Dr. Sennott’s research addresses two key questions: 1) How do social and cultural factors shape sexual and reproductive health and family formation processes? 2) How are these experiences gendered? She investigates these questions in both the U.S. and sub-Saharan Africa. Dr. Sennott’s mixed methods research combines statistical analyses of large-scale longitudinal databases following thousands of individuals over time with in-depth interview data on the lived experiences of individuals. She often utilizes a life course perspective and focuses on the transition to adulthood.

Dr. Sennott’s research on sexual and reproductive health has explored the complex relationship between sociocultural norms and young men and women’s sexual, reproductive, and contraceptive behavior. Her U.S. research has documented: (1) how young men and women make sense of competing norms regulating sex, pregnancy, and contraception; and (2) how these norms influence men and women’s reproductive decision-making and behavior. These studies highlight the important explanatory role of social norms in understanding sexual and reproductive decisions, behaviors, and outcomes.

**Relevant Citations**


