



# Maryland Population Research Center

in the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences  
University of Maryland

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## Newsletter

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### New Faculty

We welcome the following new faculty associates who recently joined MPRC.



**Alok Bhargava**, Professor of Public Policy, is an econometrician who has published on important aspects of nutrition, food policy, population health, child development, demography, epidemiology, AIDS, and finance in developing and developed countries. His academic publications demonstrate the usefulness of rigorous econometric and statistical methods in addressing issues of under-nutrition and poor child health in developing countries, as well as obesity in developed countries.



**Thurka Sangaramoorthy**, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, is a medical anthropologist who works in applied public health. She is interested in research designs that investigate how structural and social inequalities contribute to global health disparities as well as the impact of culture, gender, race and poverty on health care access. Her expertise includes areas of medical anthropology, science and technology studies, anthropology of medicine, global public health, HIV / AIDS, health disparities, critical race theory, migration, and citizenship.

### NIH tightens publication tracking in PubMed Central

We've known for a few years that scholars who have published peer-reviewed articles based on research funded by NIH are required to deposit a copy of the paper in the PubMed Central repository. This spring, NIH upped the ante by asserting that failure to comply with the mandate would result in suspension of funding. Some campus scholars have felt the NIH bite on this issue, and it's quite real. *Get in touch with the MPRC Information Core for help:* [MPRC-support@umd.edu](mailto:MPRC-support@umd.edu).

### Note from the Director

#### Outreach and engagement

The past year has been an exciting beginning to the MPRC's third five-year term as an NICHD-supported center under its R24 Population Research Infrastructure program and also to my term as MPRC Director. A major role of the MPRC is to facilitate a vibrant and stimulating intellectual environment for population researchers at Maryland and beyond, and I use this note to celebrate and thank those involved in making this possible in the past year and to preview such events for the coming year. The year just gone has been one of considerable intellectual outreach both within the University of Maryland and to the broader demography community. Within the university, in addition to our regular MPRC Seminar Series, our Center has co-sponsored talks, workshops, and conferences organized by the Center for the History of the New America ("Race Immigration, and Action" panel discussion); the Center for East Asian Studies ("The Rise of Divorce in East Asia" panel discussion); and the U.S. Latina/o Studies Department ("Measuring Race and the Census" presentation by Nicolas Jones, Chief of the Racial Statistics Branch, U.S. Census Bureau). MPRC also co-sponsored the Anthropological Demography meeting at PAA, as well as the Section on Sociology of the Family and Section on Sociology of Population joint reception at the American Sociological Association. Looking ahead to the coming year, MPRC has more co-sponsored events scheduled here at Maryland, including a very successful presentation by Becky Petit at the "Pre-K to Prison Pipeline" symposium organized by the African American Studies Department in early September and an exciting upcoming presentation by James Jackson, Director of the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, on the affordances framework for understanding disparities in physical and mental health – co-sponsored by African American Studies and the Center for Health Equity. Next summer, the Center will play an important role in hosting the fourth in a biennial series of Time Use Conferences, along with the University of Maryland Time Use Laboratory (see the research profile of Liana Sayer on page two) and some U.S. government agencies. We look forward to an exciting, and engaging, year.



#### Center welcomes Interim Associate Director



It's with great pleasure that I announce that Christine Bachrach has agreed to serve as Interim Associate Director during the coming year, while Sangeetha Madhavan is on sabbatical.

Chris is a social demographer with scientific interests that span the areas of fertility, family formation, marriage and divorce, adoption, sexual behavior, contraceptive practice, population health, and survey methodology. She served as Acting Associate Director for Behavioral and Social Sciences Research at the National Institutes of Health during 2008-2010, and as Chief of the Demographic and Behavioral Sciences Branch at the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National

Institute of Child Health and Human Development during the years 1992-2008. She also is current President of the Population Association of America.

Her scientific program is focused on two areas of inquiry: 1) the intersections between cultural theory and cognitive science with the goal of developing new ways of integrating cultural concepts and measures into social demographic research; 2) activities designed to promote research on population health. She is also part of a collaborative effort to develop infrastructure to support population health research at the national level, particularly with regard to social and cultural determinants of health.

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## Seed Grant Update

Six MPRC Faculty Associates will benefit from Seed Grant funding to develop research questions which can provide the basis for attractive grant proposals.

### Philip Cohen / Gneisha Dinwiddie

*Parental age and children's disability in the United States*

Some risks of having children at older ages are widely documented, but the pattern for all disabilities according to both mothers' and fathers' age is not well known. Recent attention has focused on children's disabilities that may result from *de novo* mutations occurring in men's sperm as they age, increasing the risk of such conditions as autism spectrum disorders and schizophrenia. However, the public attention devoted to this issue has not adequately communicated the relative risks to children's health of both biological mothers' and fathers' age. The objective of this research project is to assess the relationship between

children's mental and physical health conditions and parents' age at birth, drawing from several major data sources covering a variety of conditions.

### Rada Dagher

*Racial / Ethnic and Socioeconomic Disparities in Postpartum Depression among a National Sample of US Mothers of Infants*

The literature on maternal postpartum depression has been limited to samples of married, first time mothers of middle to high socioeconomic status and who are predominantly Caucasian. This study will examine the prevalence of postpartum depression at 9 months after childbirth among different racial/ethnic and socioeconomic groups and what explains these associations using data from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study-Birth Cohort, a longitudinal study of 10,700 children born in the United States in 2001. The target population includes all mothers of these children. Data analyses will involve bivariate

analyses, multiple linear regressions, and regression-decomposition techniques. The sociological theory of the stress process will be the overarching framework for the study.

### Jerome Dugan

*Can Coverage Expansions Address Racial and Gender Disparities in Health Outcomes Among Americans with Chronic Disease ?*

Within the United States healthcare system, patients from a low socioeconomic status represent one of the most underserved and vulnerable groups. Recent evidence suggests that chronic disease patients with the highest education reported the largest gains in their propensity to utilize routine care than lower educated groups when they gained access to comprehensive health insurance. However, the propensity for some minority groups with chronic disease to utilize routine care declined upon gaining access to comprehensive health

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## Research Profile

### Liana Sayer

*University of Maryland Time Use Laboratory*



Liana Sayer is the Director of the new University of Maryland Time Use Laboratory, which conducts innovative research on time use in under-researched populations and investigates new methods and tools for time use data collection. The Time Use Lab currently focuses on three main projects.

Traditionally, handwritten diaries have served as the main medium for recording time use data, but this method is burdensome and often inexact with regards to the place where an activity occurred. This Fall, the Lab will begin recruiting participants for a small pilot study to learn about the possible benefits of using smartphones to

collect time use data. Smartphones may offer a more streamlined way to record time use data, and GPS technology could help researchers understand the positive and negative effects of the physical environment where an activity takes place. Participants in the pilot study will represent a broad cross-section of the population in order to find out whether there are unique considerations among different demographic groups.

The Time Use Lab will also study patterns of time use among immigrants in the Baltimore and Washington, DC areas. The study will combine qualitative and quantitative methods in order to learn how patterns of time use reflect changing family and social dynamics as immigrants adapt to life in their new communities. Dr. Sayer believes that the results may show interesting differences in time use depending on immigrants' countries of origin, and on their varying educational and socioeconomic status in the United States.

The third project focuses on how patterns of time use change over time among children and adolescents. According to child development literature, some types of time use are more beneficial to children than others. The goal of the project is to find out how children's time is divided between beneficial or enriching activities like schoolwork or sports and undirected activities such as "hanging out" or watching TV. Time use data will help Sayer and her colleagues learn more about the kinds of activities that children and adolescents engage in, whether they keep the same patterns over time, and how children's time use affects their transition to adulthood.

Dr. Sayer cautions that while time use data can reveal a great deal about what people are doing, it cannot explain why. For example, if a child spends a large amount of time watching television, it might be tempting to assume that this pattern reflects apathy on the part of the parents. But in neighborhoods with high crime rates, parents may be using TV as a way to keep their children indoors in a safe environment. Time use data only becomes meaningful when understood within its full social context.

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## MPRC Associates at IUSSP meeting in South Korea

Three MPRC Associates participated in the 27th meeting of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP), which was held in Busan, South Korea, in late August.

Monica Das Gupta presented "Linkages between population and sustainable development in the post-2015 Development Agenda" as part of the UNFPA Plenary Session.



Sangeethan Madhavan chaired a session on "Transitions in the spousal selection



process", served as a discussant in a session on "Role of extended kin in shaping families", and presented a paper on "Working with teams of 'insiders': Innovations in qualitative data collection in rural South Africa".

Sonalde Desai chaired a session on "Trends in educational inequality" and was presenting author for "Middle Class Dreams: India's One-Child Families" and "Cash or Quality? Impact of Public Policies on Use of Maternal Care in India," co-authored with Reeve Vanneman.



insurance. The goal of this research is to improve our understanding of how health insurance coverage decisions may be used to resolve racial and gender disparities in health outcomes among patients with chronic disease. study will first investigate whether the financial risk that patients face from inadequate health insurance coverage (i.e., under-insurance) will generate inequalities in physician and resource utilization by comparing utilization rates by the patient's cost sharing status, gender, and race. Second, the study will examine how a patient's expected source of payment for healthcare impacts the quality and quantity of care received. Third, the impact of financial pressures generated by changes in the distribution of patients covered by managed care plans (i.e., managed care penetration) on provider efficiency and efficacy will be examined.

**Jessica Goldberg**

*Leveraging Patients' Social Networks to Overcome Tuberculosis Under-detection in India: A Field Experiment*

This study explores the use of financial incentives to encourage patients who are being treated for tuberculosis (TB) to refer others who have symptoms of TB to health providers for testing and treatment. Strategies to improve outreach and detection of TB are vital, because while the disease infects 8.7 million people worldwide and highly effective treatment is available, only one third of those infected are in treatment. This project will determine whether using financial incentives to encourage referrals can leverage the social networks of existing patients to provide broader outreach and deeper penetration into marginalized populations. The effects of these incentives will be measured through a randomized controlled trial to compare the effectiveness of different types of incentives to current patients and new suspects. Patients enrolled in treatment in community-based centers in 17 cities in six Indian states, will be randomly assigned to one of three outreach schemes: encouragement only, encouragement and financial incentive for any new suspect, and encouragement and financial incentives for new suspects who test positive for TB. The effect of each type of incentive will be measured through administrative data on the total number of new patients and the number of new patients who test positive for TB referred under each scheme. The study is designed to measure the cost effectiveness of incentives to current patients and new suspects, and to compare the costs of detection under these schemes to alternatives such as relying on salaried

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**Chris Bachrach, Judith Freidenberg**  
**Culture and Population Working Group**

Cultural processes underlie all of the MPRC's signature themes: Gender, Family, and Social Change; Health in Social Context; Social and Economic Inequality; and People and Place. They are central as the meanings that drive gendered behaviors and family formation; they influence interpretations of disease symptoms, care-seeking behaviors, and the structure of health care systems; they influence whether societies adopt adequate safety nets and how they address inequalities; and they are central to the social influences that operate within places. The effective integration of culture in population research poses conceptual, modeling, and measurement challenges.

Fortunately, MPRC Faculty Associates across a variety of disciplines make it part of their research program. Chris Bachrach and Judith Freidenberg will initially lead the Culture and Population Working Group, starting this Fall. Interested Associates are invited to join. Coordination with other working groups (health, immigration, place) is expected to be important, as culture cuts across all of these topics. For more information, contact Chris Bachrach or Judith Freidenberg.

**Social Observatory Coordinating Network scholars meet in College Park**

Co-directed by former MPRC Director Sandra Hofferth and Emilio Moran, Center for Global Change and Earth Observation, Michigan State University, the Social Observatory Coordinating Network (SOCN) is an NSF-funded three-year project to explore the development and planning of a set of observatories for the Social, Behavioral, and Economic (SBE) Sciences that will transform SBE science. Members of the network met on the campus of the University of Maryland and conducted a workshop with solicited contributions from nine scholars whose work looked at the opportunities and limitations of big data, the use of social media for research purposes, and privacy issues related to any kind of social observatory project, among other topics.



**Barbara Entwistle, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, participates in a lively dialogue with members of the Social Observatory Coordinating Network at a meeting held at the University of Maryland in May.**

Sessions included reports on three current projects; data needs and examples of current small-scale observatories from computational social science; examining the state of the world through social media; discussion of linkages between research consortia and big data: needs, problems, potential solutions; and comments by Robert Kaplan, NIH, and Myron Gutmann, NSF, followed by discussion.

The network team is in the first phase of its project, Discovery and Consensus Building, which will run through 2014 and includes invited workshops to define key issues followed by scientific community workshops. The latter are expected to be small, focused workshops and roundtables in the different substantive academic communities, including anthropology, economics, geography, political science, psychology, and sociology, as well as interdisciplinary groups such as the Society for Risk Analysis, the American Association for Public Opinion Research, and the Joint Statistical meetings of the American Statistical Association.

The Synthesis phase of the project will begin in August 2014 and culminate with a meeting and conference in May 2015 and publication of a final report in August 2015.

One participant in the meeting, a foreign-born post-doctoral Research Associate who has been working on preparations for the project in recent years, said, "I was impressed that these senior researchers, who may not be very active in 10 years, were so determined to leave something important for the next generation of scholars. I had the feeling that it might be one of America's strengths in social science: not only trying to identify and solve problems / trends, but also trying to care and planning on long-term data collection."

## Meet your new best friend

Researchers who plan to submit proposals for funding to NIH will need to bone-up on the My Bibliography tool located on the My NCBI website, which is accessible using your eRACommons login. Beginning in 2013 NIH requires that any publication being used to support a grant application, report, or renewal have a record in the new tool. *The good news:* if your publications are already in PubMed Central they will appear here effortlessly. *The bad news:* if your publications are not in PubMed Central your funding will be held up until you get it worked out. A good project for your RA. *Contact the MPRC Information Core for help.*

### Seed Grants, continued from page 3

or incentivized health workers. By using baseline and follow up survey data for current patients and new suspects, the study will also determine whether incentivized referrals reach patients with different characteristics than other outreach schemes.

#### Rashawn Ray

*“Thick”: Effects of perceived body image on the physical health of middle class African-American girls*

Nearly one-third of Americans are obese, and obesity is especially problematic for Black women. Unlike the story among Whites, SES does not explain the low prevalence of physical activity or the high rate of obesity for Blacks. Using the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, this study proposes to develop a new perceived body image measure, called “Thick,” that might be more theoretically, substantively, and methodologically useful among adolescents and adults alike. The study aims to determine if this new measure has a similar (non-significant) relationship to physical health for Black female adolescents, and also when the relationship between perceived body image and physical health changes for Black female adolescents compared to their White female peers.

## Grant Submissions

During the first part of 2013 MPRC Administrative Core personnel have helped Principal Investigators and their collaborators to propose over \$9.8 million in new funding. These and other proposals are listed below. An asterisk (\*) marks funded submissions.

#### Natasha Cabrera / Kevin Roy

*Responsible Fatherhood Research Network, Administration for Children and Families*

#### Olivia Carter-Pokras

*Center for Research on Latino Children and Families, Administration for Children and Families  
Northeast Collaborative Center for Transdisciplinary & Regional Research in Equity & Disparities, NIHMD*

#### Feinien Chen

*Adding Dimensions of Gender to Community Contextual Data in a Longitudinal Study of Health and Aging, NICHD/Brown Univ.*

#### Pablo d’Erasmus

*Public and Private Debt Crises: Quantitative Macroeconomic Models and Policy Implications, NSF*

#### Xin He

*Develop and Analyze a Survey on the Psychosocial Aspects of HPV Related Oral Cancer, Ohio State University  
Selenium and Aging, NIH*

#### Jessica Goldberg

*Leveraging Patients’ Social Network to Overcome Tuberculosis Under-detection, NIAID*

#### John Ham

*Collaborative Research: Treatment Effects in Timing of Event Models with Random Assignment, Non-Compliance, and Grouping, NSF*

#### Brian Johnson

*Research Coordinating Network : Understanding Guilty Pleas, NSF*

#### Frauke Kreuter

*\*Collaborative Research: Decomposing Interviewer Variance in Standardized and Conversational Interviewing, NSF  
Collaborative Research: Interviewer Effects on Regression Coefficients Estimated from Survey Data, NSF  
Collaborative Research: Investigating the Utility of Interviewer Observations on Survey Response Processes, NSF*

#### Sangeetha Madhavan

*Measuring Kinship Support for Children in Informal Settlements in Nairobi, Kenya, NICHD*

#### Michael Rendall

*Inequality of First Family Formation in the 2000s: A Cross-National Analysis, Russell Sage Foundation  
Intergenerational Correlations of Overweight and Obesity in the U.S. Population, NICHD*

#### Leslie Turner

*The Returns to Higher Education for Marginal Students, Colorado DHS*

#### Sergio Urzua

*The Analysis of the Role of Cognitive and Non-cognitive skills in OECD Countries, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development  
Challenge in Elementary Schools, UMBC*



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