



# Maryland Population Research Center

in the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences  
University of Maryland

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## Newsletter

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### Faculty News



**Christine Bachrach**, Research Professor, MPRC, and President-elect of the Population Association of America (PAA), is working with co-chair Duncan Thomas, Duke

University, to organize the program of the 2013 PAA Annual Meeting. MPRC Faculty Associates on the organizing committee include: Philip Cohen, Sandra Hofferth, Joan Kahn, Sangeetha Madhavan, and Michael Rendall.



**Sonalde Desai**, Professor of Sociology, spent the academic year 2011-12 in India supervising the fieldwork for the second round of India Human Development Survey

(IHDS-II). The IHDS aims to reinterview all the households initially surveyed in IHDS-I in 2004-5, making this the first panel survey in India to include urban as well as rural samples. With over 90% of the fieldwork completed, Desai and her co-investigators **Reeve Vanneman** and **Amresh Dubey** are pleased to report a recontact rate of over 80 percent. The IHDS-I data are currently being used by over 2000 users and it is expected that IHDS-II data and results will also be of

great interest to other researchers as well as policymakers.



**Judith Freidenberg**, Anthropology, received a Smithsonian / University of Maryland grant to document the

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### New Leadership at MPRC

**Michael S. Rendall, Director.** Dr. Rendall joined the University of Maryland in the fall of 2011, moving from the RAND Corporation where he was Senior Social Scientist, Director of the Population Research Center and Postdoctoral Program in Population Studies, and Associate Director of the Labor and Population Division. His methodological work has included evaluation of data quality in fertility, family structure, and international migration; elderly poverty measurement; new statistical methods for combining survey and population data; and new methods for the simulation of cohort lifetimes and population dynamics. His substantive work has included exploration of relationships of socio-economic inequality and social policy to fertility, household structure, and migration. His current research topics include migration between Mexico and the United States over the 1990s and 2000s, migration and social-demographic outcomes of New Orleanians following Hurricane Katrina, and modeling the development of obesity across U.S. childhoods.



**Sangeetha Madhavan, Associate Director.** Dr. Madhavan is Associate Professor of Demography and Sociology in the Department of African American Studies. She has a wide range of research interests including children's well-being, household and family change, parenting, intergenerational relationships, transition to adulthood and social capital formation in the context of sub-Saharan Africa. Currently she is working on two projects: 1) fathering among low income Black men in urban South Africa and 2) social connectivity and children's well-being in rural South Africa. In addition, she has started working on a new line of research on single motherhood and children's well-being in urban Kenya. Her recent publications appear in *Demography*, *Population and Development Review*, *Population Studies*, and *Journal of Family Issues*. Dr. Madhavan has been an active member of the MPRC community since her arrival at the University of Maryland and has served as a member of the MPRC Executive Committee for the past two years.



### Center Wins Second R24 Renewal

The Maryland Population Research Center was successful with renewal of its R24 infrastructure grant and has been awarded a five-year, \$1.9 million grant from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). Along with over \$1.7 million in funding from various University units the grant will permit MPRC to continue its mission to promulgate interdisciplinary research in the field of population studies.

Since 2008, MPRC has supported 284 grant applications by 67 researchers, resulting in funding of over \$22.7 million. This research has served to provide valuable insights on topics ranging from sexual health among adolescents in America to caste effects on educational opportunity in India.

MPRC began in 1998 as the Demography of Inequality Initiative, including a cadre of sociologists and economists. It added members and won its first infrastructure grant from NICHD in 2002. Currently, 73 Faculty Associates from 5 schools and 15 departments at the University of Maryland participate in the Center's work.

#### Proposal Submissions

If you plan to submit a grant through MPRC, please let us know. It's quick and easy!

[www.popcenter.umd.edu/services/intent-to-propose](http://www.popcenter.umd.edu/services/intent-to-propose)

## Research Profile

### Sandra Hofferth

"Time Use Survey Data Access System," NIH

"Research Coordinating Network: The NSF Social Observatories Coordination Network," NSF



Sandra Hofferth, Professor of Family Science and Center Director from 2008-12, will lead two important new projects that serve the population research community. The Time Use Survey Data Access System project, a five-year, \$1.9 million grant from NICHD, will integrate, document and disseminate individual-level data on how people allocate their time. Extending the American Time Use Survey (ATUS) backwards through time and geographically across countries, the project plans to multiply the number of samples by an order of five. This will involve building a new Time Use Data Extract System (TUS-X) that can manage the full scope of the historical and international data. The database will include the eight ATUS samples already incorporated into the ATUS-X system, the five new ATUS datasets that will become available from 2011 to 2015, five historical U.S. surveys conducted between 1965 and 1994, and 23 samples from surveys conducted in five European countries plus Canada since 1961. The research team believes that continuing this project for another five years and adding samples and functionality will facilitate research on parental time with children, how time use influences health, household responses to changing economic conditions, and cross-national research on health and well-being in different cultural and policy settings.

The second project, "Research Coordinating Network: the NSF Social Observatories Coordination Network," a three-year, \$300,000 NSF award, will assist with developing and planning a set of observatories for the Social, Behavioral, and Economic (SBE) sciences that will transform SBE science. The observatories will address questions of central interest in SBE sciences, particularly those that benefit from place-based research, and will focus on two broad intellectual themes: 1) opportunity and mobility and 2) change and adaptation. The rationale for the observatories includes three points: 1) the critical questions of our time cannot be answered by one discipline alone, and moreover, efficiencies can be gained by coordinating efforts across disciplines, 2) there is a need to move in new directions to marry broad perspectives on social change over large social, spatial, and temporal scales with an in-depth and fine-grained understanding of social processes and decisions; 3) to support this vision and to achieve these goals, there is a need to gain access to and to fully utilize administrative, transactional, observational, and other forms of data not specifically designed to support scientific research.

## External Grant Awards

Center-administered grants awarded since January 1, 2012

**Feinian Chen**, Associate Professor of Sociology, received a two-year, \$152,000 R03 grant from NICHD, "Race / Ethnic Differentials in the Health Implications of Grandparents Caring for Grandchildren." This project focuses on the impact of caregiving for grandchildren on grandparents' health for different race / ethnic groups in the U.S. to find out whether varied levels of caregiving have differential effects on their health. The study will use data from the Health and Retirement Study, a nationally representative, longitudinal panel study of older adults in the United States. Using the cumulative advantage / disadvantage and cumulative inequality (CAD/CI) framework, the project should enhance our understanding of different mechanisms through which grandparents' caregiving influences health trajectories. The focus

on race / ethnic disparities is critically important, given minority grandparents' higher level of childcare involvement, race / ethnic differences in sub-cultural norms, socioeconomic resources and social ties, and the rate of growth of the Hispanic population.

**Sandra Hofferth**, Professor of Family Science, received grant awards from NICHD and NSF: see the research profile above.

**Melissa Kearney**, Associate Professor of Economics, received a one-year, \$50,000 grant from the Smith Richardson Foundation (SRF), "Inequality and teenage 'drop out' behaviors." Her team plans to examine how income inequality relates to individual level decisions regarding high school completion. They speculate that inequality has on net a "desperation" effect, rather than an "aspiration" effect, leading economically disadvantaged students to give up on their educational investments. Findings are

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life histories of immigrant communities in the Washington metro area.



**Vivian Hoffmann**, Assistant Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics, has begun the second year of her study on women's sanitation issues in developing countries. Two study sites have been selected: Durban, South Africa and the Indian state of Bihar. The Durban site affords the team the opportunity to study how women's menstrual management practices and disposal of products interact with each of several sanitation systems represented. Bihar is among the poorest and least developed of India's states. In this setting, the team is studying how experience with disposable menstrual products affects women's demand for an alternative, reusable product, the menstrual cup.



**Kevin Roy**, Associate Professor of Family Science, was recently named Deputy Editor of the *Journal of Marriage and Family*. He is also the author, with William Marsiglio, of *Nurturing Dads*, a book that explores ways in which policy initiatives strengthen father-child connections and foster healthy co-parenting relationships regardless of the marital or residency status of the father. The authors emphasize that "Fathers should provide more than financial support and, in the process, bring about a better start in life for their children."

expected to have important implications for the types of policies that are likely to be effective at encouraging low-achieving students to remain in school. If higher levels of income inequality discourage economically disadvantaged adolescents from remaining committed to educational investment, it becomes crucial to implement policies and reforms that keep education relevant for those at the bottom of the income distribution.

**Meredith Kleykamp**, Assistant Professor of Sociology, received a two-year, \$80,000 grant from the National Science Foundation for "Collaborative Research: Institutional change and the consequences of military service." The proposed project focuses on whether and how major institutional shifts have altered the relationship between military service and a variety of outcomes, including marriage, employment, education, and earnings. The project addresses two specific aims: first, evaluate whether

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## New Faculty

We welcome the following new faculty associates who recently joined MPRC

**Xin He**, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Dr. He's current research focuses on longitudinal data analysis, survival analysis, nonparametric and semiparametric methods, as well as applications in clinical trials, epidemiology, and other public health related studies.

**Pamela Jakiela**, Assistant Professor of Agriculture and Resource Economics. Dr. Jakiela conducts research at the intersection of economics and psychology, focusing on individual risk and social preferences and the relationship between these preferences and decisions about savings, income sharing, occupational choice, and micro-entrepreneurship. Much of her research is conducted in poor, rural villages in Kenya, though she also works in other developing countries and in the United States.

**Donald Milton**, M.D., Dr.P.H., Professor, Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health. He is a co-investigator for the Boston Home Allergen and Asthma birth cohort study of early life exposure to allergens and endotoxin and risk of allergy and asthma. He also is engaged in studies of influenza transmission, and is interested in extending these to environmental toxicants and health outcomes.

**Robin Puett**, Assistant Professor, Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health. Dr. Puett is using large cohort studies and population based data to explore the association of air pollution exposures with health outcomes and modification by diet and other lifestyle factors. She also uses these and other data to examine spatial associations between environmental context (e.g. built environment) and health outcomes.

**Sergio Urzua**, Assistant Professor of Economics. Dr. Urzúa's research has focused on the role of cognitive and noncognitive abilities, and uncertainty, as determinants of schooling decisions, labor market outcomes and social behavior. Recently, he has analyzed the effects of early endowments on academic and labor market outcomes.

**Sacoby Wilson**, Assistant Professor of Environmental Sciences, Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health. Dr. Wilson is an environmental health scientist with expertise in environmental justice and environmental health disparities. His primary research interests focus on issues that impact underserved, socially and economically disadvantaged, and health disparity populations.

## Visiting Professor

### Alessandra De Rose

**Professor of Statistics at Sapienza University of Rome and President of the Italian Association for Population Studies**

*MPRC was fortunate to host Dr. Alessandra De Rose, Professor of Demography at Sapienza University of Rome, Italy, for several weeks during the summer of 2012. Currently President of the Italian Association for Population Studies, Dr. De Rose is a member of the Department of Methods and Models for Economics, Territory, and Finance within the college of Economics. She specializes in issues of family and fertility and has worked in the past with MPRC's new Director, Dr. Michael S. Rendall. In a short interview, she talked about her current research, about connecting with colleagues at the Center, and about the possibility of scholar and student exchange between Sapienza University, the University of Maryland, and MPRC.*



"The first reason for my visit is to improve and develop a topic which has to do with trying to explain differences in fertility behavior in terms of social / economic inequalities. The main way we try to understand this is to make some comparative analysis among different welfare systems within Europe, and even including the USA. A lot of inequalities exist between social classes in the different countries, and we relate these with differences in the welfare systems which can help in reducing or improving these differences."

While there are some similarities between the social welfare systems in Great Britain and the USA, she said, "... the main differences are among the universal welfare systems in the Nordic countries of Europe and the family-centered system in the southern European countries, such as Italy.

"In Italy and other southern European countries the welfare system puts a greater expectation on the family. The greater expectation is that all family matters are family responsibility. So there is no great involvement of institutions in family affairs. So, fertility, young people's behavior, the care of elderly people - all of these are responsibilities of the family. And even within the family there are some gender differences, gender imbalances. So, it's quite interesting that in Italy there are a lot of [public] expenditures for families but all of them are concentrated in social security and not for services to the family : helping the mother to balance her working in and out of the family, for example."

Dr. De Rose said that visiting the Center gave her the chance to spend time with some important scholars in her field. "My research includes gender differences and gender imbalances and, for example, Philip Cohen is an important reference for my study, and so it was important for me to meet him.

"Also, in the area of family behavior I'm going forward with analyzing time survey data and I had long conversations with Sandra Hofferth, the director of an important research project [ATUS] on this topic. She gave me a lot of suggestions and some possibility of comparison between research on time use in Italy - again, on a gender perspective - and gender studies and time use surveys in the USA. In fact, she said that Italy is quite an interesting laboratory. And there are not many studies on gender differences and time use in the family for Italy. It would be nice comparison.

"Another field of collaboration where it was very interesting to speak with her is intergenerational activities relationship. And I spoke with Joan Kahn, [who has] done very interesting research together with Frances Goldscheider on the relationship between three generations or four generations in the family. And it is very important for us because Italy, even more than the USA, is facing a problem of an aging society. We are trying to understand how the getting older and older of the people, women in particular, will impact intergenerational support. Because in a welfare state, as I said before, which [does not] relate the caring activities of women to the other generation, the fact that the middle generation is becoming older and older will have some effect on caring for the older generation. Joan, along with Frances, has done a lot of studies on this and I would like to replicate some of these."

Another important reason for her visit is to initiate a proposal for collaboration between Sapienza University and the University of Maryland. The agreement would allow for an exchange of scholars and students between the two universities. This initiative is in the early stages, but a similar agreement between her department and MPRC could be put in place relatively quickly. "It will imply some mobility of exchange and even some collaborative work, of course," she added.

Dr. De Rose is currently involved with organizing the biennial conference of the European Association for Population Studies, which will take place in Bressanone, Italy, in February 2013. It will feature sessions in Italian, German, and English. "We try to make it international," she said.

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the relative marital and socioeconomic outcomes of veterans and non-veterans have changed over the last four decades and whether veterans and non-veterans experience different and changing levels of stability in the outcomes; second, evaluate whether the relative positions of veterans have varied over the last four decades by specific military experiences with a focus on combat experience.

**Sangeetha Madhavan**, Associate Professor of African American Studies, received a one-year, \$90,000 R03 grant from NIA, "Change in Elderly Living Arrangements in Rural South Africa, 2000-2010." She will examine changes in the living arrangements of persons aged 50+ over a ten year period (2000-2010) in a rural, Black community in North-eastern South Africa - a setting that has experienced an increase in the number of deaths attributable to AIDS and where the proportion of pension-eligible persons in the population has also increased during the 10 year period. Drawing on longitudinal data for 14,000 households, she will 1) examine the distribution of household types in which older persons reside at three time points (2000, 2005 and 2010); 2) calculate the probabilities of older persons experiencing transitions from one type of living arrangement to another over 5- and 10-year periods starting in 2000; and 3) analyze the relationship between AIDS related mortality and access to pension and change in the living arrangements of older persons.

## Population Working Papers Series

MPRC participates in the Population Working Paper Series project hosted by California Center for Population Research at UCLA. Faculty Associates can make papers available to an audience of population researchers. Info: [mprc-support@umd.edu](mailto:mprc-support@umd.edu).



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## Seed Grant Update



**Donna Howard**, Associate Professor of Behavioral and Community Health, will examine the role played by electronic communication technologies in teen dating relationships and how it may facilitate the

perpetration of, response to, or defense against Teen Dating Violence (TDV). *Teens, Technology, Dating Relationships, and Violence* will utilize a mixed methods approach that draws upon the Media Practice Model to explore motivations that drive teen adoption of social media, i.e., technology use in the context of relationship formation and maintenance, including fidelity, control and conflict resolution.

**Melissa Kearney**, Associate Professor of Economics, intends to launch a series of projects into the question of how income inequality affects the life defining decisions made by adolescents and young adults. In a previous paper (Kearney and Levine 2011) the researchers found a strong empirical relationship between income inequality and the propensity for economically disadvantaged women to give birth when young and unmarried. She intends to expand the empirical focus to a broader set of outcomes and to investigate the mediating channels through which income inequality exerts an impact. This research will make strides in both of these ways – first by considering educational investment decisions and second by considering the mediating role of residential and school sorting in driving any observed relationship between income inequality and schooling outcomes.



**David Maimon**, Assistant Professor of Criminology, will examine outcomes for adult children based on geographical distance between them and their parents during the early adult years.

The study seeks to 1) unravel families' demographic and social attributes that determine high-risk youth's residential proximity to parents during young adulthood, and 2) examine the simultaneous and interactive effects of spatial proximity to parents and early family environments on young adults' mental health outcomes (i.e. depression), substance abuse and criminal involvement. The project will involve geocoding and analysing data from the Rochester Youth Development Study.

## Center news

**GIS and Spatial Analysis.** The Center will expand its range of services to include consultation for researchers wishing to use GIS and spatial analysis in their projects. We are working with Dr. Paul Torrens of the Department of Geographic Sciences to determine the nature and character of the services that will be available to researchers.

**Consortium on Race, Gender, and Ethnicity.** The Center continues to support CRGE, in particular the activities of the Qualitative Research Interest Group.

**The most up-to-date information about Center activities can always be found on the website :**

[www.popcenter.umd.edu](http://www.popcenter.umd.edu)

## Grant Submissions

Center scholars have been busy during the first part of 2012. Between January and September MPRC Administrative Core personnel have helped Principal Investigators and their collaborators to propose over \$3.6 million in new funding. An asterisk (\*) denotes submissions for which funding has been awarded.

### Meredith Kleykamp

\* *Collaborative Research: Institutional change and the consequences of military service, NSF*

### Sandra Hofferth

\* *RCN: NSF Social Observatories Coordinating Network, NSF*

\* *Workshop on the Future of Observatories in the Social Sciences, NSF*

### Frauka Kreuter

*Using propensity scores for causal inference with covariate measurement error, NIMH*

### Kevin Roy, with Natasha Cabrera and Sangeetha Madhavan

*Fathering in Multiple Families: A qualitative study of young disadvantaged men, NICHD*

### Melissa Kearney

\* *Inequality and teenage "drop out" behaviors, Smith Richardson Foundation*

### Jane Rosenbaum

*Increasing postsecondary degree attainment and labor market success of young disadvantaged Americans, Smith Richardson Foundation*

### Sangeetha Madhavan

*Single motherhood and child health in Nairobi, Kenya: A life course perspective, NICHD*