New Faculty Associates

Bradley Boekeloo, Professor, Behavioral and Community Health, has worked for more than 25 years on behavioral intervention to prevent sexually transmitted infections (STI), including HIV, among health disparity populations. As Principal Investigator he has designed and led risk assessment and intervention projects regarding sexual and related behavioral risks. These projects have involved primary care providers, STI clinic patients, adolescent patients in primary care, college freshmen, college students at a historically Black college, high schoolers in an underserved area, African American / Black women, and HIV-infected persons unreliably in medical care. Recent projects involve the impact of peer community health workers on linking HIV infected, medically unengaged persons into regular healthcare; the impact of a life stress coping on HIV and substance use risk among Black women; the impact of sexting and substance use on HIV risk among freshmen at a historically Black college; and STI / HIV prevention among rehabilitation program clients who are co-addicted to sex and drugs.

Jessica N. Fish, Assistant Professor, Family Science, focuses on the area of sexual and gender (LGBT) population health. Before joining MPRC she completed a three-year NIH-funded Postdoc at the University of Texas Population Research Center. Dr. Fish studies the

👉 *Seed Grant Call - Spring 2019*

Proposals Due March 11

Acting Director's Note

Happy New Year!! I am delighted to report that we started off our new P2C funding cycle with an impressive number of grants that were funded, led by Faculty Associates Jie Chen, Desai, Fenelon, and MacDorman. Two of these awards grew out of Center Seed Grant projects (see research profiles in this issue), and MPRC remains committed to a robust program to support new population research, especially by early-career scholars. To keep the momentum going, I would like to welcome Cynthia Williams as the new Grants Coordinator for MPRC. Cynthia comes to us with decades of experience in grants administration at UMD and is poised to work with MPRC faculty to prepare and submit proposals. In addition to the stimulating Seminar Series in the Fall, we had a very successful collaborative symposium "Might The Gender Revolution Strengthen the Family?" featuring our own Fran Goldscheider and Andrew Cherlin from Johns Hopkins discussing the potential implications of gender equality for family dynamics. This event attracted faculty and students from across campus and was live streamed on the UMD network. MPRC Faculty Associates were highly visible in the media in the Fall with notable commentary made by MacDorman, Fenelon, Cohen, Sayer, Dow, Lewin and Turner in a number of prestigious outlets including the *New York Times, Washington Post, Huffington Post, The Atlantic,* and *NPR*. Fenelon participated in a significant PRB-sponsored congressional briefing on life expectancy. I look forward to the Spring semester with a lively seminar series, workshops on Time Use data and IHDS, our second UMD-Hopkins collaborative initiative (see below) and, of course, the annual meetings of the Population Association of America in Austin, TX, where MPRC faculty associates and graduate students will be well represented.

Special Event

Innovation Data Sources for Population Research

The 2nd Joint Symposium with researchers at the Hopkins Population Center will take place on April 5, featuring a panel of three population scholars: Faculty Associate **Quynh Nguyen**, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Maryland; **Amy Wesolowski**, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology at Hopkins; and **Andreea Creanga** (left), Associate Professor of International Health at Hopkins.

The past several decades have seen technological advancements that have facilitated the collection of data from a wide variety of new sources in service of fundamental questions in population-based research. As costs have grown for the collection of sample-based data systems and surveys, researchers have sought new ways to augment the applicability of existing data not originally designed for research purposes. Combined with creative analytical techniques, these innovative data sources have contributed to a growing knowledge base in human behavior, interaction, outcomes, and inequalities. This panel will highlight advancements in data collection from innovative sources and novel collection techniques and explore applications to questions in demography and population studies. Panelists will discuss both their specific applications of innovative data sources as well as conceptual considerations of the use of new data for demography in the 21st century.

This event will be held at Hopkins on April 5, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., and will be simulcast at Morrill Hall, Room 1101.

Research Profile
Andrew Fenelon, Health Services Administration

"Residential Characteristics and Child Health and Well-Being", NICHD R21

Programs that improve housing quality, stability, and affordability present an important opportunity to intervene on a social determinant of child health and wellbeing, and child health is known to play an important role in outcomes across the life course. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides housing assistance to 5 million families including 3 million children, yet housing assistance is an understudied social determinant of child health and wellbeing. The benefits of housing assistance may be particularly important for children. Improved conditions during critical periods in childhood may lead to better outcomes throughout the life course. Furthermore, most existing research has used small and geographically limited samples, relied on self-reported housing status, and failed to identify suitable comparison populations, rendering results potentially biased by unobserved confounders. The objective of this project is to overcome these previous limitations and advance understanding of the relationship between housing assistance and child health, focusing on physical health status, wellbeing, and cardiometabolic risk. The project uses a novel data linkage between the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) (expected n's: 2,200 and 3,047, respectively) and HUD longitudinal administrative records. The central hypothesis is that housing assistance leads to improved health and wellbeing for disadvantaged children, although the pattern of this effect may depend on the specific housing program (public housing, housing choice vouchers, multifamily housing). The analysis uses an innovative study design to isolate the causal impact of housing assistance on child health using a pseudo waitlist design. The project examines whether children receiving housing assistance at the time of interview experience better health and wellbeing outcomes than their counterparts who enter housing assistance within 2 years of their interview, the mean length of HUD waitlists. The project also considers whether these effects differ by specific housing program, comparing public housing, housing choice vouchers, and multifamily housing programs. These programs have shown disparate effects in previous research on adults. Finally, the project examines the effects of housing assistance on key intermediate outcomes associated with child health, including: a) parent mental health, b) food insecurity, c) access to medical care, and d) neighborhood context.

Based on Seed Grant, "The Impact of HUD Housing Assistance Programs on Child Health in the United States", Fall 2016

Cynthia B. Williams joins MPRC

Brings strong proposal development resume

Cynthia B. Williams, an experienced proposal / award manager, joined the MPRC team in January. She started working at University of Maryland in 1994. Cynthia has worked in several BSOS centers as well as the Office of Contract and Grant Accounting and has robust administrative and grant development skills, having supported a variety of research teams.

Cynthia comes to the Center from the National Center for Smart Growth & Education, in the School of Architecture, where she has been working for the past 10 years in the role of Research / Finance Coordinator. She has acquired an extensive working knowledge of all university electronic systems and is familiar with research account reconciliation, budget generation for proposals with several sponsors, and over all grants portfolio management.

Cynthia is available to assist Faculty Associates with start-to-finish proposal development support. Feel free to contact her at cynthiaw@umd.edu / 301-405-7306.

sociocultural and interpersonal factors that shape the development and health of sexual and gender minorities in the U.S. Her overarching goal is to identify modifiable factors that contribute to sexual and gender minority health disparities in order to inform developmentally sensitive policies and programs that promote the health of sexual and gender minority people and their families across the life course.

New Affiliates

Faculty Affiliates

Erica Coates, Resident PostDoc, Family Science, is working with Mia Smith-Bynum and Kevin Roy.

Farah Farahati, Lecturer, Health Services Administration, is working with Jie Chen.

Coates

Tianzhou Ma, Assistant Professor, Epidemiology and Biostatistics, is working with Xin He.

Dylan Roby, Associate Professor, Health Services Administration, is working with Michael Rendall.

Neil Jay Sehgal, Assistant Professor, Health Services Administration, is working with Michael Rendall.

Andy Sharma, Institute of Government Service and Research, is working with Andrew Fenelon.

External Affiliates

Mir Ali, Health Economist, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, is working with Jie Chen.

Jean Christophe Fotso, Senior Researcher, EVIHDAF, is working with Sangeetha Madhavan.

Todd K Gardner, U.S. Census Bureau, is working with Andrew Fenelon.

Conrad Hackett. Senior Demographer, Pew Research Center, is working with Philip Cohen.

2019 PAA Annual Meeting

MPRC scholars will make 37 presentations - 24 papers and 13 posters - during this year's PAA Annual Meeting. In addition to participating in panel sessions and poster sessions, Faculty Associates will Chair three sessions and serve as Discussants for seven others.

The meeting will take place April 10-13 in Austin, Texas.

Summer Research Fellowship Awards

Proposal deadline: March 29

MPRC's Suzanne M. Bianchi Summer Research Grant program awards are intended to support MPRC graduate Student Affiliates who could benefit from 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 for their September deadline.

The 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 their research objectives). The Center expects to award two fellowships in the summer of 2019, one of which will be the Suzanne M. Bianchi Summer Research Grant.

Faculty and Student News Update

Faculty News

Christine Bachrach, MPRC, retired as Executive Director of the Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science, an organization she helped to found.

Caryn Bell, African American Studies, has three articles coming out in early 2019 in *American Journal of Men's Health, Preventive Medicine,* and *American Journal of Health Behavior.*

Wade Jacobsen has papers forthcoming in *Social Forces* and *Research in Crime and Deliquency.*

Student News

Diana Cassar-Uhl, Family Science, published a paper in Maternal and Child Nutrition, "Use of shared milk among breastfeeding mothers with lactation insufficiency."

Eowna Young Harrison completed her Ph.D. in Fall 2018 and is now working at the Urban Institute.

Journal Club meets twice this Spring

The MPRC Journal Club plans two meetings this semester to follow up a highly successful Fall series. **Sonalde Desai** will present on February 20 and **Jessica Fish** will present on April 24. Both meetings will be held at 12:00 noon. Journal Club meetings involve the participation of a population scientist speaking about a specific publication and about the issues scholars face when approaching publication.

Spring Special Topics workshops

In addition to a 12-session seminar series, MPRC will sponsor two workshops and the second joint symposium with Hopkins Population Center during the Spring semester.

March 1 - "Time Use Data for Population, Health, and Policy Research" workshop led by Sandra Hofferth and Liana Sayer, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

April 5 - "Innovative Data Sources in Population Research," MPRC and the Hopkins Population Center 2nd Joint Symposium, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m,

April 19 - "An Overview of the India Human Development Survey (IHDS): Data and Applications," Omkar Joshi, Sociology, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Population Working Papers Series

MPRC maintains a Population Working Paper Series. Faculty Associates are invited to upload work that is journal-submission ready to establish their research commitments to an audience of population researchers. For information, contact the Information Services personnel at mprc-support@umd.edu.

Research Profile
Marian MacDorman, MPRC Research Professor

Methodological Issues in Maternal Mortality Research, NICHD R21

Maternal mortality is a sentinel public health indicator essential to the measurement of health care quality both nationally and internationally; yet, the United States has not published an official U.S. maternal mortality rate since 2007. This has created an information deficit at a time when more international attention has been focused on maternal mortality than ever before. For example, the United Nations Millennium Development Goal 5a was to reduce maternal mortality by 75% worldwide between 1990 and 2015. Maternal mortality reduction also figures prominently in the newer United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Recently, major problems in the collection and coding of U.S. maternal mortality data have been identified, which make current estimates of maternal mortality levels and trends highly unreliable. This study analyzes the 2015-16 cause-of-death literal data (actual words written in the cause-of-death section of the death certificate) to identify and correct problems in data collection and coding of maternal deaths. Specifically, we will determine which records are not maternal deaths and represent errors in data collection and coding by correctly excluding incidental causes of death according to the World Health Organization maternal mortality definition. For records with non-specific causes of death that are appropriately classified as maternal deaths, we will develop supplementary coding methods which allow the cause of death data to be coded to specific organ systems and disease pathways, thus increasing the specificity of reported maternal mortality data. Newly developed maternal mortality estimates will be compared to those from the previous, inaccurately coded, data to assess the degree of bias in the previously coded data. In the second part of the project, we will use the more accurate and detailed maternal mortality data developed during the first part to analyze maternal mortality patterns by socio-demographic and health variables and cause of death. Bivariate and multivariate methods will examine associations between these variables and the maternal mortality rate. Producing accurate maternal mortality rates is essential for national and international reporting, and for monitoring progress toward meeting the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals. The identification of specific and potentially preventable causes of maternal death will lead to efficient targeting of prevention efforts towards the most problematic causes of death. More detailed knowledge of maternal mortality disparities (for example, by maternal age, race / ethnicity, or region) will lead to the more accurate identification of at-risk populations, essential to effective targeting of prevention programs.
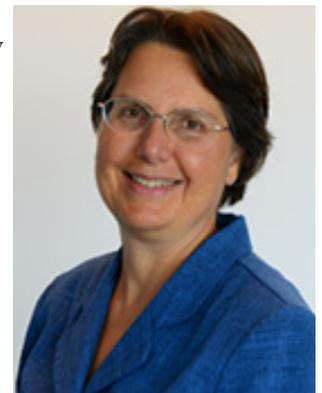
Based on the Seed Grant "Methodological Issues in Maternal Mortality Research," Spring 2016

Kerry Green, Behavioral and Community Health

Understanding the Aging Process of Urban African Americans Across the Life Course: Identifying Early Risk and Protection for Cognition and Health in Midlife, NIH / NIA R01

Dr. Green's project will examine how early life experiences through the 40s influence aging outcomes at age 60. Black Americans experience disproportionately high rates of negative health outcomes as well as one of the shortest life expectancies. They experience disproportionate poor aging outcomes including pronounced disparities in brain health compared to Whites. To date, few studies have examined the factors starting in childhood that promote successful aging among urban Blacks. In an effort to understand how life aspects affect the health of this cohort over time, Dr. Green will extend the data collection of the 1966 Woodlawn Project, a prospective community cohort study of urban Blacks, which was previously led by principal investigator Dr. Margaret E. Ensminger from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Taking lead of this landmark project in its fifth round of data collection, Dr. Green's team will examine the "Individual, family and community factors from birth through age 60 that promote physical, mental, social and cognitive health for urban Blacks in midlife." The study's cohort includes a large community of urban Blacks first studied as part of Woodlawn Project at age 6, adolescence, and at ages 32 and 42. The researchers note that the study's fifth round of data collection at age 60 is crucial for examining individual and contextual life course trajectories affecting the aging experience. The long-term goal of the study is to inform intervention development and policy making by identifying critical pivotal influences along the life course that alter aging trajectories and improve health outcomes.

Related to the Seed Grant, "Substance Use and the Aging Experiences of the Woodlawn Cohort: Pathways to the 50s," Fall 2014

2019 Spring Seminars, Workshops, and Events

A full schedule is planned for Spring 2019. We will begin on February 4 with Maria Khan (right), Associate Professor at the New York University School of Medicine, who will present "Effects of Policing and Detainment on Psychosocial Vulnerability and Drug and Sex Risk among Minority Men who have Sex with Men." Other visitors include Julia Burdick-Will, Johns Hopkins University; Andrew Foster, Brown University; Lloyd Grieger, Yale University; Carrie Shandra, State University of New York at Stony Brook; Anna Haskins, Cornell University; Danny Schneider, University of California Berkeley; Sarah Burgard, University of Michigan; Jim Raymo, University of Wisconsin; and Trevon Logan, Ohio State University and NBER. MPRC presenters will include Julia Steinberg, Department of Family Science; and Amelia Branigan, Sociology.

In addition to the robust seminar schedule, MPRC also will sponsor two workshops and a second symposium in cooperation with Hopkins Population Center (see page 3).

Students will have an opportunity to present their PAA talks to a friendly audience of peers and seasoned researchers on April 8.

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

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Maryland Population Research Center

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College Park, Maryland 20742

301-405-6403 tel.

www.popcenter.umd.edu

Spring Seed Grant Call

MPRC invites proposals for projects that will enhance research activity bearing directly on the Center's population research mission. Three to four grants of up to $15,000 will be awarded in response to this call. Deadline is **March 11**. Some awards deriving from earlier Seed Grant projects are profiled in this issue.

Also, the Consortium on Race, Gender, and Ethnicity (CRGE) Seed Grant deadline is **March 15.**

Recent Awards

Christine Bachrach
"Traversing Divides: Interdisciplinary Research in Population Health and Health Disparities", NIHMD R13, $35,915, 01/29/2019 - 12/31/2019

Jie Chen, Andrew Fenelon
"Effect of Hospital and Community Care Coordination on Health Care Access, Quality, and Equity among individuals with Risk Factors for Diagnosis of ADRD," NIH / NIA R56, 1,302,389, 09/30/2018 - 06/30/2020

Sonalde Desai, Feinian Chen
"India Human Development Survey III," NICHD, R01, Direct Costs $5,172,560, 09/13/2018 - 05/30/2023

"Enhancing Measurement of Women's Economic Empowerment," Hewlett Foundation, $725,000, 10/1/2018 - 10/1/2021

Andrew Fenelon
"Residential Characteristics and Child Health and Well-Being", NICHD R21, 440,850, 09/21/2018 - 08/31/2020

Marian MacDorman, Marie Thoma
"Methodological Issues in Maternal Mortality Research," NICHD R21, $439,676, 09/20/2018 – 08/31/2020

Grant Submissions

During the last year MPRC Administrative Core personnel helped population researchers to propose over $3.5 million in new funding. (Recently awarded projects are listed above.)

Judith Hellerstein
"Parental Human Capital Traits and Autism Spectrum Disorder in Children," NICHD R03, $169,835

Brian Kim, Christopher Antoun
"Collaborative Research: Impacts of Hard/ Soft Skills on STEM Workforce Trajectories," Subcontract Utah State Univ/NSF, $159,096

Sangeetha Madhavan, Edmond Shenassa, Ken Leonard, Kirsten Stoebenau
"Kinship Support, Union Formation and Child Well-Being in Kenya," NICHD R01resub, $3,334,253

Kirsten Stoebenau, Sangeetha Madhavan
"Diverging Destinies in Africa ? Examining Trends in the stratification of pre-marital birth in Sub-Saharan Africa," NICHD R03, $100,000