

Spencer Sandberg, MSW

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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.