



Maryland Population Research Center

in the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences
University of Maryland

Spring 2025

Newsletter

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Associate / Affiliate News

Faculty Associate **Mónica Caudillo** and co-authors **Andres Villarreal** and Florencia Torche published an article that evaluates the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic for preterm birth in Mexico. (See Research Profile, page 4)

Faculty Associate **Philip Cohen** has published a new book: *Citizen Scholar: Public Engagement for Social Scientists*. The new work provides guidance to current and aspiring social scientists for building a career in the public sphere. He draws from his personal experiences (*Family Inequality* blog) and research to give advice that acknowledges professional risks and rewards. *Citizen Scholar* explores intellectual work on social media, communication on topical issues, the role of political activism, and how to build trust while developing a public intellectual identity. It provides tools and strategies for intellectual engagement and shares perspectives on how to lead a fulfilling professional and civic life, according to a release from the publisher.



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Cohen, Philip N. (2025). "Citizen Scholar: Public Engagement for Social Scientists". Columbia University Press.

Having completed six waves of surveys and three rounds of qualitative data collection for the Nairobi, Kenya, JAMO project, Faculty Associates **Sangeetha Madhavan**, **Kirsten Stoebenau** and **Ken Leonard** are planning to hold an end-of-project conference in July 2025. The team is analyzing the data and disseminating findings and has submitted a renewal



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Director's Note

Dear MPRC community,

Welcome back all from the winter holiday break. First, I want to thank William Fennie for again assembling and overseeing this newsletter of accomplishments since the last fall Center Meeting, and of upcoming events in the semester and summer ahead, with much valued contributions also from Evelin Davila, a Center graduate research assistant since the beginning of the summer 2024. Since receiving our five-year P2C renewal late in the summer, we have awarded three MPRC Seed Grants, to Assistant Professors Rebecca Gourevitch in Family Science (School of Public Health), Ariana Gard in Psychology, and Rachel Ellis in Criminology and Criminal Justice (see project descriptions below). My congratulations to all three, and my thanks to our MPRC Executive Committee in reviewing all applications and for their very positive evaluations of the scientific merit and likelihood of obtaining external funding on all three awarded projects. This enables us to hit the ground running on our five-year cycle of seeding new research within the NICHD Population Dynamics Branch mission and MPRC theme areas. Also important for a strong start to our five-year period is our submitting (and receiving) external research applications and awards early in the cycle. This fall 2024 has been especially busy in this respect. I thank Rachel Pentlargo in particular in our Administrative Core for her dedication and hard work over this period in which she oversaw the development and submission of grants complex and less complex, larger and smaller, and UMD prime and UMD subcontract (see herein). This early new-cycle success in submitting these applications makes possible their first review in the period immediately ahead, notwithstanding uncertainties of transitions at NIH going forward. We expect to continue in the semester ahead to stay alert to the various external research funding opportunities on the horizon, and please know that our grants and contracts staff are ready to assist you with pre-award and post-award tasks to their usual high standard of excellence. Finally, I am thrilled that we have the opportunity this semester to be "at home" for the 2025 Population Association of America meeting in downtown DC. I am looking forward to enjoy-



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Sponsored Conference

Time Use as a Social Determinant of Health



Scholars meeting at 2018 Time Use Conference

MPRC Faculty Associate Liana Sayer and colleagues are organizing the 2025 Time Use conference, to be held April 8-9, 2025, at the University of Maryland. A robust collection of presentations have been organized into nine sessions including Sleep Disparities, Food Practices, Time Use over the Life Course, Care Work, and Policy Influences on Time Use, as well as General Topics and Flash sessions. About 100 participants are expected to attend 37 presentations over the two-day conference. Time for socializing is built in to the event, which will include a reception on April 8. After the conference proper a *Workshop on the ATUS Eating and Health Module* has been arranged for the afternoon of April 9.

"Time is a health resource," Dr. Sayer notes, "but critical gaps remain in understanding how time use is associated with health and well-being." The 2025 UMD Time Use conference will give members of the growing interdisciplinary time use research community the opportunity to interact with one another and share ideas.



The most up-to-date information about Center activities can always be found on the website :

www.popcenter.umd.edu

Seed Grant Program for 2024-25

Three proposals have funded at \$20,000 each following the Fall Seed Grant Call.

Rachel Ellis, Criminology and Criminal Justice (CCJS); Co-I: Wade Jacobsen, CCJS

“Facing the System: Navigating Institutions as Young Adult Children of System-Impacted Parents”



As demonstrated by “system avoidance” theories, adults who experience contact with the criminal justice systems (CJS) and / or child protective services (CPS) are less likely to subsequently engage with labor market, medical, or financial institutions. This study aims to explore the role of parental system contact on children during emerging adulthood using a novel mixed-methods approach. The specific aims of this study include: 1) to explore the extent of how a young adult’s institutional engagement is impacted by the institutional participation of their parents after CJS or CPS involvement; 2) to examine the roles

of race, ethnicity, and gender in children’s institutional engagement in young adulthood; and 3) to identify potential mechanisms that lead young adult children of system-impacted parents to avoid or engage with institutions. It is anticipated that the findings of this study will foster theory development and engage with policy-relevant conversations on inequality and institutional contact and trust.

Arianna Gard, Psychology

“Charting neurocognitive impairments and strengths following ecological adversity across adolescence: Implications for multisystem health and wellbeing”

This study seeks to characterize the skills and capacities that may be enhanced or remain in-tact among adversity-exposed youth that may undergird resilience to adversity. This project focuses specifically on exposure to community violence to test the overall hypothesis that adolescents who experience high community violence will demonstrate larger improvements over time on tasks that measure “stress-adapted skills” (e.g., shifting attention quickly) than tasks that measure “safe-adapted skills” (e.g., sustaining attention for a long period of time). In contrast, youth with low exposure to community violence will not demonstrate such maturational pace differences by task. Adversity-driven differences in the pace of development will be observed at the levels of brain and behavior and will be associated with a range of multisystem indicators of health and wellbeing across adolescence. The in-lab longitudinal study of adolescent neurodevelopment will be bolstered by three community-driven studies that center on the experiences of racial-ethnic minorities who face disproportionate exposure to community violence and increasing health disparities. Understanding the adaptations and impairments that result from childhood adversity and brain-based mechanisms of these developmental trajectories is needed to develop effective strengths-based interventions that promote adolescent health and wellbeing.



Rebecca Gourevitch, Health Policy and Management (HPM); Co-I : Michel Boudreaux, HPM

“The impact of an abortion ban on prenatal screening and testing for fetal anomalies”



Fetal anomalies are the leading cause of infant mortality and exhibit stark racial disparities. As such, diagnosing them is an essential component of prenatal care. Early evidence has shown that abortion bans increase infant mortality, driven by more births with congenital anomalies. However, little evidence exists on how abortion bans are impacting the use of screenings and tests to identify these anomalies. This project will generate the first population-level evidence of the impact of an abortion ban on use of routine screening and testing for fetal anomalies, overall and in populations facing additional challenges

accessing care. Arkansas’ all-payer claims data from 2022-2023 will be used, as the state banned abortion at any gestational age immediately after the Dobbs vs. Jackson Women’s Health Organization Supreme Court Decision on June 24, 2022. An interrupted time series design will also be used to measure changes in rates of utilization of genetic screening, tests, and diagnostic ultrasounds following the abortion ban. These findings will support a larger NICHD proposal that examines the impact of the abortion ban on prenatal care, as well as provide preliminary evidence on such impact.

Director’s Note, continued from page 1

ing the usual high quality of contributions across diverse research themes in the scientific meeting from our Center population scientists, and for the social and networking opportunities that are typically even richer for our Center community when the PAA is held in Washington DC.

Faculty News, continued from page 1

application to NICHD to continue following the cohort of mothers and children in years to come. Funded through an NICHD / PDB R01 award, the JAMO project has engaged MPRC student affiliates from Sociology, Economics, AREC and Public Health in data analysis and included them as co-authors on peer reviewed publications and presentations at PAA, IUSSP and ASA.

MPRC External Affiliate **Conrad Hackett**, Pew Research Center, convened a gathering of 51 experts for a workshop in Aruba on *Open Research Practices in the Study of Religion*. The materials from the workshop can be found on the Open Science Framework (osf.io).



With Yunping Tong, **Dr. Hackett** also published an article in *Socius* focused on studying the end of the growth of Christianity in China. In the decades following the end of the Cultural Revolution, Christianity in China grew rapidly. In this study, Hackett and Tong contrast evidence for the claim that Christianity is still expanding within the country. Using 19 nationally representative surveys conducted since the early 2000’s Hackett and Tong find no evidence that Christianity continues to grow within China’s population.

“The Growth of Christianity in China May Have Come to an End”, Socius, 11.

A forthcoming research note in the journal *Demography* by External Affiliates **Christopher Tamborini**, Social Security Administration, and **Andres Villarreal**, UCLA, compares the estimates of immigrant men’s self-employment obtained from the Current Population Survey (CPS) with those from data linking respondents to their tax records. The findings indicate that the CPS underestimates the immigrant-native gap in self-employment and, in some cases, the rate of self-employment for immigrants from administrative data is nearly double the rate that was obtained from survey data. The results from this research emphasize the importance of self-employment for the labor market integration of immigrant men is greater than was known on the basis of survey data alone.

“Research note: New estimates of immigrants’ self-employment from linked tax records”, Demography (forthcoming).

Summer Research Fellowship Award

Proposal deadline: March 30

MPRC's Suzanne M. Bianchi Summer Research Grant program award supports 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 grant carries 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). The Center expects to award one fellowship during the summer of 2025.

2025 PAA Annual Meeting

The meeting will take place April 10-13 in Washington DC. MPRC scholars will make dozens of presentations during this year's Annual Meeting, participating in panel and poster sessions and as Discussants and Chairs of sessions.



MPRC reception, PAA 2024

Journal Club meets twice this Spring

The MPRC Journal Club, organized by Student Research Affiliates, plans two meetings this semester. Both meetings will be held at 12:00 noon on a Wednesday. Journal Club meetings involve the participation of a population scientist speaking about a specific publication and about the issues scholars face when approaching publication. This semester will see presentations by Sangeetha Madhavan, African American and Africana Studies, and Niambi Carter, Public Policy.

Visiting Scholars

Souleymane Sanogo, Ph.D., University of Geneva

Dr. Sanogo, supported by a grant from the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), will pursue a two-year post-doctoral fellowship in cooperation with Professor Sangeetha Madhavan, African American and Africana Studies. Dr. Sanogo received his Doctorate in Demography from the University of Geneva, Switzerland, in October 2024. His two-year project is entitled, "Women's health in cohabitation and polygamy: A Sub-Saharan African perspective". Dr. Madhavan continues to work on the JAMO project in Nairobi, Kenya, (see Faculty News).

In his letter inviting Dr. Sanogo to come to Maryland for postdoctoral studies, Center Director Michael Rendall noted, "There is every indication that your postdoctoral project would provide an opportunity for fruitful collaboration with the University of Geneva, providing an important bridge to ongoing international and interdisciplinary projects that seek to understand family transformations and their consequences for individual well-being in East Africa. These are the MPRC JAMO project and the SNSF-funded project, FamiLEA: The Remaking of the Family in East Africa, of the Department of Anthropology and Sociology (ANSO), Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID), the Institute of Demography and Socioeconomics (IDESO) of the University of Geneva and the Demography of the Global South (DemoSud) Research Unit of the French Institute of Demographic Studies (INED). Both projects are implemented in Kenya with the African Population and Health Research Centre."



Madhavan, Sanogo



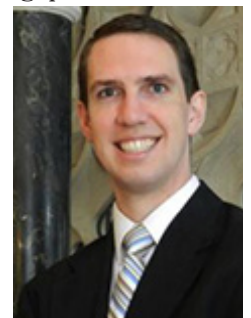
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Research Profile

Nolan Pope, Economics

Skills That Pay: Unpacking Subject-Specific Competencies to Predict Economic Wellbeing, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, \$151,240

Despite the well-documented role of math and English skills in shaping career opportunities and economic advancement, substantial gaps remain in our understanding of how specific, measurable competencies within these subjects (and other subjects) translate to economic well-being. This project will fill some of these gaps by exploring how well mastery of specific skills in math, reading, science, and social studies predicts long-run outcomes including postsecondary educational attainment and labor market outcomes. The approach leverages longitudinal student level data from the state of Maryland's Longitudinal Data System Center (MLD-SC), which provides rich K-12 data, including subscores measuring specific competencies on state standardized exams, linked to postsecondary and workforce data. This study will address a critical gap in the literature by being the first project to link detailed competency data to long-term outcomes. These findings will inform our understanding of the competencies that most strongly influence future academic success and economic mobility.



Research Profile

Mónica Caudillo, Sociology

Individual behaviors and health inequalities: preterm birth during the COVID-19 pandemic in Mexico

With External Affiliate Andrés Villarreal, UCLA, and Florencia Torche, Princeton, Dr. Caudillo used microlevel data drawn from birth certificates for all births



in Mexico between 2014 and 2022 to collect information on the births. The study, recently reported in *Population and Development Review*, aimed to estimate whether the risk of preterm birth changed during the pandemic in Mexico, for the entire population and within each health-care system. To estimate this, time series models were used to evaluate changes in preterm birth rates during the pandemic. Trends in preterm birth were evaluated separately for the three major healthcare systems: public social security, public federal, and private. This study also aimed to evaluate whether women who chose to give birth in private institutions experienced a health

advantage compared to women who received public care during the pandemic, and whether such advantage varied by women's SES. Linear probability difference-in-differences and triple difference models were used for this analysis. The findings from the time series models suggest that preterm births increased among women who gave birth in public hospitals, but decreased among women who gave birth in private settings. The difference-in-differences models indicate that the health benefits from receiving private care were concentrated among women with higher levels of education. The reduction in preterm births among the women with higher education was in part explained by their choice of higher quality services within the private sector. The analysis from this study demonstrates how protective behaviors subject to heterogeneous socioeconomic and structural constraints may lead to unequal health outcomes during health emergencies.

Caudillo, M.L., Villarreal, A. and Torche, F. (2025), "Individual Behaviors and Health Inequalities: Preterm Birth During the COVID-19 Pandemic in Mexico". *Population and Development Review*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/padr.12715>.

Recent Awards

Michael Rendall; Co-Is Sharan Sharma and Sonalde Desai

Acquisition of disability and chronic morbidity by older Indians following extreme urban coastal flooding events, NIH/National Institute of Aging (NIA) R21, 9/17/2024 - 5/31/2026, \$413,476

Julia Steinberg; Co-I Xin He

Sociocultural context and suicidal ideation around an unintended pregnancy, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, 9/1/2024 - 9/1/2026, \$125,000.

Nolan Pope

Skills That Pay: Unpacking Subject-Specific Competencies to Predict Economic Wellbeing, Rockefeller Philanthropic Advisors, 9/1/2024 - 8/31/2026, \$151,240

Amir Sapkota

Climate change, forest fires, and patients with end-stage kidney disease: A national scale vulnerability assessment, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, 9/30/2024 - 7/31/2029, \$1,763,849.

Dahai Yue; Co-I Jie Chen

The effect of childhood environments on adult health and mortality, NIH/NIA R01, 9/1/2024 - 8/31/2029, \$3,502,946

Grant Submissions

MPRC personnel helped researchers to propose over \$7.94 million in new funding during the most recent semester. Recently awarded proposals are indicated by an asterisk (*).

Sangeetha Madhavan

"Preparing Data from the Kinship Support Project in Nairobi, Kenya for Public Use", NICHD R03, \$156,000

Sangeetha Madhavan, Kirsten Stoebenau, Kenneth Leonard

"Kinship, Nuptiality and Child Outcomes in a Low Income Urban African Context", NICHD R01 Renewal, \$3,236,179

Michael Rendall

"Life-course and Intergenerational Projection of Educational and Race / ethnic Differences in Need for, and Availability of, Family Caregivers for Older Americans with Cognitive Impairment and Dementia", NIH-NIA, \$3,779,394

Sharan Sharma; Co-I Sonalde Desai

"Women's Empowerment and Health Trajectories across the Life Course in Gendered Contexts", subaward proposal (Johns Hopkins University prime) to NICHD, \$772,707

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

2025 Spring Seminars, Workshops, and Events

A full schedule of seminars and other events is planned for Spring 2025. Seminars will primarily be held in-person with an online option via Zoom. The Spring series will open with a presentation on February 3 by Paula Fomby (right), Edmund J. and Louise W. Khan Term Professor of the Social Sciences and Associate Director, Penn

Population Studies Center. Other visitors include Arielle Kuperberg, University of Maryland Baltimore (UMBC); Jane Arnold Lincove, UMBC; Emily Smith-Greenaway, University of Southern California; Hannah Postel, Duke University; Valentina Duque, American University; and Janet Currie, Princeton University.



Additionally, we have several speakers from the University of Maryland College Park campus, including Jennifer Roberts, Kinesiology; Reeve Vanneman, Sociology; Bianca Bersani, Criminology and Criminal Justice (CCJS); María B. Vélez, CCJS; and Thu Nguyen, Epidemiology and Biostatistics.

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



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