, S.**, Reddy, H., Antonaccio, C., & Kumar, P. (2025, January 18). *Fuel Use Patterns and Preferences in a “Smokeless Village”: A Convergent Mixed-Methods Study in Southern India* [Poster presentation]. Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Seattle, Washington.

**Sandberg, S.**, Kumar, P., Kandikuppa, S. (2024, January). *Does the Use of Bank Accounts Vary across Gender and Region? Evidence from India on One of the World's Largest Financial Inclusion Scheme* [Oral Presentation]. Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Washington, DC.

**Sandberg, S.**, Saasa, S., Yirenya-Tawiah, A. (2022, January). *Predictors of Academic Resilience During COVID-19 School Closures in Zambia* [Poster Presentation]. Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Washington, DC.

**Sandberg, S.**, Saasa, S., & Yirenya-Tawiah, A. (2021, November). *Social Exclusion, Stress, & Substance Abuse among African Immigrants* [Poster Presentation]. Council for Social Work Education Annual Conference, Orlando, FL.

Yirenya-Tawiah, A., Saasa, S., **Sandberg, S.** (2021, November). *Childhood Adversity & Risk of Social Exclusion & Emotional Distress Among African Immigrants* [Poster Presentation]. Council for Social Work Education Annual Conference, Orlando, FL.

**Sandberg, S.**, James, S. (2020, November). *The Effects of Family Structure on Children’s Education and Health, and Father Involvement in South Africa*. [Oral Presentation]. National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference, virtual meeting.