

Kevin A. Carson

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Sociology Expected April 2027
University of Arizona Tucson, AZ
Dissertation Title: *Network Mechanisms in the Mexican “War of Conquest”*
Committee: Diego F. Leal (Chair), Daniel E. Martínez, Erin Leahey, and Javier Osorio.

M.A. in Sociology May 2024
University of Arizona Tucson, AZ

B.S. in Sociology May 2022
University of South Carolina Columbia, SC

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Social Network Analysis, Crime and Criminal Violence, International Migration, Organized Criminal Groups, Statistical Network Models

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Cruz-Jiménez, Lizeth, Kevin A. Carson, James F. Thrasher, Katia Gallegos-Carrillo, Dèsirée Vidaña-Pérez, and Diego F. Leal. 2026. “Social Network Determinants of Cigarette Forgoing and Quit-Related Conversations in a 15-Day Ecological Momentary Assessment Study in Mexico and the US.” *Tobacco Use Insights* 19: 1-12. [\[pdf\]](#)

Carson, Kevin A. 2025. “Coyotaje in an Uncertain Social Environment: Prior Coyote Experience as a Form of Migration-Specific Human Capital.” *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 1–22. [\[pdf\]](#) [\[code\]](#)

Under Review and In-Progress Articles

Carson, Kevin, Diego F. Leal, and Katie E. Corcoran. “dream: An R Package for Analyzing Relational and Event Dynamics.” *Under Review at the Journal of Statistical Software*

Leal, Diego F, David Schaefer, Kevin A. Carson, Jeffrey Shen, and Olov Aronson. “Adolescent Depression and Social Withdrawal.” *Under Review at the American Journal of Sociology*

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Carson, Kevin (with Diego F. Leal, Jeffrey Shen, David R. Schaefer, and Olov Aronson). 2025. “Tie Creation and Maintenance and the Link Between Adolescent Depression and Withdrawal in Friendship Networks”, *American Sociological Association 120th Annual Meeting*, Chicago, Illinois, USA.

Carson, Kevin (with Diego F. Leal). 2025. “Relational Outcome Models: Some Monte Carlo Results”, *American Sociological Association 120th Annual Meeting*, Chicago, Illinois, USA.

Carson, Kevin (with Diego F. Leal). 2024. “A Framework for Efficient Computation of Sufficient Statistics in Relational Event Models (REM) Applied to Large Two-Mode Networks”, *American Sociological Association 119th Annual Meeting*, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Carson, Kevin. 2024. “Exploring the Social Dynamics of Undocumented Border Crossings: A Study on Coyote Use and Prior Coyote Experience”, *American Sociological Association 119th Annual Meeting*, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Carson, Kevin (Diego F. Leal). 2023. “Political Use of Social Media and Offline Protest Participation: Consistent Estimates from Three Different Population-based Surveys in the U.S”, *American Sociological Association 118th Annual Meeting*, Philadelphia, USA.

Carson, Kevin. 2021. “Political Usage of Social Media: A Quantitative Study on Protest Participation and Mobilization”, *Mid-South Sociological Association Conference*, virtual meeting.

OPEN-SOURCE STATISTICAL SOFTWARE

Carson, Kevin and Diego F. Leal. 2025. **dream: Dynamic Relational Event Analysis and Modeling**. R package version 1.0.1.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

Research Assistant for Diego F. Leal, PhD

2025-

Project Title: *Building Stochastic Actor-Oriented Models to Investigate Social Network Influences on Youth Nicotine Product Use Transitions and to Simulate Different Intervention Effects across Contexts*

Funding Agency Title: National Institute of Health (NIH) [Grant ID: R01 CA290828]

Duties: (1) clean and create adolescent social networks based upon a set of name generators, (2) estimate stochastic-actor oriented models and meta-analyses, (3) write summary report memos of

the results for a non-technical audience, and (4) conduct replications of existing studies.

Research Assistant for Diego F. Leal, PhD

2023-2025

Project Title: *HNDS-R Networks and Health Disparities in Delays in Diagnosis of Medical Conditions with Ambiguous Symptoms*

Funding Agency Title: National Science Foundation (NSF) [Grant IDs: NSF 224153576, 22415375, 224153757]

Duties: (1) Clean Medicaid claims data, (2) create novel network measures for two-mode networks, (3) analyze data with statistical network models like relational event models, and (4) develop an open-source software for the examination of large two-mode relational event sequences.

Research Assistant for Diego F. Leal, PhD

2021- 2023

Project Title: *Communication Interventions to Promote Smoking Cessation among Latino/as*

Funding Agency Title: National Institute of Health (NIH) [Grant ID: R01 CA215466-S1 Adm. Supplement]

Duties: (1) Distribute, maintain, create, and test surveys on Qualtrics, (2) collaborate and report data to a interdisciplinary team, (3) create network measures based on self-reported ego networks, such as a weighted extension of the E-I network index.

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

University of Arizona

Social Statistics 1 [PhD]

Fall (2023; 2024; 2025)

Quantitative Reasoning in Sociology [Undergraduate]

Spring 2023

MISCELLANEOUS

Programming Languages: R, C++, STATA, Qualtrics, \LaTeX , R Markdown

Affiliations: American Sociological Association (Sections: *Mathematical Sociology*), University of Arizona School of Sociology Graduate Studies Committee Member

Occasional Reviewer: *Social Science Research, Social Networks*