



MPRC MARYLAND POPULATION RESEARCH CENTER

Fall 2026

Newsletter

Volume 19, Issue 1

New Faculty Associates

Sarah Peitzmeier, Associate Professor of Behavioral and Community Health,



researches gender-based violence, with a particular focus on LGBTQ+ communities and campus sexual assault prevention. Her work examines the causes, experiences, and consequences of violence and seeks to identify effective strategies for prevention and intervention.

Chinyere Osuji, Associate Professor of African American and Africana Studies,

researches race and migration in both domestic and international contexts, with a particular focus on Africans and Afro-descendants around the world. Her work



examines interracial marriage, migration, and the impact of African migrants on understandings of race and ethnicity in the United States and other global contexts.

Robert Stewart, Assistant Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice, studies



the effects of criminal legal system contact on individuals and communities. His work examines how criminal records shape access to social opportunities, the

demographic and social characteristics of people with felony records, and how record linkage methods influence findings in demographic research. He is also investigating the multigenerational effects of incarceration in early twentieth-century Minnesota.

Continued on page 2

Director's Note

Dear MPRC community,

Welcome back from the summer break. With the fall, we begin the third year of the current five-year Eunice Kennedy Shriver NICHD P2C Population Research Infrastructure grant. Major P2C activities over the last year have included the successful seminar series organized by Associate Director Susan Parker, and co-sponsored Spring 2026 events "Future of Families Generation-3 Study" organized by Sangeetha Madhavan, and the Time Use Conference webinar led by Liana Sayer (see page 4 of this Newsletter). It has been an especially busy time use project period, with renewal submissions of both our five-year



R01 research and R13 conference awards, for which I want to give major thanks also to our very capable and conscientious Research Coordinator Rachel Pentlarge. I am very appreciative also of Faculty Associate Long Doan's taking forward the R13 as renewal submission PI, and of Liana Sayer's major achievements in her role as PI of the R13-supported time use conferences for the 2017-2022 and 2022-27 periods. Congratulations also to Liana for the joint Ellen Galinsky award from the Work and Family Researchers Network (see note, page 3).

Through the P2C mechanism we were also able to award 3 Seed Grants from our Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 competitions (see next page in this Newsletter), and we will be announcing shortly the Fall 2026 competition. I congratulate Faculty Associates Rebecca Gourevitch and Arianna Gard, Seed Grant awardees from the 2024/25 competition on their respective external grants resulting from their projects. Finally, my thanks to all of you who attended our MPRC reception at the 2026 Population Association of America (PAA) meeting in St. Louis this year and who contributed to the many stimulating presentations at the meeting. You will have seen that the 2027 PAA Call for Papers is out with a September 20, 2026 submission deadline, and I encourage again your participation in that excellent forum for joining with our wider population research community at Seattle March 31 to April 2, 2027.

Spring Pop-Up Workshop Highlights Future of Families Generation 3 Study

This past spring, MPRC hosted a special pop-up workshop featuring Julien Teitler, D'Elbert and Selma Keenan Professor of Social Work and co-director of the Columbia Population Research Center. His presentation explored findings from the Future of Families Generation 3 study, which is enrolling children of the original 1998-2000 Future of Families and Child Wellbeing birth cohort. Teitler compared maternal and child health across two generations, highlighting the finding that, despite improvements in many social and medical indicators, more recent generations of mothers and infants appear to be experiencing poorer health outcomes. The workshop also introduced participants to the design and data structure of the Generation 3 study. The workshop reflects MPRC's continued commitment to bringing researchers together to share new findings, explore emerging data resources, and engage in conversations that advance population research.

MPRC Scholars at PAA 2026

MPRC Faculty Associates provided robust participation (46 presentations) at the 2026 PAA Annual Conference held in St. Louis, Missouri on May 6-9. The program included 20 Faculty Associates who presented 4 papers and 6 posters and who co-authored 16 papers and 13 posters. Associates served as session chairs on five sessions and as discussants or panelists on four. A group of 12 MPRC student scholars presented or co-authored 20 presentations at the meeting.

Marcos Fabian Covarrubias, 2025 Bianchi Student Fellow, presented his paper "Protecting Maternal and Infant Health From Drought: The Role of Social Safety Nets."

MPRC also hosted a reception to gather current associates, affiliates, students, and MPRC alumni.



MPRC reception at PAA

Three MPRC Associates receive Grand Challenges Grants

Three MPRC Faculty Associates: **Marie Thoma**, **Julie Park**, and **Maureen Cropper**, are part of University of Maryland teams receiving funding through the 2026 Grand Challenges Grants Program, a university initiative supporting interdisciplinary research that addresses pressing societal challenges.

Marie Thoma is the PI for the "Women's Health Interdisciplinary Research Collaborative (WHIRC)," which will advance collaborative research on women's health. Julie Park is a Co-PI on "Belonging for Immigrants and Refugees with Disabilities (BIRD)," a project focused on improving inclusion and support for immigrant and refugee communities with disabilities. Maureen Cropper is a Co-PI on "The Air We Share, A Public Health Revolution for the 21st Century," which aims to revolutionize indoor air quality and public health.

Arts for All Fellowship Brings Kinship, Nuptiality and Child Outcomes in Kenya (JAMO) Research to Life in Nairobi



Photo credit: Ubunifu Arts Centre

Faculty Associate, **Sangeetha Madhavan**, and Sociology doctoral student, **Katia Destine**, spent part of the summer in Nairobi, Kenya working with community based artists in the two communities that hosted the NICHD R01 JAMO project that Madhavan leads. With funding from an Arts for All Fellowship, the two groups translated some of the key findings around marriage, kinship and father involvement into murals, skits and street theatre. The mural featured here depicts the steps in the union formalization process and its importance for the well being of children.

Seed Grant Funding

The Executive Committee announced three Seed Grant awards this past year. One was awarded in Fall 2025 (Branigan), and two were awarded in Spring 2026 (Caudillo and Stoebebau).

Amelia Branigan, Department of Sociology

Health Impacts of 9/11 on Young Adults in New York City

This project will use the NYU World Trade Center Health and Wellbeing Study to assess the long-term effects of 9/11 toxin exposure on health and epigenetic outcomes among NYU alumni who were living in NYU dorms in the fall of 2001, and their later-born children.

Monica Caudillo, Department of Sociology

Exposure to Community Violence and the Demography of Reproductive Aging

Focusing on women in Mexico, the study will assess whether exposure to community violence is associated with reproductive aging, fertility outcomes, and physiological stress.

Kirsten Stoebebau, Department of Behavioral and Community Health

Family Complexity in Global Perspective

Through comparisons of the JAMO and Future of Families and Child Wellbeing studies, the study will examine how family complexity influences child wellbeing across different global urban contexts.

New Associates, continued from page 1

Katharine Khanna, Assistant Professor of Sociology, examines gender inequality in the contemporary United States. She focuses on how shifts in self-identification have implications on broader population trends. Her work includes studies of sexual fluidity over the life course, as well as methods of survey adjustment for gender identification, both of which impact measurement of marginalized gender and sexual populations.



Eric Baumer, Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice, studies demographic, temporal, and spatial patterns of crime, the mobilization of law, and the application of criminal justice sanctions.



Maria Steenland, Assistant Professor of Family Science, researches how policies and systems influence access to healthcare and reproductive health equity. Her work examines the effects of Medicaid coverage, pharmacist prescribing authority, and other health policies on access to contraception and essential services, with a focus on disparities by income, race, and geography.



Robert Brame, Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice, examines demographic patterns of crime, delinquency, victimization, and criminal justice system involvement. His work focuses on methods for addressing missing and incomplete data, particularly partial identification approaches that improve the measurement and interpretation of uncertainty in social science research.



M. Bishop, Assistant Professor of Family Science, researches how social contexts shape adolescent health and well-being, focusing on youth who experience intersect-

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New Associates, continued from page 2

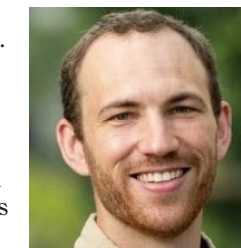
-ing forms of oppression related to race and gender identity. Using perspectives from developmental science, public health, and demography, their work examines pathways to health promotion among marginalized youth.

Daniel Agness, Assistant Professor of Economics, studies urbanization and agricultural transformation in East Africa.

His work examines how these interdependent processes shape contemporary patterns of migration and their implications for population health and welfare. He aims

to expand his research into the drivers and consequences of urbanization in Sub-Saharan Africa in order to inform policy.

David Blazar, Associate Professor of Education Policy, researches the changing



characteristics of the teacher labor force in Maryland and across the United States. His work examines pathways into teaching for Black and other individuals of color, and policies that support teacher

recruitment. He also studies inequality in youth outcomes.

New Affiliates

External Affiliates

Maranna Yoder, Indiana University, focuses on pollution and population health, and on environmental health more broadly. She will be working with Faculty Associate Michel Boudreaux on his Wildfires and Infant Health NIEH R01 project.

Bianchi Fellow Named

Gabriel Cruz, a Student Affiliate in the Department of Economics, was awarded this year's Suzanne M. Bianchi Summer Research Award for his proposal, "Preventing Unplanned Pregnancies: Impacts on Educational Outcomes and the Next Generation." The Bianchi Award commemorates the work of Dr. Bianchi by providing a summer stipend and PAA conference travel funding for a student who plans to present their work at the following year's PAA conference.

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

www.popcenter.umd.edu

Recent External Funding

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

Sonalde Desai PI / Sharan Sharma Co-I

GenderStat: Women's Leadership in Social and Economic Statistics, Co-Impact Philanthropic Funds, \$2,500,000, 04/01/2026-03/31/2031

Arianna Gard

Probing the Influence of Test Stimuli on the Under-identification of Adversity-Exposed Gifted Students, American Psychological Foundation, \$45,000, 03/23/2026-03/23/2027

Rebecca Gourevitch PI / Maria Steenland Co-I

The Impact of Abortion Bans on Equitable Access to Prenatal Care, Society of Family Planning, \$75,000, 01/01/2025-12/31/27

Grant Submissions

Since September 2025, MPRC Personnel have assisted researchers with proposals of over \$16.3 million in new funding. Recently awarded proposals are indicated by an asterisk (*).

Amelia Branigan

"The NYU World Trade Center Health and Wellbeing Study" R01 / NICHD, \$4,172,288

Sonalde Desai & Sharan Sharma

** "GenderStat: Women's Leadership in Social and Economic Statistics" Co-Impact Philanthropic Funds, \$2,500,000*

"The impact of school feeding programs and household nutrition patterns on children's anthropometric outcomes" R21 / NICHD, \$429,000

Long Doan

"Time Use for Health and Well Being - Conference Grant" R13 Renewal / NICHD, \$99,950

Arianna Gard

"How Exposure to Community Violence Shapes Attention Development in Early Adolescence" Research Project / Brady Ed. Foundation, \$124,890

Jinhee Kim & Christopher Antoun

"Impacts of Hard/Soft Skills on STEM Workforce Trajectories - Continuation 2025" Subaward / Utah State-NSF, \$35,088

Sangeetha Madhavan

"Kinship, Nuptiality and Child Health Outcomes in a Low Income Urban Area" R01 Resubmit / NICHD, \$3,235,620

Michael Rendall

"Change in contraceptive behavior and unintended fertility following the Dobbs decision" Resubmission R21 / Sub from UDel NICHD, \$199,102

Liana Sayer

"Time Use for Health and Well Being" R01 Renewal / NICHD, \$3,819,348

Sharan Sharma

"Women's Empowerment and Health Trajectories across the Life Course" R01 Sub / Johns Hopkins University-NICHD \$772,699

Katrina Walsemann & Heide Jackson

"Understanding How State Contexts Across the Life Course Shape ADRD Risk Among Older Adults" R01 Sub from Vanderbilt / NIA, \$632,890

Liana Sayer Receives 2026 Ellen Galinsky Generative Researcher Award

Faculty Associate **Liana Sayer** has received the 2026 Ellen Galinsky Generative Researcher Award from the Work and Family Researchers Network, alongside collaborators Sarah Flood and Melissa Milkie, for their leadership of the IPUMS Time Use project.

The award recognizes researchers whose work has advanced the study of work and family through innovative theory, data, and open science. The award committee highlighted Sayer's pioneering research on gender and social class inequalities in time use across the life course, as well as her contributions to expanding access to high-quality time diary data for researchers around the world through IPUMS Time Use.



Sayer, Flood, and Milkie receiving the award presented by the Work and Family Researchers Network

Research Profile

Sonalde Desai, Distinguished University Professor Emerita, Department of Sociology

GenderStat: Women's Leadership in Social and Economic Statistics, Co-Impact Philanthropic Funds, 04/01/2026-03/31/2031



Women remain underrepresented in leadership positions within India's central statistical services and academia, particularly in the field of economic statistics. This lack of representation is also reflected in limited attention to gender-responsive policies and data systems. Through *GenderStat: Women's Leadership in Social and Economic Statistics*, Faculty Associate Sonalde Desai will lead a five-year initiative, with Faculty Associate Sharan Sharma, to strengthen the technical expertise, leadership skills, and professional networks of women working in statistics and related fields.

The program will equip women statisticians and economists with the skills needed to advance into leadership positions within their institutions, lead large-scale research projects, and participate in governing boards and committees that shape institutional policies and career advancement. It will also provide training in advanced statistical methods, support participation in conferences and professional networks, and increase opportunities for women to serve as presenters, panelists, chairs, and discussants at events. These opportunities are intended to increase participants' visibility within their fields, expand their professional networks, and provide exposure to emerging developments in statistical methods and evidence-based policy research. In addition to developing individual leadership capacity, the initiative seeks to build a broader support system for women leaders by fostering collaboration with civil society, the media, and policymakers. The program also aims to encourage participants to take on leadership roles within their institutions and contribute to research and policy discussions that shape social and economic statistics. The long-term goal is to build a coalition that supports women leaders and increases attention to gender in data systems.

2026 Fall Seminars and Events

A full schedule of seminars and other events is planned for Fall 2026. Seminars will be held primarily in-person with an online option via Zoom.

The Fall Seminar Series will open with a presentation on September 14 with Petra Todd (right), Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor of Economics, University of Pennsylvania. Other visitors include Stephanie Nawyn, Associate Professor, Michigan State University; Mahesh Karra, Associate Professor of Population and Family Health, Columbia University; Adriana Reyes, Assistant Professor, Cornell

University; Angie Bautista Chavez, Fannie Gaston-Johansson Assistant Professor, Johns Hopkins University; Brian Soller, Associate Professor, UMBC; David Warner, Professor, University of Alabama Birmingham; and Kristin Perkins, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Georgetown University.



Petra Todd

Presenting from UMD will be Daniel Agness, Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics; Eric Baumer, Professor in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice; and Collin Mueller, Assistant Professor in the Departments of Sociology, Public Health, & Aging.

The student-organized Journal Club will host two meetings this fall as well.

Additionally, MPRC will host a Time Use Webinar, with Gordon Rinderknecht, Research Affiliate, Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, leading the event.

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



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Faculty and Student News

Faculty News

Faculty Associate **Katharine Abraham** is serving as president of the American Economic Association in 2026. She is recognized for her contributions to labor economics and survey methodology.

Faculty Associate **Frauke Kreuter** was named a 2025 Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in recognition of her contributions to survey methodology and data standards that improve the quality of government statistics.

Associate Director **Susan Parker** co-authored an award-winning *National Bureau of Economic Research* working paper examining the educational impacts of replacing Mexico's Prospera program. The paper received first prize in the Premio Banamex de Economía, awarded annually by the Bank of Mexico.

Faculty Affiliates **Christopher Tamborini** and **Andrés Villarreal** published a new article in *Demography* titled "The Earnings Assimilation of Unauthorized Immigrants." Using linked survey and Social Security data, the study examines the earnings trajectories of unauthorized Hispanic immigrants, finding persistent earnings disparities relative to native-born White workers despite gradual economic progress over time.

MPRC Director **Michael Rendall**, External Affiliate **Lori Zehr**, and colleague Narayan Sastry examined Black-White disparities in long-term displacement after Hurricane Katrina in their *Social Science Research* publication "Historical exception or historical continuity? Black-White disparities in long-term displacement from the City of New Orleans," highlighting the entrenchment of pre-Katrina residential racial stratification.

Faculty Associate **Jennifer Roberts** was selected for a 2026 Independent Scholarship, Research and Creativity Award. The award will support her research on environmental injustice, including her forthcoming book, *Buffalo's Emerald Necklace: How Environmental Racism Devastated a Community and Destroyed an Olmsted Treasure*.

Time Use Webinar

On April 17, 2026, Faculty Associate **Liana Sayer**, along with colleague Kari Williams, and MPRC Program Coordinator Jennifer Doiron, hosted a webinar on using the American Time Use Survey (ATUS) and its Eating Health module data to study health behaviors, parenting food practices, and food insecurity. The webinar was attended by 72 participants and provided an overview of linking ATUS data with Current Population Survey (CPS) data, along with resources for working with ATUS and ATUS-CPS linked data from IPUMS.