



# Maryland Population Research Center

in the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences  
University of Maryland

Spring 2014

## Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 2

### New Faculty Associates

**David Chae**, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Dr. Chae studies health disparities and the implications of stressors experienced by minorities. A particular focus of his research is on discrimination,



a qualitatively unique form of psychosocial stress that has been associated with poor mental health, harmful health behaviors, and indicators of chronic disease risk. Dr. Chae examines pathways linking discrimination and health, including family and relationship dynamics, dimensions of group identity, and implicit in-group bias. He examines these processes in relation to indicators of physiologic dysregulation, including inflammation, endocrine stress markers, and accelerated telomeric aging. Dr. Chae also studies how social factors at the area-level generate population patterns in health.

#### **Willow Lung-Amam**,

Assistant Professor, Urban Studies and Planning. Dr. Lung-Amam's scholarship focuses on link between social inequality and the built environment. She is interested in the changing metropolitan



geographies of race and immigration and the ways these hit home in local communities and urban spaces. Her work looks at the ways that communities are being re-shaped both socially and spatially by immigration and increasing social diversity, the forces behind and implications for immigrants' and minorities' shifting spatial locations, and the politics of place and place-making, especially in suburbia. Her interests have led to current research looking at trends in development of Asian faith institutions in Silicon Valley suburbia, Asian immigration and the politics of race in schools in the American South, and the impact of redevelopment projects on immigrants and communities of color in the Washington DC suburbs.

### Research Profile

#### Jie Chen, Epidemiology and Biostatistics

*"Prince George's County Health Enterprise Zone," Prince George's County, Maryland*

Dr. Jie Chen (Health Services Administration) is one of many MPRC faculty associates who use their academic expertise to identify solutions to urgent social problems. Dr. Chen has been selected as an external evaluator for the State of Maryland's recently announced Health Enterprise Zone project in Prince George's County, where her work will contribute to improving health outcomes for people living in disadvantaged neighborhoods.



The Health Enterprise Zone (HEZ) initiative is a four-year pilot program jointly administered by Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC) in order to address persistent and unacceptable health disparities in selected geographic areas. Three major goals of the initiative are to:

1. Reduce health disparities among racial and ethnic minority populations and among geographic areas;
2. Improve health care access and health outcomes in underserved communities; and
3. Reduce health care costs and hospital admissions and re-admissions.

To receive designation as an HEZ, community coalitions identified geographic areas in Maryland with documented economic disadvantage and poor health outcomes and proposed a creative plan for targeted investments in community health. Nineteen coalitions submitted proposals in Fall 2012, and five were selected: Capitol Heights in Prince George's County, Greater Lexington Park in St. Mary's County, Dorchester and Caroline Counties, West Baltimore, and Annapolis. Community coalitions in these areas will receive incentives, benefits, and priority grant funding to address health disparities.

DHMH Secretary Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein commented, "With the implementation of these Health Enterprise Zones Maryland is investing in smart ideas to improve health and reduce costs."

The Prince George's County HEZ focuses on Capitol Heights, a ZIP code that leads the country in poor health outcomes including low birth weight, insufficient prenatal care, and teen births, and is composed of 95% racial and ethnic minorities. The HEZ will create five new patient-centered medical homes in Capitol Heights to serve a minimum of 10,000 residents, and will add a total of 25 new healthcare providers. Over the next four years, the HEZ project aims to increase the accessibility and availability of primary care services in Capitol Heights; improve health outcomes; increase the number of community health workers; reduce the number of preventable hospitalizations and emergency room visits; and reduce unnecessary healthcare costs.

Dr. Jie Chen will play a pivotal role in the HEZ project as an external evaluator, responsible for evaluating community health needs as well as healthcare utilization, quality, and cost. She will evaluate health resources availability in Capitol Heights, and will track the cost-effectiveness and benefit analysis of HEZ interventions. Much of her work will be based on two Maryland State data sets: the Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients (CRISP) data set, and the Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) data set.

## **Research Profile** Frauke Kreuter

**"Decomposing Interviewer Variance in Standardized and Conversational Interviewing," National Science Foundation**

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



Dr. Frauke Kreuter's current work focuses on improving statistical and data collection methods.

She received grants in 2013 for two projects aimed at improving survey interview methods and developing new statistical methods for estimating causal effects when comparing data across different treatment groups.

The first project, funded by the National Science Foundation, compares two commonly used face-to-face interview methods, Standard Interviewing (SI) and Conversational Interviewing (CI), in order to examine the interviewer variance introduced by each technique into measurement error variance and nonresponse error variance among interviewers.

Standardized Interviewing (SI) requires survey interviewers to read questions as worded and provide only neutral or non-directive probes in response to questions from respondents. While many major surveys in the government, non-profit, and private sectors use SI in an effort to minimize the effects of interviewers on data quality, the existing literature shows that between-interviewer variance in key survey statistics still arises despite the assignment of random subsamples to interviewers. Despite proper training in SI, interviewers may still diverge from scripts because survey respondents often request additional information. By contrast, in Conversational Interviewing (CI), interviewers are trained to read questions as worded, initially, and then say whatever is required to help respondents understand the questions. Despite literature demonstrating that CI produces noticeable decreases in the measurement error bias of survey estimates, survey researchers (and governmental agencies in particular) have been hesitant to employ it in practice, in part because of increased questionnaire administration time but also due to the fear of increased interviewer variance.

Dr. Kreuter's project aims to compare the interviewer variance, bias, and mean squared error (MSE) arising in a variety of survey estimates from these two face-to-face interviewing techniques, and decompose the total interviewer variance introduced by each technique into measurement error variance and nonresponse error variance among interviewers. She will conduct original data collection in Germany.

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## Spring Seed Grant Awards

The Executive Committee announced three Seed Grant awards at its meeting in April 2014. The following projects were selected for funding.

### **Alok Bhargava, \$7,500**

*Analyzing the effects of food supplementation and adherence support on food insecurity, time allocation, and quality of life indices of patients on antiretroviral treatment in the Free State Province, South Africa.*

Prof. Bhargava, Public Policy, will analyze a longitudinal data set from a randomized controlled trial in Free State Province of South Africa involving over 600 AIDS patients receiving antiretroviral treatment. The effects of adherence support and food supplementation on patients' plasma HIV RNA levels, CD4 cell count, and quality of life indices will be modeled using the data from Control and Treatment groups via econometric techniques. The research in this seed grant will process the longitudinal data, and compute preliminary statistics and parameter estimates to facilitate the development of a larger research proposal.

### **Judith Hellerstein, \$15,000**

*Assortative Mating and Autism Spectrum Disorder*

In this project, Dr. Hellerstein, Economics, aims to examine whether and to what extent assortative mating influences autism spectrum disorder (ASD) diagnoses. To this end, she proposes an innovative empirical strategy relying on family relationships, occupations, education and ASD

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## New Faculty Affiliates

We welcome the following Faculty Affiliates from other institutions who recently joined MPRC.

### **Samuel Brown,**

Associate Professor of Public Administration, University of Maryland Baltimore. Dr. Brown has substantive knowledge of health-care financing theories, concepts, and processes and has over 20 years of experience with the principles and practices of health care delivery and financing and their related policies and programs. Prior to his current position he has worked at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Division of Aging and Disability where he oversaw research that impacted the



national legislative agenda. His research interests are focused on vulnerable populations: the poor, the disabled, and the elderly, with particular concerns toward access to care, and recently have grown to include demonstrating the value of health information technology in eliminating racial and ethnic disparities in health care.



**Seth Gitter,** Assistant Professor of Economics, Towson State University. Dr. Gitter holds a Ph.D. from the Agricultural and Applied Economics Department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a B.A. in Economics from Grinnell College. His research focuses on a variety of issues in Latin American countries including early childhood development,

cash transfers, schooling, migration and fair-trade coffee. He has received research grants from the Inter-American Development Bank and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development to study the effects of conditional cash transfers on early childhood development. His work has been published in *World Development*, *World Bank Economic Review*, and *The Journal of Development Studies*. He has also enjoyed publishing in other areas including on minor league baseball attendance and the Simpsons.

**Chang Won Lee,** Migration Research Centre, Korea International Organization of Migration. Dr. Lee, a former MPRC Student Research Affiliate, had been working on migration issues with MPRC Associate Patricio Korzeniewicz until he joined the Migration Research Centre in June 2013.

# REMEMBERING

## Suzanne Bianchi

“Our data suggest a complex and fascinating set of strategies that working parents have developed to maximize the time they spend with their children. By increasingly engaging in multitasking and incorporating their children in their own leisure activities, parents have deepened their time to circumvent the simple zero-sum trade-off between work and other areas of their lives. Mothers’ time diaries contain about as much time for leisure and sleep as in earlier decades. The big difference is that today’s mothers spend less time than their mothers doing housework. . .”

*Changing Rhythms of American Family Life, Chapter One*



I was the Chair when Suzanne was recruited from Census to join our faculty. It would be fair to say that at Maryland, Suzanne’s sociological imagination flourished. She was already a well-known demographer and in a short time, her reputation as both demographer and more general sociologist increased dramatically. She was elected President of the Population Association of America, served as Editor of *Demography*, published prolifically, but as much as anything, when I think of her time at Maryland, her most important role and contribution may have been the era during which she led the demography program from being departmental to becoming a university-wide activity. She helped craft a proposal for University funding to enlarge and establish the Maryland Population Research Center. Our proposal was ranked first among all UMD proposals in a

competition for “enhancement” funds. This led to us getting two new faculty lines and the money to fund them; it provided support for MPRC staff, renovated space, and graduate students; it also led to our initial proposal to NICHD for a “Center” grant. It was truly a joyful occasion when we were informed that the proposal would be funded, something which happened a second time under Suzanne’s leadership. In my nearly 40 years of being a professor, I can honestly say that Suzanne Bianchi is one of the two most selfless, prominent colleagues I have ever had the good fortune to know. Whether Californian or Washingtonian or Terp or Iowan, Suzanne Bianchi was a treasure. It was truly a privilege to know and work closely with her.

– William Falk,  
Professor of Sociology

*Whether Californian or Washingtonian or Terp or Iowan, Suzanne Bianchi was a treasure.*

A few years ago, after she had left for UCLA, we were both invited to one of Penn State’s family conferences, she as a keynote, I as one of her discussants. I hadn’t seen her around the U, and didn’t realize how much time she was still spending in DC with her family. She wrote to me and offered to drive me to Penn State, which was thoughtful and important; I hadn’t even yet begun to think about how / when I would get there. We had a lovely drive and enjoyed talking together about families in general and specifically, our own experiences of work and family. We both felt that despite moments of depression over



the many work-family conflicts, when we thought we were doing each worse than if we’d done either alone, we both felt our families had benefited from our work (and not just financially), and our work had certainly benefited by our family experiences! She was so kind, and so thoughtful. I share her children’s experience of losing an adored mother early in adulthood, and I hope they share my experience - of finding her memory to be a blessing.

– Frances Goldscheider,  
Professor of Family Science

Before our academic careers, Suzanne and I held rare research positions at the Census Bureau, but our personal lives had a huge similarity. Over lunch with her at the student union in 2001, I explained my lifestyle as a sociology professor at Mississippi State University who had had multiple commuting stints with my husband working in New Jersey and Washington. I understand Suzanne later had one of the most difficult of commutes--East coast-West coast. So very much, Suzanne epitomizes the realm of possible accomplishments to which we aspire personally and professionally.

– Karen Woodrow-Lafied,  
Research Professor, UMD

More remembrances on page 4

Most of what I did as Director of the Center for Research on Military Organization involved outreach. After 9/11/2001, I received many requests from the media for interviews, and from federal agencies for advice. In 2006, one of our alumni, Morten Ender, suggested that I be nominated for the American Sociological Association's Award for Public Understanding of Sociology. He felt it would both honor his mentor and bring disciplinary recognition to his alma mater. I was flattered, but not enthusiastic. I suspected that this would require a great deal of effort, with minimal chance of success. I nonetheless mentioned the idea to Suzanne, then Chair of the Sociology Department. She argued that I deserved the award, agreed that it would be good for the Department and the University, and her estimate of likelihood of success was higher than mine. She undertook a major nomination campaign. She identified 91 electronic media interviews with me or print media quotations from me in 2005 and 81 in 2006. She elicited support for the nomination from sociologists across the country, and from journalists representing newspapers of record (*Christian Science Monitor*, *Washington Post*), local print media (*Baltimore Sun*), national electronic media (NPR, CNN), and emerging internet media (Salon). She also solicited support from members of the Congress and officials in the Executive branch.

Her campaign required a great deal of effort but was successful. I received the award. I also received a deluge of email from colleagues, including alumni of our Department, with many of whom I had never worked, congratulating me on the award and saying how proud they were to be associated with Maryland. And the army, influenced in part by the award, continued our status as their Center of Excellence in Military Sociology and its associated funding.

Suzanne had been correct. She had gone above and beyond in her role as Chair. I shall be forever grateful for her efforts.

— David Segal, Professor of Sociology and  
Director of the Center for Research on Military Organization, UMD



Suzanne had high standards, and she demanded her students do their best work. My dissertation on father involvement was a tough project. It took me two years to finish. Suzanne asked me to test many different hypotheses and kept pushing me to do more and more. There was a time I felt like giving up (glad I didn't). I think she saw something there that was worth pursuing, and she pushed. To this day, I still use her phrases on a daily basis: "Past success predicts the future" and "A deadline is the best strategy for getting things done." Despite all the titles and awards she achieved, Suzanne was a very modest person. She treated everyone with respect, whether it was a first year student or a well-known scholar in the field.

— Wendy Wang, Research Associate,  
Pew Research Center

*Despite all the titles and awards she achieved, Suzanne was a very modest person. She treated everyone with respect, whether it was a first year student or a well-known scholar in the field.*

Suzanne was more than a mentor and advisor: she was an academic mother, who knew how to be both understanding and demanding, depending on whether her students needed encouragement or correction. There are three aspects of her work and her character in which she will always be a role model for me:

- Not making herself indispensable: She was very keen in getting her students connected with other people
- Giving thorough feedback and not dodging the difficult piece of advice; this could be daunting. . .
- Being always there. . .

Javier Garcia-Mangano, Research Fellow  
in Sociology, University of Oxford

When I first came to UMD in 1998 I soon became affiliated with the MPRC. I was asked to give a talk on my time allocation research that included a focus on women's work and health. I remember the talk, which was attended by a number of sociology colleagues, including Suzanne. I didn't know anyone yet, or their work and reputations. I remember Suzanne in the room and her being so collegial and sincerely interested in my approach and results. I only realized much later that she knew so much more about the topic than I did, and that she could have been much more critical of my approach, given her use of survey research methods, versus my use of random spot observations of time use. But, she saw the complementary and the possible collaborations. No intellectual turf wars or egos to defend. Over the years since that first meeting, she was always so helpful and unselfish with her time. In some later research, I compared anthropological approaches with some methods in sociology and used Suzanne's work as an example, and she offered other comparative information. Again, always with a generous heart! I kept somewhat in touch after she moved to UCLA, my *alma mater*. Throughout, I have always thought of her as the model colleague and researcher, very smart, insightful, productive and incredibly modest and kind. I will miss her but she continues to serve as one of my role models.

— Michael Paolisso,  
Professor of Anthropology, UMD

Suzanne was a major player in the Explaining Family Change project that I funded (and participated in) during my last years at NICHD. I remember coming to many meetings here at UMD that she hosted. She was an incredibly effective and graceful leader of an often difficult group!

— Christine Bachrach, former Chief,  
Demographic and Behavioral Sciences  
Branch, NICHD

## PAA Scholars

Fifty-three MPRC scholars presented or were co-authors on presentations at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America. The event took place on May 1-3 at the Copley Place Marriott Hotel in Boston, Massachusetts. The event saw 29 Faculty Associates and 23 Student Research Affiliates participating.

MPRC faculty chaired five sessions:

- **Feinian Chen**, Intergenerational Relations, Session 56
- **Philip Cohen**, Race and Gender Inequality in Economic Outcomes, Session 213
- **Gniesha Dinwiddie**, Demography and Ethno-Racial Inequality I, Session 37
- **Sandra Hofferth**, The Future of Data Collection for Population Research, Session 133
- **Julie Park**, Economic Outcomes for Immigrants in Developed Countries, Session 198

Philip Cohen, Laurie Derose, Frances Goldscheider (2), and Liana Sayer served as discussants.

### **Seed Grants, continued from page 2**

diagnoses obtained from Danish registers for the entire population of Denmark to causally identify the impact of assortative mating on autism incidence. The project will provide the first large-scale empirical assessment of medical theories linking assortative mating to ASD prevalence and it will investigate how the relationship between assortative mating and ASD prevalence has changed over time. During the Seed Grant award year Hellerstein will use the labor and population registries to begin to document the extent of assortative mating by systematizing occupation and education path of grandfathers, both in cross-section of birth cohorts and over time. The team also will begin to process data from the psychiatric registry. They will continue engagement with medical experts in ASD and with the related literature and will incorporate any new information into the study design for submission of an external grant proposal.

### **Edmond Shenassa, et al., \$15,000**

*Ambient Air Pollution, Chronic Stress, and Racial / Ethnic Disparities in Poor Birth Outcomes*

Joining Dr. Shenassa, Family Science, on this project are Sandra Hofferth, Klaus Hubacek, and Robin Puett.

Building on the expertise of, and work already completed by, the team, the aim of the work proposed in this Seed-Grant



**Luoman Bao discusses her poster "Family Structure and Role Transitions: Implications for the Psychology of Filipino Women" with conferees at the PAA Annual Meeting in Boston. Fifty-two Center affiliates took part in the three-day conference.**

### **Kreuter, continued from page 2**

The second project, funded by an NIH/NIHM sub-award through Johns Hopkins University, develops and assesses new statistical methods for estimating causal effects in the presence of measurement error and differential measurement error in the covariates across treatment groups. The results will enable better estimation of causal effects in settings where randomized trials are infeasible or unethical. The project also aims to improve options for data and resource sharing, by developing methods that will help researchers use propensity score methods when combining data sources.

The work is motivated by three studies in mental health evaluating the effectiveness of (1) a perinatal depression prevention program, (2) depression screening and treatment in primary care, and (3) early intervention for children with autism. In each study the group receiving intervention will be compared to a comparison group from an external data source. Simulation studies will be used to assess the performance of the methods. In two of the three motivating examples a randomized trial of the intervention will allow researchers to compare results to determine how well the method is working.

*Complete information on the MPRC Seed Grant opportunity can be found on the MPRC website:  
[www.popcenter.umd.edu/resources/scholar-dev/seed-grant-program](http://www.popcenter.umd.edu/resources/scholar-dev/seed-grant-program)*

application is to provide foundational information in support of an application to NIH to conduct a study to examine the extent to which the elevated risk of poor birth outcomes observed among some minority populations is due to exacerbating effect of simultaneous exposure to both chronic stress and environmental pollutants. This ambitious work includes two broadly defined stages: Creation of a hierarchical dataset by nesting individual-level data on birth outcomes (along with relevant covariates) within census-tract level data on environmental pollutants. This hierarchical dataset will allow the team to: a) assess the association between

exposure to environmental pollutants and risk of neonatal mortality, low birth-weight (LBW) and pre-term birth (PTB); b) estimate the degree to which disparities in birth outcomes can be explained by disparities in exposure to environmental pollutants.

In the second stage they will analyze laboratory data, available at the Data Center at the National Center for Health Statistics, to assess the physiologic burden of chronic stress and examine the interaction of this physiologic burden of chronic stress and exposure to environmental pollutants on the risk of neonatal mortality, LBW, and PTB.



Quincy Stewart, Associate Professor of Sociology at Northwestern University, presents on using agent-based modeling to investigate racism at an MPRC Spring Seminar.

## Spring Seminar Series

The MPRC Spring Seminar Series - one of our most ambitious, organized by Interim Associate Director Christine Bachrach - included 12 talks and a special panel session dedicated to Environmental population research on April 23. The series underscores MPRC's dedication to interdisciplinary collaboration, with talks ranging from a perspective on the effects of storms on the labor market to a session on children and migration between Mexico and the U.S.

In addition to campus researchers, the series included visiting scholars from Penn State, Johns Hopkins, Vanderbilt, Cornell, University of Massachusetts, University of North Carolina, Northwestern, and American University.

The panel session on April 23 included Michael Paolisso (Anthropology), Sacoby Wilson (Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health), and Christina Prell (Sociology) and was titled "Environmental Actions: Culture, Justice, Social, and Health Considerations."

### Proposal Submissions

You can use a quick and easy form to let us know about your proposal :

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



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## Innovation in an Aging Society

John Ham was recently awarded a five-year, \$220,000 subcontract on an NIA grant to work on a project designed to understand how innovative output changes during a scientist's late career and especially as they approach retirement. The team will begin by documenting trends in innovative output (as measured by scientific publications, patents, and citations) in the late career and estimating how the aging of our innovative workforce will affect innovative output. Next, they will estimate how changes in retirement policies will affect when researchers retire; how the age of retirement affects innovative output; and how changes in retirement policies will affect the production of innovative output. The team will use the estimates to impute how possible changes in retirement policies will affect the production of innovative output.

## Recent Awards

Three proposals submitted through the Proposal Development service offered by MPRC's Administrative Core were recently funded.

### John Ham, Co-Investigator

"Innovation in an Aging Society", a five-year, \$220,000 grant from NIA (subcontract from NBER)

### Frauka Kreuter, Co-Investigator

"Using propensity scores for causal inference with covariate measurement error," a five-year grant from NIMH (\$122,000 subcontract from Johns Hopkins University)

### Frauka Kreuter, PI

"Collaborative Research: Decomposing Interviewer Variance in Standardized and Conversational Interviewing," a two-year, \$36,000 grant from the National Science Foundation.  
(See Research Profile on page two)

## Grant Submissions

Between November and February MPRC Administrative Core personnel helped Principal Investigators and their collaborators to propose over \$3.4 million in new funding.

### Michael Rendall

"Intergenerational reproduction of U.S. trends in obesity and obesity disparities", NICHD

### Sangeetha Madhavan

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

### Alok Bhargava

"Health Status, Food Security and Productivity of AIDs Patients in South Africa", NICHD

### Ruth Zambrana

"Medical Adherence Program for Hispanics (MAP-H) Improving Medication Adherence and Quality of Life (QOL) among U.S. Hispanics with Diabetes: A Patient-Centered Intervention", PCORI

## Geospatial services

Paul Torrens available to consult with MPRC Faculty Associates

Dr. Paul Torrens, Geographical Sciences and the Institute of Advanced Computer Studies, is available to assist MPRC researchers with incorporating considerations for geocoding, geographic information, and geospatial resources into research proposals. Consultation can take the form of reviewing options for analysis of existing data or looking at methods of collecting data with a geospatial component during surveys.