
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

NAME: Abigail R.A. Aiken

eRA COMMONS USER NAME: ARA2222

POSITION TITLE: Assistant Professor, LBJ School of Public Affairs

EDUCATION/TRAINING

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
University of Cambridge, United Kingdom	BA	05/2005	Medical Sciences
University of Cambridge, United Kingdom	MB/BChir	05/2009	Clinical Medicine
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA	MPH	05/2010	Public Health
University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX	PhD	08/2014	Public Policy
Princeton University, Princeton, NJ	Postdoc	08/2016	Reproductive Health and Population Science

A. Personal Statement

As an assistant professor of public affairs, I combine insights from multiple disciplines, including medicine, public health, population science, and public policy to answer important questions about reproductive health, one of the PRC's primary research areas. My work focuses on four main areas: access to safe abortion, contraceptive desires and use, unintended pregnancy, and evidence-based obstetric practices. Over the next five years, I expect to make major advances in increasing women's access to safe, effective and supported medical abortion in the United States, where abortion access is curtailed, and in Northern Ireland, where abortion access is non-existent. I am also working with colleagues across the United States and across disciplines to revolutionize the concept of unintended pregnancy through a reproductive justice lens, starting from the perspectives of women rather than those of researchers. I have and continue to work with colleagues at the PRC's Texas Policy Evaluation Project and with PRC-affiliated students on various research projects. I have also participated in NIH workshops of human fecundity. The infrastructural support and intellectual environment provided by the PRC continues to play a critical role in supporting and promoting my ongoing work. The PRC training program provides the opportunity to work with and train talented students. The Scientific and Technical Core makes it possible to implement the latest technology in data collection and analysis. The Administrative and Development Cores ensure that fieldwork can be successfully accomplished and that research findings are disseminated effectively. My ability to rely on these sources of institutional support has been essential to the success of my work so far and will play a key role in my ongoing research agenda.

B. Positions and Honors**Positions and Employment**

2003	Wellcome Trust Undergraduate Research Fellow, Department of Immunology King's College London UK
2004-2005	Undergraduate Research Assistant, Department of Pathology, University of Cambridge, UK
2008	Research Intern, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Department of Gynecologic Oncology, Houston, TX
2008	Research Intern, School of Public Health, Maori Health Research Center, University of Otago, NZ
2008-2009	Research Assistant, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Cambridge, UK
2009-2010	Research Assistant, Department of Epidemiology, Harvard School of Public Health, USA
2011-2012	Teaching Assistant, Global Inequalities and Health, University of Texas at Austin, USA
2011-2012	Health Policy Analyst, Office of State Representative Alvarado, Texas Legislature, Austin, TX
2011-2014	Graduate Research Assistant, Population Research Center, University of Texas at Austin, USA

2012-2014 NICHD Trainee, Population Research Center, University of Texas at Austin, USA
 2011-2014 Graduate Research Assistant, Texas Policy Evaluation Project, University of Texas at Austin, USA
 2014-2015 Lecturer, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University, USA
 2014-2016 Postdoctoral Research Associate, Office of Population Research, Princeton University, USA
 2014-Present Research Fellow, Population Research Center, University of Texas at Austin, USA
 2014-Present Research Fellow, LBJ School of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin, USA
 2016-Present Faculty Research Associate, Population Research Center, University of Texas at Austin, USA
 2016-Present Assistant Professor of Public Affairs, LBJ School of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin, USA

Honors

2003-2004 Academic Distinction Award for Outstanding Examination Results, University of Cambridge, UK
 2004-2005 Senior Scholarship, Trinity College, University of Cambridge, UK
 2006 Katherine Branson Prize awarded by the UK Medical Women's Federation
 2007 Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Tim Chard Case History Prize
 2008-2009 Academic Distinction Award in Obstetrics & Gynecology, University of Cambridge, UK
 2009-2010 Frank Knox Fellowship to Harvard University (UK equivalent of a Rhodes Scholarship)
 2010-2012 Lyndon Baines Johnson Doctoral Fellowship
 2012-2013 NICHD Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award
 2013-2014 NICHD F31 Individual Pre-doctoral Fellowship
 2014 Top Five Article of 2014 in Labor Management, Obstetrics & Gynecology

Professional Memberships

2010-Present Population Association of America
 2012-Present International Union for the Scientific Study of Population
 2011-2014 Society of Family Planning Junior Fellow
 2014-Present Society of Family Planning Full Fellow
 2013-Present European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health
 2014-Present International Federation of Professional Abortion and Contraception Associates (FIAPAC)
 2015-Present American Sociology Association
 2015-Present British Society of Abortion Care Providers

C. Contributions to Science

1. My most recent research contribution focuses on abortion access in both the United States and in international settings. The US has recently seen a wave of legislation designed to restrict access to safe abortion care. My research has demonstrated convergence in the politics of abortion and contraception that helps explain the current hostile political climate in the US, as well as a lack of access to desired contraception as part of holistic abortion care. Internationally, I have also led an effort to examine the impact of public health advisories warning women to avoid pregnancy in the wake of Zika virus on demand for abortion in Latin American countries where abortion is illegal or highly restricted. My hope is that this research will highlight the lack of reproductive autonomy faced by women in these countries, as well as the need for policies that support equitable reproductive decision-making. My future research will examine the impacts of Ireland's extreme abortion laws on women's abortion decision-making and experiences; specifically, traveling to the British mainland, self-inducing without support, or being forced to continue an unwanted pregnancy.

- a. Aiken ARA, Scott JG, Gomperts R, Trussell J, Worrell M & Aiken CE. Requests for Abortion in Latin America Related to Concern About Zika Virus Exposure. *New England Journal of Medicine* 2016: 375(4);396-398.
- b. Aiken ARA & Scott JG Family Planning Policy in the United States: The Converging Politics of Abortion and Contraception. *Contraception* 2016;93(5);412-420. PMID: PMC4842098
- c. Goyal V, Aiken ARA, Dermish A & Potter JE. Comparing Contraceptive Choices Among Post-Abortion Patients with and without Free Access to Long-Acting Reversible Contraception. *Under Review, Presented at the North American Forum 2015*

- d. Aiken ARA, Lohr P, Aiken C, & Trussell J. Contraceptive Method Choice and Provision of Desired Methods among Women Obtaining Abortion in England and Wales. *Under Review, Presented at the European Society of Contraception Conference 2016*

2. My second main area of research addresses two major issues in the study of unintended pregnancy: complexity in the measurement and interpretation of pregnancy intentions and the potential health and social consequences of unintended childbearing. My work in these areas focuses particularly on disparities in unintended pregnancy among minority and low-income women and the need to view pregnancy intentions through the lens of reproductive and social justice. Findings demonstrate that, for many women, timing-based pregnancy intentions and plans are not meaningful. In particular, some women may desire to avoid conception but may simultaneously feel happy at the prospect of pregnancy. Underlying reasons for this apparent paradox include perceived lack of control over whether or not pregnancy occurs, lack of access to desired methods of contraception, desire to please a male partner, and a perceived lack of psychosocial stress resulting from another child. These findings are helping to advance conceptual frameworks for understanding seemingly discordant pregnancy intentions and feelings. They also have practical implications for addressing women's reproductive health needs, primarily by suggesting strategies that move beyond traditional normative planning paradigms. This emerging body of work highlights the benefits of integrating medical and social science perspectives on unintended pregnancy and widening the prevailing view of the potential life consequences of unintended pregnancies.

- a. Aiken ARA, Borrero S, Callegari LS, & Dehlendorf C. Rethinking the Pregnancy Planning Paradigm: Unintended Conceptions or Unrepresentative Concepts? *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health* 2016. *Online Ahead of Print.*
- b. Aiken ARA, Dillaway C & Mevs-Korff N. A Blessing I Can't Afford: Factors Underlying the Paradox of Happiness About Unintended Pregnancy *Social Science and Medicine* 2015:132;149-155. PMID: PMC4400251
- c. Aiken ARA & Trussell J. Anticipated Emotional Impacts of Unintended Pregnancy: Differences by Relationship Context and Nativity. *Journal of Marriage and Family* 2016. *Online Ahead of Print.*
- d. Aiken ARA, Angel JL & Miles TP. Pregnancy as a Risk Factor for Ambulatory Limitation in Later Life: Evidence from the Hispanic-EPESE. *American Journal of Public Health* 2012:102(12);2330–2335 PMID: PMC3519336

3. A third strand of my research focuses on prevention of undesired pregnancy and is complementary to my first and second contributions described above. I work with multiple collaborators to investigate women's contraceptive desires and how factors affecting access to contraception mediate the relationships between contraceptive desires and use. This work has demonstrated important barriers to contraceptive access, particularly with respect to long-acting reversible contraception in the postpartum period, and have laid out the case for policy change. These findings continue to contribute to policy discussions at the national and international level, policy changes at the local and state level, and have been cited in guidelines published by American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG).

- a. Aiken ARA, Aiken CEM, Trussell J, & Guthrie KA. Immediate Postpartum Provision of Highly Effective Reversible Contraception in the UK *British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology* 2015:122(8);1050-1 PMID: PMC4481132
- b. Aiken ARA, Creinin MD, Kaunitz, A, Nelson, AL, & Trussell J. Global Fee Prohibits Postpartum Provision of the Most Effective Reversible Contraceptives. *Contraception* 2014:90(5);466-467 PMID: PMC4179975
- c. Potter JE, Hubert C, Stevenson A, Hopkins K, Aiken ARA, White K, & Grossman D. Barriers to Postpartum Contraception in Texas and Pregnancy within Two Years of Delivery. *Obstetrics &*

- d. White K, Hopkins K, Aiken ARA, Stevenson A, Hubert C, Grossman D, Potter JE. The impact of reproductive health legislation on family planning clinic services in Texas. *American Journal of Public Health* 2015;105(5);851-8. PMID: PMC4386528.

4. My fourth research area is secondary to my work on abortion and contraception, and has focused on the management of high-risk obstetric situations. Much debate surrounds the use of rotational instruments *versus* cesarean section to manage prolonged or obstructed second stage of labor. In collaboration with several clinical colleagues, my work compares maternal and neonatal outcomes for deliveries conducted using forceps, ventouse, and cesarean section and investigates the factors influencing success. Results have demonstrated the safety of instrumental delivery for the management of difficulties in the second stage of labor, including several benefits over cesarean section for maternal and neonatal outcomes. The findings of this work have contributed to discussions about changing the culture of practice in the United States in light of high cesarean section rates and have been cited in guidelines published by ACOG.

- a. Aiken ARA, Aiken CEM, Brockelsby JC, Alberry, M & Scott JG. Management of Fetal Malposition in the Second Stage of Labor: A Propensity Score Analysis. *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology* 2015;212(3);355.e1-7 PMID: PMC4346422.
- b. Aiken CEM, Aiken ARA, Brockelsby JC & Scott JG. Factors Influencing the Likelihood of Instrumental Delivery Success. *Obstetrics & Gynecology* 2014;123(4);796-803. PMID: PMC4009507.
- c. Aiken CEM, Aiken ARA, Scott JG, Brockelsby J, & Trussell J. Weekend working: A Retrospective Cohort Study of Maternal and Neonatal Outcomes in a Large NHS Delivery Unit. *European Journal of Obstetrics & Gynaecology* 2016;199;5-10. PMC4799734
- d. Aiken CEM, Aiken ARA, Park H, Brockelsby JC & Prentice A. Factors Associated with Adverse Clinical Outcomes Among Obstetrics Trainees. *Medical Education* 2015;49(7);674-83. PMID: PMC4731334

A full list of published work is available here in MyBibliography:

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/myncbi/1FW_biQq9SrAw/bibliography/47442421/public/?sort=date&direction=descending.

D. Research Support

Ongoing Research Support

SFPRF10-JI2 (A.R.A. Aiken, PI)

07/01/16-07/14/18

Society of Family Planning

Making Equitable Choice a Reality: Towards Safe, Effective, and Supported Medical Abortion Outside the Formal Healthcare Setting in the United States

This project examines the knowledge, experiences, and unmet needs of women who have either considered or have experienced a self-sourced medical abortion conducted at home outside the formal healthcare setting. The overarching goal of the research is to ensure all women have access to a safe, effective, and supported abortion experience

Role: Principal Investigator.

Responsibilities: Research design, data collection oversight, data analysis, and dissemination of results.

UTA16-000888 (A.R.A. Aiken, PI)

09/01/16-08/31/17

Fdn D'Enterprise Hra Pharma

The Impacts of Restrictive Abortion Laws in Ireland and Northern Ireland: Women's Experiences and Opportunities for Policy Change

This project examines how women in Ireland and Northern Ireland are affected by legal restrictions to safe abortion access. The study will explore the decision-making and experiences of women wanting an abortion with traveling to the UK mainland to obtain in-clinic abortion, self-inducing without support, and continuing pregnancy.

Role: Principal Investigator.

Responsibilities: Research design, data collection oversight, data analysis, and dissemination of results.

LBJ Policy Research Institute (A.R.A Aiken, PI)

06/01/16-05/31/18

The Impacts of Restrictive Abortion Laws in Ireland and Northern Ireland: Women's Experiences and Opportunities for Policy Change

This funding provides additional support for the research project detailed above

Role: Principal Investigator.

Responsibilities: Research design, data collection oversight, data analysis, and dissemination of results.

Grant # SFPRF10-4 (V. Goyal, PI)

07/15/16-07/14/18

Society of Family Planning

Undue? Quantifying the Burden of a Restrictive Abortion Law on Texas Women

This project evaluates differences in the experiences and characteristics of women receiving abortion care in Texas before and after the enactment of restrictive abortion legislation. We will investigate the impact of the law on gestational age at time of abortion, and type of abortion procedure obtained by women, travel distance and time to the clinic, and the proportion of low-income and racial/ethnic minority women receiving care.

Role: Co-investigator.

Responsibilities: Advise on research design and data analysis, and contribute to dissemination of results.

Completed Research Support

Grant # SFPRF7-6 (V. Goyal, PI)

07/01/13-09/30/16

Society of Family Planning

Comparing Contraceptive Choices and Continuation Among Women with and without Free Access to Long-Acting Reversible Contraception

This project examines the ability of women who are eligible for a Medicaid 1115 waiver providing free intrauterine contraceptives and contraceptive implants at Planned Parenthood in Austin, TX, to obtain their desired method of contraception compared to those who are ineligible. The study also compares contraceptive continuation, satisfaction, and the incidence of pregnancy over two years among the two groups of women.

Role: Co-investigator.

Responsibilities: Advise on research design and data analysis, and contribute to dissemination of results.

SFPRF7-16 (A.R.A. Aiken, PI)

09/01/13-09/30/14

Society of Family Planning

Demographic Diversity in the Measurement and Meaning of Unintended Pregnancy

This project examined the factors underlying positive and negative feelings about unintended pregnancies among a cohort of Hispanic and non-Hispanic white women in Austin, TX.

Role: Principal Investigator.

Responsibilities: Research design, data collection, data analysis, and dissemination of results.

F31HD079182-01 (A.R.A Aiken, PI)

12/16/13-08/15/14

National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

Individual Pre-doctoral Fellowship: Demographic Diversity in the Measurement and Meaning of Unintended Pregnancy

This project examined the relationships between pregnancy intentions, contraception desires, and contraceptive use among a cohort of postpartum women in Austin, TX. In-depth interviews were conducted to gain detailed insights into the paradox of happiness about unintended pregnancy and to identify key sociocultural differences between groups.

Role: Principal Investigator.

Responsibilities: Research design, data collection, data analysis, and dissemination of results.

Grant #SFPRF6-T2 (A.R.A. Aiken, PI)

07/01/12-07/30/13

Society of Family Planning

Factors Underlying the 82nd Texas Legislature's Decision to Restrict Access to Family Planning in Texas

This project examined the role of partisanship in voting behavior on legislation restricting access to abortion and contraception and investigated the characteristics of legislators who vote for and against such policies. Bayesian factor models were used to analyze and compare the correlation structure of record voting data from the 2011 and 2003 Texas House of Representatives.

Role: Principal Investigator.

Responsibilities: Research design, data collection, data analysis, and dissemination of results.