Good, Better, Best in Educational Research
Workshops teach best practices in quasi-experimental designs

To help those in educational research circles understand, design, and conduct better quasi-experiments, IPR Faculty Fellow Thomas D. Cook, Joan and Sarepta Harrison Chair in Ethics and Justice, and his colleague William R. Shadish of the University of California, Merced received funding from the Spencer Foundation to launch a series of workshops. They began last spring and will continue this summer.

More than 600 people applied for a slot in one of three week-long sessions last year. The 84 participants came mainly from universities and school districts, but also from the federal government, contract research firms, and research laboratories.

(Continued on page 10)

New Center to Improve Quantitative Methods
“Q-Center” to contribute methodological approaches, train graduate students, build community

This past year more than 7,000 newly minted education PhDs were graduated across the nation. Some of them will go on to conduct much needed quantitative research in the field of education that will help shape local, state, and national policies affecting preschools to universities.

“Yet most researchers and academics, not just in education but in the social sciences generally, tend to stick with the research methods they know well, which are those they learned in graduate school—even though those methods might not represent current best practices or be the most appropriate method,” said IPR Faculty Fellow Larry V. Hedges, Board of Trustees Professor of Statistics and Social Policy.

This is one of the reasons why Hedges recently launched the Center for Improving Methods for Quantitative Policy Research, or Q-Center, at the Institute for Policy Research. He is the center’s director.

(Continued on page 10)

Summa Cum Laude
Two IPR faculty fellows receive exceptional honors

IPR faculty are no strangers to prestigious awards and honors. Yet even by IPR standards, two of its faculty fellows recently received extraordinary recognition.

Economist Greg Duncan was elected president of two of the nation’s pre-eminent research societies, the Population Association of America and the Society for Research in Child Development. Social psychologist Jennifer Richeson was named a MacArthur Fellow in fall 2006.

MacArthur Fellow
Jennifer Richeson was standing on a busy Chicago street corner on her birthday when she got the cell-phone call that she had received one of 25 MacArthur Fellowships in 2006, an honor that carries a $500,000 “no-strings-attached” award.

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation selected Richeson, an associate professor of psychology and African American studies and an IPR faculty fellow, because she “takes the lead in highlighting and analyzing major challenges facing"
**Faculty Awards, Honors, Presentations of Note, and Grants**

**Awards, Honors, and Presentations of Note**

Social psychologist **Thomas D. Cook** gave several keynote speeches over the fall and winter. He spoke on “Empirical Estimates of the Marginal Advantage of Conducting Randomized Clinical Trials: Results from Experiments and Non-Experiments in Education and Job Training Interventions” on September 14 at the first annual conference on Randomized Controlled Trials in the Social Sciences: Challenges and Prospects, York Trials Methods Group, University of York, U.K. He gave two keynote talks on U.S. educational research methods on October 18 at the XI Congreso Nacional de Pedagogía in Colima, Mexico, and on November 8 to the Open Network in Paris. He also delivered lectures on November 18 in Paris: the first on “Evaluations of Programs Using Educational Technologies” to the Tematic interdisciplinary network and a second on empiricism in the social sciences at the Laboratoire d’Éducation at the Sorbonne. Cook is Joan and Sarepta Harrison Chair in Ethics and Justice and an IPR faculty fellow.

IPR Faculty Fellow **Greg Duncan**, Edwina S. Tarry Professor in Education and Social Policy, was elected president of the Population Association of America and will start his one-year term in January 2008; he is currently serving as its vice president. He also was elected president of the Society for Research in Child Development and will serve starting in April 2009 for two years. (See the related cover story.)

**Larry V. Hedges**, Board of Trustees Professor of Statistics and Social Policy and an IPR faculty fellow, co-organized the invitational meeting of the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness in Lansdowne, Va., held from December 10 to 12. More than 150 members attended. Hedges is a co-founder of the organization.

**Christopher Kuzawa**, assistant professor of anthropology and an IPR faculty fellow, gave a plenary lecture on “Evolutionary Constraints on Human Infancy” at the Fourth World Congress of the International Society for Developmental Origins of Health and Disease in Utrecht, Netherlands, on September 14.


**Jennifer Richeson**, associate professor of psychology and African American studies and an IPR faculty fellow, was named one of 25 MacArthur Fellows in 2006, receiving a $500,000 no-strings-attached award. Fellows are named for their “creativity, originality, and potential to make important contributions in the future.” (See the related cover story.)

On October 11, **James Rosenbaum**, professor of human development and social policy and an IPR faculty fellow, made a presentation with Stefanie DeLuca of Johns Hopkins University on “How Housing Can Affect Family Outcomes” at the National Housing Conference Policy Summit in Chicago. He spoke to the Spencer Foundation on November 29 on “The Impact of Research on Social Policy: How Can We Improve the Usability of Research?”

The Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences named **Police and Community in Chicago: A Tale of Three Cities** (Oxford University Press, 2006) by **Wesley G. Skogan**, professor of political science and an IPR faculty fellow, its 2007 Outstanding Book. On November 11, Skogan was part of a panel discussing “The War on Crime” at the Chicago Humanities Festival.

Skogan and **Bruce D. Spencer** were appointed to the National Academy of Sciences panel to review programs of the Bureau of Justice Statistics in December. The bureau collects, analyzes, publishes, and disseminates statistical information on crime, criminal offenders, victims of crime, and the operations of the justice system at all levels of government. Spencer is professor of statistics and an IPR faculty fellow.

IPR Faculty Fellow **James Spillane**, Spencer T. and Ann W. Olin Professor in Learning and Organizational Change, gave the opening address, “The Practice of School Leadership and Management,” at the British Educational Leadership, Management, and Administration Society’s annual meeting on October 6 in Birmingham, England. He was a visiting scholar at the Institut National de Recherche Pédagogique in Lyon, France, this winter.

**Kathleen Thelen**, Payson S. Wild Professor in Political Science and an IPR faculty fellow, was elected president of the American Political Science Association’s organized section on politics and history. Her term will begin in September.

**Sandra Waxman**, professor of psychology and education and an IPR faculty associate, received a James McKeen Cattell Fellowship through the Association for Psychological Science for 2007-08 and a 2007 Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship.

**Recent Grants**

Social psychologist **Thomas D. Cook**, Joan and Sarepta Harrison Chair in Ethics and Justice and an IPR faculty fellow, received funding from the Spencer Foundation to run three week-long workshops on quasi-experimental design analysis during summer 2007 with William R. Shadish of the University of California, Merced. (See the related cover story.)

**Greg Duncan**, Edwina S. Tarry Professor in Education and Social Policy and an IPR faculty fellow, received four grants, including a major grant from the John D. and Catherine T.

(Continued on page 17)
IPR Welcomes Four New Faculty Fellows

Representing the fields of history, education and social policy, political science, and economics, these faculty fellows will enhance the Institute’s interdisciplinarity.

Nancy MacLean
Professor of History and African American Studies
PhD, U.S. History, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1989

Nancy MacLean specializes in the history of social movements and public policy. With expertise in African American, women’s, and labor history, she has often offered new analyses of long-standing historical debates.

Her most recent book, Freedom Is Not Enough: The Opening of the American Workplace, (Harvard University Press, Russell Sage Foundation, 2006) reveals how central the quest for better jobs was to all modern equality movements: the black freedom movement, the women’s movement, and the Mexican American civil rights movement. It concludes that creating more good jobs for all Americans is vital to fulfill the vision of human rights for which these movements labored.

She is currently working on a book that will trace the closing of schools in Prince Edward County, Va., from 1959 to 1964. The closings grew out of the state’s policy of “massive resistance” to Brown v. Board of Education advocated by Southern segregationists. This five-year struggle also generated the first push for the tuition grants and school vouchers that later became a cause of national conservatives.

Michelle Reininger
Assistant Professor of Human Development, Social Policy, and Learning Sciences
PhD, Economics of Education, Stanford University, 2006

Michelle Reininger’s broad research agenda aims to provide a better understanding of the dynamics behind teacher labor markets, including preparation, recruitment, and retention. Specifically, Reininger studies how geography affects teachers’ occupational decision making as well as the role community colleges play in supplying teachers to areas with hard-to-staff schools.

Currently, she is involved with the Teacher Pathways Project, a multiyear study that analyzes and identifies the attributes of teacher preparation programs and pathways into teaching in New York City that have a positive impact on student outcomes.

A former chemistry teacher, Reininger received a PhD in the economics of education and a master’s in economics from Stanford University and a master’s in education policy from the University of Virginia. She joined Northwestern University this fall.

Andrew Roberts
Assistant Professor of Political Science
PhD, Political Science, Princeton University, 2003

Political scientist Andrew Roberts studies comparative politics, democratization, and public policy. He has been an assistant professor at Northwestern University since 2002.

One of his most recent projects examines the debate in several countries over partial or full privatization of pension systems, including Social Security in the United States. In exploring the politics behind the push for privatization, Roberts hopes to show how a loss of public trust in the public scheme and relative confidence in financial markets might induce citizens to support privatization.

In his work, he has also looked at new democracies in Eastern Europe, which he frequently compares to established democracies in Western Europe and North America. He recently completed a book manuscript looking at the quality of democracy in ten countries.

Éva Nagypál
Assistant Professor of Economics
PhD, Economics, Stanford University, 2001

Economist Éva Nagypál’s research focuses on labor-market dynamics at the micro- and macro-levels, the determination of unemployment and of firms’ hiring behavior, and the impact of macroeconomic policies on labor-market outcomes.

She has studied the impact of learning on the formation and dissolution of employment relationships and how learning relates to employment protection policies.

Her current interest is understanding job-to-job transitions, which encompasses the moves of workers between employers without an intervening spell of unemployment, their role in the reallocation of labor towards its more productive uses, and their interaction with labor-market regulation.

Nagypál has been an assistant professor at Northwestern University for four years. She spent 2002 as a visiting researcher at Stockholm University in Sweden.

For more information about these and other IPR faculty fellows, go to: www.northwestern.edu/ipr/people/faculty.html.
Economic Research on Profiling
IPR economist leads effort to show how economic thinking can illuminate the nature and consequences of profiling

Allegations of racial and ethnic profiling abound in the media—from claims of Rhode Island police using racial profiling in the unconstitutional detention of 14 Guatemalans on I-95 to loan officers redlining poor minority families and airlines removing Muslim passengers from flights. Yet until recently, racial and ethnic profiling has received little evidence-based scrutiny.

Starting in 2002, a group of 11 economists met periodically to explore substantive and methodological issues in analyzing social interactions. They quickly turned to racial and ethnic profiling, seeing “a pressing need to bring serious theoretical and empirical analysis to bear on a subject of enormous controversy,” said Charles F. Manski, Board of Trustees Professor in Economics and an IPR faculty fellow. He successfully applied for National Science Foundation funding and subsequently led and organized the resulting research network until it ended in 2006.

Manski points out that the term profiling, which is a relatively recent lexicon entry, comes from public discourse and is not formally defined in economics. The Oxford English Dictionary (OED) first published its modern definition of profiling (see below) in its online edition in 2004.

According to Manski, the definition of profiling indicates why it is so controversial. One definition (a) is broad and neutral; it describes cataloguing and analyzing a person’s “known characteristics” to evaluate his or her competence. The second definition (b), however, is a narrow statement that focuses on identifying a person by his or her “superficial characteristics” such as race or ethnicity for the sole purpose of further scrutiny with no evidence of wrongdoing.

Though economists have long studied problems related to the OED’s broad definition (a) of profiling, Manski notes, it was a 2001 study by John Knowles, Nicola Persico, and Petra Todd of the University of Pennsylvania on racial profiling in traffic stops that prompted more serious scrutiny of search profiling as defined under (b). Their model of police and driver behavior shows that if a police officer’s goal is to catch as many guilty motorists as possible, then lower rates of crime detection, or hit rates, for minority groups such as blacks would signal that the police officer was racially motivated. This is because an unbiased police officer would see that he or she could catch more wrongdoers by searching white drivers instead. “Their work did much to shed light on profiling, but we knew it was only a beginning,” Manski said.

The resulting papers, which cover a diverse range of areas including university admissions, welfare programs, and loans, were published as a special feature of the U.K.-based Economic Journal in November 2006. The National Science Foundation provided financial support for the workshops and conferences.

The first two articles, by Nicola Persico and Petra Todd and by Jeff Dominitz and John Knowles, shed new light on the validity of the hit-rate test for discrimination. Persico and Todd find that hit rates are similar for all races and ethnicities. Thus, police officers searching for drugs and weapons appear to pick strategies that will maximize successful searches, rather than ones that demonstrate racial bias. Dominitz and Knowles consider an alternative to the Knowles, Persico, and Todd basic assumption on police behavior. They assume that an unbiased police officer aims to minimize crime rather than maximize successful searches. They evaluate the hit-rate test under this assumption and find that it is valid in some cases but not others.

The next two articles are concerned with normative aspects of search profiling policy. Previous research assumes that a policy planner knows the deterrent effect of search on offense rates and thus can select an optimal search policy. Manski observes that this is an unrealistic assumption, and he shows how a policy planner with only partial knowledge of deterrence can reasonably choose a strategy. Steven Durlauf argues that incomplete knowledge of the deterrent effects of search profiling should lead one to reject a public policy of using profiling in traffic stops because of the uncertainty as to whether it reduces crime and the harm that it causes to innocent African Americans.

The final four articles consider profiling problems that arise in areas outside of police searches—mortgage lending, means-tested transfer programs, college admissions, and the (Continued on page 17)

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Profiling: The 2004 OED Online Definition
The Oxford English Dictionary posted this draft definition of profiling in its 2004 online edition.

profiling: (a) The recording, itemization, or analysis of a person’s known psychological, intellectual, and behavioral characteristics, especially as documentation used (in schools, businesses, etc.) in the assessment of an individual’s capabilities. (b) Selection for scrutiny by law enforcement officials, etc., based on superficial characteristics (as ethnic background or race) rather than on evidentiary criteria.
Chicago’s Great Crime Drop

By Wesley G. Skogan

Mayor and police chiefs from around the country recently gathered in Washington, D.C., to debate how to respond to an epidemic of murder and other violent gun crimes hitting a number of mid- and large-sized cities—hitting them so hard that they are driving up national totals for the first time in 15 years.

"Crime is coming back," Los Angeles Police Chief William Bratton warned the crowd.

But the chief’s message was not aimed at Chicago. The FBI’s national crime statistics, released in mid-September, indicate that Chicago has thus far avoided the rise in crime that is confounding many cities. Between 1991, which was the peak year, and 2005, Chicago homicides fell by 52 percent and all gun crimes by 62 percent. Other violent crimes and major property crimes such as burglary and auto theft also fell by half. The city has not experienced an end to this great drop in crime.

Why did crime drop here so sharply and for so long, and what does that foretell? My research points to some explanations, while discounting other popular claims.

Chicago’s crime, for example, did not drop because the city got richer. In fact, the city’s response to the economic good times of the 1990s was tepid. The percentage of Chicago youths who live in poverty scarcely changed at all, and neither did the number of low-income households. The benefits of the booming 1990s mostly went to those already well off.

Neither does the aging of the population provide an answer. Younger newcomers more or less canceled out the graying of the city’s white and African American neighborhoods.

It was also not because there were simply more police around. Critics point to the Bush administration’s decision to end federal support for local police hiring as a key factor in rising crime. In Chicago, the number of police went up by a little more than 10 percent during the 1990s, but then growth stopped—and crime just kept dropping. This investment in policing, which represents a significant financial commitment by the city, could not have accounted for a decline in crime of more than 50 percent through 2005.

What about drug markets? In some cities it is claimed that the crack epidemic of the 1980s fueled drug wars that then tapered off in the 1990s. But in Chicago indicators of cocaine and heroin abuse (arrests and hospital emergencies) point in the opposite direction. In 2004, the city experienced five times as many crack arrests and many more hospital emergency room visits involving cocaine and heroin than in the early 1990s.

Violence did not subside because our gangs became more polite, either. Gang violence went up and down during this period, but non-gang homicide has dropped steadily. The other good news, for all but the National Rifle Association, is that gun carrying seems to be down considerably.

How about prisons? Locking up more people seems to have helped during the 1990s, when Illinois’ prisons were growing, but it could not have played much of a role since. The number of Chicagoans going to prison peaked in 1999 but then declined noticeably, while crime continued to drop.

That takes us to the city’s community policing program, Chicago’s Alternative Policing Strategy or CAPS, the largest in the country. The program has helped steer police efforts in response to local priorities and has involved hundreds of thousands of residents in crime fighting. The effects of this neighborhood mobilization around crime could not have kicked in until the second half of the 1990s, but statistical evidence shows that it then made a difference. Some of the program’s most impressive successes have been in places that needed help the most. Public involvement has been strongest in higher-crime, African American neighborhoods—where crime has gone down the most. In fact, 70 percent of the drop in gun crime in Chicago between 1991 and 2005 was in predominately black police beats. They were the biggest winners.

Furthermore, police have been policing “smarter” across the country. Considerable evidence shows that focused, data-driven “hot-spot” policing and other strategies backed up by better data and rigorous management oversight can reduce crime. Beginning around 2000, Chicago adopted many of these strategies, along with new information systems that enable police to rigorously manage them.

The benefits of the great crime drop for all Chicagoans have been huge. If crime had remained at its 1991 level, by the end of 2005 Chicago would have had 3,100 more homicides and 275,000 more robbery victims. Vast, uncontrollable economic or demographic factors didn’t keep that epidemic from happening. Rather, close-to-home investments, law enforcement, and community involvement made the big difference in the city’s crime drop. Keeping both energized and focused on communities that need the most help is our best recipe for preserving what we have won in Chicago.

Wesley G. Skogan, professor of political science and an IPR faculty fellow, is the author of Police and Community in Chicago: A Tale of Three Cities (Oxford University Press, 2006). These results were included in the 2006 report “Reflections on Declining Crime in Chicago” for the MacArthur Foundation.
Blood, Spit, and Peers
IPR faculty offer biomarker instruction and establish community of scholars

In theory, it sounded simple: Prick the subject’s finger, extract a drop of blood, and then position the drop in the middle of the circle on the filter paper. However, the 29 purple-gloved academics, researchers, and graduate students quickly discovered that obtaining a dried blood spot—which can later be transformed into whole blood for analysis—is not as easy as it looks.

There was the social scientist with hands so cold that only a pin drop of blood could be drawn; the graduate student who blew on a sample and contaminated it; those too squeamish to have their finger pricked. This was one of several hands-on exercises at a biomarker institute last June run by Cells to Society (C2S): The Center on Social Disparities and Health. It will take place again this June. C2S is housed within the Institute for Policy Research and directed by IPR Faculty Fellow Lindsay Chase-Lansdale, professor of human development and social policy.

Three IPR and C2S faculty members organized the three-day summer institute: Thomas McDade, associate professor of anthropology; Emma Adam, assistant professor of human development and social policy; and Christopher Kuzawa, assistant professor of anthropology. All are specialists in the emerging use of biomarkers, which allow scientists to link biological processes to broader social, cultural, and economic environments.

The institute walked participants through the entire process of biomarker data acquisition, including collection of samples in the field, analysis in the lab, interpretation of results, theory, and practical, hands-on exercises. It had two goals: educating the participants in state-of-the-art methods for integrating biomarkers into population-based, social science research and building a community of scholars around these objective measures of health.

“We are training the next generation of scholars to study how environmental factors ‘get under the skin’ to shape human development and health,” said McDade, C2S’s associate director.

Historically, population health research has relied primarily on self-reports of health, said McDade. Yet this is tricky because “what you think of your health and your actual state of health might differ across generations, cultures, and ethnicities,” he pointed out. Self-reports can be tainted by a host of factors, including faulty recall, language ability, and miscommunication, among others.

“It’s hard to get objective measures of health outside of the clinic, so this is where minimally-invasive biomarker methods hold a lot of promise,” McDade continued. These methods also have the advantage of being more cost effective, easier to use in real-life situations, and less invasive than traditional gauges of health typically used in clinical settings.

In addition to the session on dried blood spots, the 29 participants also learned about the strengths and weaknesses of using saliva, DNA, and other biomarker methodologies to measure stress, cardiovascular function, immune function, and nutritional status in large-scale population surveys. The participants came from academic, research, and government institutions across the United States and Mexico.

Attendees such as Graciela Teruel, who is a professor at the Universidad Iberoamericana, are already working on large-scale surveys. She is also co-principal investigator of the Mexican Family Life Survey, a longitudinal panel survey with 34,000 participants in Mexico. She thinks that implementing biomarker methods will help to improve the third wave of the survey because of the difficulties in obtaining accurate health information from participants.

“Using dried blood spots will definitely help us to have not only more objective measures of health but also to link this information to either behaviors or past information about this particular individual,” Teruel said. She expects they will be especially informative as the study progresses to document the transition of Mexicans’ health over time.

Though they have many implications for large-scale population studies, biomarkers are also viable for much smaller studies. Social psychologist Jennifer Richeson, an IPR faculty fellow, typically relies on one-on-one interactions and cognitive testing for groups of people to measure intergroup relations in her work.

“Using salivary cortisol, for example, allows you to obtain information on a person’s stress levels without undermining the interaction, without having to stop the interaction to put on a blood pressure cuff,” Richeson said. She is associate professor of psychology and African American studies.

Acquiring a better understanding of these cutting-edge techniques also brought Michael Spittel, a program officer in the Demographic and Behavioral Sciences Branch at the National Institutes of Health, to the institute. He oversees a grant portfolio of mortality and morbidity projects.

Spittel says more demographers are starting to employ biomarkers in their health research. Thus, it is important to have exposure to the methods/techniques they will be using.

(Continued on page 7)
MacArthur Grants IPR Faculty Fellow $1.8 Million for Study on Neighborhood Effects

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation recently awarded IPR Faculty Fellow Greg Duncan and his colleagues $1.8 million for a study on the long-term effects of neighborhoods on low-income youth. The grant is part of the foundation’s recent $25 million investment in housing research.

Jonathan Fanton, the foundation’s president, speaking at a press conference about the overall investment, said, “We expect this research to suggest ways to make U.S. housing policy more effective and efficient. We want it to push our country’s vision beyond incremental policy reform. We want it to provoke more far-reaching, new ideas about the importance of housing and how the net benefits of our investments can best be realized and understood.”

To illustrate the differences that can exist in neighborhood contexts, Duncan, an economist and the study’s lead principal investigator, cites two stark examples. In the affluent Chicago suburb of Wilmette, almost all of its local youth graduate from high school with a majority attending—and completing—college, he said. In contrast, on Chicago’s disadvantaged south and west sides, the dropout rate surpasses 20 percent in one out of four public high schools in this area.

Duncan points out that the same pattern holds for homicide. Murder rates in some of Chicago’s South Side neighborhoods are about ten times the national average, or 60 to 70 per 100,000 people. In 2002, Wilmette’s homicide rate was exactly zero.

“Understanding why such patterns are affected by neighborhood contexts is vital to how we craft policies on housing, education, and local development,” Duncan said. “The need is urgent given that the number of Americans living in high poverty neighborhoods doubled between 1970 and 2000.”

Duncan and his colleagues, Lawrence Katz and Ronald Kessler of Harvard University, Jeffrey Kling of the Brookings Institution, and Jens Ludwig of Georgetown University, propose to examine these effects by using a random-assignment demonstration program, Moving to Opportunity (MTO), which tracks 4,600 public housing families in five U.S. cities. The MTO study, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, follows a treatment group offered assistance to move to more affluent neighborhoods—with poverty rates of 10 percent or less—and a control group that was not offered such assistance. Previous findings have indicated “better neighborhoods, better outcomes” for comparable groups of children.

Yet Duncan and his co-investigators found that the 2002 data painted a much more complicated picture.

They found that the only effect that seems to carry over to female adults is an improvement in their mental health. On average, young men who moved because of MTO seemed to do worse in terms of risky and criminal behavior.

The researchers propose to collect new data on 2,444 youth, now 10 to 14 years old, who were newborns to five-year-olds at the time of random assignment. The investigators think that this group might be the most susceptible to environmental changes, according to recent child development findings. They will investigate several outcomes for the children, including education, mental and physical health, and delinquent, risky, or problem behavior. The researchers will also interweave the MTO data with school records, arrest histories, and possibly biomarker data for health information.

“Assessing whether the large changes in neighborhood environments induced by MTO during early childhood are positive and sustainable could provide key insights on how to improve life chances for disadvantaged children living in some of our most distressed neighborhoods,” Duncan said.

Duncan is Edwina S. Tarry Professor in Education and Social Policy.

Blood, Spit, and Peers
(continued from page 6)

“It is humbling to see how much work and technical expertise are required to collect and analyze biomarker data,” Spittel said.

Finding out how much error could be involved in obtaining blood-spot samples and that a sizeable staff is required to process the samples correctly was an eye-opener for him.

“I learned a tremendous amount,” Spittel said. “Observing how biomarker data is collected while hearing from some of the leading experts in this field was a valuable experience.”

For more about the next C2S Biomarker Institute, see www.northwestern.edu/ipr/c2s/events/biomarkers.html.
Competitive Framing

In a recent study, IPR faculty members Dennis Chong and James Druckman looked at how a framing strategy could affect public opinion on a contested issue in a competitive political campaign environment.

To investigate how competition between frames, in particular their frequency and strength, might affect individual stances, Chong and Druckman implemented an experiment where more than 1,000 people were exposed to stronger and weaker frames at varying frequencies and orders of presentation. They assigned participants to one of 16 possible combinations of frames regarding either an urban growth proposal or a hate-group rally, and participants were questioned on their thoughts about the proposal. Three weeks later, the researchers followed up with more questions, plus additional issue information for the treatment group.

Chong and Druckman found that a frame's strength was the most reliable predictor of a shift in an individual's opinion for or against a particular policy. A frame’s repetition, sequence, and timing could also affect individual positions, depending on how much an individual knows about the policy. For example, less knowledgeable voters were more affected by repetition.

The researchers point out that deciding which value to call attention to is critical because voters do not necessarily pick the frame most closely aligned with their values. Stressing the right value can sway voters on both sides of an issue. Highlighting the wrong one can inadvertently evoke the opposition’s values and push voters away.

In a competitive environment, a campaign must give voters—even its most traditional allies—the “right” reason to continue to support or adopt a particular position, they said. Thus, each campaign must develop a wide variety of frames, each one tailored to a particular constituency of voters that can also withstand the opposition's counter-framing attempts.

Chong is John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Professor of Political Science and an IPR faculty associate. Druckman is AT&T Research Scholar, associate professor of political science, and an IPR faculty fellow.

“Competitive Framing” received the 2006 award for best paper in political psychology at the American Political Science Association's annual meeting in Philadelphia.

New Perspectives on Poverty in America

Economist Greg Duncan, an IPR faculty fellow, recently concluded two projects that provide new perspectives on childhood poverty and the working poor. He is Edwina S. Tarry Professor in Education and Social Policy.

In a study of childhood poverty, Duncan and his co-authors found that its economic costs total about $500 billion per year—or nearly 4 percent of the nation's gross domestic product (GDP). They linked a poor child's average future earning potential, propensity to commit crime, and quality of health, adding up their average costs per child to arrive at an aggregate economic impact on the U.S. economy.

Specifically, they found that childhood poverty reduces productivity and economic output by about 1.3 percent of GDP, increases the costs of crime by 1.3 percent of GDP, and boosts health expenditures, reducing the value of health by 1.2 percent of GDP.

In another project that culminated in the book Higher Ground: New Hope for the Working Poor and their Children, Duncan and his co-authors report on their study of Milwaukee’s New Hope Program. It provides a blueprint for a national model built on the tenet that “if you work, you should not be poor.”

Launched in 1994, New Hope was not a welfare program but rather a menu of options offered to participants in exchange for their working 30 hours a week. These included subsidized child care, health care, and job assistance, tailored to meet each family’s specific needs. The program resulted from an unusual collaborative effort between the city’s business leaders and community activists.

The results have been extremely encouraging with a dramatic decline in poverty rates, increased employment and earnings for those not initially working full time, and better health outcomes for participants.

Though targeted at adults, the program also had a significant impact on their children. The researchers found that school performance improved, especially for boys; behavior problems declined; enrollment in child care centers increased; and participation in out-of-school activities rose. Though the program ended in 1998, the families who participated continue to show improved life outcomes.

With approximately 12 million Americans in a working poor family and one in five American children living in poverty, these studies provide new approaches that could have a dramatic impact on poverty in the United States.


**IPR RESEARCH NOTES**

**Race in Biotechnology Research**

Should race be used as a category in science, law, and social policy? This is the driving question behind a two-year project to analyze how race-based technologies and biomedical research are treated in scientific and sociopolitical contexts and how these are related to race consciousness in social policies. IPR Faculty Fellow Dorothy Roberts leads the project. Roberts, Kirkland & Ellis Professor of Law and professor of African American studies and sociology, was intrigued by a resurgence of scientific interest in race-based genomic variation and the use of racial categorization—despite evidence from genetic and social scientists that race is a social construct without biological validity.

She asked, “Why are these biological definitions of race reappearing now, and what are the implications for understanding racial equality and identity?”

She gives the example of BiDil, approved by the FDA in 2005 as the first race-based prescription medicine. The drug is being marketed to treat heart failure specifically in African Americans. Its clinical trial was co-sponsored by the Association of Black Cardiologists and supported by the Congressional Black Caucus and National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

A new study that takes a rare look at the physiological, social, and emotional dynamics of day-to-day experiences in real-life settings shows that when older adults go to bed lonely, sad, or overwhelmed, they have elevated levels of the stress hormone cortisol shortly after waking the next morning. This rise could help give them a needed boost of energy to meet the demands of their day, according to a recent study led by IPR Faculty Fellow Emma Adam.

When chronically elevated, cortisol is linked to depression and other health problems. But when experienced infrequently—after an occasional bad day, for example—elevated cortisol levels could help prepare the body to overcome stress and negative experiences. Even on a typical day, Adam and her colleagues found that cortisol levels are high upon waking, increasing in the first 30 minutes after awakening, then gradually decreasing to lower levels by bedtime.

But the day after older adults report experiencing negative emotions such as loneliness, the post-awakening boost in cortisol is even larger.

“Cortisol increases are a survival mechanism that help us to respond to stressful experiences and do something about them,” said Adam, who is assistant professor of human development and social policy.

Adam’s research team also found that on days where participants had lower levels of cortisol when they woke up, they experienced greater fatigue throughout that day. Thus, the study provides evidence that cortisol influences—and is influenced by—the daily experiences of older adults. The link between low cortisol and daily fatigue could also aid in future research to understand chronic fatigue.

As a member of Cells to Society (C2S): The Center on Social Disparities and Health housed within IPR, Adam is interested in linking social stress factors to biology and health, specifically to understand when overuse of biological systems designed to cope with stress can lead to disorder. The National Institute of Aging and the John Templeton Foundation supported this research.

The Next Generation of Research and Researchers

Hedges’ impetus stems from his vision of bringing together an interdisciplinary group of distinguished scholars who focus on methodological problems with individuals who focus on substantive policy questions. He also saw a need to infuse the field with a new generation of researchers trained in interdisciplinary methods.

“We need a better understanding of what data analysis is,” Hedges explained. “For example, how should we take evidence from multiple studies and decide what it means? How can we better design studies to be more informative? In which cases should we use smaller, more nuanced, and more cost-effective social experiments over large-scale ones?”

Q-Center faculty conduct research relevant to the center’s mission of improving designs, data collection, analysis, and synthesis in social policy research—particularly in large-scale surveys. The center is also responding to a large shift in the field of educational research and analysis, as witnessed by a greater emphasis on random assignment studies and a call for more educational researchers trained in these methods by the Institute of Education Sciences (IES), which is part of the U.S. Department of Education.

For example, Hedges is working on new methods to conduct better and larger multisite and group randomized experiments in education; social psychologist Thomas D. Cook is studying cluster-based experiments and the extent to which specific forms of non-experiments empirically reproduce the same results as experiments; and economist Charles F. Manski is tackling partial identification problems.

The center is preparing to launch a postdoctoral research training fellowship with funding from IES. Over the next four years, it will accept one to two postdoctoral students each year, with each student receiving two years of funding.

“We hope that the Q-Center’s training function will help to end this huge shortage of people with skills in state-of-the-art methods,” Hedges said.

Critical Mass and Cross-Fertilization

Having recently joined Northwestern, Hedges found an opportunity to build on a critical mass of innovative IPR researchers who have made major contributions to the design, analysis, and interpretation of policy research. These methodological pioneers include: Cook in quasi-experimentation, Manski in identification problems, statistician Bruce D. Spencer in large-scale statistical program design, economist Greg J. Duncan in the study of neighborhood effects, and of course, Hedges himself in meta-analysis. (See the sidebar on p. 11 for brief explanations of their methodological contributions.)

“We are fortunate at IPR and Northwestern to have an environment that encourages cross-fertilization of methodological approaches, which is not usually the case at other academic institutions,” Hedges said. “Those who work on methodology often do so in isolation.”

Yet this translation of techniques from one discipline to another, he continued, has contributed to many of the most important advances in social science methods over the last four decades.

He cites the well-known example of sociologist Otis Dudley Duncan, who introduced path analysis to sociology in the 1960s, having borrowed the idea from genetics where it had been used for 40 years.

“He changed how a whole generation did—and thought about—research,” Hedges said.

By bringing methodologists from different disciplines together, Hedges hopes to build a wider community and spread best practices to those already in the field. “Social science methodologists are often separated from specialists, particularly in mathematics and statistics, who are working on related problems,” he said. This is why the Q-Center inaugurated its interdisciplinary colloquium series last year.

Hedges is also active in fostering the methodological community at a national level as one of the founders of the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness, which held its first meeting in December. The organization seeks to advance and disseminate research on the causal effects of education interventions, practices, programs, and policies.

Hedges, with Barbara Foorman of Florida State University, will also serve as inaugural editor of the organization’s new Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness.

Building internal and external communities of distinguished scholars, producing innovative strategies for quantitative research, and forming new scholars in quantitative research methods will serve as the guideposts of the new venture.

“The Q-Center is the realization of IPR’s dream to bring together a critical mass of scholars who can produce better research methods for studying social policy,” said IPR’s Director and Faculty Fellow Fay Lomax Cook, professor of human development and social policy. “With Larry Hedges’ expertise and vision, in addition to a terrific group of IPR scholars, the Q-Center is poised to make valuable contributions in this endeavor.”

For more information on the Q-Center and its activities, please visit its Web site at www.northwestern.edu/ipr/qcenter.
I"PR Innovators in Social Science Methodology

The Institute counts among its faculty a critical mass of interdisciplinary fellows committed to improving research design and analysis in the social sciences.

**Thomas D. Cook,** Sociology, Psychology, and Education and Social Policy

In addition to his work on Comer Schools and whole-school reform, Cook has studied and long advocated randomized and quasi-experiments in educational policy research as a means to achieve more meaningful research results. Cook is the Joan and Sarepta Harrison Chair in Ethics and Justice, a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and Margaret Mead Fellow of the American Academy of Political and Social Science.

**Charles F. Manski,** Economics

Manski’s research spans econometrics, judgment and decision making, and social policy analysis. He is currently exploring and partially resolving pervasive problems of identification and statistical inference that arise when studying treatment response and making treatment choices. He is Board of Trustees Professor in Economics and a fellow of the Econometric Society, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and American Association for the Advancement of Science.

**Bruce D. Spencer,** Statistics

Spencer is a statistician whose interests span the disciplines of statistics and public policy with special focus on the design and evaluation of large-scale statistical data programs. He has studied the accuracy of the decennial census and undercount corrections, government population forecasts, and jury verdicts in criminal trials. He is a recipient of the Palmer O. Johnson Memorial Award from the American Educational Research Association and an elected fellow of the American Statistical Association.

**Greg J. Duncan,** Education and Social Policy

Duncan has conducted work on the endogeneity problem in developmental studies, neighborhood effects, and qualitative/quantitative synergies in random-assignment program evaluations. He is Edwina S. Tarry Professor in Education and Social Policy, a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the interdisciplinary MacArthur Network on the Family and the Economy, and president-elect of the Population Association of America and the Society for Research in Child Development.

**Larry V. Hedges,** Statistics and Education and Social Policy

Hedges’ research straddles many fields—in particular those of sociology, psychology, and educational policy. He is best known for his work to develop statistical methods for meta-analysis in the social, medical, and biological sciences. He is Board of Trustees Professor of Statistics and Social Policy and a member of the National Academy of Education and a fellow of the American Statistical Association. He is convenor of the Campbell Collaboration’s statistics group, which is creating an online best-practices database.

**Christopher R. Taber,** Economics

Taber’s research focuses on the development and implementation of econometric models of skill formation including schooling, on-the-job training, and other forms of human capital investment. His recent research spans studies of Catholic schooling, wage growth among low-wage workers, and general equilibrium models of the labor market. He is associate editor at three journals, including the Journal of Applied Econometrics, and a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research.

For more information about these and other Q-Center faculty, go to: [www.northwestern.edu/ipr/qcenter/people.html](http://www.northwestern.edu/ipr/qcenter/people.html).
Hope offers some of the strongest evidence to date that work supports make a difference in the lives of people in low-wage jobs. The program not only increased income and employment but also improved the school achievement and behavior of the children of New Hope families. Few social policies—even those directly aimed at children—are able to match the benefits that New Hope children experienced. As America takes stock of the successes and shortcomings of the Clinton-era poverty and welfare policies, the authors convincingly demonstrate why New Hope could be a model for state and national efforts to assist the working poor.

Greg Duncan is Edwina S. Tarry Professor in Education and Social Policy and an IPR faculty fellow at Northwestern University. Aletha C. Huston is Priscilla Pond Flawn Regents Professor of Child Development at the University of Texas, Austin. Thomas S. Weisner is professor of anthropology at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Police and Community in Chicago: A Tale of Three Cities
By Wesley G. Skogan

Community policing is the most important development in law enforcement in the past 25 years. In the early 1990s, Chicago implemented the nation’s largest community policing initiative. Wesley G. Skogan conducted a 13-year study of this initiative and examined its impact on crime, neighborhood residents, and the police. His study reveals a city divided among African Americans, whites, and Latinos. Each faced distinctive problems when community policing came to Chicago in 1993, and during the next decade the three communities took different routes. There were tremendous improvements in the city’s predominately African American districts, where crime and fear dropped the most. Residents in majority black neighborhoods were also the most enthusiastic about community policing. The city’s largely white neighborhoods were already solidly behind the police, yet they too registered significant gains. By many measures, however, things grew worse for the city’s burgeoning Latino population. Under pressure from immigration, the Hispanic population cleaved in two. Long-time residents of racially integrated neighborhoods did fairly well, but by the early 2000s, predominately Spanish-speaking areas had fallen behind on multiple measures of crime, disorder, and neighborhood decay. It was named Outstanding Book of the Year by the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. Skogan is professor of political science and an IPR faculty fellow.

Higher Ground: New Hope for the Working Poor and Their Children
By Greg Duncan, Aletha Huston, and Thomas Weisner

In the 1990s, Milwaukee business leaders and community activists came together to start a program called New Hope. The program was built on the tenet that “if you work, you should not be poor.” In exchange for working a minimum of 30 hours a week, participants were eligible for subsidized health and child care and for earnings supplements that would bring their incomes above the poverty line. The book goes beyond statistical reports and surveys to tell the stories of three of New Hope’s participants, Inez, Lakeisha, and Elena, and how the program affected them and their families. The authors show that New Hope offers some of the strongest evidence to date that work supports make a difference in the lives of people in low-wage jobs. The program not only increased income and employment but also improved the school achievement and behavior of the children of New Hope families. Few social policies—even those directly aimed at children—are able to match the benefits that New Hope children experienced. As America takes stock of the successes and shortcomings of the Clinton-era poverty and welfare policies, the authors convincingly demonstrate why New Hope could be a model for state and national efforts to assist the working poor.

Greg Duncan is Edwina S. Tarry Professor in Education and Social Policy and an IPR faculty fellow at Northwestern University. Aletha C. Huston is Priscilla Pond Flawn Regents Professor of Child Development at the University of Texas, Austin. Thomas S. Weisner is professor of anthropology at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Faculty Fellows

After Admission: From College Access to College Success
By James Rosenbaum, Regina Deil-Amen, and Ann Person

Despite the considerable rise in enrollment at community colleges across America, with five times as many students entering today as in 1965, most students do not graduate or gain any advantages in the labor market. James Rosenbaum, Regina Deil-Amen, and Ann Person examine the reason for this trend by comparing community colleges with private occupational colleges in this book. They find occupational colleges help students to navigate the labor market by identifying and teaching students relevant skill sets. They also find that occupational colleges provide a higher level of support and guidance for students through structured academic plans and close monitoring of students by advisors. Using lessons learned from studying occupational colleges, the co-authors suggest organizational innovations to help community colleges to guide their students successfully and instill skills applicable to the labor market. James Rosenbaum is professor of human development and social policy and an IPR faculty fellow at Northwestern University. Regina Deil-Amen is assistant professor of education at the University of Arizona and a former IPR graduate research assistant. Ann Person is a doctoral student in human development and social policy and an IPR graduate research assistant at Northwestern.

Recently Published Books
The Politics of Free Markets: The Rise of Neoliberal Economic Policies in Britain, France, Germany, and the United States
By Monica Prasad

Why did neoliberal policies of tax cuts, reduced social spending, deregulation, and privatization gain prominence in the United States under Ronald Reagan and in Britain under Margaret Thatcher, but not in similarly industrialized Western countries such as France or Germany? In *The Politics of Free Markets*, a comparative-historical analysis of the development of neoliberal policies in these four countries, **Monica Prasad** argues that neoliberalism was made possible in the United States and Britain not because the Left in these countries was too weak, but because it was in some respects too strong. Prasad is assistant professor of sociology and an IPR faculty fellow.

Faculty Associates

Standards and Public Policy
By Shane Greenstein and Victor Stango, editors

There is much agreement that rapid advances in technological standards have been the cornerstone of the modern information economy. Despite the importance of technological standards in driving economic growth, there has been little research on the role of public policy in the development of standards. Leading researchers in public policy standards address this research gap in *Standards and Public Policy*. In it, they examine whether markets choose efficient standards, the effect of standards organizations on the development of standards, and appropriate public policy on the issue of standards. **Shane Greenstein** is Elinor and Wendell Hobbs Professor of Management and Strategy at the Kellogg School of Management and an IPR faculty associate at Northwestern. **Victor Stango** is associate professor of business administration at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College.

The Foreign Policy Disconnect: What Americans Want from Our Leaders but Don’t Get
By Benjamin I. Page, with Marshall M. Bouton

With world affairs so troubled, what kind of foreign policy should the United States pursue? **Benjamin I. Page** and Marshall M. Bouton look for answers in a surprising place—among the American people. Drawing on a series of national surveys conducted between 1974 and 2004, Page and Bouton reveal that—contrary to conventional wisdom—Americans generally hold durable, coherent, and sensible opinions about foreign policy. Nonetheless, their opinions often stand in opposition to those of policymakers, usually because of different interests and values, rather than superior wisdom among the elite. *The Foreign Policy Disconnect* argues that these gaps between leaders and the public are harmful and that by using public opinion as a guideline, policymakers could craft a more effective, sustainable, and democratic foreign policy. Page is Gordon S. Fulcher Professor in Decision Making and an IPR faculty associate at Northwestern University. Bouton is president of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs.

The Plan of Chicago: Daniel Burnham and the Remaking of the American City
By Carl Smith

Daniel Burnham’s 1909 Plan of Chicago proposed many of the city’s most distinctive features, including its lakefront parks and roadways, the Magnificent Mile, and Navy Pier. **Carl Smith’s** history reveals the Plan’s central role in shaping the ways people envision the cityscape and urban life itself. His narrative begins with a survey of Chicago’s rise from a tiny frontier settlement to the nation’s second-largest city. He explores the Plan’s creation and reveals how it embodies the renowned architect’s belief that cities can, and must be, remade for the better. The Plan defined the City Beautiful movement and was the first comprehensive attempt to re-imagine a major American city. Smith points out the ways the Plan continues to influence debates, even a century after its publication, about how to create a vibrant and habitable urban environment. The book is illustrated with archival images and maps. Smith is Franklyn Bliss Snyder Professor in English and American Studies, professor of history, and an IPR faculty associate.

(Continued on page 15)
Good, Better, Best in Educational Research
(continued from page 1)

Michael McPherson, president of the Spencer Foundation, noted that the foundation provided funding because the workshops align with Spencer’s aim to strengthen the quality of educational research and, by extension, to improve children’s lives. The workshops provided a “great opportunity” to reach beyond the traditional research realm to those in local school districts and state education circles as well, he said.

Experiments in Education
For many years, randomized clinical trails (RCTs) have been held up as the gold standard of evidence-based research in medicine, agriculture, and other fields—with the exception of education. Recently, however, there has been a large push by the Institute of Education Sciences, which is housed within the U.S. Department of Education, to encourage greater use of RCTs.

“I’m a great fan of that,” Cook noted. “But there are many circumstances where you cannot do a randomized experiment, and generally, the quality of non-experimental research to examine ‘what works’ is low in education.”

RCTs differ from quasi-experiments in that they assign participants randomly to treatment and control groups. However, there are cases where such assignments might not be practical or even feasible, Cook said.

In their workshops, Cook and Shadish paid particular attention to covering the most empirically viable quasi-experimentation practices such as regression-discontinuity designs (RDDs) and interrupted time series. RDDs can also provide unbiased causal estimates because researchers can assign participants to treatment and control groups based on whether they fall above or below a cutoff score, Shadish said.

The two workshop organizers lectured on theory and practice, supplementing their discussions with as many examples as possible from education. In addition to covering the advantages of using such practices, they also highlighted the particular circumstances under which these designs would not work.

What really made the workshop special, according to Cook and Shadish, was their reliance on empirical research that compared the results of randomized experiments to quasi-experiments that shared the same intervention group. Therefore, the experiments only varied in the way in which the control group was formed.

Cook said that they used such examples to counteract a widespread “pessimism” about whether non-experiments could work at all. This attitude apparently grew out of economic studies—mainly job-training reviews—that have compared the findings of randomized experiments with those of individual quasi-experiments. The labor economists’ results seem to indicate that experiments and non-experiments produce different causal estimates, Cook said. Cook and Shadish specifically chose the examples for their workshop to point out the fallacies behind such thinking, and thus, show why and when quasi-experimentation can work.

Tracy Rimdzius, who is an education research analyst at the National Center for Education Evaluation, said she found such examples “comforting”—especially as she is in charge of a study, Reading First, where they recently implemented an RDD. The workshop made her feel more confident about obtaining “rigorous and believable results” from the design.

Rimdzius also found the sessions on interrupted time series designs informative. “There’s a lot of that in education because there is a lot of existing information from state tests,” she said. “It was very enlightening for me to see that even an abbreviated interrupted series requires a lot more data points than people usually have.”

Rimdzius, who also reviews study proposals, noted that she is not quite sure how useful a model it is, given recent state testing changes. It will be some years before enough data points are available to conduct these types of analyses in some states, she said.

Ashaki Coleman, who coordinates research and assessment for the Cherry Hill Public School District in suburban New Jersey, said that the workshop has given her a new perspective on her work, especially because of RDD.

Coleman recalled that she had searched long and hard for a technique that would help her to isolate the effects of individual programs within the schools.

“I knew something was out there, and I kept asking people about it. But no one seemed to know much more about it than the name,” Coleman said. “When we learned about RDD in the workshop, I felt like that was the one technique that would just help me tremendously.”

Plus, participants appreciated having the time to discuss their individual projects.

“It was really nice that we were not just talking about the theory of these designs,” Rimdzius said, “but also that we had time to address questions about our particular studies with Tom and Will and each other.”

McPherson, who attended one of the workshop sessions, remarked on how the workshops are practically grounded.

“The great thing about Tom and Will’s workshop is that it’s not about elaborate formal calculations. It’s about sound reasoning,” he said. “Sound reasoning, quite frankly, is too often missing in social science work. People just don’t think it through, and I think Tom and Will are great at doing that and

(Continued on page 15)
The Experts of Quasi-Experimentation

Thomas D. Cook and the late Donald T. Campbell authored what is often referred to as the “bible” of causal designs, Quasi-Experimentation: Design and Analysis Issues for Field Settings (1979). The book was extensively revised in 2002 with William R. Shadish as Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs for Generalized Causal Inference. Both are published by Houghton-Mifflin.

“I have taught doctoral-level research methods in departments of psychology (and, to a lesser extent, in departments of management) for almost 30 years,” wrote Eugene F. Stone-Romero in Organizational Research Methods Review in 2004. “Until the publication of [the 2002 Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs], [the 1979 book] was the backbone of such classes. Now [the revised 2002 book] is the mainstay of my methods courses. Relative to the many graduate-level texts on research methods that are available, it offers the best overall treatment of a host of methods-related issues. It is, without question, the peerless bible of research methods.”

As recognized leaders in their field, Cook and Shadish hope to pass on their accumulated knowledge on experimental and non-experimental designs in a multitude of fields from health to psychology and statistics in addition to education. Cook and Shadish both stem from the “Northwestern School” of causal research methodology. The school was initiated by Donald T. Campbell, who collaborated with other faculty members and doctoral students at Northwestern, including Cook and Shadish, to extend his reasoning and empirical work.

Educational Research

(continued from page 14)

showing how it’s going to be done in the context of quasi-experiments.”

The workshops were also learning experiences for Cook and Shadish, who had people present and discuss their projects when they overlapped with the curriculum.

“So we weren’t just teaching at them,” Cook said. “We were also identifying issues that warrant further research and are germane to people in educational research. It keeps us from becoming too abstract.”

Cook and Shadish also hope that the workshops will help propagate best practices in quasi-experimentation.

“We brought in a wide variety of people already doing causal research who are in a position to spread the word about better quasi-experimentation practices throughout the world of education,” Shadish said.

Three new workshops, with renewed support from the Spencer Foundation, will take place over the summer, starting in June. For more information, go to www.northwestern.edu/ipr/events/workshops/qeworkshop.html.

Recently Published Books

(continued from page 13)

From Marriage to the Market
By Susan Thistle

A social transformation of profound proportions has been unfolding over the second half of the 20th century as women have turned from household work to wages as the key source of their livelihood. This timely study, a broad comparative analysis of African American women and white women’s changing relationships to home and work over the past 40 years, provides a broad look at how this shift is influencing the shape of families and the American economy. Susan Thistle brings together diverse issues and statistics in her analysis. She is a senior lecturer and assistant chair in sociology and an IPR faculty associate.
all races in America and [in] the continuing role played by prejudice and stereotyping in our lives.”

The broad strokes of her research involve investigating the role of race and gender in intergroup dynamics and their impact on how people think, feel, and behave. Specifically, she studies the dynamics and consequences of interracial contact, detecting and controlling racial bias, and racial categorization and identity.

A key finding of her work on interracial contact is that these interactions are stressful and difficult to navigate for all involved. She has found, for example, that a white person worried about appearing prejudiced when interacting with a black person is likely to work hard to combat prejudicial thoughts, and these “self-control” efforts tax his or her cognitive functioning.

“People today generally understand that prejudice is a bad thing, but still don’t quite know how to converse or behave with people different from themselves,” Richeson said. “Intergroup interactions can be awkward, less effective, or even avoided because ‘good people’ don’t want to offend or appear prejudiced.”

Using functional brain imaging, survey techniques, self-reporting, and other empirical methods, Richeson’s work provides new ways to understand and, she hopes, improve intergroup dynamics.

While Richeson considers how best to use the money to further her research, she is currently tackling several new projects, including one that will examine how to improve interracial interactions between blacks and whites. She argues that in some environments, such as corporate workplaces, blacks often seek to be respected while whites seek to be liked—two differing goals. She and her colleagues hope to discover which kinds of interracial interactions activate such mismatched goals, how they influence participants’ behavior and self-presentation during the interactions, and how they can lead to misunderstandings.

“We need to take stock of how our unconscious thoughts influence our behavior,” Richeson said. “It is only when we bring our unconscious prejudice to the forefront that we can recognize it, confront it, and deal with it.”

Her work has been published in various scholarly journals, including Psychological Science, Nature Neuroscience, and Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, as well as appearing in popular publications such as The Economist and The New York Times. She was a visiting fellow at Stanford University’s Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity in 2004-05 and received the 2005 Louise Kidder Early Career Award from the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues.

**Two-Term President**

By the time he steps down in April 2011, economist Greg Duncan will have served as president for two different research societies. He will become president of the Population Association of America (PAA) in 2008 and then president of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) from 2009 to 2011. He is Edwina S. Tarry Professor in Education and Social Policy and an IPR faculty fellow.

During his “first term” as president of the PAA, he will be in charge of organizing the PAA’s 73rd annual meeting in April 2008 in New Orleans. Duncan, who is currently vice president, has served in the organization since 1992 in various capacities, including as a member of the board of directors and the committee on population statistics.

The PAA describes itself as a “nonprofit, scientific, professional organization established to promote the improvement, advancement, and progress of the human race through research of problems related to human population.” It publishes the journal *Demography* and brings together more than 3,000 demographers, sociologists, economists, public health professionals, and other individuals interested in population research and education.

Then in April 2009, Duncan will become the first economist to preside over the Society for Research in Child Development, according to John Hagen, SRCD’s executive officer. As president, he will chair the organization’s governing council and help to implement its new strategic plan.

SRCD, which was founded in 1933, is a multidisciplinary, nonprofit, professional association with a membership of approximately 5,500 researchers, practitioners, and human development professionals from more than 50 countries. The society “promotes interdisciplinary research on infant, child, and adolescent development in diverse contexts and across a life-long trajectory; fosters the exchange of information among scientists and research consumers worldwide; and fosters applications of research-based knowledge.” It produces six publications including *Child Development* and the *Social Policy Report*.

Duncan noted, “For both the PAA and SRCD, it is unusual for an economist to serve in a leadership position. I hope to bring a stronger interdisciplinary perspective into both organizations and help to promote rigorous linkages between research and policy.”

Duncan’s work covers income distribution, poverty, welfare, public housing, and mobility programs. He has studied topics as varied as the outcomes of Gautreaux families, who moved from blighted inner-city housing to suburbia; what constitutes (Continued on page 17)
Faculty Grants
(Continued from page 2)

The Consequences of Growing Up Poor

MacArthur Foundation to launch a study on the long-term effects of neighborhoods on low-income youth. (See the related article p. 7.) He also received a grant from the Pew Charitable Trusts for research on the economic costs of early childhood poverty.

The Administration for Children and Families has awarded a dissertation grant for graduate student Amy Claessens, whose advisor is Greg Duncan, to look at child care during the first year of school, specifically investigating how frequency of use, type, and quality relate to child well-being.

Duncan received a one-year grant for the National Forum on Early Childhood Program Evaluation from the Buffett Early Childhood Fund. The forum is a collaborative effort between four universities, including Harvard and Northwestern, and will include the analysis, synthesis, translation, and dissemination of findings from program evaluation studies to learn more about which early childhood interventions work best and for whom. The forum is under the aegis of the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child.

Eszter Hargittai, assistant professor of communication studies and sociology and an IPR faculty associate, received a two-year grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to study college students’ Internet use, skills, and participation. The award will be administered through the School of Communication.

Christopher Kuzawa, assistant professor of anthropology and an IPR faculty fellow, received a grant from the National Institutes of Health for a research project on obesity development and risk-factor clustering of cardiovascular disease in Filipino women and their offspring. It is a subaward through the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Charles F. Manski received an award from the National Science Foundation for a project investigating identification and empirical inference. He is Board of Trustees Professor of Economics and an IPR faculty fellow.

Dorothy Roberts, Kirkland & Ellis Professor of Law, professor of African American studies and sociology, and an IPR faculty fellow, was granted an award from the National Science Foundation for her work on race consciousness in law, biotechnology, and the political order. (See the related article on p. 9.)

The Spencer Foundation is supporting research by IPR Faculty Fellow James Rosenbaum, professor of human development and social policy, on implementing “college for all” by using information sources, plans, and actions in the senior year of high school.

Burton Weisbrod, John Evans Professor of Economics and an IPR faculty fellow, received a grant from the Searle Fund for Policy Research that will support research on how changes in tuition, government grants, and voluntary contributions from individuals and corporations affect each other in financing higher education.

Summa Cum Laude
(Continued from page 16)

school readiness for preschoolers; neighborhood effects; random assignment methodology; and how peer effects influence college students’ attitudes toward diversity.

Recognized as a “highly cited” researcher by the Institute for Scientific Information, Duncan has written numerous articles and publications and is the co-author or co-editor of six books, including the recently released Higher Ground: New Hope for the Working Poor and Their Children (Russell Sage Foundation, 2007), Children’s Health, the Nation’s Wealth: Assessing and Improving Child Health (National Academy Press, 2004), and The Consequences of Growing Up Poor (Russell Sage Foundation, 1997).

Duncan is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and serves on many national committees and organizations, including the interdisciplinary MacArthur Network on Family and the Economy and as chair of the Social Science and Population Studies Study Section in the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the National Institute of Aging.

See www.northwestern.edu/ipr/people/faculty.html to learn more about Jenn Richeson and Greg Duncan.

Economic Research on Profiling
(Continued from page 4)

operation of labor markets. William Brock and Robert Moffitt examine social planning problems. Dennis Epplle, et al., and Lawrence Blume show how economic analysis can shed light on the version of profiling emphasized in OED definition (a); that is, the use of data on a person’s attributes to assess his or her capabilities.

“We hope that the reports in this feature demonstrate how basic economic thinking about the interaction of profilers and profilees who respond rationally to incentives can illuminate controversial issues of public policy and contribute to their resolution,” Manski said.

The articles can be found in the online edition of The Economic Journal at www.res.org.uk/economic/ejbrowse.asp.

Related Articles

Opportunity for Focused Study
Undergraduates work on research projects with IPR faculty

To earn their Northwestern degree, most undergraduate students take 48 classes over four years on campus. While many gain knowledge on a variety of subjects, few have the opportunity to delve deeply into a single research topic.

IPR Faculty Fellow Christopher Taber cites this as the fundamental reason why the Institute’s Summer Undergraduate Research Program is such a great opportunity for freshmen, sophomores, and juniors—they get to learn in a whole new way. Taber, who led the program this summer, said these rare undergraduate research opportunities are incredible learning experiences for them.

“They are spending the whole summer working on one problem in depth, which is very different from what you do in a class,” he said.

Last summer’s program put 21 students to work with 18 IPR faculty on their current research, covering topics related to adolescent depression, commercialism of higher education, school readiness, and reactions to prejudice among others.

Priscilla Vasquez, a senior psychology major, worked with IPR Faculty Associate Eszter Hargittai on her Web Use Project because she found the research intriguing. Hargittai, assistant professor of communication studies and sociology, is studying the ways in which different types of people navigate the Web. Using video files, Vasquez learned how study participants found certain information from sites on birth control to those with music or free software.

Vasquez has worked on other research projects in psychology labs, but she thought this summer program would be a good way to “branch out.” Looking ahead to graduate school, she said she gleaned new research techniques from Hargittai, such as ways of coding material, that will be useful for her in pursuing a graduate degree.

While the program is ideal for students headed to graduate school, it also allows students just interested in research to work with leading scholars in their fields.

James Wang, a junior majoring in political science, worked with IPR Faculty Fellow Lincoln Quillian, AT&T Research Scholar and associate professor of sociology, last summer on following trends in newspaper coverage of violent crime since 1950.

As a social demographer, Quillian has focused his research on urban sociology and issues of racial and economic inequality.

In this project, Wang was tracking race and other variables in crime stories to understand the media’s shifting coverage of different social groups.

“When you’re reading these journalistic reports, it tells you what has changed over time and what hasn’t as far as human interaction goes,” Wang said.

He hopes that his efforts can lead to a change for the better, as the project continues to reveal and explain racial and other stereotypes perpetuated by the media.

Kington Lecture
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Kington predicts there will be an explosion of research on smaller, heterogeneous subpopulations in the future, given the upswing in U.S. immigration, which is at its highest point since the 1930s.

He also pointed to a pressing need for such research—a small, but growing, body of scientific literature on the worsening health outcomes of second and third generation Hispanics and their potential impact on overall U.S. health rates.

“Ultimately, [we will need] more sophisticated models of understanding that account for all the causal pathways that go into health status, particularly all the different ways that psychosocial factors interact with biological factors,” he said.

NIH at the Crossroads
In his second talk, Kington addressed some of the misconceptions facing NIH. “I want to respond to what we recognize are challenging times for the research community,” he said.

Between 1999 and 2004, the NIH budget doubled, with its current budget at $28.3 billion.

“It’s unprecedented in Washington to have an agency double a budget like this in recent memory,” Kington said.

As the budget grew, so did researchers’ expectations for more research dollars. But at the same time, NIH also experienced 100 percent growth in the number of applications and a 75 percent increase in the number of applicants per year, driving down the overall success for grants by one-third.

He also discredited the idea that the NIH Roadmap is ”somehow sucking up all of these dollars.” Only 1.2 percent of the total NIH budget goes to Roadmap projects, he said.

NIH, he continued, is focused on revamping itself by investing in resources such as developing small-molecule libraries, shortening the time between a discovery and its translation into real-world significance, and starting an innovative awards program to fund people, not just ideas on applications.

“At our core, we are about the discovery and generation of new knowledge and promoting public health,” Kington said.
NIH Deputy Director Gives Talk

“There is a growing awareness that recognizing the distinct health and socioeconomic circumstances of subpopulations within large populations is necessary if we are really going to be serious about developing interventions to reduce health disparities,” said Dr. Raynard Kington, principal deputy director at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), during an Oct. 30 lecture at Northwestern University.

Kington spoke on two themes: “The Health Status of Black Immigrants” and “NIH at the Crossroads: Current Policies and Future Directions.” His talk was sponsored by the Institute for Policy Research’s Cells to Society (C2S): The Center on Social Disparities and Health and Northwestern’s Biotechnology Training Program. Both receive NIH funding.

Black Immigrant Health and Disparities

Kington, who studies the health and socioeconomic status of black immigrants, noted that although immigrant populations have been studied broadly for a century, only in the last decade have researchers begun to examine in detail differences in immigrant subgroups, finding notable disparities.

He cited his study showing that recent black immigrants to the United States report a health status similar to that of native-born whites and better than that of native-born blacks. Once in the United States, however, their health worsens over time, possibly exacerbated by lower rates of health insurance or by changing diets. This health decline follows a similar pattern of diminishing health experienced by other immigrant groups. “The longer you stay in the United States, it seems the worse it is for your health,” Kington remarked.

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