Faculty Associate News

Liana Sayer is coordinating the 6th biennial University of Maryland Time Use conference, this year titled Time Use Across the Life Course and taking place June 27-28, 2016. This will be followed by the Workshop on 1965-2014 American and European Time Use Surveys, organized by **Sandra Hofferth** as part of her NICHD project Time Use Data Access System.

Visiting scholars **Marian MacDorman** and **Ui Jeong Moon** are working with Sandra Hofferth on separate projects.

Fenian Chen is hosting **Dr. Xiaohong Ma** from Beijing Administrative College; they are working on research for presentation at the 2017 PAA Annual Conference.

Jinhee Kim will be Associate Director of a new $7.2 million project titled, "Together: A Couples' Model to Enhance Relationships and Economic Stability."

The project, led by Mariana Falconier, a Maryland alumna now at Virginia Tech, aims to promote healthy relationships and economic stability among couples from low-income groups. It is funded by the federal Office of Family Assistance, Administration of Children and Families.
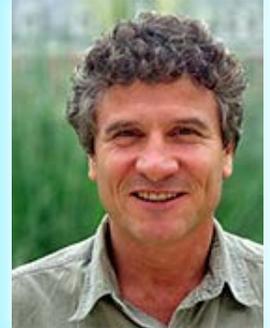
The most up-to-date information about Center activities can always be found on the website :

www.popcenter.umd.edu

Director's Note

It is with pleasure again that I welcome everyone back to an exciting semester of activities at MPRC, beginning with the Monday February 1st Center Meeting and continuing with our first speaker of the Spring seminar series on Monday the 8th. The Spring is set to be a time of Center outreach that will highlight several of the long-running strengths of the MPRC. One of these is the June back-to-back time use conference and workshop. The 2016 conference continues a ten-year history of successful MPRC-sponsored time use conferences dating back to 2005. We owe a great debt to the intellectual leadership of the late **Harriet Presser** and the late **Suzanne Bianchi**. Both promoted time use a major theme of population research in their respective PAA Presidential addresses and in their enormously influential research output on the topic. We owe also a great debt to current MPRC Research Associate, **Katharine Abraham** (Professor of Economics and Survey Methodology) who, as Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics from 1993 to 2001, played a significant role in the development of the American Time Use Survey (ATUS) and, after returning to the University of Maryland, organized the 2005 ATUS Early Results Conference and was in 2007 part of the core team that organized the first-ever meeting of the International Association of Time Use Research to be held in the United States. The international dimension of MPRC's time research activities are to the fore in both this June's time use conference, organized by **Liana Sayer** (Professor of Sociology and Director of the Maryland Time Use Laboratory) and ATUS-X workshop, organized by **Sandra Hofferth** (Professor of Family Science and Director of the Maternal and Child Health Program). A second major outreach activity occurs in March, with the India Human Development Survey (IHDS) User Conference, co-organized by MPRC Associates **Sonalde Desai** and **Reeve Vanneman** (both Professors of Sociology). The IHDS is a panel survey that collected in its 2004-05 and 2011-12 waves extensive data on a wide range of topics including income, expenditure, employment, morbidity, health expenditure, marriage, fertility, and education from a sample of over 42,000 households representative of one of the world's two demographic giants. Closer to home, at the invitation of the U.S. Census Bureau, MPRC has recently joined the Census Information Center (CIC) Program. The CIC is a partnership between the Census Bureau and 52 non-profit national and community-based organizations. MPRC will aid in outreach through our Associates' research activities in the local Prince George's Country community.

Report
7th African Population Conference

The Union for African Population Studies (UAPS) is part of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) and brings together academics, policy makers, and government officials worldwide who are conducting population-relevant research on the African continent.

MPRC Associate Director Sangeetha Madhavan attended the General Meetings of the UAPS in Johannesburg, South Africa, in December. She reports that topics of particular interest at this conference included the demographic dividend, increasing use of big data, modeling Ebola related mortality and migration / urbanization. The keynote address was given by the Minister of Social Development of the government of South Africa, which also co-sponsored the meetings.

New Associate Research Profile
Maureen Cropper

Dr. Maureen Cropper, Chair of the Department of Economics, conducts research in several areas of population and environment. She has worked extensively in the field of pollution and health, led and informed environmental policy in the U.S. and India, and is currently engaged in research that investigates how climate influences the location decisions of individuals in the U.S. She is also co-Chairing a National Academy of Sciences study that aims to determine the social cost of carbon in the U.S., so as to inform federal regulations on carbon emissions.

Dr. Cropper's focus on environment and health has manifested in a wide range of work, across both disciplines and countries. She worked with epidemiologists early in her career, collecting and analyzing data to determine the cause-effect relationship between pollution and health. Her work extended to a study on air pollution and health in India in the 1990's, and also contributed to the U.S. Clean Air Act through her 14 year tenure with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Science Advisory Board.

Her research in the U.S. is currently based on two main projects: 1) co-Chairing a National Academy of Sciences study which seeks to determine the social cost of carbon and the impact of carbon emissions on people and the environment both domestically and internationally, so as to inform federal policies on moving towards a potential carbon tax, as has been implemented in British Columbia and Europe, 2) research on climate change and migration wherein, together with graduate students, she aims to determine how climate influences where people move, and how climate informs the costs and benefits of living in metropolitan areas in the U.S.

In India, Dr. Cropper is currently engaged in research with air quality modelers, to determine the health and social cost of Sulphur Dioxide emissions from coal fired industrial plants, which may further inform policies to protect the environment and people of India.

Dr. Cropper's work flows between academic research, policy making, and advocacy, and is just as vital to issues of population and health in India as it is in the U.S.

Working Groups

The MPRC has three working groups that meet several times each semester: the Immigration Working Group, the Selected Topics Working group focused on Child Health for the 2015-16 academic year, and the Journal Club.

The working groups on Immigration and Child Health aim to further interdisciplinary research and develop future scholars in their specialty areas of interest. Monica Das Gupta and Sangeetha Madhavan set up the Child Health discussions and Karen Woodrow-Lafied organizes the Immigration group.

The Journal Club is a student-run working group that meets 3-4 times each semester and brings together students from different disciplines to analyze and discuss published papers from a variety of fields. The meetings are organized by Sai Luo, Economics, and Andrew Williams, Family Science.

Look for current information on all working group meetings in the Events section of the MPRC website.

During a leave of absence in 2016 **Ginger Jin**, Economics, will serve as Director of the Bureau of Economics at the Federal Trade Commission, where she has been serving as a fellow. Her new appointment comes in recognition of her vast research experience in areas including health insurance, food security, online security, regulatory inspection, and information asymmetry among economic agents, according to an FTC release.

Student News

Bina Ali, Behavioral and Community Health, has begun working as a Research Associate at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Elizabeth Karberg, Human Development, completed her Ph.D. in August 2015, and has taken a research position with Child Trends, a nonprofit research organization based in Washington DC.

Tyler Myroniuk, Sociology, completed his Ph.D. in May 2015, took a postdoctoral research position with the Population Research Center at Brown University, and has now accepted a tenure track faculty position at George Mason University.

Marek Posard, Sociology, completed his Ph.D. in May 2015, and has accepted a position with RAND Corporation.

Rachel Shattuck, Sociology, completed her Ph.D. in December 2015 and has begun a position with the U.S. Census Bureau's Center for Administrative Records Research and Applications.

Kriti Vikram, Sociology, has taken a tenure-track position at the National University of Singapore.

MPRC is a Census Information Center

The Center is working with the Census Bureau to take on the role of a Census Information Center (CIC) for Prince Georges and possibly other Maryland counties.

The goal of the CIC Program is to provide local access, education, and technical assistance on census data for planning and decision-making by underserved communities. According to the Bureau, The vision for the CIC program is to facilitate community empowerment through sustainable data access, analysis, and education.

Seed Grant Award: Kearney examines family formation

The Executive Committee announced one Seed Grant award from three proposals reviewed at its December 2015 meeting.

Melissa Kearney, $15,000
Causal Effects of Economic Conditions on Family Formation: Evidence from the Fracking Boom.

Professor Kearney, Economics, is investigating how men's economic prospects impact family formation. There has been a well-documented "retreat from marriage" among less educated individuals in the U.S. and non-marital childbearing has become the norm among young mothers and mothers with low levels of education, Kearney writes. Many social scientists and policymakers have hypothesized that weak economic prospects for men in these populations are at least partially responsible for this shift in marriage and family formation. As an empirical matter, it is difficult to isolate the causal effect of economic opportunity on marriage and family formation, since work and family outcomes affect one another as well as jointly respond to other social and cultural forces. In this project, she proposes to empirically exploit the rapid and localized expansion of oil and gas production due to hydraulic fracturing (fracking) that has taken place in select counties throughout the U.S., leading to increased economic opportunity and elevated wages for less-educated men in these geographic areas. She uses this exogenous shock to employment and wages as the basis for an instrumental variables strategy designed to estimate the causal relationship between improved economic prospects for low-skilled men and family formation outcomes. Establishing this causal parameter would constitute an important contribution to the literature on the economics of the family, she notes.

India Human Development Survey User Conference in March 2016

The India Human Development Survey (IHDS), a project funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and jointly run by The University of Maryland and the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in India, is hosting a user conference from March 16-18, 2016. Principal investigators Sonalde Desai and Reeve Vanneman are organizing the conference at the Neemrana Fort Palace in the Indian state of Rajasthan.

The conference provides a forum for IHDS users to present their work and exchange information regarding the survey. Papers are expected to contain original analysis of IHDS data to cover a comprehensive range of topics pertinent to the survey.

Researchers who are unfamiliar with IHDS data also will have the opportunity to attend a data training session on March 16.

Research Profile
Michael Rendall

BIGDATA: IA Population Reproduction of Poverty at Birth from Surveys, Censuses, and Birth Registrations, NSF 2016-2019, with Dr. Mark Handcock, UCLA and Dr. Margaret Weden, RAND

Big Data statistical methods are developed to solve the critical social-science problem of modeling intergenerational social mobility and social reproduction. In no single data source is poverty at birth observed for the mother-father-child triad. The triad's poverty statuses at each one's birth are instead linked through simulating four connected processes: (1) educational progress predicted from the birth conditions of household poverty and parents' education, race, ethnicity, and immigrant statuses; (2) couple formation and dissolution; (3) couple fertility and unpartnered women's fertility; and (4) household poverty when their own children are born. The "Big Data" of this project consist of more than 100 million births from 1970 to 2015 combined with census, microcensus, large-scale cross-sectional survey, and medium-scale and smaller-scale longitudinal survey data sources that among them include over 1 million births and many times more years of exposure to schooling, to partner-matching, and to partnered and (co-residential-

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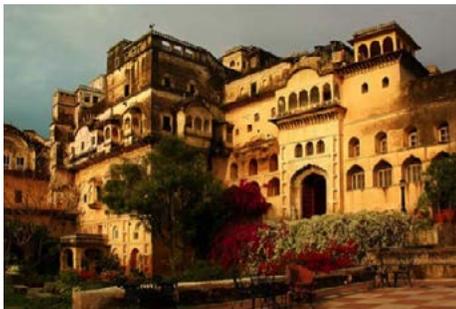
ly) unpartnered births. These multiple sources of data of the study, unlike in many Big Data applications, are all either complete enumerations or probability samples of a well-specified population. Without a Big Data approach to the analysis, however, these data sources are very much underexploited resources in social science. The project is therefore aimed at a transformative approach to exploiting the rich "traditional" data sources to build theory in a statistically-rigorous and empirically-comprehensive way.

Causal inference in social-science analyses is typically limited to a one- or two-equation model applied to a single data source, most often a small-scale sample survey. The present project overcomes the constraints and limitations of this standard approach in three ways. First, it develops combined-survey and combined population-and-survey estimation methods, notably cross-survey multiple imputation and conditional empirical likelihood, to estimate with greatly enhanced precision the individual behavioral parameters of complex social processes. A Bayesian approach is developed that incorporates expert judgment and empirical sources of population information to resolve discrepancies across data sources. Second, it develops a simulation-modeling approach to generating inference about causal associations that emerge from the four connected processes. Again overcoming the limitations of current intergenerational population modeling efforts, the simulation integrates the multiple sources of uncertainty including sampling error and expert judgment about each component process in generating uncertainty estimates about the overall outcome. Third, the project exploits these Big Data resources to allow for the greater heterogeneity and fluidity of the marital and non-marital couple distributions that literally give birth to America's next generation. Together this represents an entirely more comprehensive social-scientific analysis of the dynamics of a population's socio-economic distribution across generations, made possible by Big Data methods.

The methodology for estimation, quantification of uncertainty, and for simulation of the intergenerational population processes, will be developed in open-source user-friendly software. New population data created in the project will become a resource for the research community.

2016 Spring Seminar Series to host 10 scholars

Starting Monday, February 8, MPRC will hold a series of 10 seminar talks in the Morill Hall conference room (1101 Morrill Hall). All talks have been scheduled on consecutive Mondays at noon in the same venue, with the exception of one on Wednesday, April 13. The series will conclude on May 2, 2016. The first speaker will be **Edmond Shenassa**, Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics.

Through this series, MPRC will be delighted to host prominent visiting scholars including Michael Guillot, University of Pennsylvania, and Jeffrey Morenoff, University of Michigan. Other visiting scholars will be Courtney Thomas, University of Kentucky; Amy Hsin, Queens College CUNY; Marcella Alsan, Stanford University; Silvia Giorguli, El Colegio de Mexico; Owen Ozier, The World Bank; and Tova Walsh, School of Social Work. In addition, our own Partha Lahiri from the Joint Program of Survey Methodology at the University of Maryland will give a seminar talk on April 18.

Methods workshops

In addition to this semesters seminar events, two workshops on Methods will be held on March 11 (Hongjie Liu) and April 8 (Mei-Ling Ting Lee), 2016.

The complete spring schedule and relevant, detailed information on topics and speakers can be found in the Events section of the MPRC website.

Research Profile
Ruth Zambrana

Planning and Coordinating Baseline Survey Activities for Latina Wealth Index: Implications for Tax Policy and Asset Growth, New Economics for Women

Dr. Zambrana will examine the economic drivers of entrepreneurial activity in major urban areas of Latino concentration under a recent $476,473 grant. This examination will lead to increased understanding of how these processes of entrepreneurship contribute to economic stability, social mobility and family well-being across the life course. Data will be collected in six states - California, New Mexico, Texas, Illinois, Florida, and New York — to capture the heterogeneity of Hispanic subgroup entrepreneurial activity.

The study will be executed in three stages: Research in the form of data collection; practice in the form of development of financial literacy products for Latino families and communities; and policy in the form of tax policy incentives to promote and stimulate small business activity in Latino neighborhoods.

This is an interdisciplinary, collaborative study that will convene three expert thought leaders meetings at each stage to include representatives from national entrepreneurial organizations, banking industry, corporate, legislators, philanthropy, survey methodologists, sociologists, technology experts and small business owners. The long-range goals are to create partnerships with leaders in national organizations to create a National Latina Wealth Index to monitor the growth of entrepreneurial activity and the financial well-being of Latino communities.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Maryland Population Research Center

2105 Morrill Hall
College Park, Maryland 20742

301-405-6404 tel.

www.popcenter.umd.edu

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.*

MPRC Graduate Student Affiliate and Research Assistant **Fatima Zahra** will be trained by the Bureau in the use of its data products this Spring in service of this outreach effort. Both the Time Use activities and the CIC emphasize a major focus of MPRC, being our strong relationship with the federal statistical agencies of the greater Washington area. And finally, our MPRC community look forward to welcoming demographers from across the country and the world to the 2016 Population Association America Annual Conference, held this year in Washington, DC.

Recent Awards

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

Michael Rendall
BIGDATA: Collaborative Research: IA Population Reproduction of Poverty at Birth from Surveys, Censuses, and Birth Registrations, NSF, $842,390

Sonalde Desai
Pathways Linking Economic Transformation to Women's Access to and Control Over Resources in India, International Development Research Center, $259,634

Grant Submissions

Between October 2015 and January 2016 MPRC Administrative Core personnel helped Principal Investigators and their collaborators to propose over $7.6 million in new funding.

Alok Bhargava
Diet, Anthropometrics and Blood Pressure in WHTFSMP, R21, NHLB / NIH

Sonalde Desai
Human Development in India, P01, NICHD

Marian MacDorman
Methodological Issues in Maternal Mortality Research, R21, CDC

Michael Rendall
Understanding Social Disparities in Unintended Births and Infertility Helpseeking, R03, NICHD (subcontract PI)

Parent-child Obesity Estimates Correcting for Error in Reported Height and Weight, R21, NIDDK

Liana Sayer
Young Adult Transitions and Intergenerational Time Connections in Comparative Perspective, R03, NICHD

Wei-hsin Yu
Work Characteristics and Family Formation in Japan, R03, NICHD

> ***MPRC offers comprehensive support for grant proposal development and management***