



Maryland Population Research Center

in the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences
University of Maryland

Fall 2014

Newsletter

Volume 7, Issue 1

New Faculty

MPRC welcomes four new Faculty Associates who were accepted by the Executive Committee during the Spring semester.



Kerry Green, Associate Professor, Behavioral and Community Health, is a prevention scientist whose work has concentrated on improving the health and well-being of dis-

advantaged populations. Specifically, her research has focused on identifying the causes of negative outcomes over the life course among urban African Americans. Her work has concentrated on improving the health and well-being of disadvantaged populations with the primary focus in two areas: (1) long-term consequences of substance use and (2) the interrelationship of substance use and mental health over the life course. Critical aspects of her work involve identifying the prevention implications of her findings and applying methodological advances to complex public health questions.



Marian Moser-Jones, Assistant Professor, Family Science, has gained expertise in the history of disasters, crises, and hazards, and in the ideological and contingent factors

that have shaped large-scale responses to them. Her work has spanned the history of disaster relief in the U.S., and the development of voluntary disaster relief institutions. She has examined how race,

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Proposal Submissions

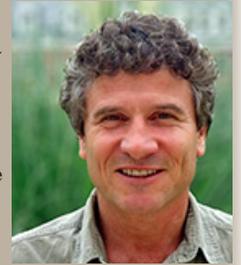
Center staff are dedicated to providing the best possible support to scholars seeking external funding.

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

Note from the Director

It is with great pleasure that I welcome everyone back this fall to our new space in Morrill Hall (see story below). Through the foresight and support of the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences and especially outgoing Dean John Townshend and Acting Dean Wayne McIntosh, the Center was able to move, in June, to this historic and now extensively refurbished building at the center of the traditional Maryland campus just up the hill from the Memorial Chapel and between Tydings and Lefrak halls. It is a great privilege to be here, and I invite everyone to make the greatest possible use of the excellent space and facilities in our floors of the building. It is also a great privilege for me to be the first to occupy the Morrill Hall MPRC Director's office (2101B). Yet I owe a tremendous debt to each of the MPRC Directors before me, without whose excellent and often visionary leadership our Center could not have claimed such a "promotion" to this outstanding new place on the hill. None stands out more highly than our Center's founding director, Suzanne Bianchi, who tragically passed away far too soon just under a year ago (see the memorial feature story in the Spring 2014 Newsletter). The Morrill Hall second floor meeting room (2101C) is accordingly to be named in her honor, and will be celebrated as part of the building's official opening by the Vice President for Research in October. Also to be named in Suzanne's honor is a summer graduate student research award, towards which I invite you to contribute generously (<http://ter.ps/BianchiFund>). The inaugural MPRC summer graduate student grant awardees of 2014, in a program seeded with core Center funds, are described in an item on page 4.



I wish also to welcome back as Associate Director Sangeetha Madhavan, whose productivity during her sabbatical is apparent from her exciting upcoming research involving interdisciplinary collaboration here at Maryland (with Paul Torrens in Geographical Sciences) and with additional collaborators in Canada and Kenya (see Research Profile, page 3). With this welcome I also would like to express my gratitude to Chris Bachrach for having so ably and willingly served as interim Associate Director in addition to her duties as PAA President and Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholars Program Co-Director. One of the successful initiatives pursued by Chris was deepening our collaborative efforts across the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences and the School of Public Health. One of the results of this is a sharing of MPRC Seminar sites between Morrill Hall and the SPH Building (see page 3).

MPRC moves to an exciting new space



Morrill Hall, the longest serving structure on the University of Maryland campus, has many stories to tell. The story of the Maryland Population Research Center now becomes part of that time-honored fabric.

Facilities

The third floor of Morrill Hall houses the MPRC Computing Core. We have enlarged and improved the Secure Data Laboratory to include six workstations. As before, researchers can access restricted datasets including AddHealth, NSLY '79 and '97,

PSID, and other data as needed, on a project-by-project basis. A "breakout" space for collaborative meetings is also available in the Computing-Core quadrant.

The second floor houses the Administrative and Information Cores, including a dedicated conference room capable of seating 8-10 persons and housing a new state-of-the-art teleconferencing facility. MPRC Working Groups and individual project meetings will be held in this space, and an electronic system will be available to make reservations. Also in the 2101 quadrant are two flexible individual workspace tables and a kitchen available to all MPRC building users.

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Faculty News, continued from page 1

class, and gender politics shape the effects of disasters on different populations in the U.S. Her book on the American Red Cross and several published articles deal with this subject as well as the related subject of first aid. She has also examined the U.S. institutional response to the crisis of homelessness in several articles, and she has also published an article on the regulatory history of household poisons in the U.S.

Andrés Villarreal, Professor, Sociology, (see Research Profile, below), focuses on four broad areas of research: internal and international migration, race and ethnicity, crime and violence, and social inequality. All of his research is carried out within the context of Latin America,

Population Working Papers Series

MPRC participates in the Population Working Paper Series project. Faculty Associates can make papers available to an audience of population researchers. Info: MPRC-support@umd.edu.

with a special focus on Mexico. His work has appeared in the *American Sociological Review*, the *American Journal of Sociology*, *Demography*, and *Social Forces*, among other peer-reviewed journals. Dr. Villarreal is currently heading the Migration Research Laboratory at the Maryland Population Research Center.



Wei-Hsin Yu, Professor, Sociology, is a sociologist and social demographer specializing in the areas of social stratification and gender inequality. Her research generally fo-

cus on how macrolevel forces influence individuals, paying special attention to their labor market trajectories, economic outcomes, family behaviors and psychological health. Most of her research is based on East Asian societies, especially Japan, China, and Taiwan. She has published two books and many journal articles. Before joining the University of Maryland, she was a faculty member at the University of Texas at Austin.

Research Profile

Andrés Villarreal

"Mexico-U.S. Migration During the Great Recession," NIH



The rate of Mexican migration to the United States has declined precipitously in recent years. The annual international migration rate for Mexican adults dropped from 15.6 migrants per thousand residents in 2005 to only 4 per thousand in 2011. If sustained, this low migration rate is likely to have a profound effect on the ethnic and national-origin composition of the US population. Given the disparities in health and social wellbeing between the immigrant and native populations, the lower migration rate may also have important implications for public policy in the years to come. But so far we do not fully understand the origins of the decline in Mexico-US migration, or the

associated changes in the characteristics of individuals that are more likely to migrate. Previous studies rely largely on a descriptive analysis of migration trends and are therefore unable to systematically test competing explanations against each other.

Dr. Andrés Villarreal is using data from the Mexican National Occupation and Employment Survey (Encuesta Nacional de Ocupación y Empleo, ENOE), a nationally-representative panel survey of Mexican households conducted on a quarterly basis, to estimate the decline in Mexico-US migration from 2005 to 2012. He will test the effect that the slowdown in economic growth and reduction in labor demand in different sectors of the US economy had on the rate of international migration from Mexico. He will also examine changes in the selectivity of Mexican migrants during the period of rapidly declining migration. In particular, he will consider whether changing economic conditions in the US led to shifts in the educational selectivity of international migrants.

Understanding the causal origins of the decline in migration from Mexico may indicate the direction of future trends. If the decline is primarily a result of worse employment prospects for migrants as a consequence of the US recession, then Mexican migration may be expected to pick up again as the economy recovers. If, on the contrary, the decline is due to more permanent changes in the Mexican economy or demographic changes that are not easily reversible (such as fertility changes), then the migration rate may be expected to remain low. Estimating the changes in the gender, age and educational selectivity of migrants is important because such changes will affect the relative composition of the foreign-born population in the US, with possible long-term implications for labor markets and health disparities.

MPRC Working Groups

This semester MPRC is sponsoring several working groups, with the goal of fostering interdisciplinary collaboration on key topics that are of interest in population research. Working groups provide a mechanism for faculty and graduate students to build relationships, trade ideas, and provide feedback on current work. This semester, working groups will be organized around several interest areas: Culture and Population; I-Health and Well Being; Immigration; and Qualitative Research. There will also be a graduate student led Journal Club.

Cultural and Population Working Group

Cultural processes underlie many of the human trends that are the subject of demographic research, but the effective integration of culture in population research poses conceptual, modeling, and measurement challenges. The Culture and Population Working Group brings together MPRC faculty associates and graduate students from a variety of disciplines to discuss issues relating to culture and population research. The group will hold three meetings in Fall 2014, all focused on the effect of parental status and behaviors on their children. Each meeting will begin with presentations of original research to start a general discussion of the issues. For more information, please contact Monica Das Gupta (mdasgupt@umd.edu) or Sangeetha Madhavan (smadhava@umd.edu).

I-Health and Well Being Working Group

The mission of the I-Health and Well Being Working Group is to support scholarship that investigates a myriad of health issues using interdisciplinary perspectives from scholars in public health, the social sciences, STEM fields, and other disciplines. This working group provides a forum for health scholars across the UMD campus to discuss the determinants of infant, child, and youth health; health and aging; and the impact of health care systems and social programs on health outcomes. The group supports scholarship by providing peer reviewed comments on working papers, facilitates cross campus collaboration on research grants, and organizes guest presentations by distinguished health scholars. For more information, please contact Gneisha Dinwiddie (gnieshad@umd.edu).

Immigration Working Group

The Immigration Working Group, led by Karen Woodrow-Lafield and Andrés Villarreal, brings together researchers interested in all aspects of migration and immigration in both the US and global

contexts. An important focus is data collection and data sources on immigration and immigrants. The primary goal of the working group is to cultivate a cadre of on-campus researchers interested in this increasingly important topic. All interested faculty associates and graduate students are welcome to join. For more information, contact Karen Woodrow-Lafield (kwoodrow@umd.edu) or Andrés Villarreal (avilla4@umd.edu).

Qualitative Research Interest Group

Co-sponsored with the Consortium on Race, Gender, and Ethnicity, QRIG explores qualitative methods for demography. QRIG seeks to elevate the profile of mixed qualitative methodologies at UM through programs designed to facilitate collaborative research and inquiry; a lecture series showcasing important and path-breaking qualitative scholarship; and a program of research seed grants for junior faculty conducting mixed qualitative intersectional research. For more information, see the Consortium on Race, Gender, and Ethnicity website (<http://www.cрге.umd.edu/qrig.html>).

Welcome Visiting Students

MPRC is hosting two visiting students during the coming academic year. Both are living in the Washington DC area while completing work on their dissertations.

Mahesh Somashaekar comes to us from Princeton University. He is working on the impact of migrant communities on the communities that host them.

Reid Hamel has been studying at the University of California at Berkeley and is working on food security issues, especially as related to population management policy.

New Journal Club Serves as a Springboard for Young Scholars

The MPRC Journal Club is a brand new student-directed initiative helping young scholars to review literature, connect with senior scholars, and develop research plans of their own. The Journal Club will meet regularly to evaluate current research in major population journals (Demography, Population and Development Review, Demographic Research, Population Studies and American Journal of Public Health). The Club offers a valuable opportunity for graduate students from across the university to deepen their understanding of the field by assessing the strengths

Research Profile

Sangeetha Madhavan

“Measuring Kinship Support for Children of Single Mothers”, NICHD

With pending award of an NICHD R21 grant, Prof. Madhavan and her colleagues plan to pilot and assess the feasibility of a new survey instrument to collect data on kinship support for young children of single mothers living in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya. These children are disadvantaged by their precarious environment, characterised by lack of sanitation, limited health care facilities, congested and low-quality housing, and wide-spread unemployment and poverty. Children born in the slums of Nairobi are significantly more likely to die than children in the rest of Kenya. Moreover, high rates of premarital childbirth, union dissolution, and adult mortality result in a large proportion of children who are raised by single mothers. As in most African contexts, however, these single mothers are assumed to receive considerable economic support and childcare assistance from their residential and non-residential extended kin. However, kinship support is potentially declining due to three processes under way in many African contexts: 1) increased distance between children and extended kin due to high rates of female migration, particularly to informal settlements in urban locations; 2) pervasive poverty which limits the ability of kin to provide support; and 3) transformation of views on marriage, women’s roles, and family norms, with a greater reliance on conjugal bonds than kinship ties. As a result, the team hypothesizes that there might be enormous variation in the type and amount of kinship support that children of poor, urban, single mothers receive which, in turn, could put their health and well-being at risk.



2014 Fall Seminar Series to host 14 scholars

New location: 1101 Morrill; some sessions to be held at the School of Public Health



An ambitious schedule of 13 events featuring 14 scholars gets underway on Wednesday, September 17, at 3:00 p.m. in the Morrill Hall conference room (1101 Morrill). The speaker will be **Carolyn J. Heinrich**, Sid Richardson Professor, Dept. of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin.

Two innovations have been introduced with this Fall’s schedule: First, several meetings will be held at 3:00 p.m. instead of the usual 12:00 noon. Second, three meetings will take place in the School of Public Health. The first of these will be **Kathy Edin**, Distinguished Professor, Dept. of Sociology, Johns Hopkins University. She will speak on Monday, September 29, at 12:00 noon, in Room 2236 SPH.

Heinrich

Other visiting scholars will be **Cristobal Young**, Stanford University; **Katharine Donato**, Vanderbilt University; **Erin Kelly**, University of Minnesota; **Rosalind King**, NICHD; **Amar Hamoudi**, Duke University; **Jason Schnittker**, University of Pennsylvania; **David Harding**, University of California Berkeley; **David Figlio**, Northwestern University; **Dan Smith**, Brown University.

University of Maryland speakers will include **Andrés Villarreal**, Sociology; **David Chae**, Epidemiology and Biostatistics; **Karoline Mortensen**, Health Services Administration.

Complete, up-to-date information can always be found on the MPRC website.

and weaknesses of current research and by tapping into the knowledge of senior population scholars at the university. The Club will also serve as a forum for members to exchange ideas and generate innovative plans for new research.

Sessions will take place on three Fridays from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM on September 19, October 17, and November 14. These

sessions will be held in MPRC’s new meeting space in 2101C Morrill Hall. For more information about the specific topics for each session, or to volunteer to serve as a faculty mentor, please contact Tyler Myroniuk (myroniuk@umd.edu) or Kriti Vikram (kvikram@umd.edu). Information is also available on the MPRC website.

Grant Submissions

Center scholars have been busy during the first part of 2014. So far, MPRC Administrative Core personnel have helped Principal Investigators and their collaborators to propose over \$3.2 million in new funding.

Alok Bhargava

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

Feinian Chen

"Adding Gender to Contextual Data in a Longitudinal Study of Health and Aging", NICHD

Jessica Goldberg

"Collaborative Research: Fingerprinting to Reduce Risky Borrowing", NSF

Judith Hellerstein

"Did Residential Labor Market Networks Help Workers Recover from the Great Recession?", RSF

Frauke Kreuter

"Investigating the Utility of Interviewer Observations on the Survey Response Process", NIH

"Collaborative Research: Interviewer Effects on Regression Coefficients Estimated from Survey Data", NSF

Michael Rendall

"Modeling Disparities in Unintended Pregnancies and Unmet need for Infertility Services using Combined-Survey Multiple Imputation", NICHD

"Intergenerational correlations of overweight and obesity in the U.S. population", NICHD

Leslie Turner

"Nudging Students into Better Borrowing Decisions", Lumina subcontract

New space, continued from page 1

The 2102 quadrant consists of three rooms with a total of 13 workstation or laptop work spaces and a table for collaborative meetings. The flexible work spaces in this quadrant are designed mainly with Student Research Affiliates in mind. Because these work stations cannot be reserved, lockers are provided for storing personal and work items.

The second of the two 5-person flexible work space rooms in this quadrant, the Computer Lab, contains machines with specialized software such as SAS, Stata, Atlas-ti, and ArcGIS. We anticipate that Student Research Affiliates, members of the MPRC community with needs for such software, and overflow flexible-space users will take advantage of this space. While work stations are provided, there is also room for use of your laptop.

An additional room in this quadrant contains three dedicated work desks for Graduate Assistants working on projects funded through MPRC and a small table for "breakout" collaborative meetings.

The 2106 quadrant includes printing facilities, one or more flexible workspace desks, and dedicated workspaces and offices for Graduate Research Assistants and MPRC research scientists and visiting researchers.

These facilities will be available 24-hours-per-day for currently active Faculty Associates and Student Research Affiliates. (*Note: As part of maintaining active status, Student Research Affiliates will be expected to attend at least two MPRC seminars per semester.*)

Services

All of the services you've come to expect from MPRC are up and running. As always, programming assistance is available by appointment for statistical and mathematical packages such as SAS, Stata, Matlab, Mathematica, MPI and Parallel Computing. Four-week courses in SAS, Stata, and ArcGIS will continue be offered using state-of-the-art training facilities in Lefrak Hall.

Center staff work continuously on various grant proposals and are available to work with you on your plans to secure funding.

Likewise, we are helping to set up access to dedicated server space and, if needed, high-performance computing resources to support statistical research.

As usual, the Center provides guidance on knowledge management and support for report building, press releases, graphics development, and website development.

See you soon

MPRC is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily, and Associates and Student Affiliates will have access 24-hours-per-day via card swipe of your university ID. We look forward to seeing you in our new space.



Student flexible work spaces in the 2102 quadrant



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2014 Summer Student Research Grant Competition

Winners of the Center's first summer student research competition received summer research funding to prepare papers for the 2015 PAA Conference

In its first year, this program drew proposals from 11 Student Research Affiliates. We congratulate the following students who were awarded grants:

Hyeeun Chung, Family Science, "Asian American Subgroup Differences of Adolescent Emotional and Behavioral Problems: The Role of Cultural Values and Family Functioning."

Tyler Myroniuk, Sociology, "The Influence of Marital Status and Dissolutions on the Health of Older Individuals in a Rural African Context."

MPRC Summer Research Grants are awards intended to provide promising MPRC Student Research Affiliates with summer research time or other research resources to complete work on a paper or extended abstract to submit to the Population Association of America (PAA) Annual Conference. MPRC Summer Research Grants carry a total award amount of \$4,000, which may be spent on a summer stipend or on other research resources (such as for data purchases or travel related to research objectives).