



In Brief

MARYLAND POPULATION
RESEARCH CENTER

Summer 2008

New Faculty Associates - 2007-2008



Tracy Gordon

Tracy Gordon's research interests are in state and local public finance, political economy, and urban economics. She recently joined the University of Maryland from the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC), where she published reports and journal articles on state and local budgeting, the local initiative process, property taxes, and so-called "private governments" or homeowner associations that perform municipal functions.



Jasleen La Taillade

Much of Jasleen La Taillade's research focuses on couple relationships, including prevention and treatment of intimate partner violence, interracial and African American couple and family relationships, and more recently the impact of relationship quality on father involvement among African Americans. She has examined the role of socioeconomic stressors on conflict and physical violence among African American couples, using clinical and qualitative data sources.



Sunmin Lee

Sunmin Lee, ScD joined University of Maryland school of Public Health in 2006 and is Assistant Professor at the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. She received her doctoral degree in Social Epidemiology from the Harvard School of Public Health, and completed her post-doctoral training at Harvard Medical School. Trained as a Social Epidemiologist, her research and teaching activities have focused on social determinants of health.



Laura Mamo

Laura Mamo is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology and an Affiliate Assistant Professor in the Departments of Women's Studies and Lesbian and Gay Studies. Her research explores intersections of gender and sexuality with experiences of health, illness, and the body; processes of biomedicalization; and new pharmaceutical technologies. She is currently researching the development, FDA approval, and marketing of drugs designed to promise a re-fashioning of the body with transformative, life-enhancing results.



Edmond Shenassa

Edmond Shenassa's research is primarily focused on families' mental and physical well-being with an emphasis on two general areas: the developmental consequences of prenatal and perinatal exposure to toxins and social disparities in health with a focus on the role of housing and other built environments. As an epidemiologist, his work is informed by the fields of sociology and psychology and aims to address questions that can improve public health interventions or shape policy and regulation.

Special Notice : Researchers whose grants are funded through the National Institutes of Health are required to upload to the PubMed Central database a penultimate version of any papers written based on the research funded by NIH. See the Cornell University Libraries web site for more details. <http://www.library.cornell.edu/nihmandate/index.html>



Judith Shinogle

Judith A. Shinogle is an assistant professor of health economics in the Department of Health Services Administration. Dr. Shinogle received her doctorate in health economics from The Johns Hopkins University and was a National Institute of Mental Health Pre-Doctoral Fellow in Mental Health Economics. She received the 2004 NCHS/AcademyHealth Policy Fellowship to examine how state policies affect the generosity of health and mental health insurance coverage using the National Health Employer Health Insurance Survey.



Bo Xie

Bo Xie is an Assistant Professor in the College of Information Studies. Her research interests include health informatics; older adults' learning and use of computers and the internet; computer literacy; lifelong learning; civic engagement; volunteering; social relationships; social support; online communities; health and well-being.

Judith Freidenberg receives Ethnic Achievement Award

Judith Freidenberg was recognized by President Mote's Commission on Ethnic Minority Issues in a special ceremony last April for her work with immigrant populations and her exploration of the immigrant life course. In comments to President Mote and the other attendees, she said, "I look forward to the day when we can celebrate inter-culturalism in addition to multiculturalism: to have recognized enough diversity on campus to be able to ponder on how to work together through our differences, rather than despite our differences." Dr. Freidenberg has been an MPRC Associate since 2007.



Judith Freidenberg accepts Ethnic Achievement Award for Faculty from University President Dan Mote.

Judith Shinogle wins Graduate Research Summer Award

Judith Shinogle will use the National Health Interview Survey linked to Medical Expenditure Panel Survey and some other local-area data to examine the medical costs of physical inactivity. From the abstract : [The] empirical question is similar to one raised in public health literature in estimating cost of smoking. These methods have evolved from disease by disease estimation of the proportion of each disease caused by smoking (or obesity) to a multi-equation econometric model of medical expenditures in which all disease categories are included.

New Staff



William Fennie – Information Core Coordinator

William Fennie joined us in March from the Department of Anthropology where he had worked as Administrative and Graduate Coordinator. For six years of effort on behalf of the department Mr. Fennie was recently acknowledged by the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences with the highly competitive Outstanding Staff Award. He has many years' experience as a editor, writer, translator, and graphic designer and is currently working on upgrades to the MPRC website and implementation of a comprehensive database to support Center administration.



Tiffany Pittman – Program Management Specialist

Tiffany Pittman joined MPRC in February, transferring from the university Office of Staff Relations. Her many responsibilities at MPRC will include the coordination of our Seminar Series, assisting with the planning and execution of Center conferences, handling arrangements for the annual PAA meeting, scheduling Center meetings, coordinating room schedules for Faculty Associates and visitors, and overseeing the assignment of graduate student office space.

The Maryland Population Research Center recently completed its Annual Report. You can find the Executive Summary – along with more complete biographies of our new Faculty Associates – on our web site at :

www.popcenter.umd.edu

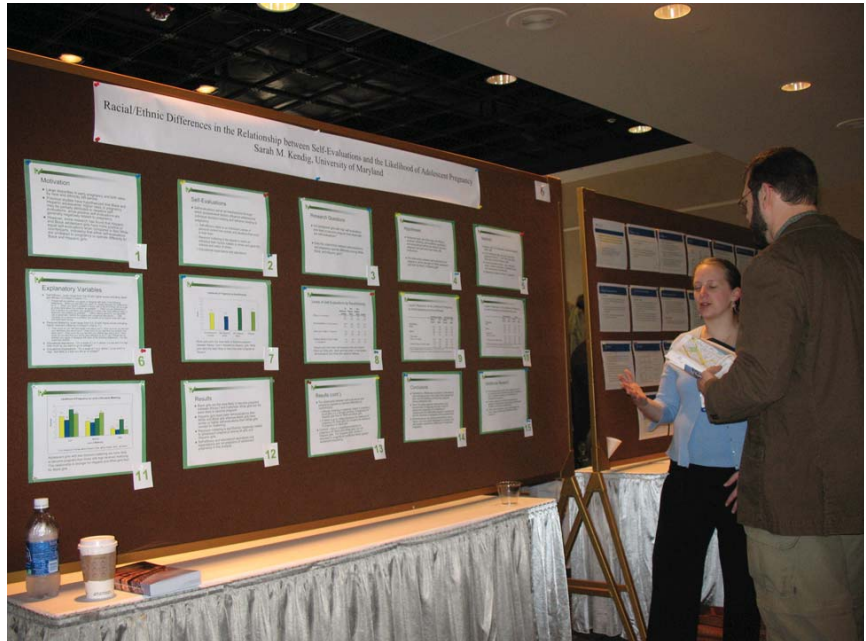
Poster Session Awards

Two Center-affiliated graduate students were awarded Poster Session Awards for contributions to the Population Association of America Annual Meeting held in New Orleans LA in April.

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Melissa Scopilitti's poster was entitled "Roomers and Boarders 1880-2005"



Sarah Kendig discusses her poster "Racial/Ethnic Differences in the Relationship between Self-Evaluations and Adolescent Pregnancy."

Successful Spring Seminar Series Focuses on Health

Our Spring Seminar Series sponsored 10 presentations during the 14-week period from February 8 to May 9 and included offerings from Associates Darrell Gaskin and Frances Goldscheider as well as visiting scholars from six other universities and two government agencies. Topics included access to health care, mortality issues, the impact of prison, fatherhood, environmental influences on social behavior, lead poisoning, developmental epidemiology, and NCHS data sources.



Guest speaker Stephen Buka, new MPRC Director Sandy Hofferth, and Faculty Associate Edmond Shenassa.



Former Director Seth Sanders speaks with guest Greg Pogarsky.



Faculty Associate Frances Goldscheider.