



# IPR@50

**The Next 50 Years  
of Policy Research**

Conference Program

June 6–7, 2019

IPR thanks its IPR@50 Faculty Committee

**Laurel Harbridge-Yong**, Co-Chair

**Kirabo Jackson**, Co-Chair

**Anthony Chen**, Member

**Rebecca Seligman**, Member

**Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach**, Ex-Officio

**James Druckman**, Ex-Officio

as well as its staff

for organizing this conference.

# IPR@50

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Research **Excellence** • Policy **Impact**

## Our Mission

*The Institute for Policy Research (IPR) is an interdisciplinary public policy research institute founded in 1968 at Northwestern University. Our mission 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.*

## Celebrating 50 Years

For 50 years, faculty researchers from IPR have applied rigorous methods to vital social issues in many disciplines, including anthropology, education, economics, human development, political science, psychology, sociology, and statistics. IPR is an interdisciplinary home for scholars to collaborate and innovate. Their scholarly findings are disseminated widely to impact policy and improve our world.

Among the first university-based policy research institutes in the country, IPR fosters a unique intellectual community that pushes its scholars toward creative, original, and broad thinking about current—and future—social policy challenges and opportunities.

# IPR@50 Program

Thursday, June 6, 2019

## Welcome to IPR@50 Conference

1:00–1:15 p.m. | Hardin Hall | p. 5

- **Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach**, Margaret Walker Alexander Professor and IPR Director and Fellow, Northwestern University
- **Morton Schapiro**, President, Professor, and IPR Fellow, Northwestern University
- **Jonathan Holloway**, Provost and Professor, Northwestern University

## Neighborhood Inequality: What Does the Research Tell Us?

1:15–2:30 p.m. | Hardin Hall | p. 6

Inequality is pervasive and persistent, intersecting with issues of race, education, housing, and social status—to name but a few. In this panel, IPR experts will examine research on how neighborhood inequality plays out in studies of crime and policing, schools and institutions, and health and well-being.

- **Jonathan Guryan**, Professor of Human Development and Social Policy and IPR Fellow
- **Andrew Papachristos**, Professor of Sociology and IPR Fellow
- **Celeste Watkins-Hayes**, Professor of Sociology and African American Studies, Associate Vice President for Research, and IPR Fellow
- **Odette Yousef**, Reporter, WBEZ (Moderator)

## Causes and Consequences of Government Spending

2:45–4:00 p.m. | Hardin Hall | p. 7

How does government spending reflect a society's priorities and values? In this panel, IPR experts will discuss how government spending has changed over time, considering where and how effectively taxpayer dollars are spent, as well as public support and future trends for such spending.

- **Kirabo Jackson**, Professor of Human Development and Social Policy and IPR Fellow
- **Matthew Notowidigdo**, Associate Professor of Economics and IPR Fellow
- **Monica Prasad**, Professor of Sociology and IPR Fellow
- **Sarah Karp**, Reporter, WBEZ (Moderator)

## IPR@50 Distinguished Policy Lecture: “Evictions in America”

4:30–5:45 p.m. | McCormick Foundation Center Forum | p. 8

- **Matthew Desmond**, Maurice P. Daring Professor of Sociology, Princeton University  
*Reception following.*

**Friday, June 7, 2019**

## **Reconvene IPR@50 Conference**

9:00–9:05 a.m. | Hardin Hall | p. 5

- **Jay Walsh**, Vice President for Research and Professor, Northwestern University

## **Community Partnerships Produce Better Services and Research**

9:05–10:15 a.m. | Hardin Hall | p. 9

On this panel, our experts will explore the benefits and challenges of community partnerships, detailing the importance of working with communities that research organizations hope to serve when developing interventions. In reflecting on such partnerships, panelists will discuss their potential for success and offer takeaways from their experiences.

- **Lori Beaman**, Associate Professor of Economics and IPR Fellow
- **Lindsay Chase-Lansdale**, Frances Willard Professor of Human Development and Social Policy, Vice Provost for Academics, and IPR Fellow
- **David Figlio**, Orrington Lunt Professor, Dean of the School of Education and Social Policy, and IPR Fellow
- **Penny Bender Sebring**, Co-Founder and Senior Research Associate, University of Chicago Consortium on School Research
- **Paul Goren**, Superintendent, Evanston/Skokie School District 65 (Moderator)

## **Breakthroughs in Policy Measurement**

10:30–11:45 a.m. | Hardin Hall | p. 10

In this panel, IPR experts will explore the role of measurement in policymaking. In particular, it will address some of the challenges to defining and obtaining good measures, discuss how measures can be used—as well as their limitations—and examine the value of measurement to policy and society.

- **Emma Adam**, Professor of Human Development and Social Policy and IPR Fellow
- **Bruce Spencer**, Professor of Statistics and IPR Fellow
- **Burton Weisbrod**, Cardiss Collins Professor of Economics and IPR Fellow
- **Sera Young**, Assistant Professor of Anthropology and IPR Fellow
- **Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach**, Margaret Walker Alexander Professor and IPR Director and Fellow (Moderator)

*Continued on p. 4*

**Lunch**

11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m. | Hardin Hall

**From Cells to Society: How Experience Becomes Biology**

12:45–2:00 p.m. | Hardin Hall | p. 11

How do social, economic, and cultural contexts “get under the skin” and affect human health and cognition? These IPR experts will examine how social and biological environments—from the earliest moments of life and even across generations—can affect people’s outcomes and well-being throughout their lives.

- **Edith Chen**, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Chair of Psychology and IPR Fellow
- **Christopher Kuzawa**, Professor of Anthropology and IPR Fellow
- **Thomas McDade**, Carlos Montezuma Professor of Anthropology and IPR Fellow
- **Greg Miller**, Louis W. Menk Professor of Psychology and IPR Fellow (Moderator)

**American Democracy and Its Discontents:  
What Ails Our Politics and What to Do About It**

2:15–3:30 p.m. | Hardin Hall | p. 12

Polls and pundits seem to indicate that Americans have never been as divided as they are now, but are they really? These experts will discuss perceptions and misperceptions around polarization in terms of media, politics, identity, and demographics—and explore where we can go from here.

- **James Druckman**, Payson S. Wild Professor of Political Science and IPR Associate Director and Fellow
- **Laurel Harbridge-Yong**, Associate Professor of Political Science and IPR Fellow
- **Rachel Davis Mersey**, Associate Professor of Journalism and IPR Fellow
- **Jennifer Richeson**, Philip R. Allen Professor of Psychology, Yale University
- **Peter Slevin**, Associate Professor of Journalism (Moderator)

**Closing Remarks and IPR Founders’ Reception**

3:30 p.m. | Hardin Hall | p. 13

*All are invited to the reception that will immediately follow closing remarks.*

## Welcome



**Morton Schapiro** began his term as Northwestern University's 16th President in 2009. He is a Professor of Economics, an IPR Fellow, and one of the nation's leading authorities on the economics of higher education, with expertise in college financing, affordability, and trends in educational costs and student aid. He has written or edited nine books and over 100 articles. He has received research grants and contracts from numerous foundations and boards. He is a member of the National Academy of Education and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

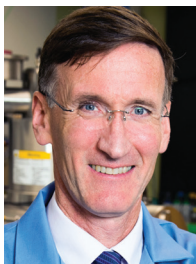


**Jonathan Holloway** is Provost of Northwestern University and Professor of History and African American Studies. Holloway specializes in post-emancipation U.S. history with a focus on social and intellectual history. Before moving to Northwestern, he was the Dean of Yale College. Holloway serves on boards of the Chicago Botanic Society, Illinois Humanities, the National Humanities Alliance, the Society for United States Intellectual History, and the Organization of American Historians.



**Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach** is the Margaret Walker Alexander Professor and IPR Director and Fellow. She is an economist who studies policies aimed at improving the lives of children in poverty, including education, health, and income support policies. From 2015–17, Schanzenbach was Director of the Hamilton Project at the Brookings Institution and has testified before both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives on her research. She is a member of the National Academy of Education.

## Reconvene



**Jay Walsh** has been Northwestern University's Vice President for Research since 2007, overseeing a multifaceted team that supports the institutional research ecosystem. Under his leadership, Northwestern Research has made key contributions to the development and support of core research facilities and the 50+ University research institutes and centers. As a researcher, his work on laser-tissue interactions has framed understanding of laser ablation. More recently, his research has focused on the diagnostic and therapeutic applications of light.

# IPR@50 Panelists and Moderators

## Neighborhood Inequality: What Does the Research Tell Us?



**Jonathan Guryan** is Professor of Human Development and Social Policy and an IPR Fellow. He is also Chair of IPR's Program on Education Policy. An economist, he studies various topics, including racial inequality, skill and human capital development, and youth violence. He also co-directs the Education Lab, which partners with civic and community leaders to identify, rigorously evaluate, and scale programs to improve education in distressed, urban neighborhoods.



**Andrew Papachristos** is Professor of Sociology and an IPR Fellow. His research aims to understand how the connected nature of cities—how their citizens, neighborhoods, and institutions are tied to one another—affects what we feel, think, and do. His main research area applies network science to the study of gun violence, police misconduct, illegal gun markets, street gangs, and urban neighborhoods. He is completing a book on black street gangs and Chicago politics.



**Celeste Watkins-Hayes** is Professor of Sociology and African American Studies, Associate Vice President for Research, and an IPR Fellow. She conducts research on urban poverty, social policy, HIV/AIDS, formal organizations (nonprofit and government), and race, class, and gender. Watkins-Hayes' new book, *Remaking a Life: How Women Living with HIV/AIDS Confront Inequality* (University of Chicago Press), will be published this summer.



**Odette Yousef** (moderator) is a WBEZ reporter covering immigration, race, and class. Since joining the station in 2010, she has covered a range of stories including local and state efforts around immigration policy, DREAMers, and the impact of travel bans on Muslim Americans and refugees. She has also delved into homelessness in Chicago, with stories about tent cities and the disappearance of affordable housing.



## Causes and Consequences of Government Spending



**Kirabo Jackson** is Professor of Human Development and Social Policy and an IPR Fellow. He is a labor economist who studies education and social policy issues. He has analyzed several important aspects of education policy, such as the importance of public school funding on student outcomes through adulthood, the effects of college preparatory programs on students' college and labor market outcomes, and the effects of educational tracking on students' academic achievement.



**Matthew Notowidigdo** is Associate Professor of Economics and an IPR Fellow. An applied microeconomist, he studies a broad set of labor and health topics using a variety of empirical approaches. In labor economics, his research has focused on understanding the causes and consequences of unemployment duration dependence (state dependence in unemployment), the incidence of local labor demand shocks, and the economic effects of unemployment insurance over the business cycle.



**Monica Prasad** is Professor of Sociology and an IPR Fellow. Her areas of interest are economic sociology, comparative historical sociology, and political sociology. Her new book, *Starving the Beast* (Russell Sage Foundation, 2019), asks why Republican politicians have focused on cutting taxes over the last several decades. Drawing on archival documents, Prasad traces the history of the 1981 "supply side" tax cut, which became the cornerstone for several decades of Republican economic policy.



**Sarah Karp** (moderator) is a WBEZ reporter. A former reporter for Catalyst-Chicago, the Chicago Reporter, and the Daily Southtown, Karp has covered education and children and family issues for more than 15 years. She is a graduate of the University of Missouri School of Journalism. She has won five Education Writers Association awards, three Society of Professional Journalism awards, and the 2005 Sidney Hillman Award.



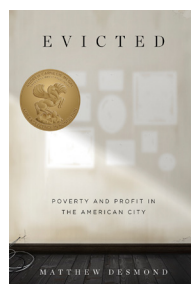
## “Evictions in America”

Thursday, June 6, 2019

4:30–5:45 p.m.

*Please note the location has changed to:*  
**McCormick Foundation Center Forum**  
**1870 Campus Drive, Evanston Campus**

Sociologist Matthew Desmond’s initial deep dive into evictions in Milwaukee led to a 2016 bestseller, the Pulitzer Prize-winning “Evicted,” in which he illustrated the profound connections between landlords, tenants, sheriffs and judges. In this lecture, Desmond will preview some of the latest results from his Eviction Lab, where researchers have gathered more than 80 million court records from across the country, painstakingly assembling, cleaning, and processing data to create the first-ever national database of eviction records.



**Matthew Desmond** is the Maurice P. During Professor of Sociology at Princeton University. He is the author of four books, including *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* (2016), which won the Pulitzer Prize, National Book Critics Circle Award, Carnegie Medal, and the PEN/John Kenneth Galbraith Award for Nonfiction. The principal investigator of *The Eviction Lab*, Desmond’s research focuses on poverty in America, city life, housing insecurity, public policy, racial inequality, and ethnography. He is the recipient of a MacArthur “Genius” Fellowship, the American Bar Association’s Silver Gavel Award and the William Julius Wilson Early Career Award.

## Community Partnerships Produce Better Services and Research



**Lori Beaman** is Associate Professor of Economics and an IPR Fellow. A development economist, her research centers on two main themes: First, she examines how social networks affect economic decision making, particularly the dissemination of information in the labor market and agriculture, in the U.S. and developing countries. Second, she studies constraints on women's participation in the economy and in politics.



**Lindsay Chase-Lansdale** is the Frances Willard Professor of Human Development and Social Policy, Vice Provost for Academics, and an IPR Fellow. She is an expert on the interface between research and social policy for children and families and is evaluating two-generation programs that seek to educate low-income parents and their children. She is the first developmental psychologist to be tenured in a U.S. public policy school.



**David Figlio** is the Orrington Lunt Professor of Education and Social Policy and of Economics, Dean of the School of Education and Social Policy (SESP), and an IPR Fellow. He directed IPR from 2012–17. He is an education economist who conducts research on a wide range of education and health policy issues. His current research projects involve studying the interrelationship between health and education.



**Penny Bender Sebring** is Co-Founder and Senior Research Associate at the University of Chicago Consortium on School Research. She co-authored *Organizing Schools for Improvement: Lessons from Chicago* (University of Chicago Press, 2010). The research in this book is the empirical foundation for Illinois' 5Essentials Survey on school improvement. She received her PhD from Northwestern, received its Alumni Merit Award, and serves on SESP's Advisory Board.



**Paul Goren** (moderator) is Superintendent of the Evanston/Skokie School District 65. Prior, Goren served as Senior Vice President at the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning. Previously, he served as Chicago Public Schools' Interim Chief for Strategy and Accountability while working as Executive Director of the Consortium on School Research, and as Senior Vice President at the Spencer Foundation.

## Breakthroughs in Policy Measurement



**Emma Adam** is Professor of Human Development and Social Policy and an IPR Fellow. A developmental psychobiologist, she studies how everyday contexts and experiences influence levels of perceived and biological stress in children, adolescents, and young adults. Her work traces how stress disparities contribute to disparities in health and academic outcomes, exploring how interventions can reduce stress disparities and bolster outcomes.



**Bruce Spencer** is Professor of Statistics and an IPR Fellow. His interests span statistics and public policy, with a special focus on the design and evaluation of large-scale statistical data programs. He is currently conducting a cost-benefit analysis for the 2020 Census. In 2013, he designed and conducted a cost-benefit analysis for South Africa's statistical agency to help it decide whether to conduct a population census in 2016.



**Burton Weisbrod** is the Cardiss Collins Professor of Economics, Chair of IPR's Program on Performance Measurement and Rewards, an IPR Fellow, and a former IPR Director (1990–95). He has written or edited 16 books and authored nearly 200 articles on the economics and public policy analysis of nonprofit organizations, education, health, research and technological change in healthcare, and benefit-cost evaluations.



**Sera Young** is Assistant Professor of Anthropology and an IPR Fellow. Her work focuses on reducing maternal and child undernutrition in areas with low resources, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. Methodologically, she draws on her training in medical anthropology and international nutrition. She is currently developing the first cross-culturally validated scale of water insecurity. She was recently named a Carnegie Fellow.



**Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach** (moderator) is the Margaret Walker Alexander Professor and IPR Director and Fellow. She is an economist who studies policies aimed at improving the lives of children in poverty, including education, health, and income support policies. From 2015–17, Schanzenbach was Director of the Hamilton Project at the Brookings Institution and has testified before both the Senate and House of Representatives on her work.

## From Cells to Society: How Experience Becomes Biology



**Edith Chen** is the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Chair, Professor of Psychology, and an IPR Fellow. Her research seeks to understand why poverty is associated with poor physical health in children, with a focus on the psychological and biological mechanisms that explain these relationships. She is also interested in human resilience—or why some children who come from adversity manage to thrive and maintain good health.



**Christopher Kuzawa** is Professor of Anthropology and an IPR Fellow. As a biological anthropologist with training in epidemiology, Kuzawa's research focuses on the role that the intrauterine and early postnatal environments have on development and long-term health. He is an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences.



**Thomas McDade** is the Carlos Montezuma Professor of Anthropology, Director of IPR's Cells to Society: The Center on Social Disparities and Health, and an IPR Fellow. A biological anthropologist, McDade conducts research on how experience becomes biology. Much of this work focuses on the long-term effects of early environments and the integration of biological measures into population-based, social science research.



**Greg Miller** (moderator) is the Louis W. Menk Professor of Psychology and an IPR Fellow. His research focuses on how stress affects health, especially early-life stressors related to poverty and how they might reverberate across the life span to influence disease risks. To study this, he co-directs the Foundations of Health Research Center with Edith Chen that brings together theories and methods from across the behavioral and biomedical sciences.



## American Democracy and Its Discontents: What Ails Our Politics and What to Do About It



**James Druckman** is the Payson S. Wild Professor of Political Science and IPR Associate Director and Fellow. His research focuses on political preference formation and communication. His work examines how citizens make political, economic, and social decisions in various different contexts, such as settings with multiple competing messages, online information, and deliberation.



**Laurel Harbridge-Yong** is Associate Professor of Political Science and an IPR Fellow. Her work focuses on how elections, institutions, and policy are connected in the United States Congress. Her book, *Is Bipartisanship Dead? Policy Agreement and Agenda-Setting in the House of Representatives* (Cambridge University Press, 2015), explores declining bipartisan cooperation in Congress, including changes in party strategy.



**Rachel Davis Mersey** is Associate Professor of Journalism, Chair of IPR's Program on Politics, Institutions, and Public Policy, and an IPR Fellow. Her work examines the influence of digital media on community-building, identity salience and media use, and audiences and their information needs. She is currently working on studies investigating the role of 360-degree video, augmented reality, and virtual reality on audience engagement.



**Jennifer Richeson** is the Philip R. Allen Professor of Psychology at Yale University and an IPR Faculty Adjunct. Her research examines multiple psychological phenomena related to cultural diversity. Her work generally concerns the ways in which sociocultural group memberships such as race, gender, and socioeconomic status have an impact on the way people think, feel, and behave, especially during interactions with members of different groups.



**Peter Slevin** (moderator) is Associate Professor of Journalism at Northwestern University. He spent a decade on the Washington Post's national staff and currently writes for The New Yorker. He teaches on politics and the media, world affairs, and reporting. His career as a reporter has taken him around the country and the globe, covering events and personalities of every description.



## *Founders' Reception*

To celebrate its founding directors and researchers, the Institute for Policy Research invites you to its Founders' Reception immediately following the closing remarks of the IPR@50 Conference.

**Friday, June 7, 2019  
Hardin Hall  
3:30 p.m.**

# Northwestern | INSTITUTE FOR POLICY RESEARCH

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE • POLICY IMPACT

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