Illinois State Representative Robyn Gabel asks the panel a question during IPR’s policy research briefing on two-generation solutions held at Evanston Township High School.

From left: IPR fellows, economist Jonathan Guryan, psychologist Jennifer Richeson, and education researcher James Rosenbaum, with Northwestern professor Sylvester Johnson, an attendee, and IPR Director and education economist David Figlio, delve into Richeson’s presentation covering psychological perspectives on race relations.
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This past year has been a remarkable one at IPR. Beyond our research and dissemination activities, some of our faculty and students were honored to attend a major policy speech by President Barack Obama at Northwestern University. It was the first visit by a sitting president to our University since Dwight Eisenhower came in 1954. What struck me about many of the president’s references to his economic platform is just how much our research speaks to the pressing policy issues of our time—improving education, addressing inequality, and gauging public attitudes on energy, to name a few.

On this front, IPR scholars, including our four new fellows, continued to produce a sizable body of compelling policy research—the impact of which we can see not only in the number of publications, citations, and awards they have garnered over the year, but also through increasing media interest in their work. Political scientist and associate director James Druckman is among the top 1 percent of cited scholars in his field, and economist Charles F. Manski, geophysicist Seth Stein, social psychologist Alice Eagly, and others, received major honors for their career contributions (see pp. 3–4 and 74–76). Hearty congratulations are also in order for IPR social policy expert Fay Lomax Cook, my predecessor, who took a leave of absence to head the National Science Foundation’s Directorate for the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (see p. 4). Major media outlets, such as the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, CNN, and even Jon Stewart’s “The Daily Show,” featured faculty research on resilience and social mobility, birth weight and academic achievement, economic indicators, a tutoring/mentoring intervention, and the political influence of U.S. elites (see pp. 8–57).

The Institute was founded during the social unrest of the late 1960s, so it naturally followed for IPR researchers to focus on domestic policy issues. Yet ever more of our faculty are asked not only for their input in addressing social problems abroad, but also to partner with researchers around the globe on projects of common interest (see pp. 6–7). Washington can learn from understanding what is happening in Santiago, which in turn can learn from Stockholm, Sydney, and Singapore. Northwestern University’s capital campaign, “We Will,” has been making inroads into developing its capacity to conduct globally oriented research. For example, a recent major gift by Roberta Buffett Elliott to expand the Buffett Institute for Global Studies, led by Northwestern sociologist Bruce Carruthers, will greatly enhance Northwestern’s international research footprint and is already offering new opportunities to IPR faculty and students.

Beyond increasing our research activities on each habitable continent, two of our key contributions to the academic and policy communities lie in building community and exchanging ideas, and in the training of current and next-generation researchers. We held 47 events in 2014, two of which were at-capacity policy research briefings, including our first ever in our hometown at Evanston Township High School (ETHS). IPR statistician Larry Hedges co-organized a unique training program for faculty who teach in institutions that primarily serve minorities, and IPR economist Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach won a third consecutive grant for a Northwestern multidisciplinary graduate-student training program with ties to ETHS (see pp. 8, 28, 54, and 71).

As always, we value your participation in our community. Keep up with us at www.ipr.northwestern.edu.

David Figlio, IPR Director and Fellow; Orrington Lunt Professor of Education and Social Policy and of Economics
President Barack Obama Reviews Policy Achievements

President Barack Obama gave a major policy speech on October 2 at Northwestern University before the midterm elections, hitting on many themes of U.S. progress over the past six years that he said the country can and should be proud of. He touched on many topics that are also the subject of IPR faculty research, from education and healthcare to innovation and opportunity. The president also stressed the importance of looking at facts and empirical data when evaluating policies, another IPR cornerstone, and called on policymakers from both sides of the aisle to support initiatives, such as boosting access to higher education, redesigning high schools, creating more high-quality preschools, reforming tax policy, and supporting family-friendly policies for working moms and dads. University President, Professor, and IPR Fellow Morton Schapiro welcomed President Obama to campus, saying he was “exceptionally proud to host our nation’s president.”

Four New Fellows Join IPR

IPR welcomed four new fellows in the fall. Mesmin Destin, a social psychologist, studies how young people think about barriers and opportunities to future economic success in life, which can be directly linked to their identities, mindsets, and educational motivation. He directs Northwestern’s Status, Cognition, and Motivation Lab, and joined the University’s faculty in 2010 after receiving his PhD in psychology from the University of Michigan. Michael Frakes researches health law and innovation policy—in particular, how legal and financial incentives affect the decisions of physicians and other healthcare providers, and the relationship between financing and decision making in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. He is a faculty research fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) and taught at Cornell’s and Harvard’s law schools after receiving his law degree from Harvard University and his PhD in economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Development economist Cynthia Kinnan looks at how households in developing countries use financial products and informal insurance networks to invest, save, and cope with risk. She received her PhD in economics from MIT before joining Northwestern in 2010. She is a faculty research fellow at NBER and a faculty affiliate at the Jameel Poverty Action Lab. Economist Matthew Notowidigdo’s research focuses on labor and health economics, including investigations of how tax rebates affect consumer bankruptcy filings and the relationship between public health insurance and labor supply. He joined Northwestern’s economics department from the University of Chicago and is an NBER research associate. He received his PhD in economics from MIT in 2010 and also holds degrees in computer engineering and computer science.

Major Awards and Honors

Two IPR faculty received awards recognizing their career scholarship from noted U.K. institutions: IPR economist Charles F. Manski was one of 59 distinguished scholars elected a Fellow or Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy, and IPR associate and geophysicist Seth Stein received the 2014 Price Medal from the Royal Astronomical Society. Other IPR faculty who received awards for their distinguished lifetime achievements included IPR education researcher and statistician Larry Hedges, IPR psychologist Alice Eagly, and professor...
and founding chair of medical social sciences and IPR associate David Cella. IPR faculty won for their recent scholarship: IPR sociologists Lincoln Quillian and Monica Prasad, IPR economist Matthew Notowidigdo, and IPR associates Traci Burch, Heather Schoenfeld, and Rachel Beatty Riedl all took home awards for their respective articles and books. IPR economist Jonathan Guryan was named to the Purpose Academy 100 for his research on prize-linked savings accounts; others on the list include Melinda Gates and Al Gore. Two fellows were elected to lead key associations in their fields, IPR Director David Figlio and IPR health psychologist Greg Miller (see pp. 74–76).

IPR Fellow Appointed to Lead NSF Directorate

IPR social policy professor and former director Fay Lomax Cook was tapped by the National Science Foundation to head its Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE), beginning in September 2014. SBE is one of seven NSF directorates and aims to strengthen the capability of the social, behavioral, and economic sciences to perform and innovate. Cook is leading a staff of 119 and managing a budget of approximately $270 million. She remains a faculty member at IPR and Northwestern during her four-year appointment.

Research Briefings Address Key Education Issues

IPR’s first hometown policy research briefing took place on April 16 at Evanston Township High School, welcoming more than 130 students, faculty, residents, and local leaders. It addressed two-generation programs, which provide workforce development and skills training to parents while their children are engaged in quality early-childhood education programs. Evanston has a pilot program. IPR developmental psychologist Lindsay Chase-Lansdale, research associate professor Teresa Eckrich Sommer, and social psychologist Mesmin Destin were panelists, along with the University of Wisconsin–Madison’s sociologist SaraGoldrick-Rab. On May 6, IPR held a briefing in Washington, D.C., on research related to helping low-income students enter and succeed in college. IPR education researcher James Rosenbaum, University of Virginia’s Sarah Turner, and Bridget Terry Long of the Harvard Graduate School of Education discussed how college coaches and informational assistance could help low-income students overcome roadblocks to college. Figlio served as moderator for both events (see pp. 8, 34).

IPR-Led Workshops and Forums

IPR researchers led a number of workshops and forums over the course of the year: In March, IPR political scientist Wesley G. Skogan hosted the two-day Chicago Forum on Procedural Justice and Policing, which focused on police internal operations and their relationship with the public. In May, IPR political scientist James Druckman organized the 2014 Chicago Area Behavior Workshop, which featured leading political scientists such as Princeton’s Tali Mendelberg and IPR economist Charles F. Manski. In the summer, IPR education researcher and statistician Larry Hedges co-led two Institute of Education Sciences (IES)-sponsored workshops. One of these workshops was the first of its kind specifically designed to boost the grant-seeking capacity of faculty from institutions historically serving minority students. IPR also held two forums: One discussing the midterms with IPR fellows Laurel Harbridge, Daniel Galvin, and Rachel Davis Mersey, and another that examined the future of the Affordable Care Act with Minnesota’s Larry Jacobs, University of Chicago’s Colleen Grogan, and Illinois State Representative Robyn Gabel.

Training for Students, Postdocs

Northwestern University’s Multidisciplinary Program in Education Sciences, directed by IPR economist Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach, received a $4 million IES grant to continue training doctoral students from different disciplines in education research methods. The newest MPES cohort will also be the first to participate in a unique research partnership with Evanston Township High School. In its 17th year of operation, IPR’s Summer Undergraduate Research Assistants Program allowed 33 undergraduates to work alongside one of 28 IPR faculty mentors on policy-relevant social science research projects. IPR education researcher James Rosenbaum directs the SURA program. IPR also welcomed seven postdoctoral fellows in 2014, who worked with their IPR mentors on research of common interest.

Notable Media Coverage for IPR Research

Media prominently featured IPR research, beginning with a January opinion piece written by IPR health psychologist Edith Chen and Miller in The New York Times discussing resilience and health. Two other studies also appeared in the Times: Figlio, Guryan, and IPR postdoctoral fellow Krzysztof Karbownik’s research on birth weight and educational attainment, as well as Guryan’s study of a targeted tutoring intervention in Chicago Public Schools that reduced math test-score gaps for high school boys. IPR anthropologist Christopher Kuzawa’s research on the amount of glucose needed to fuel the developing human brain appeared in many news outlets including Science and U.S. News & World Report. Psychiatrist, behavioral scientist, and IPR associate Eva Redei’s work on creating a blood test for depression was featured in The Huffington Post, Newsweek, and others (see pp. 77).

Colloquia Foster Interdisciplinary Exchange

IPR held 47 events in 2014, furthering its mission to foster policy-relevant dialogue between scholars, students, policymakers, and the public. Invited speakers included New York University’s Richard Arum, Nolan McCarty of Princeton University, and Fiona Scott Morton of Yale University, a former Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Anti-Trust Division at the Department of Justice, among others (see pp. 71–73).
Workshop Participants Improve Their Methods in Experimentation

Researchers from MDRC and the American Institutes for Research take part in a group exercise at an IES Summer Research Training Institute on cluster-randomized trials.
IPR Researchers Import, Export Findings

IPR researchers evaluate many U.S.-specific topics in their work, from national, social safety net programs like food stamps to elementary, high school, and college education interventions in American schools. But an increasing number of IPR researchers are also conducting their research in many locations abroad, studying issues as diverse as microfinance interventions in Mali; early environments and aging in the Philippines; public health insurance in India; and transformative religious experiences and health in Brazil.

Though IPR began as a social science institute focused on domestic policy, it now has a growing global footprint. Its researchers’ work serves to inspire and inform scholars in other countries, as well as aid policymakers in creating evidence-based interventions to help people across the globe. The geographic locations on the map represent a sample of IPR projects, publications, and research talks that took place in 2014.
Australia

IPR Director and education economist David Figlio is working with colleagues at three Australian universities to examine the market effectiveness of school accountability programs in the country. IPR political scientist Georgia Kernell studies parliamentary elections in Australia.

Asia

IPR biological anthropologist Christopher Kuzawa leads data collection on the Cebu Study in the Philippines. IPR economist Cynthia Kinnan assesses whether microfinance can help alleviate poverty in Hyderabad, India. IPR associate and geoscientist Seth Stein and IPR statistician Bruce Spencer gauge how to better measure earthquakes around the world, including Japan.

Africa

IPR development economist Lori Beaman examines aspects of technological innovation and poverty in Mali and Malawi and is starting a project to look at issues related to the Ebola outbreak in Liberia. IPR associate and political scientist Rachel Beatty Riedl seeks to understand how democracies thrive in African nations, such as Benin and Senegal.

Europe

IPR sociologist Lincoln Quillian investigates socioeconomic segregation in the United States and France, and sociologist Monica Prasad compares welfare states in the United States and Europe. IPR political scientist Wesley G. Skogan follows the evolution of policing around the world, conducting studies in Belgium and other countries. IPR psychologist Alice Eagly analyzes gender stereotyping in Germany. IPR education researcher Larry Hedges works with the International Association for the Evaluation of Academic Achievement, which conducts large-scale comparative studies of educational achievement and has representatives in 33 countries across Europe and Asia.
RESEARCH TOPICS:

• Social welfare institutions and programs
• Effects of school, life, and family contexts
• Health and well-being across the life cycle
• Family characteristics and social inequality
• Childhood programs and development

First Policy Research Briefing in Evanston

Building upon IPR developmental psychologist Lindsay Chase-Lansdale’s expertise in a growing field, two-generation initiatives were the topic of the first IPR policy research briefing held in Evanston. On April 16, 130 parents, students, faculty, local policymakers, and community members—including Evanston Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl—gathered at Evanston Township High School to learn more about how to provide greater opportunities for low-income families by furthering education for parents and their children simultaneously. Chase-Lansdale, who is Frances Willard Professor in Human Development and Social Policy and is Northwestern’s associate provost for faculty, and IPR research associate professor Teresa Eckrich Sommer presented preliminary findings from Evanston’s pilot program.

IPR social psychologist Mesmin Destin shared research on asset-accumulation approaches that target children and parents, which could be incorporated into two-generation programs. He focused on children’s savings accounts, which not just help low-income students make up for wealth disparities, but also make them more likely to attend and succeed in college. Education researcher and sociologist Sara Goldrick-Rab of the University of Wisconsin–Madison shared her findings from studying college-going parents, suggesting institutions can do much more to help these student-parents succeed. Said Illinois State Representative Robyn Gabel (D–Evanston), following the briefing, “I’m very impressed with this new research, really looking at a two-generation program and approach to improving children’s chances for success. I very much agree with the theory that in order to improve children’s chances, you need to improve their parents’ education as well.” The briefing was co-sponsored with the Childcare Network of Evanston, Evanston Township High School, Northwestern University’s School of Education and Social Policy, the Evanston Community Foundation, and Ascend at the Aspen Institute.

Two-Generation Education Programs

Two-generation initiatives—education programs for low-income, preschool-age children and their parents—are emerging across the United States. Chase-Lansdale continues her work in this area, focusing on these interventions in her own backyard. She and Sommer are assessing a pilot program that began in 2014 in collaboration with the Evanston Community Foundation and supported by Ascend at the Aspen Institute. A mix of community nonprofits and businesses, including Evanston school districts, early childhood education centers, a public library, and a community college, have all partnered with the initiative. The program offers educational, financial, and career guidance for parents and early high-quality education for their children up to age 6 through enrollment in community-partner programs. The first cohort of 13 mothers all graduated
This interdisciplinary program combines the interests of IPR faculty studying the ways in which social programs, policies, and contexts affect the lives of families and children from birth to young adulthood. Drawing from the fields of human development and social policy, psychology, sociology, and economics, many faculty share common interests with scholars in IPR’s research programs on Poverty, Race, and Inequality; Social Disparities and Health; and Education Policy—particularly in studying the impact of public policies on America’s poor.

Parents Benefit from Head Start

Head Start—the oldest and largest federally funded U.S. preschool program—might help low-income parents improve their educational status, according to work by developmental psychologist and IPR associate Terri Sabol and Chase-Lansdale. The 1998 Head Start Impact Study (HSIS), a congressionally mandated evaluation of the program, found that Head Start had less of an impact on children’s academic and social development than expected, with short-term gains fading through elementary school. However, the two researchers wondered what the benefits looked like for parents. They hypothesized Head Start might help parents balance work, school, and family by providing an affordable, safe place to send their children while they go to work or school. Using HSIS data, they found that parents of 3-year-olds in Head Start had higher levels of educational attainment—but not employment—by the time their children turned 6 years old, compared with parents in the control group, whose children were not in Head Start. The pattern was especially strong for African American parents and for those with some college but no degree. The researchers did not observe effects for parents whose children entered later and only had one year in the program instead of two. The research was supported by a National Institute of Child Health and Human Development postdoctoral training fellowship for Sabol.

Effects of Motherhood on Family Characteristics

In a new project, IPR social demographer Christine Percheski investigates how the timing of a woman’s first birth affects her family characteristics and risk of having an income below the poverty line. To estimate the effect of a woman’s age at first birth, she compares women whose first pregnancy led to the birth of a baby with those who had a miscarriage. Preliminary results suggest that women who give birth are not any more likely to be poor, but they are less likely to have very high incomes.

Timing of Motherhood and Education

With IPR graduate research assistant Yu-Han Jao, Percheski has started an offshoot of a project on the effects of motherhood that compares women born in 1957–64 with those born in 1980–84. They find that overall, women born in the 1980s completed more years of education than those born in the late 1950s/early 1960s. Looking at women who had their first child in their teens or early 20s, they observe that women born in the 1980s had less completed education than similar women in the older cohort. Part of this is explained by differences in the characteristics of women who had a baby at an earlier age, like their socioeconomic background, but easily measured family characteristics or aptitude measures do not account for the full disparity.

Wealth and Human Capital Across Generations

How do family traits shape wealth and well-being from one generation to the next? In two working papers, economist and IPR associate Joseph Ferrie is evaluating Georgia’s Cherokee Land Lottery of 1832 to analyze how a sudden influx of wealth affects families over time. All white males 18 years and older who were state residents three years prior to the 1832 drawing were eligible for the lottery. Winners received $700 land parcels—a sizable amount for the time. In the first working paper, Ferrie and his co-author examine if parents use their sudden wealth to invest more in their children—more specifically, educating and raising them in ways that pass on human capital traits to enhance their job prospects and labor outcomes. Using U.S. census records through 1880, the researchers followed lottery entrants, their children, and their grandchildren over nearly five decades. They find that lottery winners had around 3...
percent more children than nonwinners, but that the winners’ descendants were no more literate, wealthy, or educated than those of nonwinners. The slight increase in the size of winners’ families also disappeared by the third generation. From this, the researchers surmise that family characteristics are more important to intergenerational transmission of wealth and social status than family wealth. In the second IPR working paper, Ferrie and Hoyt Bleakley of the University of Michigan evaluate the lottery winners’ wealth 18 years after their win. They reveal that the lottery’s wealth “shock” actually increased inequality over time—with rich winners becoming even richer and poor ones, poorer. They speculate that winning families from poorer backgrounds likely had less savvy money management practices than their richer peers.

### What Is Wealth Without Health?

IPR economist Matthew Notowidigdo received the Hicks-Tinbergen Award from the Journal of the European Economic Association for an article exploring whether a person’s health might affect his or her economic decisions. Notowidigdo and his colleagues, MIT’s Amy Finkelstein and Dartmouth’s Erzo Luttmer, drew on panel data from the Health and Retirement Study, a representative sample of Americans over the age of 50 that includes questions on income, health, and happiness, using the happiness data as a proxy for “utility,” or a person’s overall level of satisfaction. They learn that across the board, people with worse health report less satisfaction when buying goods or services. They also find that for wealthier people, happiness declines more when their health worsens, as compared with lower-income individuals. The researchers interpret these findings as evidence that marginal utility—the incremental gain in happiness from extra income or more consumption—is higher for the healthy. They suggest there is a lesson here for health insurers, who could potentially reduce reimbursements for medical expenses. That way, people would have more to spend on other things besides high insurance premiums when they are healthy—and receive more satisfaction from such spending. When they become sick, on the other hand, they would pay more out-of-pocket for their healthcare, but as this research shows, they would derive less happiness from spending their money elsewhere in any case.

### Family Complexity and Child Healthcare

Using data from two health surveys, Percheski and Sharon Bzostek of Rutgers University are the first to link national data on health insurance coverage and medical care for siblings. Though siblings in most American families are covered by a single health insurance plan, an increasing proportion of children in the United States live in families with complicated family structures and with a mix of immigrant and U.S.-born family members. These are situations in which children in the same family might not qualify for the same health insurance coverage. In Social Science and Medicine, the researchers present results revealing that when children in the same family have public insurance, through programs such as the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), while their siblings are either privately insured or uninsured, they are less likely to have a regular doctor or practice where they get treatment than similar children whose siblings have the same type of insurance plan that they do. Since having a usual source of care is linked to better healthcare outcomes, Percheski and Bzostek argue that policymakers should consider how to reduce mixed coverage among children in the same families.

### Committed in Sickness and in Health?

Married individuals tend to have better health than unmarried individuals, but the rising prevalence of cohabiting relationships raises the question of whether this difference is related to if couples living together are married or not. Percheski, with IPR graduate research assistant Jess Meyer, examines the associations between health and health behaviors with divorce or the end of relationships among married and cohabiting parents with young children. Using data from the Fragile Families and Child Well-being Study, the two find that health differences between the two types of couples are linked to marital status and gender. Notably, only fathers’ depression is associated with dissolving a relationship among cohabitators. But, in addition to paternal depression, two factors stand out for married couples—fathers’ health-related work limitations and mothers’ self-rated health.

### Long-Term Effects of Food Stamps

Could access to social safety net programs as children have effects lasting into adulthood? Building upon their previous research, IPR economist Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach, along with Hilary Hoynes of the University of California, Berkeley and Douglas Almond of Columbia University, examined a cohort of food stamp recipients from 1961–75, who were between 30 and 50 years old at the time of the study. They discovered those exposed to food stamps early in life (before age 5) had measurably better health in adulthood. They exhibited lower obesity rates and lower rates of metabolic disorders, such as diabetes and high blood pressure. The benefits also extended beyond health to work outcomes. Interestingly, women who benefitted from food stamps as children were more likely to graduate...
from high school, earn more, and rely less on the social safety net as adults than those who did not. The New York Times and other media outlets cited the report, and Schanzenbach and her co-authors were sought-after experts during congressional debate over funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the new name for the food stamp program.

Poor Families and Food Security

Why are some low-income families with children able to get enough food to feed their families, while other families with similar income levels are not? Schanzenbach is considering this question from three angles with three datasets. Pulling together data from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics and the food security supplement of the Current Population Survey (CPS), she and her co-authors are examining how resources, behavior, and prices for families compare with those for families who have a different food-security status. They merged data from the American Time Use Survey with CPS data to understand differences in how families with varying levels of access to food spend their time working, planning meals, shopping, and cooking. They also investigated differences in eating and spending patterns. Results indicate that households cycle in and out of food insecurity and that a mother’s mental health seems to be an important predictor of food security. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has provided project support.

Food Insecurity and the Great Recession

Food insecurity spiked dramatically during the Great Recession, with a record 49 million Americans in food-insecure households. With funding from the Russell Sage Foundation, Schanzenbach and her colleagues are determining if families from this period onward have had consistent access to healthy foods and whether family members have skipped meals, gone hungry, or not had enough money to buy food. Their early data show that from 2004–07, slightly more than 11 percent of U.S. households were classified as food insecure. This rose to nearly 15 percent in 2008–11. One out of five households with children under the age of 18 is now considered food insecure, with those led by single mothers particularly at risk. While still trying to understand the actual causes behind the increase in food insecurity, the researchers do point to a series of “insults” brought on by dramatic job losses: No income meant no subsidies from the Earned Income Tax Credit. Access to credit dried up, in particular from home equity. Food and energy cost more—though inflation has been low overall—soaking up a larger share of low-income household budgets. When taken together, the unfavorable conditions closed off avenues that the poor typically use to weather bad economic patches.

Stress and Sleep in Young Adults

In a 10-year longitudinal study supported by the National Institutes of Health and the William T. Grant Foundation, IPR developmental psychobiologist Emma Adam explores what differences in stress might mean for teens as they move from high school to college and work. How does it affect their levels of depression and anxiety during this transition? In addition to using annual interviews, questionnaires, and diaries to capture changes in the youths’ experiences over time, the researchers also track physiological effects by measuring cortisol, a hormone indicating stress, collected from small saliva samples, and sleep quality from wristwatch-sized “actigraphs” they wear. Adam is examining if differences in stress exposure, stress hormone levels, and sleep quality can help further understanding of why some adolescents remain emotionally healthy and others develop depression and anxiety disorders as they negotiate this transitional period. Results suggest that interpersonal stressors and sleeping less are associated with changes in stress hormone patterns across the day and with youth becoming depressed. Even after accounting for the effects of various life events, such as losing a family member or conflict with friends, individuals with higher surges in stress hormones in the morning hours are at increased risk for depression over the next two and a half years, and onsets of anxiety disorders, particularly social anxiety disorder, over the next four years.

Intervention to Help Adolescents Sleep More

In 2014, Adam began preparing a new pilot study for a project called the Stronger Sleep Study, an intervention aimed at increasing the amount and quality of sleep for adolescents. The project will measure high school students’ sleep on a daily basis, and then participants will receive individualized feedback via text message. The messages will guide them to slightly earlier bedtimes, which Adam hopes will result in an improvement in the overall hours and quality of sleep that students’ receive. The new project is funded by an IPR seed grant.
Maintaining Racial Inequality with a Few Racists?

IPR social demographer Quincy Thomas Stewart is writing a book that scrutinizes the history of racial inequality since the era of Jim Crow laws, roughly 1865 to 1965, and the social organizations involved in maintaining black-white inequities. Tentatively titled “How Many Racists? How Everyday People Contribute to a System of Social Inequality,” it sheds new light on historical evidence, which has indicated that a large number of racists is needed to maintain institutional inequalities. By putting recent research into context, Stewart points to a significant decline in the number of people who hold racist beliefs, yet parallel declines in racial inequality have not been registered—statistics that seem to refute the idea that the number of racists is what counts. Using an agent-based model of a Nash Bargaining game, which is a simple two-person bargaining model, Stewart’s investigation demonstrates that a system inspired by biased social institutions, even though they are administered or used by nonbiased (nonracist) individuals, can maintain racial inequality with a few, or even no, racists. The book will focus on the social dynamics that lead to the emergence of racial inequality in an artificial society, the actors and factors that sustain it once it is established, and the policies that can be used to undermine racial inequality.

Signaling Racial Identity

While the magnitude of current racial disparities in educational achievement is clear and widely accepted, the source is not. One theory suggests that many minority students are socially marginalized and face a unique signaling quandary. This means that African American students must act in ways that “signal” to their black peers that they are “black enough,” while signaling to the larger society that they are “white enough” to be American. In a project with Rachelle Winkle-Wagner of the University of Wisconsin–Madison, Stewart examines this using an agent-based model and qualitative data from a larger study of the college experiences of African American undergraduate women. The model analyzes the social psychological mechanisms embedded in the signaling quandary, while the qualitative study assesses how, and to what extent, black college women experience the quandary. Their results suggest that the black women’s experiences are unique. Those in the qualitative study felt the need to simultaneously signal their racial identity to white and black peers using several widely recognized behaviors that often conflicted with one another. The researchers did not find, though, that the signaling quandary was related to an anti-intellectual culture in the black community or to low achievement among black college women.
Racial Disparities in Causes of Mortality

Racial disparities in mortality, which are highest in infancy and middle age and converge at the oldest ages, are the focus of countless studies that aim to reveal the factors responsible for them, as well as related policy means to alleviate them. One aspect of mortality disparities that has received considerable attention is their underlying causes—the most immediate mechanisms contributing to disparities, and those that offer insight into what diseases and social maladies are responsible for them (namely, heart disease, homicide, HIV/AIDS, and cancer). But little research addresses how racial disparities in mortality have varied in response to substantial changes in these underlying causes. Stewart examines the history of racial disparities in mortality since Jim Crow, investigating whether changes in the distribution of underlying causes have reduced racial mortality disparities for certain age groups, or if the relative privilege of whites has allowed socioeconomic status (SES)-related health disparities to persist over time. Thus, the driving question of this work is, “Has the age-pattern and magnitude of racial mortality disparities shifted as a result of changes in the distribution of underlying causes in both the black and white populations?” Stewart’s results indicate that the age pattern of mortality disparities does not change over time, and that changes in underlying causes are only modestly related to mortality disparities over this 60-year period, highlighting the persistence of inequities in racial health.

A Majority-Minority America

The racial and ethnic diversity of the United States is rapidly increasing, such that racial and ethnic minorities are expected to comprise more than 50 percent of the U.S. population by 2042, effectively creating a so-called “majority-minority” nation. With Northwestern doctoral student Maureen Craig, also a dissertation fellow at the American Bar Foundation, IPR social psychologist Jennifer Richeson examines how white Americans react to information about the impending population changes. In a series of experiments, she and Craig present consistent evidence that exposure to information about shifting U.S. racial demographics evokes the expression of more implicit and explicit racial bias and a greater tendency to endorse political conservatism. These are brought about by a perception that increases in racial minorities’ societal status will reduce white Americans’ influence in society. The effects suggest that rather than ushering in a more tolerant future, the increasing national diversity could actually yield more intergroup hostility and have untold influence on white Americans’ political participation both now and in the decades to come. Richeson and Craig point to the way the media and institutions frame the demographic shift, for instance by lumping all nonwhite groups together, as exacerbating the concern felt by whites. Richeson and Craig’s work on this topic was published in Psychological Science and Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin.

Effects of Redemption Narratives

Richeson, with Northwestern doctoral student Katie Rotella and Northwestern psychology professor Dan McAdams, is examining how people find meaning in past wrongdoing. Specifically, she is looking at “redemption narratives”—thinking about an event in a way that transforms it from a negative outcome to a positive one, such as being abused and then becoming an advocate for abuse survivors. In Richeson’s experiment, participants were asked to write for five minutes about the bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, in 1945. Those who were also prompted to engage in redemption narratives, by writing about how these events “transformed America” and the “lessons and insights” that might have been gained from them, expressed greater collective guilt and willingness to reconcile with bombing victims. The researchers also looked at the impact of redemption narratives on victims. White, American undergraduate students who read about inhumane treatment of American POWs in Japanese custody during World War II, and who also read a “redemption narrative” about how the perpetrators of these injustices had learned from their mistakes, were more likely to perceive the perpetrators as having changed for the better. They were also more willing to reconcile with—though not forgive—them. The work highlights the potential for redemption narratives to serve as an intervention for past intergroup conflict, increasing the chance for intergroup reconciliation. The study was published in Group Processes & Intergroup Relations.
Regulating Emotions and Discrimination

Contending with discrimination can yield negative emotional and cognitive outcomes. For instance, research suggests that contending with discrimination can impair individuals’ psychological well-being and performance on a variety of cognitive tasks. Research largely outside of the discrimination domain suggests, however, that reflecting on stressful events from a self-distanced perspective—i.e., as a “fly on the wall”—results in more positive emotional outcomes, compared with reflecting from a self-immersed, first-person perspective. Building on this work, Richeson explores whether contending with a racially discriminatory event from a self-distanced perspective yielded more positive cognitive outcomes, versus contending with the event from a self-immersed perspective. Her results point to the opposite pattern: Participants who recalled a discriminatory event from a self-distanced perspective exhibited poorer cognitive outcomes and engaged in greater risk-taking than did participants who recalled a discriminatory event from a self-immersed perspective.

Agricultural Microfinance in Mali

Agriculture is important for the world’s poor: Nearly three-quarters of those living on a dollar a day live in rural areas. At the same time, microfinance loans, which might increase agricultural productivity, tend to go to small business enterprises rather than agricultural ones. With researchers Dean Karlan and Christopher Udry of Yale University and Bram Thysaer of Ghent University in Belgium, IPR economist Lori Beaman is investigating the impact of agricultural loans on farmers in Mali. The researchers partnered with a microfinance institution that offered loans in randomly selected villages. In these villages, agricultural profits increased, and persisted into the next agricultural season. In villages that were not offered loans, agricultural profits did not increase. Beaman and her colleagues find that agricultural loans create a screening process, targeting farmers who will generate a larger harvest for a given amount of loan they receive. The results of the study demonstrate that microfinance loans can also benefit those working in agriculture.

Economic Opportunities for Women

More than 75 percent of the world’s poor do not have a formal bank account, constraining their ability to save, borrow, and otherwise engage in financial operations that could improve their lives. Organizations are creating savings groups in developing nations as a way to meet such untapped needs. Women in the groups contribute to a group fund every week, then collectively decide if they should loan money from the fund to other group members, to be repaid with interest at a later date. Beaman was part of a group of cross-disciplinary researchers who conducted a large-scale randomized control experiment of a community savings program in rural Mali, West Africa. Freedom from Hunger and Oxfam’s Saving for Change (SfC) program integrates villager-managed saving and lending groups with local training and education. The program was offered to a random sample of 250 villages in Mali’s Ségou region. In an IPR working paper, Beaman and her colleagues show that women offered SfC in their village took out twice as many loans from their SfC program, saved about 30 percent more, and had less precarious food situations than those in non-SfC villages. They were also slightly less likely to seek loans from family and friends, a culturally shameful act.

Impact of Microcredit Lending

In work with MIT’s Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo, and Rachel Glennerster, IPR economist Cynthia Kinnan reports on the first randomized evaluation of introducing a standard microcredit lending program in a new market. These lenders, referred to as microfinance institutions (MFIs), supply loans to poor households, targeting mostly women. In 2005, half of 104 areas in Hyderabad, India, were randomly selected to open a branch of Spandana, an MFI. Around 18 months after the introduction of the MFI, 6,850 households were surveyed. Results show that while households in treatment areas were no more likely to start a new business, those who already had a business invested more in them. Three to four years after MFI introduction, when households in treatment...
areas had been borrowing more for longer periods, the average business was no more profitable, though the largest businesses did benefit. Treatment-area households reduced spending on “temptation goods,” such as alcohol, gambling, and snacks. No improvements, however, were found for health, education, and women’s empowerment, and other outcomes that microfinance is often believed to affect. The study suggests that while microcredit lending is a valuable part of poor households’ portfolios, it does not seem to lead to the miraculous social transformation that some have claimed.

Public Health Insurance for the Poor?

In 2008, India implemented a public health insurance scheme, Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY), which covers hospital expenses for families below the poverty line. Now, the Indian government is thinking of expanding the program to cover certain groups above the poverty line, and perhaps even the entire population of the country. Kinnan and her colleagues are conducting a field experiment to assess the impact of expanding RSBY eligibility. They have enrolled roughly 60,000 people in a randomized experiment, assigning them to one of four outcomes: either free RSBY insurance coverage, an unconditional cash transfer equal to the insurance premium for RSBY, the opportunity to buy RSBY coverage, or no intervention. After two years, they will survey each person about these outcomes. The study aims to quantify how much inpatient insurance improves health and reduces poverty by measuring RSBY’s effects on study participants’ health and finances. It will also examine how insurance subsidies affect the ways people choose to participate in and use insurance programs. The results of this study will inform the Indian government on how to best price health insurance, freeing extra government funds for other investments.

American Beliefs and Income Inequality

Many tend to take for granted the notion that Americans believe (perhaps naively) in the role of hard work for getting ahead in life, whereas Europeans put more stock in the role of good fortune. IPR sociologist Leslie McCall is investigating this notion, drawing on underutilized questions in the International Social Survey Program to better outline American and European opinions on the issue. She finds that when luck-related means of getting ahead (e.g., “knowing the right people”) are clearly spelled out in survey questions, Americans are actually as likely, or more likely, to recognize the importance of good fortune as are individuals in other advanced industrial countries. She suggests that Americans are simply unfamiliar with “luck” in the sense that scholars and European citizens use the term. These results play into a greater pattern McCall is examining in her comparative work: That perceptions of economic fairness and equal opportunity are more similar across nations than previously implied by theories of American exceptionalism.

Public Preferences for Redistribution

According to the General Social Survey (GSS), confidence in banks and financial institutions sank from more than 30 percent in the mid-2000s to 8 percent in 2010. Despite the rise of public discontent with the private sector, little is known about how the public views corporations’ responsibilities and performance in addressing economic and social problems. In a project receiving support from the Russell Sage Foundation, McCall and her colleagues Jonas Edlund and Arvid Backstrom of Sweden’s Umea University and Christian Larsen of Aalborg University in Denmark are examining what citizens see as the proper mix and balance of state and market policies. The researchers are exploring this issue after having added new questions to existing nationally representative surveys in 2014—the GSS in the United States and the International Social Survey Program in Sweden and Denmark. Given the distinctive roles that market institutions play in different societies, the researchers will compare results from these three countries to assess if and how views vary between them. They will also pursue collaborations with other European countries, as well as in other regions of the world where inequality is a major issue, such as Latin America.

Public Views About Inequality

Most people assume that Americans care more about equality of opportunity than equality of outcomes. McCall and Richeson are testing this proposition, postulating that, in contrast to the traditional view, Americans might now consider rising inequality itself as a threat to the “American Dream” of open and expanding opportunities. The study, supported by the Russell Sage Foundation, has two main components: A media analysis of how American inequality has been discussed over the past 30 years, followed by a series of social psychological experiments designed to probe the conditions that provoke heightened concerns about inequality and support for policies designed to reduce it. Preliminary results indicate that rising inequality indeed triggers Americans to believe that their opportunities are fewer, and also that people (Republicans and Independents, in particular) support measures compelling employers to reduce pay disparities more than they support measures compelling the government to reduce income disparities. These results are contrary to claims that Americans oppose interventions in the market. In combining a media study with psychological experiments, McCall and Richeson aim to learn more about how conceptions of inequality, opportunity, and redistribution intertwine in American culture.

Origins of Affirmative Action

As the nation’s population grows more diverse, many institutions of higher learning will continue to remain interested in diversifying their student body by considering race in the admis-
In the social sciences, researchers’ “scholastic worth” is often associated with how much research they have published, the proportion of their publications that are in leading journals of their discipline, and the number of citations referencing their work. But surprisingly little is known about the mechanisms that enable scholars to publish (or prevent them from publishing) in the first place. Stewart, with Northwestern doctoral student Saheli Nath and Indiana University’s Fabio Rojas, is exploring how network ties among authors and reviewers influence the patterns of publication in leading sociology journals from 1980–2012. Using data from 62,424 pairs of scholars spanning the five leading journals in sociology—American Sociological Review, American Journal of Sociology, Demography, Social Forces, and Social Problems—the work explores how actors in the network ascertain the mechanisms of how an “elite” group of people act as gatekeepers, or “publication police,” for the rest of the scholars in the discipline. In addition to network structure, the researchers also investigate the role that gender plays in the network. The results show that women have been playing an increasingly important role over time.

Gender Inequality and Family Income

McCall is collaborating with Northwestern doctoral student Derek Burk, a former IPR graduate research assistant, and Deirdre Bloeue of the University of Michigan to update her demographic analyses of trends in men and women’s family formation patterns. These include marriage and assortative mating—when individuals who are similar mate more frequently than would be expected if mating occurred randomly; in humans, for instance, people with similar levels of education or similar levels of wealth might be more likely to pair up. McCall will sort these data, which so far span 1970–2010, according to individuals’ earnings groups (top 10 percent, middle 10 percent, and bottom 10 percent). She will also embark on a more extensive analysis of changes in couples’ earnings distributions, wherein women depend less on men’s earnings, but men do not depend more on women’s earnings. A forthcoming article on this research discusses questions of family relationships and inequality and also highlights some of the key trends that result in growing class inequality and declining gender inequality in family income.

Racial Bias and Attitudes Toward Sexual Minorities

Previous research has shown that when a person believes his or her own racial group suffers from discrimination, he or she is more likely to express support for members of other racial minority groups. But when a white woman is a victim of sexism, she is less likely to express support for racial minority groups. Richeson and Craig, a former IPR graduate research assistant, speculate that this is because perceiving discrimination against one’s own group enables identification with other disadvantaged groups within—but not across—dimensions of identity—for example, those of gender or race. Their current research investigates whether discrimination is so “potent” for racial minorities that it can reach across dimensions of identity—that is, if racial groups facing discrimination will express support for “sexual minorities” (e.g., gay men and lesbians). Richeson and Craig discover that when racial minorities perceive discrimination against their own group, they are less likely to express support for sexual minorities and are less likely to support policies that would benefit these individuals. This research was published in the Journal of Experimental Social Psychology.

Immigrant Sexual Citizenship

Though immigration and gay rights issues continue to make headlines in America, there has been little public attention to the ways that immigration and sexuality might relate to one another. Sociologists and IPR associates Héctor Carrillo and Steven Epstein, who is John C. Shaffer Professor in the Humanities, connect these issues in a Citizenship Studies article. The researchers interviewed 76 self-identified gay and bisexual Mexican male immigrants, aged between 20 and 57, who lived in San Diego. Almost half of the men were undocumented immigrants, a few were U.S. citizens, and the others had visas, work permits, or permanent residency. Based on the interviews, the researchers discovered the men drew on three “templates” to make sense of how sexual rights and legal citizenship intertwined in their lives. The “asylum template” centered on obtaining U.S. legal asylum due to sexual persecution in Mexico. The “rights template” described the interplay between one’s legal rights as an immigrant and one’s legal rights as a gay person living in the United States. The “local attachments template” outlined how immigrants incorporated themselves into local gay communities. Though each template offered these men a model of how they might simultaneously become members of the gay community and members of the United States, each template was also hard to follow because of tensions between the identities of “gay” and “immigrant.” Carrillo will incorporate this research into a forthcoming book on sexual migration.
Brain Development and Growth in Children

In a study published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, IPR biological anthropologist Christopher Kuzawa examined the energetic costs of brain development. He and his colleagues measured how much glucose a child’s brain needs to function. (Glucose is a simple sugar that fuels the brain.) The study is the first to pool existing positron emission tomography (PET) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) brain scan data, which measure glucose uptake and brain volume, respectively, to show that the ages when the brain consumes the most resources are also the ages when body growth is slowest. At 4 years of age, when this “brain drain” is at its peak and body growth slows to its minimum, the brain burns through resources at a rate equivalent to 66 percent of what the entire body uses at rest. At 5 years of age, the brain “maxes out” glucose use at a time when children learn what they need to know to be successful humans. The findings support a long-standing hypothesis in anthropology that children grow so slowly, and are dependent for so long, because the human body needs to shunt a huge fraction of its resources to the brain during childhood, leaving little to be devoted to body growth. They also disprove a previous belief that the brain’s resource burden on the body is largest at birth, when the size of the brain relative to the body is greatest. These findings underscore how important adequate nutrition in mid-childhood might be for cognitive development.

Early Environments During Pregnancy

Research shows that nutritional and microbial environments in infancy shape the human immune system, but the long-term effects of early environments on regulating inflammation are not known. In this project, supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF), Kuzawa and IPR biological anthropologist Thomas McDade, who directs IPR’s Cells to Society: The Center on Social Disparities and Health, are investigating how environments in infancy shape levels of inflammation in adulthood. Drawing on data from the Cebu Longitudinal Health and Nutrition Survey in the Philippines for pregnant women (dysregulated inflammation during pregnancy contributes to adverse fetal outcomes), the researchers hypothesize that undernourished female babies who are not exposed to common microbes will have elevated levels of inflammation during their pregnancies. In turn, this elevated inflammation will cause their babies to be born earlier on average and at lower birth weights. McDade and Kuzawa will also analyze methylation of inflammatory genes, an epigenetic process with enduring effects on gene activity and expression, and how this process relates to early environments, inflammation, and birth outcomes. The researchers seek to highlight developmental processes contributing to chronic inflammation and also encourage other scholars to think of the human genome as dynamic, changing its structure and function according to its environment.
Zinc Sparks and Fertilization

When a sperm fertilizes a mammalian egg, the egg releases billions of zinc atoms from its surface in “zinc sparks,” oncofertility specialist and IPR associate Teresa Woodruff and her colleagues have discovered. Woodruff and her team were the first to capture images of this process and to identify the origin of the sparks—tiny, zinc-rich packages just below the surface of the egg. Because fluctuations in zinc are important to regulating processes that ensure an egg develops properly, this information could be useful in improving in vitro fertilization methods. The study also lays the groundwork for understanding how changes in zinc levels affect biological systems beyond the egg, including transmission from neurons in the brain and insulin release in the pancreas. This research was published in *Nature Chemistry.* Woodruff is Thomas J. Watkins Memorial Professor in Obstetrics and Gynecology and director of Northwestern’s Women’s Health Research Institute.

Preterm Birth and Stress

Preterm birth, or when a baby is delivered before 37 weeks of gestation, is the leading cause of infant morbidity (disease, illness, or injury within infants) in the United States. One potential contributor to preterm birth is chronic maternal stress. Obstetrician and IPR associate Ann Borders identifies pathways that might prevent preterm birth through decreasing maternal stress. In a review of maternal stress interventions to reduce preterm birth in *Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology,* she finds that group prenatal care is the stress intervention most associated with reducing preterm births across the board: Women who took part in prenatal care groups increased their self-esteem and decreased their stress and social conflict during their third trimesters of pregnancy. Other interventions, such as home visits and support via telephone, only benefitted certain groups, such as unmarried teenagers and black women over the age of 18. Borders is adjunct assistant professor in medical social sciences in Northwestern’s Feinberg School of Medicine.

Birth Weight and Breastfeeding

In an article published in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* that was originally an IPR working paper, a team of C2S researchers including McDade and psychobiologist Emma Adam examines links between breastfeeding, birth weight, and chronic inflammation, which is an indicator of increased risk for heart attack and diabetes, for nearly 7,000 24–32 year olds. The researchers hypothesize that birth weight and how long an individual was breastfed might determine levels of C-reactive protein (CRP)—a biomarker of chronic inflammation in adults and a risk factor for heart disease. Using data from The National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health (Add Health), McDade and his co-authors uncover dramatic disparities. More educated mothers, whites, and Hispanics were more likely to breastfeed. They also show that both lower birth weights and shorter periods of breastfeeding predicted higher CRP levels in young adults, and thus higher disease risk. A study innovation is the use of sibling comparison models, which control for many of the factors that might bias previous estimates of these impacts on adult health outcomes. The research indicates that efforts to promote breastfeeding and improve birth outcomes might have clinically relevant effects on reducing levels of chronic inflammation and lowering risk for cardiovascular and metabolic diseases in adulthood.

Birth Weight and Educational Outcomes

In October, The New York Times’ Sunday Review covered an IPR working paper by economists David Figlio and Jonathan Guryan and their colleagues. It makes use of a new data resource—merged birth and school records for every child born in Florida over an 11-year span—to study the effects of birth weight on cognitive development from kindergarten through high school. The researchers reveal effects of birth weight on cognitive development for single births and in twin comparisons—and that these remain constant over the children’s schooling. They also demonstrate that birth weight has noticeable effects across many background factors, including parents’ levels of education, income, age, race/ethnicity, immigrant status, etc., and that these effects do not vary with measures of school quality. This leads them to conclude that the effects of poor neonatal health on adult outcomes are set very early, and that fetuses might benefit by staying longer in the womb—results that call into question the necessity of inducing birth before the 40th week of pregnancy. The other
co-authors are IPR postdoctoral fellow Krzysztof Karbownik and Jeffrey Roth of the University of Florida. Figlio is Orrington Lunt Professor of Education and Social Policy and IPR director. The paper was published in American Economic Review.

Prenatal Smoking and Children’s Outcomes

How does a pregnant mother’s smoking affect her child’s behavior later in life? The Surgeon General of the United States’ report notes that there is suggestive evidence that prenatal exposure to tobacco is linked with behavioral problems in children, but researchers continue to debate the extent of this causality. IPR clinical and developmental psychologist Lauren Wakschlag has recently completed a study of 300 preschoolers, half of whom were prenatally exposed to tobacco. With Northwestern assistant professor Christopher Ryne Estabrook, she will evaluate competing explanations in the field attesting to the effects (or lack thereof) of prenatal smoking and bring clarity to this controversy. Additionally, conclusive evidence on children’s susceptibility to a parent’s smoking will shed light on the need for prenatal prevention efforts. Wakschlag is professor of medical social sciences and vice chair for scientific and faculty development.

Developmental Origins of Adult Disease

Kuzawa is identifying pathways through which risk factors for cardiovascular disease (CVD) develop, from before birth to young adulthood, using data from Cebu, Philippines. He and his colleagues are analyzing participants’ plasma samples for lipid profiles, markers of inflammation, regulation of glucose/insulin levels, blood pressure, and obesity. Then the researchers will develop models to represent the ways in which nutrition-related factors might contribute to the development of CVD risk in young adulthood. The models will take into account direct and indirect effects of exposure to nutrition-related factors before birth, interactions of pre- and postnatal factors, and the effects of growth on the factors, based on the age of each subject and their stage of life, such as infancy, childhood, and adolescence. By using novel methods to identify interrelated CVD risk factors, this research will contribute to the growing field of developmental origins of adult health and disease and, in particular, to understanding the developmental origins of cardiovascular disease.

Early Origins of Coronary Heart Disease

IPR health psychologist Greg Miller received an R01 grant from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) to study the origins of disparities in mortality from coronary heart disease (CHD), with the aim of identifying targets for its early prevention. Though mortality rates for CHD have declined in recent decades, these declines have mostly occurred among people from backgrounds of high socioeconomic status (SES), while people from lower ones die from CHD at rates that were typically seen in the 1970s. Previous research into the origins of CHD has centered on middle-aged adults because this is the time of life when physical symptoms of CHD tend to appear. Miller will, instead, shift focus to children and adolescents since many mechanisms that give rise to CHD begin in childhood, and these mechanisms also occur in patterns related to SES. Working with IPR health psychologist Edith Chen and Feinberg colleagues Lei Wang and Joel Voss, Miller will study 250 youth from economically diverse backgrounds over two years, looking at how disparities in SES affect their immune systems and brain circuitry—changes that, in turn, could give rise to unhealthy lifestyles that might lead to CHD. The team will also explore how resilient low-SES youth manage to “bend” the normal demographic curve with their positive health outcomes. They predict that positive social influences, such as having role models and/or a nurturing mother, could aid these youth in developing personal resources—including trust, emotion-regulation skills, and self-esteem—that will help them to better navigate the challenges associated with a low-SES background.

“Skin-Deep” Resilience

Children exposed to social and economic adversity early in life show increased susceptibility to the chronic diseases of aging as adults. In ongoing research, Miller, Chen, and a team of psychologists, pediatricians, and geneticists, have been studying a group of 489 African American teenagers living in rural Georgia, who are mostly from working-poor families. While all of them are at risk for the usual negative outcomes often associated with being poor and black, as well as living in the rural South, a significant
number of them exhibit resilience: They do well in school, maintain good mental health, and stay out of trouble with the law. Miller and Chen recently asked whether this resilience also extends to physical health. It turns out that the resilience is only “skin deep.” Those youth doing well behaviorally, academically, and emotionally show worse health outcomes in a number of ways. In comparison with their peers, they tend to be more obese, have higher blood pressure, and seem more stressed, as evidenced by elevated production of certain hormones. In fact, their health looks worse than those among them who are poor and not doing well socioemotionally. The researchers wrote an editorial with their colleague Gene Brody of the University of Georgia that appeared in The New York Times, outlining their theory and results on this topic. The Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) and the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) provided research funding.

Adolescent Origins of Chronic Diseases

African Americans in the rural South are among the most disadvantaged populations in the United States when it comes to chronic diseases of aging (CDAs), such as heart disease and Type 2 diabetes. Many CDAs incubate in physiological symptoms for decades before manifesting, and past research suggests that health factors in midlife cannot fully explain why rural African Americans experience such high rates of CDAs. With funding from an NICHD R01 grant, Miller, Chen, and Brody are examining how stress during childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood might contribute to CDAs in this population. They will draw on data from Brody’s Strong African American Families Healthy Adult Project (SHAPE), which followed 493 low-SES African American youth in rural Georgia from ages 11–20. The current project will extend SHAPE by collecting data from participants at ages 22 and 24. Since most participants will be looking for employment during these years, they will likely be exposed to high levels of stress and become more vulnerable to CDAs. Of course, not all of the SHAPE youth will demonstrate similar vulnerability to CDAs after being exposed to stress; some will react better than others. Miller and Chen will look at why this is the case. The results of their analysis will be critical for public health scientists and practitioners in determining why some people are more at risk than others and which factors, including mechanisms in young adulthood and even earlier, might lower CDA risk for all.

Family-Based Strategy to Erase Disparities

In an article published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences that received significant media attention, Miller and Chen, with Brody and Tianyi Yu of the University of Georgia, outline the results of a randomized trial focusing on 272 African American mothers—half of whom had annual incomes below the poverty line—and their 11-year-old children in rural Georgia. Families in the treatment group were assigned to a 7-week-long psychosocial intervention, comprising weekly group meetings with parents and children, with the goal of enhancing the mothers’ parenting and strengthening family relationships. When the youth reached age 19, the researchers drew their blood to measure amounts of inflammation—a contributor to many chronic health problems, including diabetes, heart disease, and some cancers. They discovered that those youth who had taken part in the intervention had significantly lower levels of inflammation than those who had not—even years after the intervention had ended. Miller and his colleagues’ analysis suggests that the youths’ lower levels of inflammation coincided with more nurturing parenting on behalf of the parents who participated in the intervention. This could present a potential strategy for ameliorating social and racial health disparities.

Family Chaos, Inflammation, and Disease Risk

Adolescents’ family environments have been shown to influence their physical and emotional well-being, from their school performance to their overall social and emotional development. In a recent study published in Psychosomatic Medicine, Chen and her colleagues examine the role of family chaos on inflammatory patterns for 244 adolescents aged 13–16 years old. The researchers define family chaos as “environmental confusion in daily family life,” including disorganization, noise, and lack of structure. After measuring chaos via questionnaires and interviews, as well as quantifying adolescents’ inflammation levels by drawing blood, they learn that chaos has the greatest impact on youth from more disadvantaged backgrounds: Higher levels of chaos in a household are associated with greater inflammation among youth from low-SES backgrounds, but not among youth from high-SES backgrounds. These results have definite implications for low-SES youth, who could become even more vulnerable to inflammation-related diseases as the SES of the environment they live in declines.

Family Environment and the Gender Gap

With Karbownik, Roth, and MIT’s David Autor and Melanie Wasserman, Figlio is using Florida data containing test scores and rates for truancy, behavioral problems, and high school graduation, to investigate how family factors can explain gender gaps in children’s educational outcomes. The researchers observe that boys born to unmarried, low-income, and less-educated mothers have comparatively worse educational outcomes than their sisters, even though these differences are not present in birth outcomes. Schooling- and neighborhood-related factors do not appear to drive the differences in educational outcomes. Figlio and his colleagues postulate that these differences are, instead, related to the household environment, concluding that boys are more sensitive to it than are girls. Differences in household advantage also explain a substantial portion of the black-white difference in these educational outcomes. For instance, the researchers’ results indicated that when compared with their sisters, black boys had worse outcomes than did white boys.
Effects of a Disabled Child on Their Siblings

In a new project, Figlio and Guryan, with Karbownik, Roth, and the University of Texas’ Sandra Black, are investigating how having a disabled sibling influences a child’s cognitive development. The researchers looked at how the oldest and second-oldest siblings in a family coped when a third sibling was disabled, versus how they were affected when a third sibling was not disabled. They ascertain that in a family of three children, when the youngest child is disabled, the middle child is at a relative cognitive disadvantage in comparison with families who do not have a third child with disabilities. This suggests that, in addition to effects on all the children in a household with three children and the youngest disabled, the middle child will experience additional, negative effects from having a younger, disabled sibling.

Autism and Early Intervention

Figlio and his colleagues, including IPR graduate research assistant Claudia Persico, are conducting a first-ever, population-level study of early-intervention effects on children with autism spectrum disorders with a Florida dataset. While many small-scale studies have evaluated the effects of autism treatment X versus treatment Y in early childhood, this is the first quasi-experiment designed specifically to examine the effects of being diagnosed and treated early. Their study evaluates Early Steps, a statewide early diagnosis and intervention program. The researchers measured the effect distance had for families visiting one of the 18 centers, learning that children living in the same community as a center were twice as likely to receive early services than those more than 30 miles away. Their study reveals that autistic children who are diagnosed and receive interventions and help by age 3 perform dramatically better in school later on. They score substantially better on standardized tests and are far less likely to engage in behaviors that could lead to being suspended from school. These results indicate the very positive role for early detection and intervention for children with autism-spectrum or related disabilities.

Fragile X and Autism Diagnosis

Fragile X syndrome (FXS) is one of the two leading genetic causes of intellectual disability, and it is the most common known genetic condition associated with autism. Research has suggested that 60–74 percent of FXS males and 16–45 percent of FXS females meet the criteria for an autism spectrum disorder (ASD). In the Journal of Intellectual Disability Research, IPR associate Molly Losh, who holds the JoAnn and Peter Dolle Chair in Learning Disabilities, and her colleagues look at how often individuals with FXS are actually diagnosed with ASD in a clinical setting. They studied 35 female and 51 male children with FXS, with a mean age of 10 years old, determining that about half of the children met the criteria for ASD—and that ASD occurred three times more frequently in males. However, only around 25 percent of study participants received a clinical diagnosis of ASD. This suggests that ASD in FXS might be underdiagnosed in clinical settings, which could influence FXS access to autism-related services, including those related to education and healthcare.

Measuring Stress in Adolescence

In a National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded study involving more than 300 Chicago Public School students between the ages of 11 and 18, Adam and her collaborators, Chen, and Kathy Grant from DePaul University, are validating a new comprehensive measure of adolescent stress and examining associations between adolescent stress exposure and a wide range of emotional, health, and academic outcomes. One area of particular focus for Adam is examining associations between stress, stress hormones, sleep, and executive functioning, measured with computer tasks in a laboratory setting and in the home during the course of a four-day diary study. The researchers have published a validation study of a new group-based social stress measure, showing that a public speaking task, in which adolescents take turns giving speeches in front of each other and a panel of judges, causes significant increases and significant variability in levels of salivary cortisol, indicating higher
levels of stress. This new measure is useful because it allows researchers to measure adolescent stress hormone reactivity in groups rather than individually, which will help to make this research possible for larger, more representative groups of adolescents, as well as to move this stress measurement out of the lab and into schools or classrooms in the field.

**Discrimination and Stress in Young Adults**

Adam and her colleagues are examining 20 years of data, gathered from adolescence through young adulthood, to understand how histories of exposure to perceived racial/ethnic discrimination relate to a set of biomarkers of stress and health newly gathered in young adulthood. Detailed information on exposure to race-related and nonrace-related stressors, as well as measures of family functioning, racial/ethnic identity, and coping are available over a 20-year period through the Maryland Adolescent Development in Context Study (MADICS). These are being related to a wide range of stress-sensitive biological measures in young adulthood, including measures of gene expression relevant to the regulation of biological stress. This research also included a seven-day diary study examining how current perceptions of daily discrimination relate to cortisol stress hormone levels and sleep quality, and an experimental protocol examining the degree of physiological reactivity to race-related stress. Initial results indicate that both race/ethnicity and a cumulative developmental history of higher perceived discrimination are associated with flatter and lower cortisol diurnal rhythms, an indicator of chronic stress, in early adulthood. For African American participants only, experiences of discrimination in adolescence were particularly strongly related to altered cortisol patterns in adulthood. This project is the first study to show that developmental histories of discrimination matter for adult health, and it suggests that adolescence might be a sensitive period for the impact of discrimination on African Americans’ health.

**Obesity, Cardiovascular Health, and Latino Youth**

Epidemiologist and IPR associate Mercedes Carnethon continues to investigate how obesity connects to metabolic disorders, such as diabetes, and heart disease. Carnethon worked with a number of other colleagues on the Study of Latino Youth, the first national U.S. study of obesity and cardiometabolic risk factors associated with being overweight among 1,600 Hispanic and Latino children, ages 8–14. The researchers look at how the youths’ lifestyles—including their fitness, diets, and level of physical activity—are linked with many factors. These include how well the youth and their parents have assimilated to American culture, their family environment, and social behavior. The study will identify behaviors that might promote obesity, point out heart- and metabolic-related risk factors for obesity, and identify new biomarkers associated with obesity and insulin resistance. As Hispanic and Latino children are disproportionately affected by the obesity epidemic, the results of the study are important for guiding policy interventions that will promote cardiovascular health in this population.

**Mental Health of Mexican-American Youth**

IPR cultural anthropologist Rebecca Seligman continues to develop her research project on mental health in Mexican-American adolescents. She is collecting data for a study exploring the relationship between adolescents’ expectations when they seek psychiatric care and the realities of that care. In particular, Seligman is looking at how cultural ideals—including those related to the body, emotion management, social and familial relationships, and selfhood and identity—play into adolescents’ expectations for psychiatric care. The work will serve to highlight disparities in ideas and expectations both for those receiving treatment and those providing it. If patient expectations do not match up with clinical realities, this could have an impact on a psychiatric treatment’s effectiveness for Mexican-American adolescent patients. Since Mexican-American adolescents are disproportionately vulnerable to depression, anxiety, and suicidal behaviors, and are also particularly likely to be underserved when it comes to psychiatric treatment, ensuring the efficacy of their treatments is a priority. The project is supported by an IPR seed grant.

**Living with HIV**

IPR sociologist and African American studies scholar Celeste Watkins-Hayes continues work on the Health, Hardship, and Renewal (HHR) Study, which documents how women of different racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds negotiate living with an HIV diagnosis. For the study, now in its sixth year, she and her team are interviewing more than 100 HIV-positive African American women in the Chicago area. The interviews explore how the women acquire and use economic resources and the disease’s impact on their daily living, health management, and social well-being. The researchers will also investigate the role of nonprofits and government institutions that help the women cope, with part of the HHR study examining Chicago-area AIDS service providers to determine how they are helping the women to respond. The study is highlighting the socioeconomic consequences of HIV/AIDS for an urban, female population, and it seeks to inform policymakers, healthcare providers, and others on how to address the epidemic. The study will also enable Watkins-Hayes to give back to the community being studied, by pointing to strategies that will help these women take care of their economic resources and their health. This research is supported by grants from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the National Science Foundation.

**Drug Use and HIV Vulnerability**

Research suggests that chronic stress can have a negative impact on inflammatory, neuroendocrine, and neurocognitive systems beginning in childhood and adolescence. New evidence indicates that chronic stress might also affect how youth use (and abuse) drugs and engage in behaviors considered high-risk for HIV transmission. With funding from the NIDA, Miller and Chen are
investigating the neuroendocrine and inflammatory pathways through which exposure to stress creates vulnerabilities to drug use and HIV-related behavior among rural African American youth and young adults. Their work is part of the University of Georgia’s Center for Translational and Prevention Science, headed by Brody, which seeks to develop prevention programs for these youth—and better address racial disparities—by investigating how genes might influence these behaviors.

Mobility Data and Health Risk Factors

A neighborhood’s makeup can have a large impact on its adolescent residents—a violent one is associated with more adolescent problem behaviors, while a neighborhood offering more supports correlates with fewer of these behaviors. Professor of medical social sciences and IPR associate Brian Mustanski and his colleagues investigated the interplay between neighborhoods and genetic factors in the recently completed study, known as the Gene, Environment, and Neighborhood Initiative (GENI). The NIH-funded study focused on a cluster of HIV risk factors—including sexual risk-taking, substance use, and conduct problems—among African American youth living in high poverty neighborhoods. Mustanski collected data from a natural experiment in which families moved from public housing tracts in Mobile, Ala., to more advantaged neighborhoods under the HOPE VI federal relocation program. The researchers analyzed interviews of individuals in HOPE VI and the control group in which they discussed their neighborhood environments before and after their relocation. The researchers also drew on census data to catalog each neighborhood based on indicators of socioeconomic status, such as the numbers of unemployed and college graduates, as well as racial makeup and residential stability. The resulting data confirm the underlying assumptions of the GENI study: Youth and their neighborhoods were similar in both the experimental and control groups before the HOPE VI families relocated, and HOPE VI families relocated to improved neighborhoods. These preliminary results will enable Mustanski and his team to compare neighborhood effects across both groups for the GENI study.

Blood Test for Depression

Neuroscientist and IPR associate Eva Redei and her colleagues have discovered a blood test that might lead to diagnosing major depression in adults, as well as determining which therapies would work best to treat it. In Translational Psychiatry, the researchers described nine blood markers that differentiated depressed from nondepressed individuals. They measured blood levels of these markers before and after depressed patients underwent cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), a common psychotherapy used to treat depression. Among patients who reported no longer being depressed after 18 weeks of CBT, marker levels changed. Thus, the test can determine if CBT is effective and, if it is not, prompt healthcare providers to try a different therapy. Levels of three of the nine markers remained unchanged in depressed patients no matter if they remained depressed or recovered after CBT. These markers might identify vulnerability to depression—another factor to account for in administering treatment. Redei’s study is significant for depression research, as the current method of diagnosing depression relies solely on patients’ descriptions of symptoms. Many reported on the study, including Time, Newsweek, The Huffington Post, and Mashable, which listed it among 2014’s top 10 scientific achievements. Redei is David Lawrence Stein Professor in Psychiatric Diseases Affecting Children and Adolescents.

Expanding Use of Dried Blood Spots

Inflammation is an important part of normal immune function, but excessive or dysregulated inflammation contributes to the course of many diseases. It is important to measure how social and ecological factors over the life course affect the regulation of inflammation, but this is most often done by puncturing a vein with a needle for blood samples. In joint work, Miller and McDade focus on dried blood spots (DBS)—drops of whole blood collected from a simple finger stick—as a minimally invasive, cost-effective alternative to collecting samples from large numbers of study participants. McDade has already pioneered DBS methods for measuring proteins that are involved with inflammation. Now, the pair wants to extend this work down to the molecular level to determine if it can also
be used to measure the activity of genes (RNA) and processes that regulate them (DNA methylation). In this work, the DBS approach to molecular work will be assessed for precision and reliability—and evaluated against the gold standard of venipuncture methods. The development of such methods for quantifying gene expression and DNA methylation will facilitate future community-based research on inflammation. It has the potential to advance scientific understanding of inflammation as a key pathway through which social environments contribute to health over the life course. NIH and NICHD provided funding.

**Childhood Origins of Mental Health Issues**

Chronic mental disorders often emerge in early life, but researchers lack methods to distinguish young children who are vulnerable from those who are not. Wakschlag is using the MAP-DB tool (the Multidimensional Assessment Profile of Disruptive Behavior), a behavioral assessment measure derived from her MAPS study of preschoolers, to determine what constitutes “problematic” behavior for children from diverse backgrounds. She and her colleagues utilized the MAP-DB tool in a cohort of 3,347 preschoolers, devising a spectrum of normal to abnormal behavior to determine when certain behaviors are cause for concern. For instance, though occasional tantrums are common for 3- to 5-year-old preschoolers, daily tantrums occur in less than 10 percent of black, white, Hispanic children and those from low- and high-SES backgrounds. Wakschlag received two grants from the National Institute of Mental Health this year for research on this topic. The first grant will enable her to follow the preschoolers from the MAPS study through preadolescence, thereby distinguishing serious, ongoing clinical problems. With funding from the second grant, Wakschlag and professor of medical social sciences and IPR associate Frank Penedo, Roswell Park Professor, will examine whether higher exposure to stress in ethnic minority children explains their greater likelihood of developing behavioral problems. The results of Wakschlag’s research will enable parents, pediatricians, and teachers to identify when children need a mental health evaluation and when their behavior is within normal limits.

**Contexts of Fatherhood**

Humans are among the rare mammals whose fathers are involved in rearing offspring, which recent work suggests has left its mark on male biology and behavior. Kuzawa is adding to a growing body of work on the topic, including how testosterone influences male mating and fatherhood. He has partnered with many colleagues, including Lee Gettler, a former IPR graduate research assistant now at the University of Notre Dame, and McDade. With funding from the National Science Foundation, Kuzawa is now extending his study of the biology and social context of fatherhood. Building on prior longitudinal data from the Cebu Study, the research team is following male cohort members, now 31–32 years old, for follow-up hormone analysis. They are also gathering more in-depth information on the quality of partner relationships, child development, and childcare patterns in each participant’s household. The researchers aim to provide a better understanding of the role that fathers play in their children’s upbringing as well as the social and family factors that influence how much fathers get involved. They also hope to evaluate how hormonal changes, such as declining testosterone levels, affect behaviors that could contribute to a couple’s relationship stability and their child’s development. The researchers published several articles over the year using data from the study, including assessments of whether greater amounts of body fat predict higher levels of testosterone in the *American Journal of Human Biology* and whether changes in testosterone levels parallel changes in immune function in the *International Journal of Primatology*.

**Paternal Mental Health and Fatherhood**

Between 5 and 10 percent of fathers are estimated to suffer from clinical depression. Paternal depression also affects these fathers’ children, who are at risk for psychiatric disorders, exhibit poorer language and reading development, and have more social problems than their peers. IPR researchers led by associate and pediatrician Craig Garfield, and who include McDade, Adam, and developmental psychologist Lindsay Chase-Lansdale, studied rates of paternal depression in young fathers, using 20 years of Add Health data to identify factors contributing to paternal depression. They discover that for fathers living in the same household as their children, rates of paternal depression dip immediately before a child’s
birth, then increase 68 percent over the child’s first five years of life. Fathers who did not live with their children, on the other hand, experienced more depressive symptoms prior to their child’s birth than after it. Race also played a role, with African American and Hispanic fathers showing higher levels of symptoms as compared with whites. The results, published in *Pediatrics*, serve to identify at-risk fathers and highlight times in their lives when clinical interventions might be most useful. Chase-Lansdale is Frances Willard Professor of Human Development and Social Policy.

**Support for Goals, Trust, and Relationships**

A recent line of psychologist and IPR associate Eli Finkel’s research considers how partners in a relationship encourage each other’s goals and how they pursue their own. In work published in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, Finkel investigates the “Manhattan effect,” or when one partner’s goals threaten a relationship, forcing the other partner to withdraw support for these goals to save the relationship. In *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, Finkel and his colleagues examine how people’s trust in their partners—and their conviction that these partners support their goals—affects how secure they are in their relationships. He finds that trust in one’s partner is associated with lower attachment anxiety (concerns over a partner’s availability and doubts about one’s own self-worth), while perceiving one’s goals to be validated by a partner was associated with lower attachment avoidance (doubts about trusting others). Longitudinally, however, the opposite was true: More trust was associated with lower attachment avoidance and more validated goals with lower attachment anxiety. These results show that relationship security can change over time, and highlight ways of boosting it using different pathways.

**Religious Engagement and Health**

Deep religious engagement can have a positive impact on a person’s physical and mental health, Seligman demonstrates in her new book, *Possessing Spirits and Healing Selves: Embodiment and Transformation in an Afro-Brazilian Religion* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014). The book offers an in-depth exploration of the ways that social and cultural contexts can affect mental and physical well-being. Seligman looks at how religious devotion influenced health outcomes among spirit possession mediums of the Candomblé religion in Brazil, finding that religious devotion can transform these outcomes for the better, particularly for those who had high levels of emotional distress prior to their religious engagement. The people Seligman studied who were deeply and intimately engaged in their religion demonstrated patterns of cardiovascular functioning that are associated with better health outcomes; these individuals also reported better physical and mental health following their religious involvement. Seligman observes that the book’s investigation of religious devotion can serve as a jumping-off point for understanding the links between mind and body and the many ways in which they affect peoples’ lives, both positively and negatively.

**Language and Cognitive Skills in Infants**

IPR developmental and cognitive psychologist Sandra Waxman continues her work on infants’ language and cognition. In an article forthcoming in *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, Waxman and New York University’s Athena Vouloumanos find that just by listening to human language—even if they do not understand the words being spoken—infants younger than a year can learn cognitive skills that will form the foundation of future learning, such as how to perceive patterns, categorize objects, and recognize partners with whom they can communicate. In another study published in *Cognition*, Waxman and her colleagues discover that even before infants can speak many words, they use the words they already know to learn more. After hearing a sentence containing a noun they did not know, such as “blick,” 19-month-old infants could match that noun to a picture of a new animal if it was used in a sentence containing a verb they had already learned, for example, “The blick is eating.” Both of these studies attest to the importance of exposing infants to language at an early age. Infants who hear little language are at a disadvantage not only when it comes to language skills, but also in developing fundamental cognitive capacities. Additionally, infants who do not know many words early on will have more difficulty when it comes to learning new ones. Waxman holds the Louis W. Menk Chair in Psychology.
Learning from Picture Books

Two of Waxman’s recent studies center on what infants and young children can learn from picture books. In one study, published in Cognitive Development, she and her co-authors observe that infants as young as 15 months can learn new words from reading picture books with an adult and even apply these words, gleaned from two-dimensional images, to real, three-dimensional objects when they encounter them. In a separate study, published in Frontiers in Developmental Psychology, Waxman and her colleagues look at how picture books influence 5 year olds’ opinions of the relationship between humans and nonhuman animals. Sixty-two children living in an urban area read one of two picture books about bears. One book, The Berenstain Bears, showed bears from an anthropomorphic perspective, while the other, The Animal Encyclopedia, portrayed them from a realistic standpoint. The children who read The Berenstain Bears were more likely to anthropomorphize animals, while the children who read the encyclopedia adopted a more biological viewpoint, believing that both humans and animals share animal characteristics. Picture books, Waxman concludes, are a double-edged sword: They can promote unscientific reasoning in young children but, if used properly, can also enable them to think in more realistic and biological terms.

Cross-Cultural Perspectives on the Natural World

One of Waxman’s articles uses a cross-cultural lens to evaluate what children know about the natural world. She and her fellow researchers asked children aged 6–13 from three communities in Argentina to name as many living things as they could, then noted whether (and how) their answers differed. Some children were members of an indigenous group, the Wichí, who live in the Chaco Forest and speak their own indigenous language. Others were Spanish speakers, living either in urban or rural areas. All children named predominantly animals, excluding plants; this suggests that children across diverse communities have difficulty seeing plants as living things. There were also differences among the groups, reflecting differences in their exposure to the natural world: Wichí children named more native animals (ones they come into contact with in everyday life), whereas urban Spanish-speakers named mostly exotic animals, such as tigers (ones they had learned about in movies and books). Waxman’s results, which illuminate the knowledge children bring with them to their classrooms, highlight the importance of taking language and cultural background into account in the classroom, as children’s differing exposure to the natural world provides different starting points for learning.

Cancer Treatments and Quality of Life

With cancer treatments continually improving survival rates, experts like IPR associate David Cella are increasingly interested in understanding the implications of such treatments in terms of self-reported symptoms and quality of life. Cella, an expert on patient-centered outcomes, has been involved in a variety of research studies concerning oncological treatments and evaluations of life quality. In the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, Cella and his colleagues recommended a core set of 12 symptoms to be considered in clinical trials for any adult cancer for which self-reported symptoms are measured. Cella also continues his work with the Patient Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System (PROMIS) initiative, a NIH-funded project seeking to develop a “universal language” standardizing the collection of self-reported symptoms. In Medical Care, Cella used a PROMIS survey to examine gender-, age-, and race-related differences in how people perceive tradeoffs between living longer and losing quality of life in old age. He received the Alvin Tarlov Career Achievement Prize from the Health Assessment Lab/Medical Outcomes Trust in October, for his work in the development, promotion, and education of patient-reported outcome measures. He is professor and founding chair of Feinberg’s medical social sciences department.

Methods for Coping with Prostate Cancer

Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related death for U.S. men, with nearly 30,000 dying of the disease each year. Penedo and his colleagues recently examined how the stress management skills of prostate cancer patients affect their adjustment to the disease. Their results, published in the Journal of Behavioral Medicine, demonstrate that high levels of confidence in coping with the disease helped to buffer patients’ concerns about their treatment. In other research, published in the Journal of Sexual Medicine, Penedo examined how men with advanced prostate cancer react to the sexual side effects of androgen deprivation therapy (ADT), a treatment that reduces levels of male hormones in the body. Younger men and men who had just recently begun receiving ADT were more likely to be bothered by these side effects. This “sexual bother” is more correlated with more depressive symptoms. Penedo postulates that assessing sexual bother in men undergoing ADT could help identify those at risk and improve their quality of life, especially for more vulnerable younger men and those just starting the therapy.

Panel Tackles Factors of Human Development

On October 16, Waxman moderated a panel on “Developing Human Potential: Social, Cognitive, and Neural Factors” with Chase-Lansdale, Chen, psychologist Richard Davidson of the University of Wisconsin–Madison and University of Chicago economist and Nobel laureate James Heckman. Davidson opened the panel by relating what led him to study well-being. Chase-Lansdale discussed her work on two-generation programs, while Chen spoke about her research on resilience and mentoring. Heckman focused on his Perry Preschool Project research, which shows significant effects on adult outcomes some 50 years later. The event was part of the Department of Psychology’s Second Northwestern Symposium on Mind and Society.
The Bright Side of Aging

Developmental psychologist and IPR associate Claudia Haase’s recent work focuses on aging, with one line of research analyzing brain health in late life. In *Neurobiology of Aging*, she and her colleagues show that higher lifetime cognitive activity, such as reading books, playing games, and higher current physical activity, predict better brain health in Alzheimer-relevant regions and greater cognitive functioning. In the *Annual Review of Clinical Psychology*, she and her colleagues synthesize what is known about emotional and behavioral symptoms in neurodegenerative disease and how these insights can inform research on brain-behavior links and psychopathology. Haase also studies emotion and aging. In *Emotion*, she and her fellow scholars investigate longitudinal links between spouses’ emotion regulation and their marital satisfaction over 13 years: The more quickly wives can tamp down negative emotion during marital conflict, the more likely it is that husbands and wives are satisfied in their marriages—and that the wife’s marital satisfaction will increase over time.

Healthy Aging Among Filipino Women

Using data from the Cebu Study, McDade and Kuzawa are analyzing how biological, social, economic, and environmental factors affect middle-aged and elderly women in the Philippines. Since the Cebu Study includes more than 30 years of longitudinal data on physical and mental health of more than 1,800 women, the researchers will be able to track how the women’s health has changed over time, including identifying the determinants of healthy aging. Aspects of physical health the researchers will be tracking include blood pressure, biomarkers of inflammation, and immune response to vaccination; psychological factors include quality of relationships and whether a woman suffers from depression. The social, economic, and environmental factors that the researchers will investigate include: the rapid urbanization of Cebu, Philippines, where the study subjects live, and associated issues from surrounding sanitation and air quality to crowding and housing density, in addition to participants’ socioeconomic status, income, education, family structure, work roles, diet quality, and physical activity. The resulting analysis will provide a glimpse into the web of physical, social, and behavioral factors that promote “healthy” aging.

LGBTQ Health and Wellness

On October 10, the third Chicago LGBTQ Health & Wellness Conference brought 130 researchers, service providers, and students together to focus on translational LGBTQ health research around the theme of “Bridging Research and Practice,” asking how to “translate” basic research findings into health services that yield meaningful health outcomes. Mustanski, who leads IMPACT, welcomed keynote speakers David Purcell, deputy director for behavioral and social science of the division of HIV/AIDS prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, and Kathleen Sikkema, a Duke University psychology and neuroscience professor. IPR graduate research assistant Mollie McQuillan also presented a talk at the conference, “Minority Stress and Mental Health Outcomes Among Sexual Minority Women of Color,” which highlighted her research on whether stress caused by a woman’s minority identity influences her mental health outcomes. The event was co-organized by Northwestern’s IMPACT LGBT Health and Development Program and the Sexual Orientation and Gender Institute at The Center on Halsted; IPR was a co-sponsor.
RESEARCH TOPICS:

- School finance, accountability, and vouchers
- Education interventions and program evaluations
- Teacher and principal characteristics
- Transitions from high school to college
- Improving academic achievement, outcomes

Multidisciplinary Training for Doctoral Students

Northwestern University’s Multidisciplinary Program in Education Sciences (MPES) received a $4 million grant from the Institute of Education Sciences (IES), its third since the program’s creation in 2004, to train doctoral students from different disciplines in state-of-the-art education research methods. Directed by IPR economist Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach and housed in the School of Education and Social Policy, the program’s 2014 cohort is the first to participate in a unique applied research partnership with Evanston Township High School (ETHS), providing a field research experience that is rare for doctoral students. The three-year training program allows Northwestern doctoral students from a number of different disciplines to pair multidisciplinary coursework, which is key to studying education well, with conducting research with affiliated MPES and IPR faculty and completing the ETHS applied research practicum. Schanzenbach hopes the practicum will improve upon a program that has already produced 52 alumni. Alumni of the program credit it with giving them a knowledge base to understand education policy issues from multiple perspectives, as well as introducing them to a community of fellow students and faculty with related interests. Northwestern was one of five universities to which IES awarded 2014 training program grants; the others are New York University, Stanford University, University of Chicago, and University of Virginia.

Matched Administrative Data Network

While it has become a national priority, states’ data collection efforts are still in their infancy, with little in the way of best practices or minimum guidelines to optimize data collection and use, and other related issues. A National Science Foundation (NSF)-supported group led by IPR Director and education economist David Figlio and Kenneth Dodge of Duke University is building a network of faculty, policymakers, and practitioners from around the nation to examine construction of these “next-generation” datasets. The group held two meetings in 2014. From October 1–3 in Hollywood, Florida, academics, policymakers, and practitioners from across the nation discussed the types of research policymakers want. They reviewed examples of successful researcher-state collaborations and institutional structures that might facilitate them, how to craft legislation to achieve objectives, and other issues related to leveraging matched administrative datasets to improve education policy and outcomes. The next meeting on October 6–7 at Duke University included research presentations by Stanford’s Macke Raymond, Michigan’s Susan Dynarski, Duke’s Atila Abdulkadiroglu, and IPR economist Jonathan Guryan. Guryan, Schanzenbach, social demographer Quincy Thomas Stewart, psychobiologist Emma Adam, and biological anthropologists Christopher Kuzawa and Thomas McDade are all members of the group. Figlio is Orrington Lunt Professor of Education and Social Policy and of Economics.
School Finance Reform and Student Achievement

Over the past 40 years, a number of states have reformed their school finance systems—some under court order; some not—to redirect funding from wealthier to poorer school districts. In the most recent wave of reforms, beginning in 1989, arguments for such reforms shifted from discussion of “equity” to the “adequacy” of school funding. Previous studies established that early reforms did, indeed, lead to increases in the relative and absolute funding of low-income students’ school districts, with some exceptions. But how do later reforms affect funding and student outcomes? Schanzenbach and University of California, Berkeley’s Jesse Rothstein investigate using a database of student test scores from the National Assessment of Educational Progress, administered to large, nationally representative samples of students since the 1990s, that has been merged with information on school finance reforms and state policy measures. The researchers first document how “adequacy” affects the school funding level and rich-poor inequality in funding. They then investigate the reforms’ effects on low-income students’ academic achievement in absolute terms and relative to their higher-income, in-state peers. Preliminary findings reveal that school finance reforms increased spending at the bottom and the progressivity of education finance, pushing the United States to a “new era” of finance reforms. The reforms also raised test scores 10—and even 20—years after they passed.

School Finance Reforms and Adult Outcomes

In an effort to ensure equal educational opportunity for all children, most states adopted school finance reforms between 1970 and 1995 that caused some of the most dramatic changes in the structure of education spending in U.S. history. Little research, however, exists on whether and how these changes have affected the adult well-being of students from poor neighborhoods. With support from the NSF, IPR economist Kirabo Jackson, Rucker Johnson of the University of California, Berkeley and IPR graduate research assistant Claudia Persico are examining the long-term effects of school finance reforms on state distributions of school spending, academic achievement, and adult outcomes, using detailed, nationally-representative data from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID) on children born between 1955 and 1985 and who were followed through 2011. Preliminary findings reveal that a 10 percent increase in spending per pupil led to about an extra third of a year in terms of completed education, a 7.25 percent increase in wages, and lower poverty for children from low-income households. Spending increases were also associated with improvements in school quality, increases in teacher salaries, and longer school years. The results indicate that school finance reform policies introduced by states can improve student outcomes and help reduce the intergenerational transmission of poverty.

Competitive Effects of School Vouchers

In the American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, Figlio and Cassandra Hart of the University of California, Davis, a former IPR graduate research assistant, study the effects of private school competition on public school students’ test scores after the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program, a school choice/voucher program, was introduced in 2001. Before the program, some communities had a richer and more diverse set of private school options than others. Figlio and Hart examine whether test scores improved more for students attending public schools with many private schools nearby than for those attending schools with fewer local options. They find that both easier access to private schools and the variety of religious or secular affiliations of private schools are positively linked with public school students’ test scores after the program’s launch. Gains were more pronounced in schools most at risk to lose students, such as elementary and middle schools, where the price to attend private school with a voucher is much lower. But the results also indicate that the program’s introduction led to overall improvements in public school performance, with the gains occurring immediately—before students left the public schools to use a voucher. This implies that competitive threats are responsible for at least some of the voucher program’s estimated effects.
**Interventions for Low-Achieving Students**

By the time they reach high school, many low-achieving students in distressed communities have been written off. They can be as many as four to seven years behind their grade level, particularly in math. Guryan and his colleagues at the Urban Education Lab have partnered with Chicago Public Schools to test two interventions—one academic and one behavioral—targeting “mismatch” between what schools deliver and the needs of disadvantaged youth who have fallen behind in their academic or nonacademic development. In an IPR working paper, they share initial results from a rigorous randomized controlled trial with 106 ninth- and tenth-grade boys at Harper High School in Chicago. Ninety-five percent of the participants were black, and 99 percent were eligible for free or reduced lunch. The academic intervention consists of two-on-one math instruction for an hour each school day, or “math tutoring on steroids,” developed by Match Education. The behavioral intervention was the B.A.M. (Becoming A Man) program, a sociocognitive-skills intervention based on the principles of cognitive behavioral therapy, developed by the Chicago nonprofit organization Youth Guidance. Promising results from the pilot study led to a large-scale study of the two interventions being implemented in 21 Chicago public high schools in fall 2013 and expanding again for the 2014–15 school year. In the expanded study, Guryan and colleagues are seeking to disentangle how each intervention component affects student outcomes, generating better understanding of potential policies and how to better inform future scale-ups. Additional results suggest that the tutoring program can improve test scores in math by an amount comparable to two-thirds of the black-white test score gap.

**Using Mentors to Prevent Dropouts**

While urban high school dropouts have received a great deal of policy attention, the problem almost always starts much earlier with truancy from school. However, very little is known about the risk and protective factors involved in truancy—and even less about effective remedies. To shed light on this issue, Guryan and his team of researchers are continuing to implement a new program called Check & Connect that matches students with adult mentors in an effort to increase school attendance and student engagement at 24 public elementary and middle schools in Chicago. Check & Connect is motivated by findings that show a strong relationship with a helpful adult is a highly protective factor against children failing school—something that many of those growing up in distressed family and community environments often lack. More than 3,000 students in 24 Chicago public schools are in the treatment and control groups, with close to 500 students receiving the intervention. The program involves mentoring, monitoring, and enhancing communication between school and home. The program’s potential spillover effects on peers of students in the program are also being measured by looking at outcomes for the more than 6,000 control students. The project is supported by IES, the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), and the William T. Grant Foundation.

**Addressing the Summer Reading Gap**

Once children enter school, a reading gap between students from high and low socioeconomic-status (SES) backgrounds appears and begins to grow. It is likely exacerbated by summer vacation, as low-SES students are less likely to receive continued reading instruction over the break. Guryan and James Kim of Harvard University are in the midst of a five-year, multidistrict randomized controlled trial to implement and evaluate Project READS, or “Reading Enhances Achievement During the Summer.” The program, developed by Kim, is being administered to approximately 10,000 students in 70 North Carolina elementary schools over the course of the study. In an NBER working paper, Guryan and Kim, with Harvard doctoral student David Quinn, share results from a randomized evaluation of the program. Project READS mailed 10 books to students, one per week over the summer, matched to students based on their baseline reading skill level and their interests. They show significant effects on reading comprehension test scores in the fall for third grade girls but not for third grade boys or second graders of either gender. Additional analyses show evidence that reading more books generates increases in reading comprehension skills, particularly when students read carefully enough to be able to answer basic questions about the books they read, and particularly for girls. Guryan is also examining different variations of READS to improve effectiveness, measure cost effectiveness, and seek how best to replicate and further expand the program. The U.S. Department of Education is providing support for the project.

**Expanding Access to Preschool Education**

On June 19, Schanzenbach was a panelist at the Hamilton Project’s “Addressing America’s Poverty Crisis” conference. There, she spoke about her research with Dartmouth economist Elizabeth Cascio on expanding preschool access for disadvantaged children. In an article that was an IPR working paper, Schanzenbach and Cascio examine the effects of introducing universal preschool programs in Georgia and Oklahoma in the 1990s, comparing the children and families in those states with children and families elsewhere in the country. They reveal stark differences in preschool enrollment patterns by family background, with children whose mothers have no more than a high school diploma being much more likely to enroll their children in preschool at age 4—experiencing an 18–20 percentage-point enrollment gain versus a 12–15 percentage-point gain in preschool enrollment rates for children whose mothers have more education. The authors also discover some academic benefits, with modest, sustained increases in eighth-grade math test scores for the lower-income children. Conversely, among higher-income children, they see no positive impacts of the program on student achievement. The researchers suggest it...
GUIDING STUDENTS TOWARD COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENT

IPR social psychologist Mesmin Destin conducted a series of educational experiments in 2014. In collaboration with Evanston Township High School, one field experiment sought to reduce socioeconomic gaps in achievement by alerting students to opportunities for advancement, regardless of their socioeconomic status. Destin randomly assigned students to receive information suggesting that social status is malleable and that people can work to climb the social ladder. Students from low-SES backgrounds who received the information scored higher on measures of academic motivation and persistence than those who did not. Another field experiment targeted parents of eighth-grade students, providing them with strategies for discussing college with their children. Initial results of this intervention reveal that such strategies can lead to positive outcomes for both parents and children: Parents in the treatment group planned to discuss college and financial aid sooner with their children, and also believed that it was more important for their children to persist through academic difficulty. Additionally, their children reported discussing college more recently than children in the control group, and they believed that it was more important to persist through academic difficulty. Future analyses will test if the intervention also affected students’ academic performance. Also, Destin and Jackson conducted a randomized controlled experiment at Northwestern investigating factors that affect student learning and peer influence during college.

RACIAL CLASSIFICATION OF SCHOOLS

When black students attend schools where white students dominate academically, how are their perceptions of these schools, and of their race, affected? In Sociology of Education, education sociologist and IPR associate Simone Ispa-Landa examines how and why black students classify their schools in racial terms. She draws on data from a program called Diversify, which busses black students from poor and working class, majority-minority neighborhoods to affluent, majority-white middle and high schools in suburban areas. Students who were waitlisted for Diversify attend their local, majority-black urban schools. Ispa-Landa finds that Diversify students who attended the suburban schools equated whiteness with achievement and blackness with academic deficiency because their schools had white-dominated achievement hierarchies. Students who had been waitlisted for Diversify, and who attended majority-black urban schools, did not classify schools as either white or black. Ispa-Landa concludes that Diversify students who attended “white” schools and those who attend “black” schools. Ispa-Landa recommends that educators and the public should pay more attention to the school policies and programs they promote since these have major impacts on how students understand race, achievement, and school quality.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN EARLY EDUCATION

Millions of dollars for technology in classrooms are being funneled into K–12 schools nationwide, yet its successful integration into lesson plans is another matter. Communication studies researcher and IPR associate Ellen Wartella, with Northwestern doctoral student Courtney Blackwell and lecturer Alexis Lauricella, examines this puzzling relationship in an article in Computers & Education. Drawing on data from 1,234 early childhood educators, the researchers explore how school environment and attitudes toward the affordances and barriers of technology integration predicted the use of various devices. Their results indicate that while external obstacles influence access to a range of technologies, the educators’ positive beliefs in children’s learning from technology predicted technology use more accurately. Interestingly, while educators with more experience in the classroom were more likely to use technology when they taught, they were less likely to think that students would actually benefit from the technology. Wartella and her colleagues hypothesize that a new teacher might feel more comfortable using technology, but lack the experience to effectively integrate it into a curriculum. The study results suggest that adjusting teacher attitudes to better appreciate the benefits of technology could prove more effective in increasing its use in pre-K classes. Wartella is Sheik Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani Professor of Communication.

 Maybe it would be more cost-effective to design a preschool program to target those most in need to reduce the extent of crowd-out; hence, they proposed a framework at the conference calling for the establishment of a high-quality program in areas where preschool programs do not exist, improved preschool quality in states with subpar programs, and expanded access in areas where high-quality programs already exist.
Closing the Social Class Achievement Gap

College students who do not have parents with four-year degrees (first-generation students) earn lower grades and encounter more obstacles to success than do students who have at least one parent with a four-year degree (continuing-generation students). In *Psychological Science*, Destin and his colleagues tested a novel “difference-education” intervention to remedy this issue. In the study, first- and continuing-generation students attended an hour-long program welcoming new students to a university. The program included a discussion where a diverse panel of college seniors relayed how their backgrounds affected their college experiences. The first-generation students who attended the panel not only reduced the achievement gap between themselves and students with a college-educated parent by 63 percent, but they also experienced less stress and anxiety, adjusted better to college life, and were more academically and socially engaged than those in the control group.

Quality of High School Teachers

Research has shown that elementary school teachers matter; but what about high school teachers? Jackson argues that measuring teachers based on test scores might make sense in elementary schools, where students are exposed to a single teacher for a year and follow the same course of study; but not in high schools, where students have many different teachers, take different courses, and are placed into different “tracks,” such as honors or college-prep. He outlines a new method for identifying teacher quality effects in high schools, testing it with data on all North Carolina ninth graders from 2005–10. This new method, unlike previous methods of measuring teacher quality, accounts for the effects of tracks by comparing groups of students in the same track at the same school. He shows that high school Algebra I and English I teachers have much smaller effects on student test scores than elementary school teachers. The Spencer Foundation provided funding for the project, which was published in the *Journal of Labor Economics*.

Teacher Effects on Long-Term Outcomes

An easy way for researchers to measure teacher effects on students is to look at student test scores, since these are easy to measure and a good teacher might conceivably improve them. But by measuring test scores only, researchers fail to capture teachers’ overall effects on students—both the cognitive effects measured by test scores, as well as noncognitive skills, such as adaptability, self-restraint, and motivation, which test scores do not measure. In an IPR working paper, Jackson develops a model of teacher effects that accounts for both cognitive and noncognitive skills play into students’ long-run outcomes. Using administrative data from ninth grade teachers in North Carolina, he observes that, consistent with the model, the impact of teachers on students’ noncognitive skills is not reflected in test scores, but rather in data on student absences, suspensions, and grades. Jackson’s model is particularly important in light of the fact that many school districts use test score data for hiring and firing teachers and seems to indicate that such approaches might need rethinking. His data reveal that some teachers, such as English teachers, have much stronger effects on noncognitive skills than do others, for example, algebra teachers. The Spencer Foundation provides support for the project.

Tenure-Track Professors and Teaching

The recent national call for adjunct faculty to protest wages and working conditions with a walkout is but one sign of changes in the higher education landscape in which colleges and universities increasingly rely on a combination of nontenure- and tenure-track faculty. Figlio and IPR higher education economist Morton Schapiro, who is also Northwestern University president and professor, are comparing the impact of tenure-track versus nontenure-track faculty on student learning using data on more than 15,000 Northwestern freshmen between 2001 and 2008. With Kevin Soter (WCAS ’12), a consultant for The Greatest Good, they point to how students were more likely to take a second course, and to earn a higher grade in that subsequent course, when a nontenure-track instructor taught the introductory course. Their results held consistently across subjects, and the benefits of taking introductory courses with nontenure-track
School principals face many challenges, from managing budgets to being accountable for schools’ standardized test scores. These challenges are compounded for novice principals, particularly during their first three months on the job. In Educational Administration Quarterly, education professor and IPR associate James Spillane, with the University of Texas–Austin’s Linda Lee, investigates the problems novice principals encounter during this time using a random sample of principals from Chicago Public Schools. They observe that novice principals felt a “sense of ultimate responsibility” toward their school, which in turn contributed to an overwhelming and unpredictable workload. Principals’ issues varied in intensity according to the conditions they faced when assuming their positions—for example, already knowing the culture of the school versus being thrown into a new school at the last minute. Spillane and Lee provide recommendations for easing principals’ transitions, including offering them “adequate time and access to information” about their new schools, implementing policies that hold principals and other administrators responsible for student learning, and launching leadership development programs to prepare principals for the increased responsibility. Spillane is Spencer T. and Ann W. Olin Chair in Learning and Organizational Change.

Using Research to Create School Policies

How do school leaders decide when and how to use research? In the second volume of Policy Implications of Research in Education (Springer, 2014), education researcher and IPR associate Cynthia Coburn and co-author William Penuel of the University of Colorado, Boulder describe how and when decision makers at school and district levels use research. The decision to use research is “interactive” and complex, the researchers explain, where leaders must make sense of conclusions from research, deliberate its local relevance, and create policies that reflect the inherent deliberation between internal actors, such as administrators and educators, and external ones, such as consultants and advocates. These decisions, Coburn and Penuel note, are not made by isolated individuals, but stretch across and even outside districts and schools. Coburn and Penuel highlight recent studies on research and data use among administrators and school board members, as well as the role of research for changing work practices of educators. They conclude that researchers need to understand more about the interactive processes involved in research use before they can improve use among district and school leaders to policymakers’ specifications.

Developing Diagnostic Tools for Language

In American Psychologist, a team of researchers—including IPR education researcher and statistician Larry Hedges—reviews findings from a four-year longitudinal study of language learning conducted with typically developing children whose parents vary substantially in socioeconomic status and with children who suffered brain injuries either right before or right after birth. This two-sample design enables the researchers to study how language develops across a wide range of language environments and learners. The research team videotaped children’s and parents’ speech and gestures—two behaviors known to vary across individuals and environments—during spontaneous interactions at home every four months, and subsequently transcribed and coded them. These two behaviors have the potential to index, and perhaps even play a role in creating differences across children’s linguistic and cognitive skills. The researchers have formulated several hypotheses that hold promise for new diagnostic tools and interventions to enhance language, cognitive development, and brain plasticity after neonatal injury.

Interventions for Community Colleges

While access to college has expanded recently, a new challenge remains for community colleges. IPR education researcher James Rosenbaum and his colleagues reveal that many young people who enroll in community college fail to complete their studies and attain a degree. In fact, 46 percent of community college students do not earn a credential within eight years. In a report for the William T. Grant Foundation, Rosenbaum and his colleagues investigate this so-called “forgotten half,” consider current challenges for community colleges, and describe needed research for helping young people complete their education. Using Educational Longitudinal Survey data, the researchers show that while degree attainment is still a challenge for community college students, 37 percent of college students currently attend a community college. The researchers then point to several areas to improve degree completion rates. Better counseling and guidance would benefit community college students, while research can inform the training for counselors on how to support disadvantaged and struggling students. Rosenbaum and his co-authors also call for more research on the alignment between high schools and colleges, increasing links between colleges and employers, and more structured college procedures.
Comparing Two-Year Colleges

In the United States, private and public two-year colleges enroll similar students—yet private schools have much higher degree completion rates. In recent research, Rosenbaum, IPR graduate research assistant Kelly Iwanaga Becker, and IPR project coordinator Caitlin Ahearn, examine and compare strategies used at nine public and private two-year colleges. They underscore that private, two-year colleges often employ “package-deal programs,” where students are given a structured curriculum aligned to high-demand jobs. The private colleges also integrate frequent, mandatory group advising every term to monitor student progress, and emphasize soft skills, such as time management and teamwork. In contrast, the researchers ascertain that structures are “less clear” at public, two-year colleges. They urge public, two-year colleges to offer more structured programs, with a stronger emphasis on counseling and teaching professional soft skills. While the study focused on two-year colleges, they suggest that four-year institutions could also benefit from their findings.

Improving College Access and Success

Despite rising college costs and student-debt burdens, research continues to show that a four-year college degree is still one of the most viable ways to climb the ladder of success in the United States, especially for students from underrepresented groups. At the same time, the barriers to reaching college, and then succeeding once enrolled, often serve to derail low-income and low-achieving students from obtaining four-year degrees. On May 6, IPR faculty and others convened in Washington, D.C., to discuss how to help low-income students enter, thrive, and succeed in college. Nearly 100 scholars, students, researchers, congressional staff, and members of the public attended. Rosenbaum highlighted his work evaluating a new college counseling program in Chicago Public Schools that targets disadvantaged students by pairing them with “college coaches” who offer advice on college options, working with admissions counselors, and scholarship applications. He has discovered that the coaches improve the types of colleges students attend. The University of Virginia’s Sarah Turner spoke about how information interventions can benefit low-income, high-achieving students who do not apply for college because they find it difficult to identify affordable, high quality colleges and universities. Bridget Terry Long of Harvard’s Graduate School of Education analyzed how to present complicated information about financing college as to not overwhelm students and their families. Figlio moderated the event.

Research Prizes for Minority Students

The need for the United States to compete globally in science continues to rise, but minority groups, despite being the fastest growing segments of the population, are grossly underrepresented in these fields. One attempt at increasing the number of minority students entering biomedical careers is using prizes for undergraduate minority student research, such as those awarded by the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students. Though research prizes are common in science, it is unclear if they have effects on scientists’ careers, and if so, how they produce these effects. With funding from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, Hedges and IPR research associate Evelyn Asch are conducting a study of this research prize competition, exploring the mechanisms by which research prizes might affect undergraduate minority students’ career success as scholars. The results from the project will help to provide answers about how to increase the number of minority students who become biomedical researchers and why awards might be a potent tool in transforming students into scientists.
INSTITUTE FOR POLICY RESEARCH

RESEARCH TOPICS:

• Research performance in government & nonprofits
• Healthcare markets and regulation
• Policing and education—markets and regulation
• Risk, innovation, and technology
• Accountability measures for service industries

Managerial Control and Performance Pay

In an IPR working paper, economist Kirabo Jackson and Henry Schneider of Cornell University are among the first to evaluate how managerial control might improve employee performance and compare it with performance pay. They studied the auto-repair industry, where performance pay is widespread. Their five-year study collected data on 108 mechanics, as well as their managers, customers, and repairs. To measure the effects of increased managerial control, the researchers distributed checklists in three randomly selected shops. Around one-third of the time, the mechanics filled them out, returning them to their supervisors. Jackson and Schneider discovered that when using checklists, the mechanics worked more hours and did more repairs. Shop revenue also increased by 20 percent. But when the experiment ended, the mechanics quit using the checklists—indicating that worker shirking was occurring. In another experiment gauging performance pay, the researchers observed mechanics who worked mainly on commission. A 6 percent increase in commissions led to a jump of 11.7 percent in shop revenue. Because the checklist method brought in more money than increasing commissions, the researchers concluded that managerial control is a viable means of improving worker outcomes and that, in some cases, it might even be more cost effective than raises. This research on performance pay could be considered when discussing policies to boost teacher effort.

Invited Scholars Address Performance Measures

Over the year, the IPR Series on Performance Measurement and Rewards in the Public and Nonprofit Sectors welcomed three scholars: New York University sociologist Richard Arum presented follow-up research to his 2011 book, Academically Adrift: Limited Learning on College Campuses (University of Chicago Press) on January 29. He discussed the postcollege transitions of the same cohort of students, graduating in spring 2009 during a major economic crisis. On May 7, Henry Hansmann, Oscar M. Ruebhausen Professor of Law at Yale University, spoke about his work comparing the performance of companies owned primarily by charitable foundations with investor-owned companies. On November 5, Jackson shared research on evaluating teachers not just on test scores, but also on students’ noncognitive abilities, measured by outcomes like high school completion and college entrance exams.

The Perils of Pay for Performance

Government and nonprofit activities are often difficult, if not impossible, to measure and also to assign monetary value to. As a result, these difficulties prevent the adoption of systems that align rewards with “performance.” IPR economist Burton Weisbrod is writing a book under contract with Stanford
University Press to consider the unintended—but foreseeable—consequences of the rising tide of efforts that often involve adopting incomplete and biased measures of “performance” and then rewarding it. Titled “The Perils of Pay-for-Performance: Why Strong Rewards in Public and Nonprofit Organizations Do Not Work,” the book will cover a wide array of public and nonprofit sector services, such as higher education, hospitals, policing, museums, private charities, the federal judiciary, and K–12 education. For example, the debate surrounding No Child Left Behind (NCLB) has centered on whether the strong rewards for performance under NCLB—and its increasing reliance on measurable performance—should be expanded to other areas of government and the nonprofit world. Weisbrod emphasizes how the forces at work in these systems cause strong rewards to be strategically “gamed” so that it is not truly good performance that is rewarded, but measured performance. He explains why the two concepts are systematically different—why, in short, larger rewards in public schools bring higher test scores but not greater learning. Weisbrod is John Evans Professor of Economics.

The Cost of Electronic Medical Records

In 2009, Congress passed the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH) that provides $27 billion in incentive payments to hospitals adopting electronic medical records (EMR). In an IPR working paper, healthcare economist and IPR associate David Dranove, Northwestern’s Craig Garthwaite and Christopher Ody, and Cornerstone Research’s Bingyang Li measure HITECH’s effectiveness in spurring EMR adoption. The researchers discover that EMR adoption rates markedly increased after HITECH’s passage, but note that EMR adoption was an ongoing trend before HITECH, and likely would have continued to grow without congressional intervention. They estimate that 77 percent of the hospitals in their survey would have adopted EMR anyway by 2013, only two years after hospitals reached this rate under HITECH—and without $27 billion in government spending. Moreover, a significant portion of HITECH’s funding went to early EMR adopters, hospitals that likely would have adopted the technology anyway. Yet reducing incentives for early adopters could also delay adoption of new technologies, as hospitals would hold out for government money at a later date. Dranove and his colleagues’ work underscores the difficulty policymakers face when designing and providing incentives. Dranove is Walter J. McNerney Professor of Health Industry Management.

More Insurers Lower Healthcare Premiums

With just one year of data on health insurance marketplaces created by the Affordable Care Act (ACA), economists can glean information about the effect of competition on premiums. In a National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) working paper, healthcare economist and IPR associate Leemore Dafny, with Ody and MIT’s Jonathan Gruber; examines the effect of insurer participation in the health insurance marketplaces established by the ACA on 2014 premiums. Using data from the 34 states with federally-facilitated marketplaces, Dafny and her colleagues find that if UnitedHealthcare—the nation’s largest insurer—had participated in the first year of the marketplaces, the second-lowest-priced, silver premium, would have decreased by 5.4 percent on average. If all insurers active in each state’s individual insurance market in 2011 had participated, they estimate silver premiums would be slightly more than 11 percent lower; reducing federal subsidies by $1.7 billion. Dafny is Herman Smith Research Professor in Hospital and Health Services.

Employment Lock and Health Insurance

Prior to the passage of the Affordable Care Act, health insurance was tightly linked to employment, as many Americans were only able to access it through their employer. This raises the possibility that some Americans were working solely for affordable health insurance, a phenomenon known as “employment lock.” In the Quarterly Journal of Economics, economists Matthew Notowidigdo, Garthwaite, and Columbia’s Tal Gross investigate the effect of public health insurance eligibility on the labor supply using data from a large public health insurance disenrollment in Tennessee. In 2005, approximately 170,000 Tennessee residents lost public insurance coverage under TennCare, the state’s Medicaid system. Following this statewide disenrollment, the researchers note that losing public insurance...
coverage prompted former TennCare recipients to search for jobs, become employed, and sign up for private health insurance coverage. The study results show that becoming eligible for public health insurance can have large effects on the labor market and that public health insurance also acts as a powerful work disincentive—results that might be applicable to the expansion of public insurance under the Affordable Care Act and were discussed in a Congressional Budget Office report.

Hospitals as Insurers of Last Resort

A combination of factors—an unfunded government mandate, charitable obligations, and medical ethics—require U.S. hospitals to provide emergency medical care to patients regardless of their health insurance status or ability to pay. Notowidigdo and his colleagues use previously confidential hospital financial data to study how these factors shape the relationship between health insurance and hospital uncompensated care costs, or medical care for which no payment is received. Using both across- and within-state variation in health insurance rates, they find that a 10 percentage point increase in a state’s share of the uninsured raises total hospital uncompensated-care costs by roughly $80 per person. These results are highly concentrated in private nonprofit hospitals with an emergency department, while for-profit hospitals and hospitals without an emergency department are largely unaffected. They use hospital-level panel data to show that uncompensated care costs fall sharply when a hospital permanently closes its emergency department, and that hospital closures increase the uncompensated-care costs of nearby hospitals. Taken together, the results reveal private nonprofit hospitals are insurers of last resort and can help with understanding the challenges of maintaining access to emergency medical treatment for individuals living in areas with low rates of health insurance.

Bequest Motives and Self-Insuring Late-Life Risks

Despite facing significant uncertainty about how long they will live and how much healthcare they might need in their later years, few retirees buy life annuities or long-term care insurance. Low rates of long-term care insurance coverage are typically seen as evidence that bequest, or inheritance, motives are not important to many, since not purchasing insurance puts one’s bequests at risk. However, research by economist and IPR associate Lee Lockwood suggests the opposite might be true. In a working paper, he observes that low rates of insurance coverage for long-term care—especially in combination with the slow rate at which many retirees draw down their wealth—are evidence that retirees do think about their inheritance. For those who value leaving an inheritance, which could be considered a luxury good, they would rather save the money they would have otherwise spent on premiums, essentially self-insuring. Incorporating estimations of lifecycle models, Lockwood finds that people without bequest motives—who want to consume all of their wealth—are less willing to make the consumption sacrifices to self-insure by saving than are those with bequest motives.

Measure of States’ Malpractice Environment

While the U.S. medical malpractice environment is the subject of much policy and research interest, law and finance professor Bernard Black, an IPR associate, and his colleagues argue that studies of this environment are lacking. In a 2014 Health Services Research article, the researchers seek to develop a composite measure of the malpractice environment in different states. They point to many studies that use a range of single indicators as measures of malpractice environment, such as the frequency of malpractice claims and lawyer density. They argue that these measures can be useful to test hypotheses about specific aspects of malpractice environments, but are often used as stand-ins for a broader construct of malpractice environment.” Using data from multiple sources on lawyers, tort activity, and malpractice reforms, premiums, and payments, they created a composite of seven measures from previous studies. This composite measure accounted for more than 73 percent of the total variance in the seven indicators and demonstrated reasonable criterion validity. The researchers hope that this composite measure will be used as a complement to individual indicators to better understand and compare state malpractice environments. Black is Nicholas D. Chabraja Professor at Northwestern University School of Law and Kellogg School of Management.

Medical Malpractice Law and Health Outcomes

Climbing premiums for medical malpractice insurance have prompted many states to enact tort reforms—laws that deal with injuries to people and property—to mitigate the costs of medical malpractice litigation. However, little is known about how medical liability claims might affect the quality of care. In an IPR working paper, health and law scholar Michael Frakes and co-author Anupam Jena of Harvard University use two surveys to analyze the effects of medical malpractice law on several measures of inpatient and outpatient healthcare quality, including rates of avoidable hospitalization and of medical errors for mothers during childbirth. Their results reveal that damage caps have “at most, a modest role” in improving healthcare. In particular, caps on noneconomic damages, or damages awarded for pain, suffering, and loss of companionship, do not appear to affect the quality of care. The authors, however, highlight the limitations of addressing this question solely from the lens of a damages-cap analysis. Legislatures can modify tort rules beyond just limiting the extent of the harm posed by the current system. They might attempt to adopt a new system altogether—for instance, a system that sets the standards to which physicians are held in an entirely different light. Frakes and Jena test for changes in healthcare quality when states used national standards to measure physicians’ care. In states where healthcare quality was rated more highly before using national standards, adopting national standard laws did not seem to change the quality of care. But in those states that initially had low-quality care, adopting national standards was linked to improvements in all quality measures.
IPR PhD Students, Postdocs Receive Personalized Faculty Mentoring

IPR biological anthropologist Thomas McDade and then-IPR postdoctoral fellow Lindsay Till Hoyt discuss her appointment as a Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholar.
RESEARCH TOPICS:

- Public opinion and political deliberation
- Partisanship and cooperation in Congress
- Political communication and issue frames
- News, technology, and online behavior
- Political parties and participation

Chicago Area Behavior Workshop

More than 100 faculty and doctoral students gathered at Northwestern on May 9 for the eighth annual Chicago Area Behavior (CAB) workshop, organized by IPR political scientist James Druckman. Princeton University’s Tali Mendelberg discussed increasing the political influence of women and an experiment in which she found that women tended to speak up more in majority-women groups. Scott Althaus of the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign spoke about conveying the human costs of war in news coverage. Comparing news reporting and framing of human costs across five American conflicts, he showed that wartime news coverage rarely includes casualty information, and downplays the cost of war when it is covered. IPR economist Charles F. Manski encouraged researchers to utilize probabilistic polling in evaluating whether voters will elect a particular candidate, as probabilistic responses did a better job of predicting voting behavior than traditional polling questions under certain circumstances. James Gibson of Washington University in St. Louis, joined Manski on a panel discussing the use of hypothetical election scenarios in voting research. The University of Minnesota’s Joanne Miller spoke about how models of political participation focus on people’s ability to participate at the expense of their motivation to do so. Her work on this issue provides evidence that strong motives correlate with certain political behaviors.

Approving and Mandating Vaccines

When faced with an outbreak of a communicable disease, such as the eruption of measles that started in California in December, or the recent outbreak of Ebola in West Africa, should federal and state governments require vaccinations to protect the health of their citizens—or should such decisions be voluntary? Deciding on the right course of action when it comes to vaccines is difficult because officials are working in an environment of “partial knowledge”—that is, they can point to some of a vaccine’s effects, but not all. Manski, who is Board of Trustees Professor in Economics, addresses this topic in an IPR working paper. While randomized trials have been important in the evaluation of noninfectious disease treatments, they do not shed light on population-wide disease transmission; in particular, they miss the effect of ‘herd immunity,’ or how vaccinating a certain portion of the population can break the chain of disease transmission because the people vaccinated no longer spread the disease. Manski set out to address ways for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and other federal bodies to operate in an environment of partial uncertainty by providing quantifiable criteria. He poses several criteria for decision making—expected utility, minimax, and minimax-regret—and derives the policies they yield. His findings point to formal decision analysis as a means to improve upon prevailing vaccine approval and mandating procedures.
Communicating Uncertainty in Official Statistics

U.S. federal statistical agencies, such as the Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor, often report official economic statistics as point estimates, without accompanying measures of error. As a result, many news articles that use official statistics, such as gross domestic product, household income, and employment, present the estimates with little, if any, mention of the possibility of error—which might encourage policymakers and the public to believe that errors are inconsequential. In an IPR working paper, Manski urges agencies to better communicate uncertainty to the public in order to mitigate misinterpretation of official statistics. He offers different ways to communicate transitory uncertainty, which occurs when agencies initially have incomplete or insufficient data, but later revise estimates when new data become available; permanent uncertainty, or uncertainty that cannot be fixed over time due to issues such as nonresponse or finite sample sizes; and conceptual uncertainty, which arises from unclear definitions of concepts being measured. Manski also encourages future researchers to study how policymaking would change if agencies communicated uncertainty “regularly and transparently.”

Politicization of Science and Technology

Does the politicization of science influence support for scientific innovations? Can it render appeals to evidence inconsequential? In a series of studies, IPR political scientist James Druckman, IPR social policy professor Fay Lomax Cook, and Toby Bolsen of Georgia State University, a former IPR graduate research assistant, use experiments and survey data to examine public opinion related to energy policy. In an IPR working paper now published in Public Opinion Quarterly, they randomly present varying informational conditions, or “frames,” to a nationally representative sample of 1,600 participants. The frames included information on benefits and drawbacks of nuclear energy and various references to the politicization of science. Their results show that politicizing science undermines arguments about the environmental benefits of nuclear energy, regardless of whether the arguments do or do not cite supportive scientific evidence. It even serves to reduce support for using evidence in the first place.

A second study reveals that references to the potential health risks associated with using nuclear power also decrease support for nuclear energy use, despite additional frames highlighting the benefits of the technology or the politicization of science. This research demonstrates that the politicization of science has created a “status quo bias,” which future research should focus on overcoming to gain public support for emerging technologies. The Initiative for Sustainability and Energy at Northwestern (ISEN) provided funding for this work. Druckman is Payson S. Wild Professor of Political Science and IPR associate director. Lomax Cook heads the Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences in the National Science Foundation.

Partisan Motivated Reasoning

Does party identification make us support policies we would otherwise reject, or oppose ones we would otherwise support? In Political Behavior, Druckman, Cook, and Bolsen wrote about another ISEN-supported experiment to test this question, for which they used the bipartisan example of the 2007 Energy Act. Participants were assigned to one of three motivational conditions: no motivation, accuracy motivation (where participants were told they would have to explain their reasons for opinions about the policy), and directional motivation (where participants were told they would be asked about their party affiliation after the policy questions). They were also either given no endorsement information, were told one party had endorsed the Energy Act, were told there was consensus, bipartisan support, or were told some, but not all, members of either party supported it. When individuals were primed to defend their partisan identity, they shifted their evaluations of the Energy Act toward their party’s position—away from positions endorsed by the other party. The researchers also found that both telling the participants they would have to explain their attitudes and being told of bipartisan support eliminates partisan-motivated reasoning. Support for the Energy Act increased across the board when both parties were shown to support it.
Presidents as Agents of Change

Presidents are usually seen as operating in a political environment that is highly resistant to change. Though powerful actors, presidents are depicted as having limited capacities to alter the institutional and organizational arrangements that surround them. Building on recent historical-institutional research, IPR political scientist Daniel Galvin challenges this assumption. He shows that under many conditions, presidents can, in fact, alter their structural confines and reshape their political environment in historically significant ways. In an IPR working paper later published in Presidential Studies Quarterly, Galvin develops this conceptual framework and offers methodological suggestions for conducting historically oriented research. Reconsidering some recent research into the relationship between presidential action and party development, he reveals that presidents contributed to several critical party developments in American history: Late 19th-century presidents contributed to the gradual nationalization of the party system, mid-20th-century ones helped build the modern “service” party, and more recent presidents fostered greater partisan polarization among interest group networks. Motivated to bring inherited party structures into closer alignment with their goals, these presidents summoned powerful resources to reshape their parties. Rather than leave their structural environment undisturbed, as leading theories might predict, they reconfigured their parties and altered their trajectories.

Democratic representation rests on the premise that elected officials respond to citizens’ opinions. In the book *Who Governs? Presidents, Public Opinion and Manipulation* (University of Chicago Press, 2015), Druckman and his co-author Larry Jacobs of the University of Minnesota reveal a system of governance in the United States that is geared toward the opposite—the diminishing or obstruction of responsiveness to broad public opinion. Relying on public opinion data from U.S. presidential archives, the authors show that presidents expand their ability to make policy by influencing which issues are salient—largely ignoring the views of citizens on those issues that are not—and turning the public’s focus to their personality, rather than policy issues. Melding archival and quantitative research with democratic theory, *Who Governs* raises broader issues about contemporary debates concerning renewed shared American prosperity and the advancement of national interests abroad. It challenges this conversation by questioning the records and motivations of American governing elites. Correcting America’s core, the authors write, requires more than new agendas; it requires a new form of governance that scrutinizes governing elites and their claims to serve the national interest when, in fact, they advance their own interests and those of their supporters.

Elites, Citizens, and Policy Decisions

Who influences policy decisions in the United States? Political scientist and IPR associate Benjamin Page and Martin Gilens of Princeton University examine the role of average citizens, wealthy Americans, and interest groups in shaping American policy decisions. After considering four theories of American government that predict which actors influence American policy the most, they then conduct multivariate analyses on public opinion data on more than 1,700 policy issues and data on income levels. Their results demonstrate that economic elites and business-oriented interest groups have “substantial independent impacts” on American policies, consistent with theories of economic-elite domination and biased pluralism. Moreover, the researchers conclude that average citizens and other interest groups have little or no independent influence on policymaking. Page is Gordon Scott Fulcher Professor of Decision Making.

Political Views of the Wealthiest Americans

Page and his colleagues, including Northwestern’s Jason Seawright, Fay Lomax Cook, and IPR graduate research assistant Rachel Moskowitz, continue to investigate how America’s wealthiest citizens think about issues and engage in politics. Their pilot study of a random sample of 104 Chicagoans with a median income of $7.5 million, as reported in *Perspectives on Politics*, indicates that the wealthiest Americans are far more active in politics than the average citizen: They are twice as likely to pay attention to politics and to volunteer for political organizations. Most contribute money to political causes, and one-fifth have “bundled” contributions by others. Many initiate contacts with public officials, especially members of Congress. The wealthiest Americans’ views on social welfare...
policies also tend to be much more conservative than the average American’s. Page and Seawright have recently begun using “web-scraping” techniques to extract information from websites in order to learn what U.S. billionaires say they want from government. The researchers note that many are silent about politics even while spending large sums of money on it.

Methods in American Political Development

What explains the decline of organized labor in the United States? What factors can account for the rise of modern interest-group politics? Questions such as these can be answered by American Political Development (APD) scholarship, a subfield dedicated to explaining substantial changes in the American political system over time. But, as Galvin points out in a forthcoming article in the Oxford Handbook of American Political Development, this type of scholarship often does not fully discuss analytical choices and methodological decisions, making it difficult for subsequent researchers to expand or challenge research. Galvin examines the varied ways APD researchers explore historical data, including historical narrative studies, causal narratives, and process tracing. While all of these methods have their benefits and drawbacks, as Galvin notes, researchers should be more upfront about the contributions their work makes, and the limitations inherent in each type of analysis. With more discussion of what such studies accomplish—and what they do not accomplish—future researchers will be enabled to test existing APD hypotheses in other states, nations, or other settings. Furthermore, by elucidating the empirical limitations and limitations of scope, researchers might identify stronger evidence to test a hypothesis more easily.

Rust Belt Democrats

Since the 1970s, left-leaning parties around the world have been under pressure to adapt to changing economic and political conditions. With globalization and deindustrialization shrinking organized labor’s membership base and undermining the credibility of traditional social-democratic policy agendas, these parties have faced incentives to develop new policy initiatives and court new electoral constituencies. The U.S. Democratic Party is usually thought to have responded to these incentives slowly, poorly, or not at all, and this is presumed to help explain their electoral difficulties since President Ronald Reagan. To investigate this, Galvin turns to the Rust Belt—the region hit hardest by globalization-related trends—in his latest book project, to be published by Oxford University Press. He uncovers surprising variation in the adaptive capacities of Democratic parties in four of the heaviest manufacturing states—Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and Wisconsin. Drawing upon extensive primary-source research, interviews with participants, and massive data collection of state party platforms, Galvin finds that these parties’ historical ties to organized labor, urban machines, and liberal interest groups (in different proportions in each state) had important consequences for their downstream activities. This project has already turned up some surprising findings. In an IPR working paper, Galvin demonstrates that the relationship between the Michigan Democratic Party and the United Auto Workers Union remained unusually strong between 1970 and 2010, yet Democratic politicians frequently promoted “third-way” policies that clashed with labor’s longstanding priorities. This odd coincidence—party adaptation despite strong party-union linkages—can be explained by the simple fact that union leaders deliberately supported adaptation by Democratic politicians. Contrary to the expectation that interest groups will always push party politicians to take more extreme positions, UAW leaders adopted a highly strategic approach to party politics as they sought to build a broader Democratic coalition.

Workers’ Rights, State Laws, and Enforcement

Galvin has launched a major project on workers’ rights, state laws, and policy enforcement in the United States. Across the country, there are enormous variations in wage and hour laws and dramatic differences in state capacities to enforce those laws, and Galvin seeks to examine the political causes and consequences of this variation. He considers both sides of the equation: the factors producing changes in employment regulatory policies and the effects of such policies on workers’ rights and protections, as well as their subsequent political mobilization.

Party Systems and Decentralization in Africa

What factors determine when and how governments implement decentralization reforms? Political scientist and IPR associate Rachel Beaty Riedl and J. Tyler Dickovick of Washington and Lee University tackle this question by exploring recent efforts to devolve power to subnational units in Ethiopia, Botswana, Ghana, and Benin. They examine the regime type, the degree of competitiveness, and the coherence—or the level of volatility and fragmentation—of the party system. Contrary to conventional wisdom, the researchers reveal authoritarian regimes have incentives to decentralize further than democratic regimes, in order to extend government leverage to the local level. They also determine that decentralization is likely limited in democracies with dominant political parties, where it could threaten dominant incumbent parties by empowering opposition parties to gain a foothold subnationally. In democracies with competitive and coherent parties, however, both incumbent and opposition parties might benefit from decentralization by establishing local footholds and increasing patronage opportunities. By tracking the logic of power holders, the authors suggest that the policy implications of decentralization for local autonomy vary according to the strategies of implementation.

Inside Political Parties

In her book manuscript, “Inside Parties: Organizations, Electoral Success, and Comparative Political Behavior,” IPR political scientist Georgia Kernell investigates the internal party rules that shape representation, participation, and electoral
outcomes. In a study of 66 parties from 20 parliamentary democracies, Kernell examines intraparty rules that determine candidate and leadership selection, party platforms, and the allocation of resources. She discovers that decentralized parties, or those that allow local party members to participate in important decisions, are more likely to better represent their core supporters at the expense of adopting less competitive positions in the general electorate. In contrast, centralized parties—where party elites are responsible for candidate selection, setting the platform, and other activities—are better able to choose candidates and position the party platform to reflect the interests of the entire electorate. Kernell also argues that voters are less likely to identify with a party or politically participate if the party they support is decentralized—partially due to the ambiguity of policy appeals in decentralized parties.

Strategic Party Heterogeneity

Candidates from the same party often adopt different policy positions, yet existing models of electoral competition typically assume that each party is made up of a homogeneous set of like-minded politicians. Kernell’s research models the strategic decision by political parties to field a more or less heterogeneous set of candidates. She uncovers that in two-party competition, there is a unique level of party heterogeneity that maximizes a party’s chance of winning the election. Parties with platforms positioned closer to the median voter should field a more cohesive set of candidates; those that are farther away should be more heterogeneous. The model has important implications for party discipline in legislatures, and when dealing with polarization and voter uncertainty. This article is forthcoming in the Journal of Theoretical Politics.

Partisan Conflict and Legislative Compromise

As partisan conflict increases, public support for Congress tends to decrease, with approval for the highly polarized 113th Congress hovering around 14 percent in the weeks leading up to the 2014 midterm election. Yet survey evidence suggests that citizens do support partisanship if it advances their party’s positions. IPR political scientist Laurel Harbridge, in a working paper with Northwestern doctoral student D.J. Flynn, seeks to understand how partisan conflict affects Americans’ evaluation of how Congress is doing. First, the researchers test when party conflict is seen positively by comparing citizens’ evaluations of Congress across different legislative strategies—partisanship versus compromise, and outcomes of partisanship—a win for one’s own party, a win for the opposing party, and gridlock. Second, they investigate whether the effect of gridlock on public opinion differs depending on whether gridlock is attributed to ideological disagreements or to party strategy. Third, they consider whether issue differences, and party agreement over end goals, shape citizens’ reactions to partisan conflict. Their results indicate that citizens disapprove when partisan conflict prevents Congress from acting on important, national issues. In fact, partisans are more approving of Congress’ handling of policymaking when a policy debate results in a win for the other party than when the debate ends in stalemate, but only on consensus issues (where the parties agree over end goals). Citizens are also significantly more accepting of legislative inaction when it is characterized as the result of genuine ideological disagreements between the two parties.

Assessing Congressional Bipartisanship

According to conventional wisdom, the U.S. Congress has become increasingly polarized in recent years, with bipartisan cooperation falling as a result. At the same time, argues Harbridge in her new book, Is Bipartisanship Dead? Policy Agreement and Agenda-Setting in the House of Representatives (Cambridge University Press, 2015), research on bipartisanism in Congress has focused mainly on trends in roll-call voting—which has become more partisan over time—and overlooked cosponsorship coalitions, which have remained more bipartisan. Harbridge looks beyond—and considers the time before—roll-call voting to examine the extent to which bipartisan agreement in the House of Representatives has declined since the 1970s. In analyzing cosponsorship and voting patterns from the last 45 years, she determines that party leaders in the House changed from prioritizing legislation with bipartisan agreement in the 1970s to prioritizing legislation with partisan disagreement by the 1990s. Harbridge then examines the factors that “manufacture” these increasingly partisan roll-call agendas, including district sorting—or the extent to which a legislator represents a politically homogenous area, and public opinion, despite bipartisan agreement on some issues. Bipartisanship, she concludes, is not dead, but legislative and electoral processes encourage members of Congress to prioritize partisan disagreement.

Legislative Holdouts

High levels of gridlock might be the defining characteristic of the 112th and 113th Congresses. While widening policy differences between Democrats and Republicans are often pinpointed as the reason behind political stalemates, Harbridge’s research suggests that legislative opposition stems from reasons beyond policy disagreement. In collaboration with Sarah Anderson of the University of California, Santa Barbara and Daniel Butler of Washington University in St. Louis, Harbridge and her colleagues examined “legislative holdouts”—or when a legislator votes against a policy that is closer to their ideal policy point than the status quo. The researchers leveraged a unique survey of state legislators that elicited their views on their states’ gas tax and their willingness to vote for a compromise policy—midway between their most preferred policy and the status quo. The researchers found that 28 percent of legislators were holdouts. Furthermore, Harbridge and her colleagues discovered holdout was most common among Republicans, members of the majority party, and those legislators who feared voter retribution for compromise. Patterns that suggest that legislative holdouts might contribute to legislative gridlock at the national
level in recent years. The researchers conclude in their IPR working paper that Congress’ current political constellation might be “the perfect storm for legislative holdouts,” and in turn, this might be a factor contributing to policy gridlock.

Gendered Incentives for Legislative Compromise

Legislative compromise is generally well received, or seen as beneficial. To this end, political commentators often suggest that Congress could be more bipartisan if more women were in the legislature, using existing research on legislative behavior and gender stereotypes as evidence. In an IPR working paper with Nichole Bauer of Davidson College and Yanna Krupnikov of Stony Brook University, Harbridge reconsiders these arguments about gendered compromise. The researchers’ results indicate that while gender can affect evaluations of legislators who fail to compromise, its impact largely depends on two factors: whether legislators are co-partisans or members of the opposing party, and whether the compromise is about a “women’s issue,” such as education, childcare, healthcare, or other social welfare issues. While conventional media wisdom argues that female lawmakers will compromise more than their male counterparts, this is not necessarily an expectation held among the electorate as female lawmakers face backlash for not compromising on issues identified as male-owned but not on female-owned ones.

Voting Patterns in New York

After 20 years of center-right and conservative mayors, New York City voters elected a far-left candidate, Bill de Blasio, in 2013. At an IPR colloquium talk, political scientist and IPR associate Thomas Ogorzalek examined the factors that led to de Blasio’s victory in a field of many viable opponents, such as former New York City Comptroller Bill Thompson and Council Speaker Christine Quinn. While some point to de Blasio’s strong stance against New York City’s “stop-and-frisk” policy as the reason he won the election, Ogorzalek does not see any link between candidates’ stances on stop and frisk and election results. Instead, he cites de Blasio’s backing by New York City’s “Working Families Party” as the basis for his success. Running on that party’s ticket, in addition to the Democratic ticket, resulted in a turnout boost among de Blasio voters in areas where the Working Families Party was strongest. Ironically, its stronghold during the 2013 election was Park Slope, an affluent neighborhood in northwest Brooklyn, residents of which would ostensibly identify less with its platform of paid sick leave, affordable housing, and free preschool and higher education. This research is the beginning of a multicity study Ogorzalek is launching to investigate the core of “blue America.”

Women and Leadership

At least one of the current candidates for president or vice president in the 2016 election is a woman, and several high-profile companies have recently named women as their heads. Are women finally breaking through the “glass ceiling”? In an ongoing project, IPR social psychologist Alice Eagly is uncovering subtle but important differences in how men and women lead— with women displaying slightly more of the leader behaviors found effective by researchers. The public also seems to favor seeing more women in leadership roles. At the same time, long-held stereotypes of gender and leadership continue to reinforce perceptions that women do not lead as effectively as men, portraying men as “take charge” and women as sensitive. Thus, gender stereotypes of men match well with those held for leaders, but not gender stereotypes of women; moreover, both men and women tend to equate leadership mainly with male characteristics. To ameliorate the issue, Eagly suggests that people would have to regard leadership as requiring feminine and masculine traits, and women would have to add assertive, culturally masculine qualities to their repertoire. Women, she notes, already manifest more ambition and assertiveness than in the past, but only time will tell if the differences in the values that women and men promote as leaders will persist as women achieve more equality in society. Eagly is James Padilla Professor of Arts and Sciences.

Feminism and Psychology

Beginning in the late 1960s, many feminist psychologists argued that psychologists had, by and large, neglected the study of women and gender—and misrepresented women in the meager efforts they put forth. While psychological research on gender is now a sizeable specialization, Eagly and Stephanie Riger of the University of Illinois at Chicago point out that several methodological and epistemological issues raised by feminists are still not resolved. Using sources that include the
PsycINFO database, the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, and popular psychology textbooks, the researchers discover that there is progress toward several of the goals advocated by feminist psychologists, namely eliminating the underrepresentation of women as researchers and study participants, as well as the tendency for researchers to draw unfounded conclusions from comparisons between men and women. Progress on other feminist criticisms, however, such as psychology’s reliance on laboratory experiments and quantitative methods, is less apparent. Furthermore, within the sample of psychological textbooks on research methods, the researchers note that little attention is given to epistemology—that is, what psychological scientists consider as knowledge about psychological phenomena. Although many, if not most, feminist psychologists work comfortably within the post-positivist epistemology that dominates psychological science, this neglect of epistemology offers little room to those who expand and challenge these dominant perspectives with alternative feminist epistemologies.

Understanding Group Stereotypes

How do stereotypes come to be, and can they be changed? In the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, Eagly uses social role theory to test how stereotypes can develop from people’s observations. Eagly and the University of San Diego’s Anne Koenig surveyed study participants on the current stereotypes of many social groups, like black women, white men, millionaires, high school dropouts, and college graduates. Other participants indicated the social roles in which they believed that members of these groups were overrepresented—for example, white men as business professionals and lawyers. These beliefs about groups’ representations in occupations proved to be quite accurate in relation to data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Eagly and Koenig also collected data indicating the stereotypes of these occupations, for example, lawyer, teacher, and fast food worker, which are typical of various social groups. The key finding is that groups’ overall stereotypes are strongly predicted from stereotypes about the occupations in which the groups are overrepresented. Also, when the researchers described a social group’s typical social roles as changing to different social roles in the future, participants’ group stereotypes changed as well. In fact, descriptions of a group’s future roles had a greater impact on each group stereotype than did that group’s present stereotype. This research has important implications for the workplace because movement away from current group stereotypes should arise from observing members of particular groups in new roles that have different demands than their old roles.

Online “Turbulence”

In a world where social network sites allow us to share information with hundreds of people in mere seconds, it is not surprising that some Internet users experience “turbulence”—times when their personal information is distributed beyond their desired or intended social circles with negative consequences. In Computers in Human Behavior, communication studies researcher and IPR associate Eszter Hargittai and Northwestern doctoral student Eden Litt surveyed 547 young adults to determine who is more likely to encounter turbulence. The researchers asked students about several “privacy-enhancing” behaviors to determine if they knew, for example, how to “untag” themselves from content posted by another, or about online “self-monitoring,” which involves using context and social cues to tailor online presentation, and about students’ own Internet skills. They discovered that more than one-third of survey respondents had experienced some form of online turbulence, or online content that embarrassed them, caused a fight, ended a friendship, etc. There was no relationship between a person’s gender or socioeconomic status and whether they experienced turbulence. Understanding that those who were more Internet savvy were less likely to experience turbulence offers a potential point of intervention: If people are more informed Internet users, they might be less likely to encounter such outcomes. Hargittai is April McClain-Delaney and John Delaney Research Professor.

Mobile Media Use in the Middle East

Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and others have played an undeniable role in shaping the current sociopolitical landscape of the Middle East, yet most mobile media research to date has focused on the business aspects of its use—not, for instance, how its content might influence public education and engagement. Mersey is helping to launch a new study that will seek to understand the development and diffusion of mobile media content in the Arab world. Working with John Pavlik of Rutgers University and Everette Dennis, dean
of Northwestern’s campus in Qatar (NU-Q), the trio will deploy computer science methodology and data analysis with an eye toward creating a model of innovative mobile content designed to foster learning and engagement in Arab countries. With funding from the Qatar National Research Program, the study will examine data from social networking sites, including location-based data, and will pair the data with field surveys and interviews with participants in Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. The project marks a continuation of Mersey’s research on Middle East media and collaboration with NU-Q, where she was a research fellow.

### Monitoring the Economy

Are people more likely to base how they think the economy will do on their past evaluations or forward-looking information? A case for the former (past evaluations) emphasizes the high, and arguably prohibitive, costs of prospective information. An argument for the latter (forward-looking information) asserts simply that rational expectations agents will consume the information that provides them with the most accurate forecasts. Rather than contrasting retrospective with prospective, Kernell’s project allows the value and costs of prospective information to vary over time, as well as across individuals, with results showing that heterogeneity is preserved and even extended during periods when economic news is plentiful.

### Analytics and Loyalty Among News Consumers

Though researchers and members of the media generally agree about the rising influence of media consumers, little research has been done to understand these new relationships and their implications for audiences, the media, and democracy. IPR mass communication scholar Rachel Davis Mersey and media scholar and IPR associate Stephanie Edgerly are developing two instruments to shed light on the relationship between media consumers and news organizations. With seed grant funding from IPR, the researchers are creating a survey for journalists working at various levels throughout news organizations to determine their perceptions of media analytics and the usefulness of analytics in their routine decision making. Mersey and Edgerly have also generated a new research program to understand consumers’ paths to media loyalty, taking stock of the complex media landscape and offering insight into the paths news organizations can take to build audience loyalty.

### Tone, Topic Influence Video Comments

While video-sharing site YouTube has provided opportunities for political engagement, it also raises questions about whether informed democratic deliberation takes place on the site. In the *Journal of Information Technology & Politics*, Edgerly and her colleagues examine the relationship between the tone and focus of a political video and its online comments, asking why an online comment thread might veer from civility. They review nearly 46,000 comments attached to 207 YouTube videos about California’s 2008 Proposition 8, which sought to legally define marriage as being between a man and a woman. While videos with an uncivil tone generated more impolite comments, the researchers discovered, surprisingly, that there was no relationship between humor—such as making fun of people—and uncivil comments. They also reveal that the topics in a video can serve as a springboard for comments. For example, if a video discussed religion, its comments touched on religion, too. The research displays the psychological mechanisms behind information processing and thought activation on YouTube, confirms the effects of the framing and priming process—how exposure to certain stimuli affects responses to a later stimulus—and indicates “exchange” between a video’s topic and its comments.

### Fertility and Public Opinion

Does family size matter when it comes to changing public attitudes on social issues? According to a preliminary study by IPR sociologist Jeremy Freese and doctoral student and former IPR graduate research assistant Alex Kevern, it does. Past research has shown that collective opinions can shift as a nation’s demographics change and that children are more likely to share their parents’ cultural beliefs and political attitudes. Abortion attitudes are strongly linked to these two findings, which is why Freese and Kevern chose to study their “curious pattern.” They detail how Americans’ beliefs on abortion have taken a U-turn, becoming more liberal just after *Roe v. Wade*, then going flat and more recently seeming to turn more conservative. Using survey data from between 1977 (four years after *Roe*) and 2010, they then document a “liberalizing trend” on several correlated attitudes—including gay marriage, which has experienced an atypical, dramatically large increase—yet this trend has not extended to abortion. Freese and Kevern propose that part of the reason abortion has not liberalized might be due to a “fertility gap.” Pro-life parents have 27 percent more children on average than their pro-choice counterparts. Their higher fertility rate—perhaps due to having children at a younger age—means that children born to pro-life parents are more likely to hold pro-life views, eventually replacing those in the population who hold pro-choice views. While more research is needed, their results suggest that public opinion researchers need to take demography into account for a more complete understanding of changes in public opinion over time.

### Surveying Socially Sensitive Issues

The survey measures researchers use to estimate socially sensitive issues, such as U.S. college student-athletes’ drug and alcohol use, might be biased, suggests a Social Science Quarterly article, which was previously an IPR working paper by Druckman. Druckman and his colleagues, all former Northwestern doctoral students, used a survey technique known as a list experiment to investigate 1,300 student-athletes’ use of alcohol and banned substances; they then compared the results of the
list experiment with the results of a traditional, self-reported survey of the same population. The list experiment asked whether students had participated in certain activities, but not which ones, thereby eliminating the fear inherent to traditional self-reporting methods, because respondents did not have to directly admit to certain activities. The differences between the list experiment and self-reported survey numbers were stark: 37 percent of list experiment respondents had knowingly taken banned substances, compared with only 4.9 percent who admitted to it when directly asked in the survey, and 46 percent of list experiment respondents consumed more than five drinks a week, compared with 2.4 percent who self-reported doing so. Though Druckman cautions against jumping to conclusions about student-athletes’ drug and alcohol use based on these results—for instance, a small amount of caffeine qualifies as a controlled substance under National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) rules—the experiment demonstrates that overreliance on self-reported data on a sensitive topic like this can be problematic.

Labeling Social Interventions: The Case of Bail Bonds

In 1999, Cook County instituted a new system for bail bond hearings, in which those for less serious offenses were conducted via video, instead of face-to-face with a judge. A previous comparative interrupted time series study showed that the intervention had the unintended side effect of increasing bail bond amounts, threatening offenders’ right to fair treatment under the law. In part due to this finding, the new hearing system ended in 2008. Analyzing court data from 1991–2007 (eight years before and after the system’s implementation), a trio of IPR researchers confirmed that average bail amounts did increase significantly after it was enacted, but not for the reasons the previous study originally posited—poor video quality and the physical client-attorney separation. Rather, their analysis pointed to managerial inefficiencies stemming from how judges were assigned to the video bail hearings. Conducted by IPR social psychologist and research methodologist Thomas D. Cook, IPR postdoctoral fellow Yang Tang, and law professor, psychologist, and IPR associate Shari Seidman Diamond, the study points to the importance of a cause’s construct validity—or why social scientists must take care to construct meaningful labels that are empirically consistent with their data. Cook is Joan and Sarepta Harrison Chair in Ethics and Justice, and Seidman Diamond is Howard J. Trienens Professor of Law.

Redefining the Link Between Taxes and Sociology

In the Annual Review of Sociology, IPR sociologist Monica Prasad and Isaac William Martin of the University of California, San Diego argue that sociologists—especially those who study poverty and inequality—should pay closer attention to taxation. While taxation has been fingered as a critical factor in shaping inequality by thinkers such as Karl Marx and Émile Durkheim, current sociological research has largely failed to effectively study the links between tax policy, poverty, and income disparity. Prasad and Martin outline several key developments in past research, specifically examining taxation’s sociological impact in poor and rich countries via economic, sociological, and political science studies. One example they investigate is that of consumption taxes, such as sales taxes. Many economists argue that they are better at producing growth than income taxes, but a debate over whether high or low tax rates are better for development persists. The two researchers discover evidence that high taxes might help developing nations if the revenue is spent on “productive investments,” such as education, health, infrastructure, and efforts to reduce public debt.

Examining Patents

In light of the controversy surrounding “patent trolls”—people who buy up a portfolio of patents for inventions they did not create, then threaten lawsuits against inventors who might infringe on them—the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) has been criticized for excessive patenting. But is this actually occurring? IPR health and law scholar Michael Frakes is conducting research on how the structure of the PTO encourages over-granting. He and Melissa Wasserman of the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign examine if how long a patent examiner has to review a patent affects the number of patents the examiner accepts or rejects. They studied patent examiners over time as they received promotions within the PTO. Each promotion carried with it the expectation that examiners over time as they received promotions within the PTO. Each promotion carried with it the expectation that examiners over time as they received promotions within the PTO. Each promotion carried with it the expectation that examiners over time as they received promotions within the PTO. Each promotion carried with it the expectation that

In 2001–12, the researchers conclude that grant rates rose overall as examiners were promoted. Examiners also searched for prior art—information related to the patent that was already available to the public—and rejected fewer patents when promoted.
RESEARCH TOPICS:

• Improving the design and quality of experiments
• Developing new methods for research in education
• Data use, quality, and cost in policy research
• Framing methods and pretreatment effects
• Interdisciplinary methodological innovation

Internal and External Validity in Policy Research

In the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, IPR social psychologist and methodologist Thomas D. Cook contends that at every step of experimental design and implementation, there are assumptions and compromises that weaken the adage that “internal validity is the sine qua non for external validity.” For example, random sampling is often considered a panacea for all questions of external validity, but true random experiments are extremely rare in policy analysis, with nonprobability sampling quasi-experiments used the most. Furthermore, Cook argues that it is unreasonable to assume that a study’s essential characteristics, i.e., setting, sample population, treatments, and outcomes, are static across different time periods. Even causal relationships themselves are not very stable across past studies. Cook addresses common extrapolation practices used in public policy experiments today, identifying several major fallacies. He also criticizes the common statistical assumption that since internal validity measures are so strict, laxer standards for external validity are acceptable. He argues instead for developing stricter external validity measures. To address prevalent methodological issues in future public policy research, he posits that statisticians should shift their emphasis from current policy relevance and immediate use to a more rigorous treatment of external validity, causal representation, and extrapolation. Cook holds the Joan and Sarepta Harrison Chair in Ethics and Justice.

Generalizability of Survey Experiments

Along with IPR political scientist James Druckman, IPR sociologist Jeremy Freese is co-principal investigator of Time-sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (TESS), a National Science Foundation (NSF)-funded online platform for survey experiments that aims to make them easier and cheaper for researchers to conduct. Researchers apply to TESS, which collects data for their experiments at no cost to them. In 2014, TESS held two special competitions, one for young investigators who typically find it difficult to field larger-scale studies and another for proposals of experiments that offer monetary rewards to participants.

For its data collection, TESS contracts with GfK Knowledge Networks, a survey panel that guarantees a sample representative of the U.S. population and uses random-digit-dialing and address-based survey techniques. A fast-growing, and cheaper, alternative to conduct survey experiments is by using a crowdsourcing platform such as Amazon’s Mechanical Turk (MTurk). MTurk offers convenience, speed, price, and a high volume of responses—researchers can pay participants as little as one cent per experiment. However, are MTurk results representative of the greater U.S. population? If not, then experiments conducted on the platform could be skewed. Given the reinvigorated debates about convenience samples’ external validity in experiments, Freese, Druckman,
Larry Hedges, Statistician and Education Researcher

Hedges is leading efforts to train and build a community of multidisciplinary education researchers. Here, he chats with Jacqueline Jones at a 2014 meeting of SREE, a research society he co-founded.
and Kevin Mullinix, an IPR graduate research assistant, conduct 20 experiments across the two platforms and compare each platform’s results to one another. In experiments not moderated by age or education, MTurk and GfK participants responded similarly. But in those where age and education did matter, the responses differed greatly. In short, the choice of a survey panel such as GfK or a crowdsourcing platform such as MTurk can affect an experiment's results. Still, they see the crowdsourcing model as offering exciting possibilities for researchers if one pays attention to the caveats. Their findings appeared in an IPR working paper. In another research article published in Sociological Science, Freese, with Northwestern doctoral students Jill Weinberg and David McElhattan also compared the two populations, confirming the demographic differences and a yield of comparable results. Their study suggests that crowd-sourced data might prove useful due to its “relative affordability and the surprising robustness and accuracy of its results.” Freese is Ethel and John Lindgren Professor of Sociology, and Druckman is Payson S. Wild Professor of Political Science.

Validity of Interrupted Time Series

Although randomized controlled trials (RCTs) are the gold standard of experimental testing, they are not always feasible for ethical or practical reasons. One extremely popular quasi-experimental alternative is the interrupted time series (ITS) experiment, wherein the impact of an intervention is measured by comparing data before and after the intervention takes place. While ITS experiments are extremely common and popular in practice, hardly any previous studies address the actual validity of this process. In the American Journal of Evaluation, Cook, Travis St. Clair of the University of Maryland, College Park, and Kelly Hallberg of the American Institutes for Research, the latter both former IPR postdoctoral fellows, conduct both a randomized experiment and a comparative ITS (CITS) experiment on an educational topic and compare the effects. They find that CITS designs produce impact estimates that are extremely close to experimental benchmarks, both with and without matching of the comparison schools. The three co-authors conclude that with correct modeling, adding time points does provide an advantage without increasing bias in results.

Using the d-Statistic in Single Case Designs

One of the most common experimental design methodologies utilized in the fields of psychology, education, and human behavior is that of the single-case design (SCD). In a single-case design study, one subject is observed and is used as its own control group. SCD methodology is widely used for its flexibility and ability to highlight variation in individual responses to intervention effects. Although SCD studies generally include several individuals, the effects are measured on a per-individual basis. One of the major statistical issues then becomes the problem of expressing effects found in SCD studies in the same metric used in standard randomized experiments involving multiple groups of subjects—often called between-subject design (BSD) experiments. The primary method of comparing SCD results with those from BSD studies is the use of statistical measurements that describe the relative size of the effects. One of these, the d-statistic, is used to measure effect sizes. In a Journal of School Psychology article, IPR education researcher and statistician Larry Hedges and his colleagues explain how a modified d-statistic can be used to improve both analysis and meta-analysis of SCD data. The strengths of this new d-statistic include its formal statistical development, the existence of associated power analyses, and its ability to be easily calculated using macros in SPSS software. Hedges is Board of Trustees Professor of Statistics and Education and Social Policy.

Generalizing from Unrepresentative Experiments

In the Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Applied Statistics, Hedges and the University of Chicago’s Colm O’Muircheartaigh point to the rarity of experiments with probability samples in the fields of education, medicine, and the social sciences. Given that social experiments typically aim to glean information to inform policy decisions, the authors enumerate why they believe probability sampling is likely to remain scant in these fields. For education research, they single out three main roadblocks: High costs and long timeframes mean using one experiment for policy decisions in many areas; populations of interest might not be known in advance; and the inference population might not be part of the population included in the experiment. The
Propensity-Score Stratified Sampling

Though randomized experiments have become increasingly common in education, random selection of units (random sampling) into the experiment has not; in fact, recent work suggests that just 3 percent of social experiments have used this dual randomization process. In the Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness, Hedges and his co-authors—who include Columbia University’s Elizabeth Tipton, a former IPR graduate research assistant—address the problem of sample selection in experiments, particularly scale-up experiments, by providing a method for selecting the sample so that the population and sample are similar in composition. Their method requires that the study’s inference population and eligibility criteria are well defined before study recruitment begins. When these two populations differ, however, the authors provide a method for sample selection based on stratified selection and a propensity score. The researchers also illustrate the problem by discussing how to select districts for two scale-up experiments, Open Court Reading and Everyday Math programs, during their recruitment phases.

False Precision and Strengthening Social Science

How can one translate high-quality statistical data and regression output into palatable information for the average reader? Should more precise data—with four or five digits trailing the decimal—be reported at the expense of potentially complicating results? Or should researchers cut their reported results to one or two trailing digits to provide more concise, readable conclusions? Some researchers have argued that the extra digits tend to falsely imply a level of accuracy that does not actually exist in the experiment. In Sociological Science, IPR sociologist Jeremy Freese argues that statistical precision, while oftentimes unwieldy, is actually necessary to preserve the statistical and essential meaning of results. In a simple confidence interval calculation, Freese shows that by reducing an estimate from five trailing digits to two, the resulting confidence interval becomes 10 times as wide—that is, 10 times less meaningful. Freese concludes that coefficients should be reported to at least three digits to preserve statistical precision and ensure the validity and reproducibility of current and future research.
Improving Reporting of Rape, Sexual Assault

A panel of the National Research Council published “Estimating the Incidence of Rape and Sexual Assault” about its recommendations to improve underreporting of such crimes in the National Crime Victimization Survey, gathered by the U.S. Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Statistics. A national panel of experts, including IPR statistician Bruce Spencer, collaborated on the report. Its major recommendation is the creation of a separate survey to measure these types of victimizations, and that this new survey should use updated and more precise definitions of ambiguous words such as “rape” to improve the reporting of these crimes. Furthermore, by shifting the survey focus from a criminal justice perspective, or a “point-in-time” event, to a longer-term public health perspective, the survey can more accurately track occurrence of these crimes and improve response accuracy. The panel also identified several key methodological obstacles to correct, including improving sample design for low-incidence events and developing methods to increase respondents’ privacy by allowing them to report anonymously.

Better Metrics for Earthquake Hazard Maps

In 2011, the 9.0-magnitude Tohoku earthquake and the resulting tsunami killed more than 15,000 people and caused nearly $300 billion in damages. The shaking from the earthquake was significantly larger than Japan’s national hazard map had predicted, devastating areas forecasted to be relatively safe. Such hazard-mapping failures prompted three Northwestern researchers—geophysicist and IPR associate Seth Stein, who is William Deening Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Spencer, and doctoral student Edward Brooks—to search for better ways to construct, evaluate, and communicate the predictions of hazard maps. In two IPR working papers, the scholars point out several critical problems with current hazard maps and offer statistical solutions to improve mapping. Currently, no widely accepted metric exists that can gauge how well one hazard map performs compared with another. In the first working paper, the researchers use 2,200 years of Italian earthquake data to highlight several different statistical models that could be used to compare how well maps work and to improve future maps. Since underestimating an earthquake’s impact can leave areas ill-prepared, the scholars developed asymmetric models that weigh underprediction heavily and can account for the number of affected people and properties. In a second working paper, the scholars offer further methodological guidance on when—and how—to revise hazard maps using Bayesian modeling, which allows multiple probabilities to stack up with evidence.

Improving the 2020 Census

In an IPR working paper with graduate research assistant Zachary Seeskin, Spencer considers how to measure the benefits from improving the accuracy of the 2020 Census, taking the examples of two high-profile census uses—apportionment and fund allocation. Apportionment of the 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives is based on census numbers, and distortions in census results mirror distortions in numbers of seats allocated to the states. Spencer and Seeskin expect that roughly $5 trillion in federal grant and direct assistance monies will be distributed at least partly on the basis of population and income data following the 2020 Census, and again distortions in census results cause distortions in the allocations of funds. After describing loss functions to quantify the distortions in these two uses, they then undertake empirical analyses to estimate the expected losses arising from alternative profiles of accuracy in state population numbers.

IES-Sponsored Research Training

Now in its eighth consecutive year, the IES Summer Institute on Cluster-Randomized Trials (CRT) took place from July 7–17 in Evanston. Organized by Hedges and Spyros Konstantopoulos of Michigan State University, the institute seeks to provide researchers from around the country not only with the basic design and analysis skills used in CRT experiments but also with a rigorous methodological framework and perspective. The sessions encompass a broad range of topics in the design and execution process, from relevant statistical software to the more conceptual challenges, such as the framing of results.

From July 21–23, Hedges and Konstantopoulos conducted a specially designed workshop, the Research Design Workshop for Faculty from Minority-Serving Institutions. It welcomed 15 participants from Queens College, Tuskegee University, and the University of New Mexico, among others. The organizers worked with IES’ Katina Stapleton and Christina Chhin to create a workshop to improve their research methodology and to better equip participants to take part in the world of rigorous education research. Participants received instruction on research design fundamentals, including threats to validity, regression, and a brief overview of hierarchical linear modeling.
Chicago Forum Focuses on Police, Public

IPR political scientist Wesley G. Skogan, an expert on crime and policing, organized the Chicago Forum on Procedural Justice and Legitimacy in Policing on March 21–22. The conference focused on the internal operations of police organizations and the relationships between the police and the public. Receiving funding from the Joyce Foundation, it featured researchers and police administrators from around the country and the world. International guests traveled from Argentina, Belgium, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.

Chicago Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy, accompanied by several trainers and Deputy Chief Keith Calloway, spoke briefly at the beginning of the workshop, linking the role of procedural justice within police departments to the public. When police feel respected and validated within the department, they, in turn, treat the public better. Because of that, “the internal legitimacy of the department is the single most important thing we do,” he said.

Skogan shared results from an experiment he conducted with a Chicago police training academy workshop on procedural justice that were published in the *Journal of Experimental Criminology*. It shows that officers held a more favorable view about procedural justice after the workshop, especially in getting citizens to participate, though the long-term effects were likely small.

Training Police for Procedural Justice

In the *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, Skogan reports the findings of his evaluation of the Chicago Police Department’s (CPD) Procedural Justice and Legitimacy initiative, as mentioned above, and provides some of the first systematic research on police training. The initiative, part of CPD’s relaunch of its community policing program, Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS), is designed to teach officers how to treat residents fairly and with respect to earn their trust, demonstrate their importance in maintaining social order and managing conflicts, and ultimately improve officer safety and efficiency. He reviews the short- and longer-term effects of the training, measuring its impact on four principles of procedural justice: neutrality, or equal treatment for all at all times; voice, which entails giving citizens the opportunity to offer their side of the story; respect, or treating citizens with dignity regardless of their attitude; and trust, which means believing citizens will “do the
right thing.” In the short term, Skogan finds, training increased officer support for all four of the procedural justice principles. Longer term, the officers who had attended the workshop continued to be supportive of three of the four procedural justice principles introduced in training; however, the effect of training on trust of citizens was not statistically significant.

Chicago Community Policing Survey

How do Chicagoans view their encounters with police? That is the central question of the Neighborhood Crime and Justice Study, spearheaded by Skogan and his colleagues at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Launched in December 2014, the study aims to interview 2,100 Chicago residents on two occasions about their encounters with city police. Households located in 77 community areas—from areas with large concentrations of Asian immigrant populations to white residents concentrated in the “bungalow-belt” and the lakeshore area and well-off and poor African Americans—will be randomly selected for interviewing. Interviewers will gauge how effective residents find the police, their perceptions of crime in their neighborhood, and any experiences they might have with community-based responses to crime. The project is supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing

President Barack Obama created the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing in December 2014. The task force seeks to identify best practices in policing and eventually will make recommendations on “how policing practices can promote effective crime reduction while building public trust and examine, among other issues, how to foster strong, collaborative relationships between local law enforcement and the communities they protect.” Skogan was one of several leading policing experts invited to present testimony at a listening session in Phoenix on community policing and crime prevention for its interim report.

Civilians in Policing

Faced with paying higher salaries, training costs, and benefit packages, cash-strapped police departments are increasingly hiring civilians to cut costs. Previous research has noted that unlike police officers, civilians working in a police department—in jobs such as traffic aides, clerical workers, or stenographers—are often treated as “employees,” rather than “members” of the organization. In the journal Policing, Skogan and co-author Megan Alderden of Saint Xavier University examine workplace satisfaction of civilian employees of law enforcement agencies, and consider how police culture influences civilian perceptions of job quality. Using survey data from the National Police Research Platform, which contains a diverse sample of 100 U.S. law enforcement agencies, the researchers’ results reveal that stress within the workplace and acceptance among department co-workers were important predictors to job dissatisfaction among civilian employees. Skogan and Alderden then offer several ways police administrators can improve the workplace for civilian employees. Their recommendations include increasing training for civilian employees, expanding peer-support programs aimed at mitigating stress to civilian employees, and implementing procedural-justice initiatives—community-based programs that have improved relations between civilians and police officers—in the workplace.

Does Segregation Create Winners and Losers?

While many facets of life in America’s metropolises have dramatically changed over the last century—transportation, economic growth, the influx of young people to urban areas—residential segregation has largely remained constant. In 2000, levels of racial segregation were not far below their peak in 1960, and income-based segregation hit its peak around 2010. Drawing on census data and the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID), IPR sociologist Lincoln Quillian analyzes the impact of urban segregation on educational attainment in the journal Social Problems. Quillian finds that metropolitan areas segregated by income had lower high school graduation rates for lower-income students, while there was no effect on rates for students from higher-income backgrounds. In racially segregated metropolitan areas, black students graduated less, while there was no effect on graduation rates for their white counterparts. Quillian writes that for education, “Segregation increases the disadvantage of disadvantaged groups without increasing the advantage of advantaged groups.” While school
Race, Class, and Location in Urban Segregation

What factors uphold persistent racial segregation in U.S. metropolitan areas? Prior research has focused on race and class as explanations for segregation, with race-based explanations emphasizing prejudice and discrimination and class-based explanations emphasizing racial gaps in income and affluence. Quillian is looking at this issue in ways that go beyond this race-class dualism. Using PSID data for 1997–2009, Quillian employs a discrete-choice approach allowing him to evaluate a neighborhood’s race, class, and other attributes at the same time. Measures of family affluence or neighborhood class level account for practically none of the racial segregation in the neighborhoods to which people move. Rather, the distance of the new neighborhood from the old one is a much better gauge for predicting a person’s destination. Local moves contribute to black migration to black neighborhoods of destination because of black neighborhoods’ strong racial clustering. Race, class, and geographic location are somewhat redundant in producing segregated migration patterns: White neighborhoods tend to be affluent and close to other white neighborhoods, while black neighborhoods tend to be less affluent, inexpensive, and close to other black neighborhoods. To curtail segregation in an area, Quillian concludes, one must address these three factors simultaneously.

Socioeconomic Segregation in France and the U.S.

While segregation exists in most modern societies, its causes and its manifestations often vary from country to country. In an IPR working paper, Quillian and his colleague, Hugues Lagrange of France’s Sciences Po, offer an in-depth comparison of socioeconomic segregation in France and the United States. Focusing on large metropolises—areas with populations greater than one million—Quillian and Lagrange measure levels of segregation based on income, employment, and educational attainment. The researchers find that, overall, segregation on the basis of socioeconomic status is “substantially greater” in the United States. Furthermore, where segregation occurs within urban areas in these two countries varies: While American suburbs are disproportionately wealthier and have lower unemployment than urban areas, socioeconomic differences between French cities and their suburbs are “more even,” the researchers find—though this varies from one French metropolis to another. Quillian and Lagrange also compare the role of public housing in shaping American and French segregation. While public housing is concentrated in the poorest neighborhoods in the United States, in France, public housing is spread across neighborhoods of nearly all income levels, with the exception of the wealthiest 20 percent of neighborhoods. The much larger share of public housing in France, its availability to a wider range of incomes, and its presence across neighborhoods of many income levels is found as one important factor contributing to the much lower level of neighborhood income segregation in France than in the United States.

Imprisonment Rates and Political Participation

High numbers of convicted offenders in a neighborhood often lead to increased crime, poverty, and other social problems. In the Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, political scientist and IPR associate Traci Burch finds that high numbers of offenders also depress political participation. Using election, demographic, and incarceration data from 5,000 North Carolina neighborhoods, Burch discovers that people who lived in neighborhoods with the highest density of offenders voted at a rate nearly 8 percentage points lower than those in neighborhoods with no offenders. These results raise another question: Why do some neighborhoods have such high imprisonment rates, while others do not? In another article in Law and Policy, Burch uses block-level data collected from state boards of elections, departments of corrections and of public health, and the U.S. Census Bureau, to conclude that high levels of racial residential segregation are clearly associated with high neighborhood imprisonment rates. According to her simulation, neighborhoods in counties with the highest segregation levels could expect imprisonment rates more than twice as high as neighborhoods in minimally segregated counties. Burch’s research reinforces the importance of understanding and ameliorating factors contributing to high imprisonment rates, improving quality of life in already disadvantaged communities.

Criminal Punishment in Florida: A Case Study

Studies of criminal punishment tend to focus on U.S. states in the North, ignoring the experience of the South—even though the state of Florida incarcerates the third-largest number of people in the country. In Punishment and Society, sociologist and IPR associate Heather Schoenfeld turns to Florida as a case study in her exploration of penal modernism, or the idea that after World War II the main goal of criminal punishment was the “rehabilitation” and reform of offenders. She retracts the history of state punishment in Florida from 1900–60. In the 1920s, Florida became one of the last states to end “convict leasing,” in which states leased convicts out to work for businesses. When convict leasing ended, prisoners were transported throughout the state in portable iron cages to build highways and local roads. Florida’s legacy of slavery and sharecropping shaped the demographics of these road-camp prisoners, who were disproportionately black. When Florida’s prisons were finally consolidated into a “Division of Corrections” in 1960, only a few administrators believed that prisons should reform inmates. Florida’s delayed foray into penal modernism leads Schoenfeld to underscore the importance of taking into account the political and cultural specifics of individual states when constructing political justice theories.
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Emma Adam


Lori Beaman

P. Lindsay Chase-Lansdale

Anthony Chen


Edith Chen

“The cortisol awakening response (CAR) predicts onsets of a combined group of anxiety disorders, as well as smaller group of social anxiety disorder onsets in older adolescents and young adults. This was true even when covarying lifetime depression (another disorder we have shown the CAR to predict) at the time of cortisol measurement as well future onsets of depression over the follow-up period.”

“We find that politicizing science reduces support for nuclear power and renders arguments about the environmental benefits of nuclear energy invalid, regardless of whether there is a reference to consensus scientific evidence. We also find that a reference to the potential health risks associated with using nuclear power also decreases support in the presence of additional frames that highlight either science’s progress or its politicization (i.e., a probable negativity bias).”

Children with higher birth weight enter school with a cognitive advantage that appears to remain stable through the elementary and middle school years. The birth weight related patterns in test score performance observed in twins are also seen in the overall population... The estimated effects of low birth weight are present for children of highly educated and poorly educated parents alike, for children of both young and old mothers, and for children of all races and ethnicities, parental immigration status, parental marital status.”


Kirabo Jackson


Georgia Kernell

Christopher Kuzawa


“In sum, we find that the rate of glucose uptake by the human brain, in both absolute terms and relative to the body’s metabolic expenditure, does not peak at birth, when the size of the brain relative to the body is largest, but in childhood, when synaptic densities and related metabolic processes are maximal... These findings thus provide rare empirical support for the hypothesis that humans evolved a protracted period of slow preadult growth to compensate for the unusually high metabolic costs of brain development.”


Charles F. Manski


Leslie McCall


Thomas McDade


Greg Miller


“…Racial and gender gaps in test scores, graduation rates, and occupational employment can come to symbolize the lack of equal educational and employment opportunities… Class inequality, in contrast, is typically understood as coexisting with equality of opportunity… If we were to import the rendering and logic pertaining to racial and gender inequality into the study of beliefs about class inequality, it would suggest that Americans might become concerned about inequality of class outcomes if and when they see them as a reflection of limited opportunities.”


Matthew Notowidigdo


Monica Prasad

Lincoln Quillian


Jennifer Richeson


“One implication of the present work is that whites may be increasingly likely and motivated to support conservative candidates and policies, in response to the changing racial demographics. These results suggest that presumptions of the decline of the Republican Party due to the very same changing racial demographics may be premature…[S]hould white Americans (on average) respond to the changing demographics by becoming more politically conservative, the U.S. political landscape is likely to become increasingly racially polarized.”

“Children primed with Berenstain Bears revealed the standard anthropocentric pattern. In contrast, children primed with Animal Encyclopedia adopted a biological reasoning pattern. This offers the first evidence of a distinctively biological reasoning pattern in urban 5-year-olds and suggests that they can move flexibly from a biological to a human-centered stance, depending upon the context at hand. Thus, children’s books and other media are double-edged swords. Media may (inadvertently) support human-centered reasoning in young children, but may also be instrumental in redirecting children’s attention to a biological model in which humans are one among the animal kinds.”

The Impacts of Expanding Access to High-Quality Preschool Education by Elizabeth Cascio and Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach (14-01)

Party Nomination Rules and Campaign Participation by Georgia Kernell (14-02)

The (Surprising) Efficacy of Academic and Behavioral Intervention with Disadvantaged Youth from a Randomized Experiment in Chicago by Philip J. Cook, Kenneth Dodge, George Farkas, Roland Fryer Jr., Jonathan Guryan, Jens Ludwig, Susan Mayer, Harold Pollack, and Laurence Steinberg (14-03)

The Role of Immigrant Children in Their Parents’ Assimilation in the U.S., 1850-2010 by Ilyana Kuziemko and Joseph Ferrie (14-04)

What Do U. S. Billionaires Want from Government? by Benjamin Page and Jason Seawright (14-05)


Shocking Behavior: Random Wealth in Antebellum Georgia and Human Capital Across Generations by Hoyt Bleakley and Joseph Ferrie (14-07)

Communicating Uncertainty in Official Economic Statistics by Charles F. Manski (14-08)

Patterns of Neighborhood Relocation in a Longitudinal HOPE VI Natural Experiment: The Genes, Environment, and Neighborhood Initiative (GENI) Study by Brian Mustanski, Gayle Byck, John Bolland, David Henry, Greg Swann, and Danielle Dick (14-09)

Measuring Drug and Alcohol Use Among College Student-Athletes by James Druckman, Mauro Gilli, Samara Klar, and Joshua Robison (14-10)

Differential Fertility as a Determinant of Trends in Public Opinion about Abortion in the United States by J. Alex Kevern and Jeremy Freese (14-11)

Investment Subsidies and the Adoption of Electronic Medical Records in Hospitals by David Dranove, Craig Garthwaite, Christopher Ody, and Bingyang Li (14-12)

Metrics for Assessing Earthquake Hazard Map Performance by Seth Stein, Bruce Spencer, and Edward Brooks (14-13)

Bayes and BOGSAT: Issues in When and How to Revise Earthquake Hazard Maps by Seth Stein, Bruce Spencer, and Edward Brooks (14-14)

Saving for a (not so) Rainy Day: A Randomized Evaluation of Savings Groups in Mali by Lori Beaman, Dean Karlan, and Bram Thuysbaert (14-15)

Early Life Environment and Racial Inequality in Education and Earnings in the United States by Kenneth Y. Chay, Jonathan Guryan, and Bhaskar Mazumder (14-16)

Citizens’, Scientists’, and Policy Advisors’ Beliefs about Global Warming by Toby Bolsen, James Druckman, and Fay Lomax Cook (14-17)

Developmental Histories of Perceived Racial/Ethnic Discrimination and Diurnal Cortisol Profiles in Adulthood: A 20-year Prospective Study by Emma Adam, Jennifer Heissel, Katharine Zeiders, Jennifer Richeson, Emily Ross, Katherine Ehrlich, Doraanne Levy, Margaret Kemeny, Amanda Brodish, Oksana Malanchuk, Stephen Peck, Thomas Fuller-Rowell, and Jacqueline Eccles (14-18)

The Generalizability of Survey Experiments by Kevin Mullinix, James Druckman, and Jeremy Freese (14-19)

Competition over the Politicization of Science by Toby Bolsen and James Druckman (14-20)

Legislative Holdouts by Sarah Anderson, Daniel Butler, and Laurel Harbridge (14-21)

Does Reading During the Summer Build Reading Skills? Evidence from a Randomized Experiment in 463 Classrooms by Jonathan Guryan, James Kim, and David Quinn (14-22)

The Influence of Race on Attitudes about College Athletics by James Druckman and Andrew Rodheim (14-23)

State Legislative Institutions, Party Leaders, and Legislators’ Weighted Preferences by Sarah Anderson, Daniel Butler, and Laurel Harbridge (14-24)

Long-Term Unemployment and the Great Recession: The Role of Composition, Duration Dependence, and Nonparticipation by Kory Kroft, Fabian Lange, Matthew Notowidigdo, and Lawrence Katz (14-25)

Eliminating the Local Warming Effect by James Druckman (14-26)

Gendered Incentives for Legislative Compromise by Nichole Bauer, Laurel Harbridge, and Yanna Krupnikov (14-27)

Expanding the School Breakfast Program: Impacts on Children’s Consumption, Nutrition, and Health by Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach and Mary Zaki (14-28)

Vaccine Approvals and Mandates Under Uncertainty: Some Simple Analytics by Charles F. Manski (14-29)
RECENT FACULTY BOOKS

Faculty Fellows

**James Druckman**

**Jeremy Freese**

**Laurel Harbridge**

**Rebecca Seligman**

Faculty Associates

**Pablo Boczkowski**

**Greg Duncan**

**Michael Mazzeo**

**Rachel Beatty Riedl**

**Seth Stein**

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**Possessing Spirits and Healing Selves: Embodiment and Transformation in an Afro-Brazilian Religion**
by Rebecca Seligman, Palgrave MacMillan

In *Possessing Spirits and Healing Selves: Embodiment and Transformation in an Afro-Brazilian Religion*, IPR anthropologist Rebecca Seligman draws on fieldwork among spirit possession mediums of Brazil’s Candomblé religion. Candomblé comprises ritual practices that enable deities to possess certain worshippers. Through observation, ethnographic interviews, and psychophysiological measures, Seligman documented the experiences of those who became possessed or inhabited by religious spirits, and found that these religious experiences can improve mental and spiritual health, especially for people who suffered emotional distress before becoming involved in the religion. *Possessing Spirits* serves as a jumping-off point for understanding the links between mind and body affecting peoples’ lives in many ways, from negative effects, such as discrimination, to positive effects, such as social support.

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**Regression Models for Categorical Dependent Variables Using Stata, 3rd Edition**
by Jeremy Freese and J. Scott Long, Stata Press

In response to recent changes to Stata and their revised views on interpretation, IPR sociologist Jeremy Freese and J. Scott Long of Indiana University published the third edition of *Regression Models for Categorical Dependent Variables Using Stata*. It includes 60 pages of new material, revisiting the original “suite” of authored commands and detailing the new ones. Among those added are the change of factor variables and the “margins” command, which affects how results from statistical models can be interpreted. The authors have also revamped their popular SPost commands that facilitate the use of powers or covariate interactions in regressions and work seamlessly with models estimated from complex survey data. With concrete examples throughout, the book serves not only as a detailed introduction to Stata, but also as a comprehensive guide to a wide variety of models.
IPR Policy Research Briefings

April 16, Evanston, “Two Generations, One Future,” by Lindsay Chase-Lansdale, Frances Willard Professor of Human Development and Social Policy, Associate Provost for Faculty, and IPR Fellow; Teresa Eckrich Sommer, IPR Research Associate Professor; Sara Goldrick-Rab, Associate Professor of Education Policy Studies and Sociology, University of Wisconsin–Madison; and Mesmin Destin, Assistant Professor of Human Development and Social Policy and of Psychology, and IPR Fellow.

May 6, Washington, D.C., “College Access and Success,” by James Rosenbaum, Professor of Education and Social Policy and of Sociology and IPR Fellow; Sarah Turner, University Professor of Economics and Education, University of Virginia; Bridget Terry Long, Academic Dean and Xander Professor of Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Both were moderated by David Figlio, IPR Director and Fellow, Orrington Lunt Professor of Education and Social Policy and of Economics.

IPR Fay Lomax Cook Monday Colloquia

January 13, “Unemployment Insurance and Consumer Credit” by Brian Melzer, Assistant Professor of Finance and IPR Associate.

February 3, “Economic Conditions and Pregnancy Rates in the United States During the Great Recession” by Christine Percheski, Assistant Professor of Sociology and IPR Fellow.

February 10, “With Friends Like These… Social Influence on Politics, Religion, Work, and Health in the ‘Fellowship for Life Longitudinal Study’” by Michael Neblo, Associate Professor of Political Science, Ohio State University, and IPR Visiting Scholar.

February 24, “The Role of Prison Conditions Litigation in Reducing Prison Populations: Possibilities and Limitations” by Heather Schoenfeld, Assistant Professor of Human Development and Social Policy and IPR Associate.

March 10, “Patent Acquisitions and Patent Trolls” by Fiona Scott Morton, Professor of Economics, Yale University; and former Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Economic Analysis, Antitrust Division, U.S. Department of Justice.


April 7, “Glass Ceilings, Labyrinths, and Jungle Gyms: Has Anything Changed for Women as Leaders?” by Alice Eagly, James Padilla Professor of Arts and Sciences, Professor of Psychology, and IPR Fellow.

April 14, “Labeling Social Interventions and the Way Social Science Evidence Is Used in Public Policy: A Case Study of Bail Bond Reform” by Thomas D. Cook, Joan and Sarepta Harrison Chair in of Ethics and Justice; Professor of Sociology, Education and Social Policy and Psychology; and IPR Fellow; Yang Tang, Doctoral Student in Statistics and IPR Graduate Research Assistant; and Shari Seidman Diamond, Howard J. Trienens Professor of Law, Professor of Psychology, American Bar Foundation Research Professor; and IPR Associate.

April 21, “Race, Class, and Location in Neighborhood Migration” by Lincoln Quillian, Professor of Sociology, IPR Fellow and Chair of Urban Policy and Community Development.

April 28, “Work and the Welfare State: Street-Level Organizations and the International Workfare Project” by Evelyn Brodkin, School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago.

May 5, “Resources Gained, Resources Lost: Making Ends Meet While Living with HIV/AIDS” by Celeste Watkins-Hayes, Associate Professor of African American Studies and Sociology and IPR Fellow.

May 12, “Hospitals as Insurers of Last Resort” by Craig Garthwaite, Assistant Professor of Management and Strategy.

May 19, “Multilevel Interventions to Address Healthcare Disparities” by David Baker, Michael A. Gertz Professor of Medicine; Chief, Division of General Internal Medicine and Geriatrics; and IPR Associate.

June 2, “What’s the Matter with Park Slope? Identities, and Interests in the 2013 New York Mayoral Election” by Thomas Ogorzalek, Assistant Professor of Political Science and IPR Associate.

October 6, “Do We Need Population-Based Survey Experiments? Can We Just Crowdsource It?” by Jeremy Freese, Ethel and John Lindgren Professor of Sociology and IPR Fellow, and Co-Director of Time-sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (TESS).


October 20, “Affirmative Action in College Admissions: Forgotten Histories, Future Possibilities” by Anthony Chen, Associate Professor of Sociology and IPR Fellow.

October 27, “Is the Time Allocated to Review Patent Applications Inducing Examiners to Grant Invalid Patents? Evidence from Microlevel Application Data” by Michael Frakes, Associate Professor of Law and IPR Fellow.
November 3, “Coalition or Derogation? Psychological Perspectives on Race Relations in the 21st Century” by Jennifer Richeson, MacArthur Chair, Professor of Psychology, and IPR Fellow

November 10, “2014 Midterms: Post-Election Analysis” by Daniel Galvin, Associate Professor of Political Science and IPR Fellow, Laurel Harbridge, Assistant Professor of Political Science and IPR Fellow; and Rachel Davis Mersey, Associate Professor of Journalism and IPR Fellow

November 17, “The Bright Side of Aging” by Claudia Haase, Assistant Professor of Human Development and Social Policy and IPR Associate

November 24, “Measurement of Maternal Stress in Pregnancy” by Ann Borders, Adjunct Assistant Professor in Medical Social Sciences and Center for Healthcare Studies, Institute for Public Health and Medicine, Feinberg School of Medicine; and IPR Associate

December 1, “Measuring Benefits from Improving Accuracy of the 2020 Census: Apportionment of the U.S. House of Representatives and Allocation of Federal Funds” by Bruce Spencer, Professor of Statistics and IPR Fellow, and Zachary Seeskin, PhD Student in Statistics and IPR Graduate Research Assistant

C2S Workshops

January 10, “Cardiometabolic Risk in the First Year Postpartum: Findings from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Community Child Health Network,” by Madeleine Shalowitz, Institute for Public Health and Medicine, Feinberg

February 14, “Committed in Sickness and in Health? The Association Between Health and Relationship Dissolution Among Married and Cohabiting Parents” by Christine Percheski, Assistant Professor of Sociology and IPR Fellow; and Jess Meyer, Doctoral Student in Sociology and IPR Graduate Research Assistant

March 14, “Adductomics: A New Approach for Investigating Links Between the Environment and Human Health” by William Funk, Assistant Professor of Preventive Medicine and IPR Associate


Q-Center Colloquia

February 12, “Can You Correct a Propensity Score Analysis for Covariate Measurement Error?” by J.R. Lockwood, Principal Research Scientist, Educational Testing Service

April 16, “Combining Information from Multiple Sources for Medical Expenditure Modeling” by Trivellore Raghunathan, Chair and Professor of Biostatistics, and Research Professor, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan

October 8, “An Integrated Approach to Providing Access to Confidential Social Science Data” by Jerry Reiter, Hehmeyer Professor of Statistical Science, Duke University

Performance Measurement and Rewards Series

January 29, “College for What? Getting a Job, Social Relationships, and Civic Participation for a Recent Cohort of Emerging Adults” by Richard Arum, Professor of Sociology and Education, New York University

May 7, “The Performance of Foundation-Owned Companies” by Henry Hansmann, Oscar M. Ruebhausen Professor of Law, School of Law, Yale University

November 5, “Noncognitive Ability, Test Scores, and Teacher Quality: Evidence from 9th Grade Teachers in North Carolina” by Kirabo Jackson, Associate Professor of Human Development and Social Policy and IPR Fellow
Conferences, Workshops, and Other Events

March 21–22, “Chicago Forum on Procedural Justice” organized by Wesley G. Skogan, Professor of Political Science and IPR Fellow. Panelists included Tracey Meares, Walton Hale Hamilton Professor of Law at Yale University; and Dennis Rosenbaum, Professor of Criminal Justice and Psychology, University of Illinois at Chicago. Chicago Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy delivered remarks. Supported by the Joyce Foundation.

May 9, Chicago Area Behavior (CAB) Workshop, organized by James Druckman, Payson S. Wild Professor of Political Science, and IPR Associate Director and Fellow, with keynote lectures by Tali Mendelberg, Associate Professor of Political Science; Scott Althaus, Charles J. and Ethel S. Merriam Professor of Political Science and Professor of Communication, University of Illinois Urbana–Champaign; Charles F. Manski, Board of Trustees Professor in Economics and IPR Fellow; James Gibson, Sidney W. Souers Professor of Government, Washington University in St. Louis; and Joanne Miller, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Minnesota.

July 20–30, Workshop on Cluster-Randomized Trials in Education, and July 21–23, Research Design Workshop for Faculty from Minority-Serving Institutions, led by Larry Hedges, Board of Trustees Professor of Statistics and Education and Social Policy, Professor of Psychology, and Director of the IPR Q-Center, with Spyros Konstantopoulos, Professor of Management and Quantitative Methods, Michigan State University. Supported by the Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education.

November 20, Chicago LGBTQ Health & Wellness Conference, organized by Brian Mustanski, Professor of Medical Social Sciences, IPR Associate, and Director of Northwestern’s IMPACT LGBT Health and Development Program. Keynotes were by David Purcell, Deputy Director for Behavioral and Social Science, Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and Kathleen Sikkema, Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience, Global Health, Psychiatry, and Behavioral Sciences, and Director of the Clinical Psychology Program, of the Social and Behavioral Science Core in the Center for AIDS Research (CFAR), of Global Mental Health, and of Doctoral Studies at the Global Health Institute, Duke University. Organized by the IMPACT Program and The Center on Halsted, with bronze-level support from IPR.
AWARDS, HONORS, AND PRESENTATIONS OF NOTE

Faculty Fellows

Emma Adam
"More Than a Feeling: Biological and Health Implications of Child and Adolescent Stress," keynote "Mentoring Youth in Illinois: Research Meets Practice," Illinois Mentoring Partnership, Chicago, October 7

Lindsay Chase-Lansdale

Anthony Chen
Fellow, Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, Northwestern University, 2014–15

Edith Chen
"Socioeconomic Status, Resilience Factors, and Biological Pathways to Health," Gene Brody Lecture, University of Georgia, April 24

Thomas D. Cook
"The Major Assumptions of Evidence-Based Policy: Bringing Empirical Evidence to Bear," Sidney Ball Memorial Lecture, Oxford University, October 20

James Druckman
2014 Walder Award for Research Excellence, Northwestern University; Highly Cited Researcher, Thompson Reuters; "Democratic Competition and Citizens’ Preferences: An Uneasy Tension," University of Toronto, January 17

Alice Eagly
Eminent Leadership Scholar Award, Network of Leadership Scholars, The Academy of Management; "Women as Leaders: Negotiating the Labyrinth," keynote, British Psychological Society, Brighton, U.K., January 9; and 22nd Isolabella Lectures, Alliant International University, March 5

David Figlio

Michael Frakes
“The Impact of Medical Liability Standards on Local Access to Physician Services,” 32nd Seminar, New Institutional Economics, Max Planck Institute, Regensburg, Germany, June 12; “Does Medical Malpractice Law Improve Healthcare Quality?” Summer Institute, National Bureau of Economic Research, July 24

Jeremy Freese
Ethel and John Lindgren Professor of Sociology

Jonathan Guryan
U.S. Purpose Economy 100, a list of “100 pioneers evolving [the] economy to create purpose”

Larry Hedges

Christopher Kuzawa
Workshop on Advances in Biodemography, National Academies of Science, Washington D.C., April 8–9; “You Are What Your Mother Ate: How Our Ancestors’ Diets Shape Our Health,” American Association for the Advancement of Science, Chicago, February 16

Charles F. Manski
Corresponding Fellow, The British Academy; “Public Policy in an Uncertain World,” “Predicting Policy Outcomes and Behavior,” and “Planning with Partial Knowledge: Diversified Treatment,” Richard Ely Distinguished Lectures, Johns Hopkins University, February 24–26

Leslie McCall

Thomas McDade
“Is Chronic Inflammation a Disease of Affluence? Insights from Asia and Amazonia,” American Association for the Advancement of Science, Chicago, February 16

Rachel Davis Mersey

Greg Miller
President-Elect, Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research

Matthew Notowidigdo
Hicks-Tinbergen Award for “What Good Is Wealth Without Health? The Effect of Health on the Marginal Utility of...”

Matthew Notowidigdo
AWARDS, HONORS, AND PRESENTATIONS OF NOTE

Monica Prasad

Lincoln Quillian
Jane Addams Award for “Segregation and Poverty Concentration: The Role of Three Segregations,” American Sociological Review, Community and Urban Sociology Section, American Sociological Association

Jennifer Richeson
“Coalition or Derogation: Relations Between Minority Groups in the 21st Century,” Distinguished Diversity Speaker, University of California, Los Angeles, May 9; “Coalition or Derogation: Psychological Perspectives on Race Relations in the 21st Century” Hovland Memorial Lecture, Yale University, September 17

James Rosenbaum
“The New Forgotten Half and Research Directions to Support Them,” Board of Trustees, William T. Grant Foundation, June 19

Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach

Rebecca Seligman
Associated Student Government Faculty and Administration Honor Roll, Teaching Award, Northwestern University, 2013–14

Wesley G. Skogan
“Policing and Minorities: International Perspectives,” invited address, Conflict Resolution, Mediation and Restorative Justice and the Policing of Ethnic Minorities, Brussels, December 4

Bruce Spencer

Lauren Wakschlag

Celeste Watkins-Hayes
Alumnae Initiate 2014 and Keynote Speaker; The Phi Beta Kappa Society, Spelman College; Elected Member; Editorial Board, American Sociological Review

Sandra Waxman
External Reviewer; Birth to Five Early Learning Outcomes Framework, Office of Head Start, and Advisory Board Member; “Bridging the Word Gap Research Network Project;” Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Faculty Associates

Bernard Black

Pablo Boczkowski

Traci Burch
Ralph J. Bunche Award; Urban Section Best Book Award; and Law and Courts Section C. Herman Pritchett Award for Trading Democracy for Justice: Criminal Convictions and the Decline of Neighborhood Political Participation (University of Chicago Press, 2013), American Political Science Association

David Cella
John Ware and Alvin Tarlov Career Achievement Prize, Health Assessment Lab/Medical Outcomes Trust

Cynthia Coburn

Shari Seidman Diamond

INSTITUTE FOR POLICY RESEARCH
AWARDS, HONORS, AND PRESENTATIONS OF NOTE

Leemore Dafny
"Healthcare Provider Consolidation: Facts, Myths, and Unknowns," 14th Annual Seidman Lecture, Harvard Medical School, September 29

Steven Epstein
"Inventing Sexual Health: From Emergence to Niche Standardization," keynote, Centre for Sex, Gender, and Sexuality Summer School, Durham University, U.K., July 11

Eli Finkel
Martin J. and Patricia Koldyke Outstanding Teaching Professorship, Northwestern University; “The Suffocation of Marriage,” American Association for the Advancement of Science, Chicago, February 16; “Can Technology Bring Us True Love?” TEDxNorthwesternU, Evanston, Ill., April 12

Eszter Hargittai
Public Voices Fellowship, Northwestern University; “Differences in Internet Skills: Sources and Implications,” keynote, 9th Chais Conference, Ra’anana, Israel, February 12; “Young Adults’ Civic Engagement on Social Media,” Arnhold Symposium, Braunschweig, Germany, July 30; “The World Wise Web? The Role of Skills in How People Use the Internet,” Pockrass Lecture, Pennsylvania State University, October 6

Molly Losh
Jo Ann G. and Peter F. Dolle Professorship in Learning Disabilities, Northwestern University

Brian Mustanski
Outstanding Young Alumni Award, Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, Indiana University

Robert Nelson
“Measuring Progress/Explaining Change: Selected Findings from After the JD and LCLD Program Surveys,” plenary, Leadership Council in Legal Diversity, Phoenix, September 18

Daniel O’Keefe
“Message Generalizations That Support Evidence-Based Persuasive Message Design: Specifying the Evidentiary Requirements,” plenary, Health Communication Conference, University of Kentucky, April 10

Benjamin Page
“Effects of the Mass Media on U.S. Foreign Policy,” Zhezhang University School of Communications, Hangzhou, China, March 25

Mary Pattillo
Fellow, Straus Institute, New York University; “Race and the Politics of School Choice,” Lecture, Center for Urban Research and Public Policy, Washington University in St. Louis, October 15; “Choosing Homes, Choosing Schools: Mechanisms in the Reproduction of Educational Inequality,” presidential panel, American Educational Research Association, Philadelphia, April 4

Rachel Beatty Riedl
Public Voices Fellowship, Northwestern University; Best Book Award for Authoritarian Origins of Democratic Party Systems in Africa (Cambridge University Press, 2014), African Politics Conference Group, American Political Science Association

Terri Sabol

Max Schanzenbach
“Racial Disparities, Judge Characteristics, and Standards of Review in Sentencing,” 32nd Seminar, New Institutional Economics, Max Planck Institute, Regensburg, Germany, June 11–14

Heather Schoenfeld
Sociology of Law Distinguished Article Award, American Sociological Association, and Law and Society Association Article Prize, Honorable Mention, for “The Transformation of America’s Penal Order: A Historicized Political Sociology of Punishment” in American Journal of Sociology

Michelle Shumate
As Good as Gold: Top 4 Papers in Organizational Communication for “The Structures of Interorganizational Communication Networks,” International Communications Association, Seattle, May 23

James Spillane
Elected Fellow, National Academy of Education; “The Practice of Improvement: Designing organizational Infrastructures for Sustainable School and System Improvement,” keynote, International Congress for School Effectiveness and Improvement, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, January 3; “Distributed Leadership,” keynote, Asia Leadership Summit, University of Malaya, January 9

Seth Stein

Linda Teplin
“Psychiatric Disorders and Related Outcomes of Youth in the Juvenile Justice System: New Findings from the Northwestern Juvenile Project,” keynote, Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association Recovery Workforce Annual Summit, Baltimore, June 22; “Drug Use, Disorder, and Other Outcomes of Delinquent Youth after Detention: Key Findings from the Northwestern Juvenile Project,” seminar, National Institute on Drug Abuse, November
IPR health psychologists Edith Chen and Greg Miller wrote about the health consequences of upward mobility for lower-income children who climb the ladder against the odds in The New York Times, January 4.

IPR developmental psychologist Lindsay Chase-Lansdale was featured in an NBC News story on two-generation initiatives, and the benefits to children of parents’ continuing education, January 13.

Epidemiologist and IPR associate Mercedes Carnethon discussed her study’s evidence for the “obesity paradox” in diabetic patients in The New York Times, January 15.

In The New York Times, IPR associate and psychologist Eli Finkel described how changing expectations led to the concept of an ideal marriage requiring effort to achieve, February 14.

The Washington Post covered IPR economist Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach’s research suggesting that smaller classes improve outcomes, especially for poor and minority students, February 24.

An NPR article on Bill Clinton’s ongoing popularity referenced research by IPR political scientist Daniel Galvin, explaining how Clinton’s party-building strengths made him an anomaly, March 5.

For CNN, IPR economist Jonathan Guryan detailed his research on small-group tutoring programs for Chicago Public School students, March 12.

In The Atlantic, IPR sociologist Celeste Watkins-Hayes writes about why paying household help under the table is not a good deal for either low-income workers or their employers, March 26.

The Washington Post covered IPR economist Kirabo Jackson’s study on a program using cash incentives for Advanced Placement classes, leading to gains in program participation and standardized test scores, particularly for disadvantaged students, March 30.

Slate featured research by IPR social psychologist Jennifer Richeson and former IPR graduate research assistant Maureen Craig showing that fear of a ‘majority-minority’ nation increases whites’ endorsement of politically conservative policies and ideologies, April 9.

Morton Schapiro, IPR higher education economist and Northwestern University president, wrote in The New York Times about how to attract greater economic diversity, April 9.

Pediatrician and IPR associate Craig Garfield discussed paternal mental health with Katie Couric on her talk show, April 14.

The Daily Show’s Jon Stewart interviewed political scientist and IPR associate Benjamin Page and his co-author Martin Gilens about their recent research that suggests the wealthiest, most powerful U.S. elites shape national policymaking disproportionately, April 30.

In The Wall Street Journal, IPR economist Charles F. Manski made a case for changing how economic indicators—for example, the unemployment rate—are presented. He argues that using ranges and including error measures would be clearer, May 12.

The Los Angeles Times highlighted a study by behavioral scientist and IPR associate Linda Teplin, in which she finds delinquent youth are at risk of early violent death in adulthood, regardless of race, with females especially vulnerable, June 16.

An Economist article on how microfinance works for different populations referred to IPR development economist Lori Beaman’s study of microlending in rural Mali, June 20.

Science News featured a study led by IPR biological anthropologist Christopher Kuzawa showing that children grow slowly because their brains use massive amounts of energy, September 3.

Time magazine highlighted a blood test developed by professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences and IPR associate Eva Redei and her team for biological markers of depression, September 16.

The New York Times’ The Sunday Review featured research by IPR economists David Figlio and Jonathan Guryan, with IPR postdoctoral fellow Krzysztof Karbownik, showing the link between higher birth weights of babies and their school success, October 12.

IPR sociologist Leslie McCall’s research on people’s attitudes towards inequality appeared in a New York Times article about methods to reduce growing income inequality, November 4.

National Geographic featured oncofertility specialist and IPR associate Teresa Woodruff for her research that provides insight into gender disparity for subjects of scientific and medical research, November 7.

In The Huffington Post, IPR developmental psychobiologist Emma Adam discussed the dangers of adolescent stress and measures for reducing it, November 14.

IPR political scientist Wesley G. Skogan talked about the impact of a police training program to improve the ways that officers engage with citizens with Chicago Public Radio, December 28.
## Faculty Fellows

- **Emma Adam**, Human Development and Social Policy  
- **Lori Beaman**, Economics  
- **Lindsay Chase-Lansdale**, Human Development and Social Policy  
- **Anthony Chen**, Sociology  
- **Edith Chen**, Psychology  
- **Fay Lomax Cook**, Human Development and Social Policy (on leave)  
- **Thomas D. Cook**, Sociology, Psychology, Education and Social Policy  
- **Mesmin Destin**, Psychology, Education and Social Policy  
- **James Druckman**, Political Science (on leave)  
- **Alice Eagly**, Psychology  
- **David Figlio**, Education and Social Policy and of Economics  
- **Michael Frakes**, Law  
- **Jeremy Freese**, Sociology  
- **Daniel Galvin**, Political Science  
- **Jonathan Guryan**, Human Development and Social Policy  
- **Laurel Harbridge**, Political Science  
- **Larry Hedges**, Education and Social Policy, Statistics, and Psychology  
- **Kirabo Jackson**, Human Development and Social Policy  
- **Georgia Kernell**, Political Science  
- **Cynthia Kinnan**, Economics  
- **Christopher Kuzawa**, Anthropology  
- **Charles F. Manski**, Economics  
- **Leslie McCall**, Sociology  
- **Thomas McDade**, Anthropology  
- **Rachel Davis Mersey**, Journalism  
- **Greg Miller**, Psychology  
- **Matthew Notowidigdo**, Economics  
- **Christine Percheski**, Sociology  
- **Monica Prasad**, Sociology  
- **Lincoln Quillian**, Sociology  
- **Jennifer Richeson**, Psychology, African American Studies  
- **James Rosenbaum**, Education and Social Policy

## Faculty Associates

- **Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach**, Human Development and Social Policy  
- **Morton Schapiro**, University President; Economics, Kellogg, and Education and Social Policy  
- **Rebecca Seligman**, Anthropology  
- **Wesley G. Skogan**, Political Science  
- **Bruce Spencer**, Statistics  
- **Quincy Thomas Stewart**, Sociology  
- **Lauren Wakschlag**, Medical Social Sciences  
- **Celeste Watkins-Hayes**, Sociology, African American Studies  
- **Sandra Waxman**, Psychology  
- **Burton Weisbrod**, Economics

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### Faculty Fellows

- **Henry Binford**, History  
- **Bernard Black**, Finance, Law  
- **Pablo Boczkowski**, Communication Studies  
- **Ann Borders**, Medical Social Sciences  
- **Traci Burch**, Political Science  
- **Mercedes Carnethon**, Preventive Medicine  
- **Héctor Carrillo**, Sociology  
- **Jenifer Cartland**, Pediatrics  
- **David Cella**, Medical Social Sciences  
- **Carolyn Chen**, Sociology, Asian American Studies  
- **Cynthia Coburn**, Human Development and Social Policy  
- **Jeannette Colyvas**, Human Development and Social Policy, Learning Sciences  
- **Leemore Dafny**, Management and Strategy  
- **David Dana**, Law  
- **Shari Seidman Diamond**, Law  
- **Jack Doppelt**, Journalism  
- **David Dranove**, Management and Strategy  
- **Stephanie Edgerly**, Journalism  
- **Steven Epstein**, Sociology  
- **Joseph Ferrie**, Economics  
- **Eli Finkel**, Psychology  
- **William Funk**, Preventive Medicine
Craig Garfield, Pediatrics
Loren Ghiglione, Journalism
Shane Greenstein, Management and Strategy
Claudia Haase, Human Development and Social Policy
John Hagan, Sociology, Law
Eszter Hargittai, Communication Studies
Barton Hirsch, Human Development and Social Policy
Paul Hirsch, Management and Organizations
Jane Holl, Pediatrics
Simone Ispa-Landa, Human Development and Social Policy
Seema Jayachandran, Economics (on leave)
Craig LaMay, Journalism
Carol Lee, Education and Social Policy, Learning Sciences
Donna Leff, Journalism
Dan Lewis, Human Development and Social Policy
Lee Lockwood, Economics
Molly Losh, Communication Sciences and Disorders
Michael Mazzeo, Management and Strategy
Therese McGuire, Management and Strategy
Brian Melzer, Finance
Brian Mustanski, Medical Social Sciences
Robert Nelson, Sociology
Daniel O’Keefe, Communication Studies
Thomas Ogorzalek, Political Science
Ann Orloff, Sociology
Benjamin Page, Political Science
Mary Pattillo, Sociology, African American Studies
Frank Penedo, Medical Social Sciences
Penelope Peterson, Human Development, Social Policy, Learning Sciences; Dean of the School of Education and Social Policy
Robert Porter, Economics
Yi Qian, Marketing
Eva Redei, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
Rachel Beatty Riedl, Political Science
Lauren Rivera, Management and Organizations
Andrew Roberts, Political Science
Daniel Rodriguez, Law, and Dean of the School of Law
William Rogerson, Economics
Leonard Rubinowitz, Law
Terri Sabol, Human Development and Social Policy
Max Schanzenbach, Law
Heather Schoenfeld, Human Development and Social Policy
Madeleine Shalowitz, Institute for Healthcare Studies
Aaron Shaw, Communication Studies
Michelle Shumate, Communication Studies
Karrie Ann Snyder, Sociology
James Spillane, Education and Social Policy, Learning Sciences
Seth Stein, Earth and Planetary Sciences
Linda Teplin, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
Susan Thistle, Sociology
Brian Uzzi, Management and Organizations
Ellen Wartella, Communication Studies
Charles Whitaker, Journalism
Teresa Woodruff, Obstetrics and Gynecology

Adjunct Faculty and Faculty Emeriti

Dennis Chong, University of Southern California
Greg Duncan, University of California, Irvine
John Heinz, Law*
John McKnight, Communication Studies*
Michelle Reininger, Stanford University
*Faculty Emeriti

Executive Committee

Anthony Chen, Sociology
Edith Chen, Psychology
James Druckman, Political Science
David Figlio, Education and Social Policy
Jonathan Guryan, Human Development and Social Policy
Christopher Kuzawa, Anthropology
Thomas McDade, Anthropology
Jennifer Richeson, Psychology
Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach, Education and Social Policy
Bruce Spencer, Statistics
Administration

David Figlio, Director
James Druckman, Associate Director
Eric Betzold, Business Director
Patricia Reese, Communications Director

Administrative Staff

Arlene Dattels, Accounting Assistant
Ellen Dunleavy, Office Assistant
Lena Henderson, Finance and Administration Coordinator
Cynthia Kendall, Assistant to the Director
Melanie Kruvelis, Assistant Editor
Sara Kupper, Assistant Editor
Audrey McLain, Assistant Editor*
Amy Weiss, Assistant Editor*
Beverly Zack, Program Assistant

Research Associates and Scholars

Evelyn Asch, Prizes’ Impact on Minority Students’ Entry into Biomedical Research Careers
Ummul Kathawalla, Two-Generation Education Initiative
Absera Melaku, Two-Generation Education Initiative
Paki Reid-Brossard, Designing Evaluation Studies Project
Teresa Eckrich Sommer, Two-Generation Education Initiative

Research Staff

Devika Basu, Foundations of Health Research Center
Zena Ellison, The Generalizability of Findings from Education Evaluations
Robin Hayen, Foundations of Health Research Center
Jungwha Ham, Foundations of Health Research Center
Adam Leigh, Foundations of Health Research Center
Valerie Lyne, Center for Improving Methods for Quantitative Policy Research (Q-Center)
Aaron Miller, Laboratory for Human Biology Research

Cheng Yen Ng, College-to-Careers Project
Rebecca Weiland, Foundations of Health Research Center

Visiting Scholars

Elizabeth Oltmans Ananat, Duke University
Rob Greenwald, Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness
Morten Visby Kraegpoeth, Aarhus University (Denmark)

Postdoctoral Fellows

Elise Chor, Two-Generation Education Initiative; Adviser: Lindsay Chase-Lansdale
Katherine Ehrlich, Biological Embedding of Early-Life Socioeconomic Status (SES); Advisers: Emma Adam and Greg Miller
Cari Hennessy, Procedural Justice and Policing; Adviser: Wesley G. Skogan
Camelia Hostinar, Biological Embedding of Early-Life SES; Adviser: Greg Miller
Krzysztof Karbownik, Neonatal Health and Cognitive Development; Adviser: David Figlio

Graduate Research Assistants

Rayane Alamuddin, Human Development and Social Policy
Kelly Iwanaga Becker, Sociology
Sarah Cannon, Human Development and Social Policy
Wendy Chan, Statistics
Stephanie Chapman, Economics
Fiona Chin, Sociology
Janjala Chirakijja, Economics
Katie Dahlke, Human Development and Social Policy
Sean Diament, Political Science
Cynthia (CC) DuBois, Human Development and Social Policy
Jennifer (Jenni) Heissel, Human Development and Social Policy

*No longer with IPR.
Colloquia Stimulate Interdisciplinary Discussion and Collaboration

IPR sociologist Anthony Chen introduces IPR social demographer Christine Percheski.
Faculty Put Their Research into Context for the Public

IPR media scholar Rachel Davis Mersey (center) addresses millennials’ media use as part of a panel on the 2014 midterm elections with IPR political scientists Daniel Galvin and Laurel Harbridge.
Designing Evidence-Based Programs for Parents and Children

At a research briefing, IPR developmental psychologist Lindsay Chase-Lansdale (right) and research associate professor Teresa Eckrich Sommer prepare to discuss two-generation interventions.
IPR COMMUNITY OF SCHOLARS AND STAFF

Ole Hexel, Sociology
Yu-Han Jao, Sociology
Stuart Jenkins, Human Development and Social Policy
Rachel Ktsanes, Statistics
Arend Kuyper, Statistics
Ijun Lai, Human Development and Social Policy
Jennifer (Jiffy) Lansing, Human Development and Social Policy
Alexey Makarin, Economics
Kimberly McCabe, Anthropology
Mollie McQuillan, Human Development and Social Policy
Jess Meyer, Sociology
Rachel Moskowitz, Political Science
Claudia Persico, Human Development and Social Policy
David Peterson, Sociology
Meghan Quinn, Psychology
Emily Ross, Human Development and Social Policy
Kharah Ross, Psychology
Zachary Seeskin, Statistics
Richard Shafranek, Political Science
Wangqing (Sandy) Shan, Political Science
Mary Clair Turner, Human Development and Social Policy
Claudia Zapata-Gietl, Human Development and Social Policy

Summer Undergraduate Research Assistants

Katharine Anderson, Psychology, Film Studies, MMSS*
Mark Davis, Radio, Television, Film; Psychology
Abigail Durgan, Human Development and Social Policy
Alexandria Fredendall, Political Science, Mathematics
Jeffrey Hong, Mathematics, Economics, MMSS*
Leo Hu, Economics
Shih-Yung Huang, Economics, Mathematics, Psychology
Zong Huang, Sociology
Sombreuil Hubbard, Communication Studies, Integrated Marketing and Communications

Thomas Hulley, Social Policy, Legal Studies
Jeffrey Kim, Industrial Engineering, Economics
Jessica Lee, Mathematics, French
Annabel Liou, Economics, Social Policy
Camille Liu, Economics, Music Performance
Bianca Maria Marin, Psychology
Kathleen McAuliffe, Psychology
Benjamin Menashe, SESP
Valerie Nubbe, Environmental Science and Engineering
Megan Olsen, Communication Studies, Psychology
Oluwaseun Ososami, Political Science, International Studies
Mayank Parikh, Social Policy, Political Science
Rachel Riemenschneider, Political Science, International Studies
Allison Rubenstein, Political Science
Andrew Ruth, Mathematics, Economics, MMSS*
Carol Shou, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences
Noah Star, Political Science, History
Matthew Steinberg, MMSS*
Alexi Stocker, History, Economics
Nicholas Wang, Anthropology
Xiwen Wang, Political Science, MMSS*
Rachel Weingart, Anthropology
Samuel Wylde, Political Science, Economics
Yuki Zou, Economics, Sociology, MMSS*

*A group of IPR’s 2014 Summer Undergraduate Research Assistants pose with IPR Director David Figlio and IPR education researcher and SURA program director James Rosenbaum.
## Foundations and Organizations

**Ascend at the Aspen Institute**  
Developing a Two-Generation Program in Evanston, Ill.;  
Mobilizing Social Networks in Early Childhood Education Centers: A Pilot Study, Lindsay Chase-Lansdale

**Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**  
Secondary and Postsecondary Pathways to Labor Market Success: A Research Program to Improve Policy and Practice,* David Figlio

**Carnegie Corporation of New York**  
Learning Infrastructure for 100Kin10,* Kirabo Jackson

**S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation**  
Learning Infrastructure for 100Kin10,* Kirabo Jackson

**Everett McKinley Dirksen Endowment Fund**  
The Role of Gender in Legislative Compromise, Laurel Harbridge

**Foundation for Child Development**  
Community Action Project of Tulsa (CAP) Family Life Study Extension: Evaluation of a Model Dual-Generation Program, Lindsay Chase-Lansdale

**GRACE**  
Partnership to End Poverty in America, Dan Lewis

**John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation**  
Chicago Community Policing Survey, Wesley Skogan  
Police Reform in 21st Century Chicago, Wesley Skogan

**Joyce Foundation**  
Police Reform in 21st Century Chicago, Wesley Skogan

**One Million Degrees**  
Supporting Urban Community College Student Success: An Implementation Study of Comprehensive Support Programming, James Rosenbaum

**Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**  

**Russell Sage Foundation**  
Public Views of Inequality, Opportunity, and Redistribution: Evidence from Media Coverage and Experimental Inquiry, Leslie McCall  
Understanding Food Insecurity During the Great Recession, Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach

**Smith Richardson Foundation**  
Exploring Linkages Between Postsecondary School and Labor Market Success, and The Consequences of Tenure Reform,* David Figlio

Reducing Juvenile Delinquency by Building Noncognitive Skills: Experimental Evidence, Jonathan Guryan  
The Social Distribution of Academic Achievement in America, Larry Hedges

**Spencer Foundation**  
The Effect of Single-Sex Education on Academic Achievement, Sociobehavioral Outcomes, and STEM Participation in Middle School, Kirabo Jackson  
After Completion: The Dynamics of Career-Entry from Public and Private Two-Year Colleges, James Rosenbaum  
High School Procedures for Creating College-for-All, James Rosenbaum  
School Finance Reform and the Distribution of Student Achievement, Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach

**W.K. Kellogg Foundation**  
CareerAdvance®: A Dual Generation Program’s Effects on Families and Children, Lindsay Chase-Lansdale

**William T. Grant Foundation**  
Preventing Truancy and Dropout: A Mixed-Methods Study of an Experimental Intervention in Chicago Public Schools, Jonathan Guryan

## Government Agencies

**National Institutes of Health**  
**Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development**  
A Randomized Study to Abate Truancy and Violence in Grades 3–9, Jonathan Guryan  
Modeling the Developmental Origins of Adult Risk Factors,* Christopher Kuzawa  
Pathways Linking Social Disparities, Inflammation, and Health Across Generations, Thomas McDade  
Biological Embedding of Early-Life Socioeconomic Status (SES), Greg Miller  
Rural African American Young Adults’ Pathways to Psychosocial and Physical Health,* Greg Miller

**Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service (Postdoctoral) Awards**  
Intersecting Roles of Parents and Early Education in Promoting Child Learning, Terri Sabol/Lindsay Chase-Lansdale  
Parents’ Dense and Supportive Social Networks Facilitate Children’s Health, Cynthia Levine/Edith Chen  
Adolescent Social Relationships and Immune, Endocrine, and Metabolic Processes, Katherine Ehrlich/Greg Miller  
Self-Regulation as a Health-Protective Factor in Adverse Socioeconomic Conditions, Camelia Hostinar/Greg Miller
FUNDING ORGANIZATIONS AND PROJECTS

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
Multilevel Understanding of Social Contributors to SES Disparities in Asthma, Edith Chen
Childhood Origins of Disparities in Coronary Heart Disease: Neural and Immune Pathways, Greg Miller

National Institute on Aging
Probabilistic Thinking and Economic Behavior,* Charles Manski
Multidimensional Pathways to Healthy Aging Among Filipino Women,* Thomas McDade

National Institute of Drug Abuse
Vulnerability to Drug Use and HIV: Advancing Prevention for Rural African Americans,* Greg Miller

National Institute of General Medical Sciences
Why Do Research Prizes Have Effects on Minorities’ Biomedical Research Careers? Larry Hedges

National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities
The Price of Debt: The Unequal Burden of Financial Debt and Its Impact on Health,* Thomas McDade

National Institute on Drug Abuse
Vulnerability to Drug Use and HIV: Advancing Prevention for Rural African Americans,* Greg Miller

National Institute of General Medical Sciences
Why Do Research Prizes Have Effects on Minorities’ Biomedical Research Careers? Larry Hedges

National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities
The Price of Debt: The Unequal Burden of Financial Debt and Its Impact on Health,* Thomas McDade

National Science Foundation
Findings from Empirical Within-Study Comparisons on Pretest and Proxy-Pretest Roles in Adjusting for Selection Bias in STEM Quasi-Experiments, Thomas Cook
Collaborative Research: Using Web Data to Study U.S. Congressional Campaigns and Representation, James Druckman and Jeremy Freese
Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (TESS), James Druckman
Collaborative Research: Leveraging Matched Administrative Datasets to Improve Educational Practice and Long-Run Life Outcomes: Building a National Interdisciplinary Network, David Figlio
Center for Advancing Research and Communication in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (ARC),* Larry Hedges
Improving the Generalizability of Findings from Educational Evaluations, Larry Hedges
The Effect of School Finance Reforms on the Distribution of Spending, Academic Achievement and Adult Outcomes, Kirabo Jackson
Longitudinal Study of Human Male Reproductive Ecology: Biological and Behavioral Responses to Changing Social Roles and Impacts on Offspring and Relationship Quality, Christopher Kuzawa
Early Environments, Epigenetics, and Inflammation During Pregnancy, Thomas McDade
Fostering Positive Interracial Interactions, Jennifer Richeson

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Credit Access and Supermarket Consumption Amongst the Liquidity Constrained; New Evidence on Why Children’s Food Security Varies Across Households with Similar Incomes,* Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach

U.S. Department of Education
Project READS: Using Data to promote Summer Reading and Close the Achievement Gap for Low-SES Students in North Carolina,* Jonathan Guryan

Institute of Education Sciences
Annual Workshops on Better Quasi-Experimental Design and Analysis, Thomas Cook
Validation of the Effectiveness of an Innovative Early Mathematics Intervention for High-Need Students: An Evaluation,* Thomas Cook
National Center for Analysis of Longitudinal Data in Education Research (CALDER),* David Figlio
Prevention of Truancy in Urban Schools Through Provision of Social Services by Truancy Officers: A Goal 3 Randomized Efficacy Trial, Jonathan Guryan
A Summer Cluster-Randomized Trial (CRT) Training Institute for Established Researchers,* Larry Hedges
Continuing Support for the Development of the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness, Larry Hedges
Postdoctoral Research Training Fellowship in Education Sciences, Larry Hedges
Proposal for a CRT Training Institute, Larry Hedges
State-Specific Design Parameters for Designing Better Evaluation Studies,* Larry Hedges

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
CareerAdvance®: A Dual-Generation Program’s Effects on Families and Children; and CareerAdvance® (Community Action Project of Tulsa County, Inc.),* Lindsay Chase-Lansdale
Expanding the Cycle of Opportunity: Simultaneously Educating Parents and Children in Head Start,* Lindsay Chase-Lansdale

*Census Bureau Data Programs as Statistical Decision Problems, Bruce Spencer

CAREER Awards
Social Networks, Labor Markets, and Agricultural Technology Adoption in Developing Countries, Lori Beaman
Tax Progressivity and American Political Economy, Monica Prasad
Resource Attainment and Social Context in Negotiating Illness Among Marginalized Populations, Celeste Watkins-Hayes

*Indicates a subaward.
IPR RESOURCES AND SNAPSHOT

ONLINE RESOURCES

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IPR’s website is a rich depository of information and resources for researchers, policymakers, media, and the public, containing:

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- Profiles of IPR faculty and their research
- Articles on faculty research findings
- Video, audio, and slide presentations from IPR events and workshops
- Media coverage of the Institute and its faculty
- Links to affiliated centers and programs
- Calendar of IPR colloquia, workshops, and other events

IPR MISSION AND SNAPSHOT

“At the mission of the Institute for Policy Research is to stimulate and support excellent social science research on significant public policy issues and to disseminate the findings widely—to students, scholars, policymakers, and the public.”

42 Faculty Fellows
78 Faculty Associates and Adjuncts
7 Postdoctoral Fellows
33 Graduate Research Assistants
33 Undergraduate Research Assistants
70 Active Grants in 2014

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- IPR Fay Lomax Cook Monday Colloquium Series
- Seminars on Performance Measurement & Rewards
- Q-Center Colloquia and Events
- Cells to Society (C2S) Colloquia and Events

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IPR associate and geophysicist Seth Stein examines flood policy and insurance issues with University of Munich students on the banks of the Isar River in Germany.