

Kevin A. Carson

PhD Candidate
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Last Updated: August 31, 2026

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Sociology

Expected May 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 (external member, Political Science).

M.A. in Sociology

May 2024

University of Arizona

Tucson, AZ

B.S. in Sociology (*Magna Cum Laude*; *Outstanding Senior in Sociology Award*)

May 2022

University of South Carolina

Columbia, SC

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Inferential Network Models, Network Analysis, Crime and Criminal Violence, International Migration, Organized Criminal Groups, Global and Transnational Sociology

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS:

Carson, Kevin A. 2026. “Coyotaje in an Uncertain Social Environment: Prior Coyote Experience as a Form of Migration-Specific Human Capital.” *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 52(13): 3524–3545. [\[pdf\]](#) [\[code\]](#)

- Recipient of Bower’s Graduate Student Paper Award from the University of Arizona School of Sociology (2nd place)

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. [\[pdf\]](#)

REVISED AND RESUBMITTED PAPERS: [†] DENOTES EQUAL CO-AUTHORSHIP

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

Leal, Diego F, David R. Schaefer[†], Kevin A. Carson[†], Jeffrey Shen, and Olov Aronson. “Title Redacted.” *Revise & Resubmit at the American Journal of Sociology*

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Carson, Kevin A. and Diego F. Leal. “Measuring *Between*-Vertex Set Structural Hole Brokers in Two-Mode Networks.” *Advanced Draft*

Carson, Kevin A. “Endogenous Network Mechanisms in the Mexican War of Conquest.” *Under Preparation*

Carson, Kevin A. “Endogenous Confounding in Panel Network Autocorrelation Models: Some Monte Carlo Results.” *Under Preparation*

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Carson, Kevin. 2026. “Endogenous Network Mechanisms in the Mexican War of Conquest”, *American Sociological Association 121st Annual Meeting*, New York City, New York, USA.

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. 2026. [netpanel: Maximum Likelihood Estimation Routines for Panel Network Autocorrelation Models](#). R package version 0.0.1. [CRAN Downloads: 280]

Carson, Kevin and Diego F. Leal. 2026. [dream: Dynamic Relational Event Analysis and Modeling](#). R package version 2.1.5. [CRAN Downloads: 10,485]

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

Research Assistant to 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*

Grant ID: National Institute of Health (NIH) [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 to Diego F. Leal, PhD 2023-2025
Project Title: *HNDS-R Networks and Health Disparities in Delays in Diagnosis of Medical Conditions with Ambiguous Symptoms*

Grant ID: National Science Foundation (NSF) [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 to Diego F. Leal, PhD 2021- 2023

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

Grant ID: National Institute of Health (NIH) [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

SERVICE

University of Arizona

University of Arizona School of Sociology Graduate Studies Committee Member (2024; 2025)

University of Arizona School of Sociology Graduate Listserv Maintainer (2022; 2023; 2024; 2025; 2026)

General

Occasional Reviewer: *Social Networks, Sociological Methodology, Social Science Research*

MISCELLANEOUS

Programming Languages: R, C++, STATA, Qualtrics, L^AT_EX, R Markdown

Affiliations: American Sociological Association (Sections: *Mathematical Sociology*)