New Faculty Associate

Christopher Antoun, Assistant Research Professor, Information Studies / Joint Program in Survey Methodology. Dr. Antoun's research focuses on the data collection methods used to collect population data. This includes the use of smartphones, either through text messaging, mobile questionnaires, or apps and sensors. His research also evaluates the quality of data collected using the different methods. His work blends concepts from survey methodology, social psychology, and data science.

New Affiliates

Internal Affilates

David Blazar, Teaching and Learning, Policy and Leadership, working with Nolan Pope, Economics. His research focuses specifically on the educational context, where population data have become more and more available. At MPRC, he hopes to collaborate with a community of scholars also interested in using population data in efforts to reduce inequality, particularly for kids.

External Affiliates

Michael Bader, American University, working with Rashawn Ray, Sociology. Dr. Bader will be a Visiting Scholar at MPRC during the 2019-20 academic year. He plans to examine the long-term integration of multiethnic neighborhoods through three projects focused on neighborhood effects, includig a manuscript on the growth and stability of multiethnic neighborhoods in the U.S.

Director's Note

As we enter the new academic year, the Maryland Population Research Center is again at full staffing strength with the recent hiring of statistical programmer Heide Jackson. Thanks to all involved in this important hire, including Andrés Villarreal, Director of the MPRC Scientific and Technical Core and William Fennie who led the search. Heide will be giving short classes in R and SAS this semester, and will be providing both research programming consulting and dedicated programming support. The UMD Federal Statistics Research Data Center is an increasingly valued resource on campus, and we welcome this semester a workshop by Todd Gardner and Danielle Sandler on the use of the RDC for population research. Our Development Core activities this fall include our semi-annual call for, and evaluation of, applications for Seed Grants. Congratulations to recent Seed Grant recipients Kirsten Stobenau, Behavioral and Community Health, and Sangeetha Madhavan, African American Studies and Sociology, for their recently-awarded NICHD R03 grant in support of their analysis of African Demographic and Health Surveys data, "Trends in the stratification of premarital childbirth." Congratulations also to Faculty Associates receiving awards since our last semi-annual newsletter on population health disparities, including conference support from NIMHD to PI Chris Bachrach through the R13 mechanism and meeting support to School of Public Health Associates from the Maryland Health Care Commission on African-American infant mortality. Several other recent awards are described in this newsletter, together with recent grant applications submitted through our MPRC Administrative Core. Finally, congratulations to all on your ongoing scientific impact. Impacts featured in this newsletter are those from Mónica Caudillo on fertility and family in Mexico, from Kerry Green on the Chicago Woodlawn cohort followed from age 6 through to health outcomes in old age, and from Feinian Chen and Sonalde Desai on survey measurement of women's economic empowerment.

Special Workshop
Advantages and Opportunities Using the Maryland Federal Statistics Research Data Center

Gardner (left) and Sandler

On November 15th a panel of experts will focus on informing the MPRC community of the enormous value of the FSRDC and how to access it – including challenges. They will also discuss issues around privacy and dissemination of findings. The presenters include: Todd Gardner & Danielle Sandler, Senior Researchers at the U.S. Census Bureau, Liu Yang, Executive Director of the University of Maryland RDC, as well as some current long-time users. Topics will include an overview of how to gain access to the FSRDC and what kinds of datasets the facility provides access to.

Current MPRC projects using or planning to use the facility include Michel Boudreaux and Natalie Slopen's project on "The Impact of HUD Housing Assistance Programs on Child Health in the United States" and Marian MacDorman and Marie Thoma's work on "Methodological Issues in Maternal Mortality Research."

The Maryland RDC, a joint project of the U.S. Census Bureau and University of Maryland, is supported by three founding units on campus: the R.H. Smith School of Business, the College of Behavioral and Social Science, and the School of Public Health.

Research Profile
Mónica Caudillo, Sociology

Dr. Caudillo, Assistant Professor of Sociology, is currently working on projects including contraception and fertility in the U.S. and fertility and family formation in Mexico.

Advanced School Progression Relative to Age and Early Family Formation in Mexico, Demography, June 2019

Research has documented a negative association between women's educational attainment and early sexual intercourse, union formation, and pregnancy. However, the implications that school progression relative to age may have for the timing and order of such transitions are poorly understood. In this article, Dr. Caudillo argues that educational attainment has different implications depending on a student's progression through school grades relative to her age. Using month of birth and age-at-school-entry policies to estimate the effect of advanced school progression by age, she shows that it accelerates the occurrence of family formation and sexual onset among teenage women in Mexico. Focusing on girls aged 15–17 interviewed by a national survey, she finds that those who progress through school ahead of their birth cohort have a higher probability of having had sex, been pregnant, and cohabited by the time of interview. She argues that this pattern of behaviors is explained by experiences – such as exposure to relatively older peers in school and completing academic milestones earlier in life – that lead them to accelerate their transition to adulthood compared with same-age students with fewer completed school grades. Among girls who got pregnant, those with an advanced school progression by age are more likely to engage in drug use, alcohol consumption, and smoking before conception; more likely to have pregnancy-related health complications; and less likely to attend prenatal care visits. Thus, an advanced school progression by age has substantial implications for the health and well-being of young women, with potential intergenerational consequences.

Dr. Caudillo co-authored a paper with student Jaein Lee, "Community Violence and the Instability of Marriages and Cohabitations in Mexico," presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting.

Statistical Programming Support
Heide Jackson

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Heide Jackson to MPRC. Dr. Jackson was previously a demographer with the Health and Disability Statistics Branch at the U.S. Census Bureau and brings an impressive talent set to MPRC. Her research interests pertain to health inequalities, longitudinal analysis, and issues in missing data. Heide obtained her Ph.D. in Sociology and Masters in Population Health Sciences from the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

She will be teaching seminars on SAS, R, and Stata and is available to consult with MPRC affiliates on statistical programming and analysis and to provide statistical programming services for externally funded research projects.

MPRC PAA Annual Meeting scholarship

A diverse group of 36 MPRC scholars attended the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America in Austin, Texas, last Spring.

Twenty-one Associates attended, presenting papers in 6 sessions and co-authoring papers in 15 others. Two associates presented posters and 7 others were poster co-authors. MPRC scholars served as Discussants in 8 sessions and Session Chairs in 4 sessions. Faculty Associates Christine Bachrach and Sandra Hofferth participated in pre-conference special sessions: "The promise and peril of community-based participatory research" and "IPUMS Time Use Data for Studying Health & Well Being," respectively.

Fourteen MPRC Student Affiliates presented papers in 7 sessions, all of them co-authored by an MPRC Associate; they presented 10 posters.

Reminder: The 2020 PAA Annual Meeting will be held April 22-25 in Washington DC. Proposals are due **September 29**.

Visiting Researchers

Yingchun Ji, Shanghai University, working with Feinian Chen. Her research focus at Maryland will be on intergenerational relationships, family dynamics, and aging. Dr. Ji received her Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina in 2011.

Elizabeth Washbrook, University of Bristol. Much of her recent work has focused on documenting and understanding socioeconomic inequalities in children's school readiness and subsequent trajectories of educational, psychological and health outcomes among different cohorts. She takes a life course approach to the evolution of inequality and social mobility from early childhood through to adulthood. She has published research on the causal effects of social programs such as parental leave provision and child care subsidies.

Faculty and Student News

Faculty News

Andrew Fenelon and **Michel Boudreaux** have an article forthcoming in *Demography*, "Life and Death in the American City: Men's Life Expectancy in 25 American Cities from 1990-2015."

Michael Rendall, Eowna Young Harrison, and **Mónica Caudillo** have an MPRC Working Paper now forthcoming in *Demography*, "Intentionally or ambivalently risking a short inter-pregnancy interval: Reproductive readiness factors in women's postpartum non-use of contraception."

Jessica Fish, Family Science, recently published three new articles: "The impact of community size, community climate, and victimization on the mental health of SGM youth" in *Youth and Society*; "Diverse community contexts and community resources for sexual and gender minority youth," in *Journal of Community and Applied Social Psychology*; and "Sexual orientation-related disparities in high-intensity binge drinking: Findings from a nationally representative sample," in *LGBT Health*.

Wade Jacobsen, Criminology, has an MPRC working paper, "School Punishment and Interpersonal Exclusion: Rejection, Withdrawal, and Separation from Friends" now forthcoming in *Criminology*.

Maria Thoma, Family Science, published two new articles: "Beyond birth outcomes: Interpregnancy interval and injury-related infant mortality" in *Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology*

and "Black-White Disparities in Preterm Birth: Geographic, Social, and Health Determinants" in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*.

Ruth Zambrana, Womens Studies, chaired the Race and Ethnicity session for ASA this summer and is incoming President of the ASA Latino section. While attending the conference she presented, "The Illusion of Inclusion: Inseparable Race, Ethnicity and Class in 21st Century" and moderated the session, "What is Latino Sociology?" Her recent publications include, "Chicanas / Latinas Advance Intersectional Thought and Practice" in *Gender & Society*.

MPRC Associate Director **Sangeetha Madhavan,** African American Studies, was promoted to Professor as of August 2019.

External Faculty Affiliate **Rachel Shattuck** is now Chief of the Survey Improvement Research Branch in the Census Bureau's Social, Economic, and Housing Statistics Division.

Student News

Brittany Dernberger, Sociology, received a Dissertation Scholar Award from P.E.O. International as well as the Ann G. Wylie Dissertation Fellowship from the UMD Graduate School.

Francisco Lagos, Teaching and Learning, Policy and Leadership, has a working paper, "Can School Choice Mitigate School Socioeconomic Segregation? Evidence from a Policy Change in Chile," accepted for presentation at the 2019 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Fall Research Conference.

Fatima Zahra, Sociology, completed her Ph.D. over the summer and will begin a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania Population Studies Center this fall.

Summer Research Fellows

Sai Luo, Economics, received this year's *Suzanne M. Bianchi Summer Research Fellowship*. He is preparing a paper on "The Racial Gap in Early Career Experiences among Millennials" for submission to the PAA Annual Meeting.

Laura Drew, Family Science, also received support for summer research toward a PAA submission. Her project is titled "Female genital cutting in Nigeria: An exploration of national-level trends since 2003 and the contribution of age, period, and cohort effects."

Grant Submissions

Since January MPRC Administrative Core personnel helped population researchers to propose over $5.0 million in new funding. Recently awarded projects are listed on page 4.

Susan W. Parker (subcontract PI)
"Long-Term Health Effects of Social Insurance Programs on Mexican Adults," NIA P01, $728,334

Sangeetha Madhavan, Kirsten Stoebenau, Kenneth Lenonard, Michael Wagner
"Kinship, Marriage and Child Outcomes in a Low Income Urban African Context," NICHD R01, $3,225,781

Alok Bhargava
"2019 Trafficking In Persons Program," US State Department, $813,579

Liana Sayer (subcontract PI)
"Mechanisms and Consequences of Sleep Disparities in the U.S.," NIMHD R01, $145,513

Susan W. Parker (subcontract PI)
"Using New Longitudinal Linked Data to Investigate the Determinants of Educational Attainment and Achievement in Mexico," NSF, $120,502

Research Profile
Feinian Chen, Sonalde Desai, Sociology

Enhancing Measurement of Women's Economic Empowerment, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

Current measures of economic empowerment were developed over 20 years ago, but the global economic climate has changed tremendously in the intervening years. This project will develop measures of women's economic empowerment that can be easily incorporated in national surveys and test their reliability and validity. These modules will be placed in public domain for use by the statistical community.

Chen (left) and Desai

While politics will play an important role in increasing collection of statistical data, lack of technical capacity also tends to limit ambition. The proposed project will develop and synthesize modules for collecting data on women's economic empowerment and its close correlates that will be freely available along with administration instructions for adoption by statistical agencies, researchers and program implementers in developing countries. It will also curate gender data via web-based dissemination strategies to increase dialogue between researchers and activists located in diverse corners of the world.

Outcomes will include:

Curate existing statistical data on women's economic empowerment and its close correlates in the area of educational, social and political empowerment; encourage expansion of domains and better specification of indicators in research on women's economic empowerment through better mapping of theory to measurement; facilitate creation of a community of researchers, program implementers and data collectors working on women's economic empowerment using web-based platforms; develop a communications strategy with a selected mix of blogs, discussion forums, and twitter postings; track usage and participation in these platforms.

Organize three workshops of researchers and data collectors closely involved in collection of gender data to facilitate data collection strategies. Develop and pretest scalable survey modules and place these modules in the public domain for possible adoption by statistical agencies and researchers. Develop short data collection instruments and pretest these instruments in India in the context of other on-going fieldwork. Evaluate results from these pilots against some of the key indicators from traditional surveys as well as indicators used for monitoring

Place data collection modules, instructions for administering these modules and data from pilot project in the public domain. Output from this project will complement ongoing research by the faculty at University of Maryland and in India and will help in developing survey instruments that can be taken to scale in a large nationwide survey.

Research Profile
Kerry Green, Behavioral & Community Health

Protection for cognition and health in Midlife, NIH-NIDA R01

Black Americans experience disproportionate poor aging outcomes, including pronounced disparities in brain health (e.g., Alzheimer's Disease), significant social isolation, and nearly twice the mortality rate compared to Whites. Although it is purported that these adverse health outcomes are due to a combination of greater adversity over the life course and unhealthy coping behaviors, few studies have prospectively examined these aspects of the lives of Blacks from childhood into the 60s. This developmental epidemiological study focuses on life course pathways to successful aging in a large community cohort of urban Blacks first studied at age 6, then in adolescence, and at ages 32 and 42. The proposed fifth round of data collection at age 60 is crucial for examining individual and contextual life course trajectories affecting the aging experience. The specific aims are to: (1) identify the array of aging experiences for the Woodlawn cohort of Blacks at age 60 using indicators of cognitive, physical, functional, social, and mental health, (2) determine specific stressors across the life course that influence aging, and (3) identify specific and malleable protective factors across the life course that promote physical, mental, cognitive and social well-being for urban Blacks.

This comprehensive study has followed nearly all children entering first grade in 1966 in Woodlawn, a poor Chicago community (N=1242). We have collected information from mothers, teachers, and official school, criminal, and death records as well as data from cohort members themselves and now have an invaluable opportunity to examine well being comprehensively over the life course for an underinvestigated population. This one-of-a-kind study spanning more than 50 years will allow in-depth exploration of both normative development and deviance. It will challenge assumptions of Black homogeneity and reframe the current deficit conceptualization to focus instead on pathways to successful aging, cognitive functioning, and health.

2019 Fall Seminars, Workshops, and Events

A full schedule of seminars and other events is planned for Fall 2019. We will begin on September 9 with Wade Jacobsen (right), Assistant Professor of Criminology and MPRC Faculty Associate, presenting "Juvenile Arrest and Interpersonal Exclusion: Rejection, Withdrawal, and Homophily among Peers". Other visitors include Taylor Hargrove, University of North Carolina Sociology; Michael White, Brown University Migration; Richard Alba, City University of New York Demography; Vida Maralani, Cornell University Sociology; Amanda Geller, New York University Family

Jacobsen

Demography; Steven Haas, Penn State University Sociology; Theodore Joyce, Baruch College Economics; Nolan Pope, UMD Economics; Conrad Hackett, Pew Research Senior Demographer; Uchechi Mitchell, University of Illinois Chicago Public Health; Corinne Reczek, Ohio State University Sociology; Jessica Fish, UMD Family Science; and Li Liu, Johns Hopkins University Public Health.

In addition to the robust seminar schedule, MPRC also will host a workshop by Liana Sayer, "Using Time Use Data to Investigate Trends and Determinants of Social Isolation" in October. A special colloquium workshop will explore opportunities with the Maryland Federal Research Data Center (see page 1). The student-organized Journal Club will host two meetings this fall.

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

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Recent Awards

Following are some of the projects recently awarded to MPRC Associates.

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

Kirsten Stoebenau, Sangeetha Madhavan
"Trends in the stratification of premarital childbirth," NICHD R03, $154,500, 08/16/19 – 07/31/2021

Bradley Boekeloo (subcontract PI)
"SA & HIV Prevention for Minority Youth and Young Adults," Community Services and Research Center, $66,714, 02/15/2019 - 09/29/2019

Jessica Fish, Mia Smith-Bynum
"Parent-Child LGBQ socialization, mental health, and substance use among sexual minority women age 15-19," GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality, $10,000, 06/15/2019 - 06/15/2020

Sandra Crouse Quinn, Elaine A. Anderson, Dushanka V. Kleinman, Edmond Shenassa, Marian Moser Jones
"Meeting Support and Project Management for Study of Infant Mortality in African American Infants and in Rural Communities in Maryland," Maryland Health Care Commission, $100,975, 02/08/2019 - 01/31/2020

Tatiana V. Loboda, Dong Chen, Robin Puett
"Assessing impact of climate-driven increase in wildfire emissions on air quality and health of urban and indigenous populations in Alaska," NASA, $811,299, 06/01/2019 - 05/31/2022

Joseph Richardson (subcontract PI)
"Strategic Academic Partnership Between the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health and the Center for Injury Prevention and Policy," UMB/State of Maryland, $35,000, 01/01/2019 - 12/31/2019

Natalie Slopen (subcontract PI)
"Maternal Exposure to Childhood Abuse and Disparities in Offspring Neurodevelopment: Identifying Mechanisms," NICHD R01, $187,669, 04/01/2019 - 03/31/2024

Maria Thoma (subcontract PI)
"Estimating population level infertility and fertility treatment rates," NICHD R03, $48,151, 01/19/2019 - 12/31/2020

Jie Chen, Min Qi Wang, Luisa Franzini
"Effects of Hospital-Community-Public Health Integration on Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Mental Health," NIMHD R01 (suppl), $363,902, 03/01/2019 - 02/29/2020

MPRC Scholars at ASA

MPRC Faculty Associates and students participated actively in the American Sociological Association meetings. A total of 11 Faculty Associates and 16 Student Affiliates participated. Faculty Associates presented 8 papers and co-authored 3 others; they participated in 15 other sessions as Presider, Panelist, or member of a Table discussion.