Where we are now. *What we’re doing. What we’re saying. What we’re using.*
**Lydia Li**, on the connection between social contacts and well-being in midlife. HealthDay.com, 8/23/2012.

“Middle-aged people often have to cope with multiple demands and have limited time for themselves. But it is worthwhile to spare time and effort to expand and nurture relationships. For women in particular, friendship is a good investment.”

**James House**, on the view that chronic stress may be contributing to the decline in women’s life expectancy. Hartford Courant, 11/12/2012.

“It’s a hypothesis at this point, but a reasonable and plausible one. Women may have gained work opportunities over the last four decades, but society has done relatively little to help them support their increased responsibilities.”

**Jennifer Barber**, on why unintended children receive fewer parental resources and harsher parenting than intended children. The Atlantic, 9/19/2012.

“This kind of pattern could be due to parental stress and a lack of patience that’s directed explicitly toward an unwanted child.”


“It is surprising. When you hear about a decrease in the birthrate, you don’t expect Latinos to be at the forefront of the trend.”


“We need substantial government help to raise the economic prospects and family incomes for those who benefit little from today’s economic growth. Their higher incomes together with increased support for their children’s educational attainment, from preschool through college, would increase social mobility and contribute to more rapid, less-unequal growth in the future.”

**Frank Stafford**, on working Americans dipping into their retirement savings. CBS News, 2/6/2013.

“Our analysis confirms what everyone suspected: people are using their retirement accounts to help when their kids are going to college or their spouse loses a job. Sure, many employers make participation mandatory but you can subvert your employer’s mandate by borrowing against the money for any number of reasons. So allowing pre-retirement access to these funds is a problem.”

**Michael Elliott**, on the effects of lead poisoning on Detroit students’ performance on standardized achievement tests, Detroit Free Press, 2/25/2013.

“The higher the blood level was, the more likely they were to not test proficiently.”
Lloyd Johnston, on the shrinking number of teens who view regular pot use as harmful, ScientificAmerican.com, 3/19/2013.

“This shift in perceived risk may very well have resulted from the widespread endorsement of medical marijuana use.”

Vicki Freedman, on the recent uptick in disabilities among Americans 55-64 years of age. MyScience.us, 10/29/2012.

“We were surprised to find that baby boomers aren’t doing better. . . This trend will be important to watch down the road because of the impact it may have on America’s families and on public health care programs.”

Bridget Lavelle, on the many U.S. women who lose their health insurance every year as a result of divorce. ScienceDaily.com, 11/12/2012

“The current health care and insurance system in the U.S. is inadequate for a population in which multiple marital and job changes over the life course are not uncommon. It remains to be seen how effective the Affordable Care Act will be in remedying the problem of insurance loss after divorce, but the law has provisions that may help substantially.”

Fabian Pfeffer, on social mobility in the U.S., ScienceDaily.com, 9/5/2012.

“Especially in the United States, people underestimate the extent to which your destiny is linked to your background... [T]hese data show that parental wealth has an important role in shielding offspring from downward mobility and sustaining their upward mobility.”

Lloyd Johnston, on the shrinking number of teens who view regular pot use as harmful, ScientificAmerican.com, 3/19/2013.

“You’re keeping the lights on, you’re not being evicted, the kids are not hungry, the family is protected. It allows you to say, ‘I’m doing what I’m doing, and I’m not out on the street.’”


Lisa Neidert, tweeting from NPR headquarters on election night. 11/6/2012.

“My hairdresser is not going to be happy with the trimming I gave my bangs this morning. I need no distractions this evening.... Here’s a prediction for tonight: lots of favorite sites will crash or be really slow.... The Florida 2012 returns don’t look markedly different from 2008 for the populous counties. But, the evening is still young.... Will we end up with only 2 state flips in 2012 - IN and NC? 8 states flipped in 2008. Net +6 for the Democrats.... Watching FOX right now is like watching my son when #mgoblue is down 14 with 5 minutes to go.”

Vicki Freedman, on the recent uptick in disabilities among Americans 55-64 years of age. MyScience.us, 10/29/2012.

“We were surprised to find that baby boomers aren’t doing better. . . This trend will be important to watch down the road because of the impact it may have on America’s families and on public health care programs.”

Lisa Neidert, tweeting from NPR headquarters on election night. 11/6/2012.
21 questions with Colter Mitchell

Colter Mitchell has connections to PSC going back to 2003, having been a predoctoral trainee at the Center (statistics and sociology). He recently returned to Michigan, becoming a PSC Faculty Associate in 2012.

Broadly, he investigates the causes and consequences of variation in family formation, using methods from sociology, demography, statistics, and biology. One line of his research concentrates on how the family, neighborhood, and local community influence family formation beliefs, values, and behavior.

More recently, he has expanded his research by using genetic and epigenetic information to augment current models in the family sociology, demography, and health literatures. He has found that when genetic and epigenetic information is included, the family environment often has stronger and more lucid effects on health and behavioral outcomes.

Colter is passionate about the integration of biology and social factors and loves working on a wide range of topics including assortative mating, obesity, mental health, cognitive ability, and social inequality.

He is also interested in methodological and statistical issues that arise in survey research of the family, especially how large surveys collect and analyze both family structure histories and biological data.

1. First job? That depends on how you define job. Several summers I worked as a ranch hand, but only for a couple months at a time. My first more permanent job was an electrician's assistant while I was an undergraduate. It was part-time, but paid for room and board.

2. First website you access in the morning? CNN.com, weather.com, or NPR.org.


5. If you could choose another career other than sociologist? Physician, I love the idea of working at the true intersection of biology and social life—the body.


7. What makes you laugh out loud? My children, with Jon Stewart and Pysch coming in at a tie for a distant second.

8. What ticks you off? Hypocrites. (Good thing the Daily Show is a comedy otherwise I probably would have broken the TV by now!)

9. If you had a time machine, where and when would you visit? Oct. 21, 2015, and they better have flying cars!

10. If you could have any three dinner companions? Me from the distant future, Jesus Christ, and a scientist from 200-300 years from now (oh so many questions!!!)

11. What super power would you like to have? Teleportation.

12. Life-changing moment? Parents' divorce when I was 5 – my life would have been completely different without that event.

13. Parents' greatest impact? My mother's incredible humility. Despite being one of the smartest people I have ever known, she never took herself seriously. And my father's profound love of people and willingness to sacrifice so much of himself for someone in need. (By the way, I am not saying I inherited these traits, just that they were influential!)

15. Best award you ever won? #1 Dad award from my kids a few years ago – I have a handmade apron to prove it!

16. If money were no object, what would you like to finance? Food for education programs in every country.

17. Memorable movie line? “Get busy living or get busy dying” from Shawshank Redemption.

18. Favorite room in home? Living room, it has best lighting and most comfortable seating in the house.

19. Guilty pleasure? Oreos with milk – if we could make them more nutritious I could live off them!

20. What do you like about your work? I love trying to figure out ways to learn new things and then actually being able to try to do it!

21. Where do you see yourself in ten years? Surrounded by colleagues and data in the middle of a wave of new and exciting research!

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**STUDYING PRISONS & INEQUALITY**

Jay Borchert, a PSC pre-doctoral trainee, recently traveled to Houston in conjunction with his research on American prisons and prisoners.

Invited to the annual meeting of the Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA), Jay made a research presentation to ASCA’s Research and Best Practices Committee. ASCA is the primary professional organization for high-ranking correctional officials nationwide and having the opportunity to discuss his research with the membership, as well as to recruit potential research subjects, was significant in moving Jay’s project forward.

His project, “American Corrections: Why and How U.S. Prisons Reshape and Refine American Inequality,” has been funded by PSC through a grant from the Eva L. Mueller Fund for New Directions in Economics and Demography Fund, as well as a Rackham Pre-candidate Grant, and a Department of Sociology Practicum Grant.

Jay’s dedication to researching this highly marginalized population has been honed through nearly four years of training with Dave Harding and Jeff Morenoff as a Research Assistant on the “Michigan Study of Life after Prison,” a longitudinal examination of the pre- and post-prison characteristics of Michigan parolees. Jay is currently co-authoring an article with Harding and Morenoff on the neighborhood effects of employment trajectories among Michigan parolees.

As a result of Jay’s success in Houston, he will be using the Mueller award to fund travel to interview state correctional directors and officials with the Federal Bureau of Prisons. He plans to use findings from this research in completing his dissertation.


Recently Funded Projects at PSC

Dirgha Ghimire

CNH: Feedbacks Between Human Community Dynamics and Socio-ecological Vulnerability in a Biodiversity Hotspot
Arizona State University; National Science Foundation (NSF)
9/1/2012 - 8/31/2013
$298,000
In many settings, invasive alien species are one of the most dangerous threats to both human and natural systems. Mikania micrantha is among the world’s 100 worst invasive alien species and frequently appears in lists of the 10 worst weeds in the world. This project features a unique combination of research to understand Mikania micrantha’s threat to human and natural systems in Chitwan Nepal, and to develop an intervention to mitigate that threat. The research will examine relationships between human organizations, agriculture, and alien species; create and evaluate an intervention to slow invasive alien species; and use agent-based modeling techniques to synthesize new and existing findings and evaluate future scenarios of invasive alien species and adaptive management efforts.

Jason Kerwin and Rebecca Thornton

Response of Malawians’ Sexual Behavior to Information about HIV Transmission Risks
Russell Sage Foundation
8/1/2012 - 7/31/2013
$7,500
Despite substantial investments in the promotion of safer sex, Southern Africa has continued to experience a severe HIV epidemic, and condom use remains rare in the region. In Malawi, some people exhibit “fatalistic” behavior - their beliefs about the high risk of HIV transmission have led them to decide they must already have the virus. This project will explore how providing information about the true risk of HIV transmission from an infected sex partner – which is lower than most people believe – will affect their risky sex behavior. The project will directly provide information about HIV transmission risks to randomly-selected people from Malawi’s Zomba District.

David Lam

Fertility Timing and Women’s Economic Outcomes in South Africa
Population Reference Bureau; William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
11/15/2012 - 11/14/2014
$175,000
This project will take advantage of rich longitudinal data from South Africa to analyze the relationship between fertility and women’s economic outcomes. The project uses data from three longitudinal surveys that include birth histories and fertility data; longitudinal information on women’s labor force activity, earnings, migration, household income, government transfers, and poverty status; and information on family background and early life characteristics. A major focus of the project will be integrating data on the timing and placement of family planning clinics with the nationally representative data in the National Income Dynamics Study. There is good reason to believe that temporal and spatial variation in access to these clinics is associated with the timing of first births, providing an exogenous source of variation in fertility timing that can be linked to our detailed data on later economic outcomes.

PMCID s Made Simple (Really)

From the PSC Library

According to a recent NIH notice, starting from July 1, 2013, NIH will delay processing of an award if publications arising from it are not in compliance with the NIH public access policy.

Please be reminded that peer-reviewed journal articles arising from NIH grants (including T32 training grants) need to have PubMed Central IDs (PMCID s) within three months of publication.

Here are a few tips for getting a PMCID in a timely manner:

1. Cite NIH grant numbers in your paper. (Some publishers will deposit for you if grant numbers are cited.) See PSC grant acknowledgement examples.

2. Determine how to get a PMCID for your paper. The publisher’s policy determines the submission methods. Find out the method by using our journal database or communicating with the journal at the time of paper acceptance.

3. Email your final accepted manuscripts to PSC library upon acceptance for publication if you need any assistance. We can help to determine the submission method and deposit the paper.

4. Follow NIH email instructions to approve submissions made by the library or publishers. If you do not approve, the submissions are not moving forward to obtain PMCID s. Select the Google or U-M login option if you don’t have an eRA Commons login for painless future login retrieval.

Feel free to stop by the library or email psc-library@umich.edu with any questions!
SHELDON DANZIGER has been appointed the tenth president of the Russell Sage Foundation. Commenting on the appointment, current RSF president Eric Wanner said, “Sheldon’s strong commitment to rigorous social science research and its implications for policy will make him an excellent steward of the Foundation’s long tradition of working to strengthen social science and apply it more effectively to the analysis of social problems and the design of social policy.” Danziger will join the Foundation on Sept 1.

SHELDON DANZIGER will serve as a member of the U.S. Census Bureau’s newly established National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic and Other Populations. The 32-member multidisciplinary committee will advise on variables that affect statistical measurement for Bureau’s programs and surveys, including the decennial census.

PAMELA SMOCK was selected by the Board of Directors of the Population Association of America (PAA) to serve as the next Editor of PAA’s flagship journal, Demography. Her three-year term as Editor begins on May 1, 2013. More than a dozen other PSC researchers have agreed to serve as Deputy Editors during her term.

PHILIPPA CLARKE, SUSAN MURPHY, AND YU XIE were among the first-round winners of funding from MCubed — a two-year seed-funding program designed to encourage the development of new multi-disciplinary research projects among U-M faculty.

Clarke’s project will analyze how urban-dwelling older people interact with the outside built environment to better understand how to enhance independent mobility.

Murphy’s project will focus on the development of individualized, real-time adaptive interventions on mobile phones that will be useful in a number of behavior change areas.

And the project by Yu Xie and colleagues will develop a carbon capture and storage technology that will increase CO₂ sorption and desorption capacities.

LAUREN NICHOLAS was elected to the National Academy of Social Insurance in January 2013. NASI members are recognized experts in Social Security and retirement security, Medicare and health coverage, workers’ compensation, unemployment insurance, and related social assistance programs. New members have distinguished themselves by improving the quality of research, administration, or policymaking in one or more of these areas.

DAVID HARDING was awarded the 2012 Outstanding Book Award by the American Sociological Association’s Section on Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility. The award is for Living the Drama: Community, Conflict, and Culture, published by the University of Chicago in 2010.

PSC Honors/Awards Archive: http://www.psc.isr.umich.edu/events/archive/honors.html
PSC Library: New Book Acquisitions

- **Aging and the Macroeconomy: Long-Term Implications of an Older Population**

- **How Far Have We Come in Reducing Health Disparities: Progress Since 2000. Workshop Summary**
  Karen M. Anderson

- **Categorical Data Analysis**, 3rd Ed.
  Alan Agresti
  Wiley. 2012.

- **Data Analysis with Mplus**, 4th Ed.
  William Gould, Jeffrey S. Pitblado, and Brian Poi
  Stata Press. 2010.

- **Introductory Statistics with R**, 2nd Ed.
  Peter Dalgaard
  Springer. 2012.

- **Missing Data: Analysis and Design**, John W. Graham
  Springer. 2012.

- **Structural Equation Modeling: Applications Using Mplus**, Jichuan Wang and Xiaogian Wang
  Wiley. 2012.

- **Principles of Applied Statistics**, D.R. Cox and Christi A. Donnelly

- **Linear Mixed Models: A Practical Guide Using Statistical Software**, Brady West, Kathleen Welch, and Andrezej Galecki

- **Kids Don’t Want to Fail: Oppositional Culture and the Black-White Achievement Gap**, Angel L. Harris
  Harvard University Press. 2011.

- **How F...**

- **Contemporary Grandparenting: Changing Family Relationships in Global Contexts**, Sara Arber and Virpi Timonen

- **ProQuest Statistical Abstract of the United States, 2013**

- **Public Health and Aging: Maximizing Function and Well-Being, 2nd Ed.**
  Steven M. Albert and Vicki A. Freedman
  Springer. 2010.

- **A. Donnelly**
  Principles of Applied Statistics

- **Reducing Health Disparities: Progress Since 2000**
  Karen M. Anderson

- **Public Health and Aging: Maximizing Function and Well-Being, 2nd Ed.**, Steven M. Albert and Vicki A. Freedman
  Springer. 2010.

- **U.S. Health in International Perspective: Shorter Lives, Poorer Health**, Steven H. Woolf and Laudan Aron

- **From Neurons to Neighborhoods: An Update**, Steve Olson

- **Demographic Change in Southeast Asia: Recent Histories and Future Directions**, Lindy Williams and Michael Philip Guest
  Southeast Asia Program Publications. 2012.

- **Linear Mixed Models: A Practical Guide Using Statistical Software**, Brady West, Kathleen Welch, and Andrezej Galecki

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Lowell Taylor

H. John Heinz III
Professor of Economics
Heinz College
Carnegie Mellon University

Lowell Taylor was a trainee at PSC from 1980 to 1989. His advisors were John Laitner, Barbara Andersen, David Lam, and Eva Mueller.

After earning his PhD in economics at Michigan, Lowell went to Carnegie Mellon University, where he is now Professor of Economics. He is also currently a Senior Fellow at NORC at the University of Chicago, where he is co-Principal Investigator of the 1997 National Longitudinal Study of Youth.

Lowell was recently Visiting Professor in the Economics Department at the University of California, Berkeley, and he previously taught for a short time at the University of Texas at Austin. Lowell also served as a senior economist with President Clinton’s Council of Economic Advisors.

Lowell works on a variety of topics in economics and demography. He is co-author of the first paper ever to appear in Demography studying the gay and lesbian population. He is co-author of two papers that won prominent awards in health economics: the 2012 Arrow Award from the International Health Economic Association for “Unhealthy Insurance Markets: Search Frictions and the Cost and Quality of Health Insurance,” American Economic Review (2011); and the 2004 Health Care Research Award from the National Institute for Health Care for “Physician Incentives in Health Maintenance Organization,” Journal of Political Economy (2004).

Lowell and his wife, Melissa Taylor, live in Pittsburgh. Melissa is Associate Chief Nurse for Research at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System. Their children, Evan and Sarah, are both students in the PhD program in economics at the University of Michigan. Sarah is currently a trainee at the PSC.

Xiaogang Wu

Professor, Division of Social Science
Hong Kong University of Science & Technology

Xiaogang Wu earned his BA in sociology from Renmin University of China in 1991, an MA in sociology from Beijing University in 1994, and a PhD in sociology from UCLA in 2001. He spent two years, from 2001 to 2003, at the Population Studies Center as a Mellon Post-doctoral Fellow. His mentor was Yu Xie.

After leaving the Center in 2003, Xiaogang accepted an assistant professorship in Social Science Division at HKUST. There, he continues his dissertation research exploring how the household registration system and the work unit system has affected social inequality and shaped social mobility in China. His work has appeared in AJS, ASR, Social Forces, and Demography. He has also extended his research to gender, education, internal migration, and subjective wellbeing in both mainland China and Hong Kong. He was promoted to full professor in 2011.

Xiaogang was awarded the Spencer Post-doctoral Fellowship at the National Academy of Education in 2006 and the Prestigious Fellowship in Humanities and Social Sciences from the University Grants Council of Hong Kong in 2012.

In 2009, Xiaogang founded the Center for Applied Social and Economic Research, where he is currently director. Since 2001, he has been the Editor of the Chinese Sociological Review, a quarterly journal in English published by ME Sharpe in New York. He also remains affiliated with PSC as an off-campus researcher.

Xiaogang is married with one child. His wife received her MBA degree from the University of Michigan. Their daughter, Yurika, was born in 2010.
John Iceland earned a PhD in sociology from Brown University.  
**John Iceland** was a postdoc at PSC from 1996 to 1998. While at the Center he worked with a number of researchers, including Sandy Hofferth, Pamela Smock, and David Harris.

Following his PSC postdoc, John joined the Poverty and Health Statistics Branch at the U.S. Census Bureau in 1998. There he continued research on poverty issues and became Chief of the branch in 2001.

In 2003 he accepted an appointment in the department of sociology at the University of Maryland, where he taught and conducted research for the next five years. Since 2008, John has been Professor of Sociology and Demography at Penn State University, and he has been Head of the department for the past two years.

John’s research focuses on poverty, racial and ethnic residential segregation, and immigration. He is an author of two books on these issues: Where We Live Now: Immigration and Race in the United States (2009, University of California Press) and Poverty in America (3rd edition published in 2013, University of California Press). He has written several articles on poverty measurement issues and has testified before a Congressional subcommittee examining problems with the current U.S. official poverty measure. He is on the editorial board of a number of social science journals and recently served as an elected member of the Population Association of America Board of Directors and the American Sociological Association Population Section Council.

John is married to Jean D’Amico, whom he met at PSC. She is currently a researcher at the Population Reference Bureau. They have two children, ages 10 and 8. He enjoys running, reading, and watching movies with his family.

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**Joan Kahn** earned a BA in History at Stanford in 1978 and a PhD from the University of Michigan in 1985. She was a trainee at PSC from 1980-1984 where her advisor was Al Hermalin. To this day, Joan and Al still share research ideas, teaching tips and NY Times articles.

After leaving PSC in 1984, Joan spent 3 years as a post-doc and research associate at the Carolina Population Center before joining the sociology department at the University of Maryland–College Park as an Assistant Professor in 1987. She was a founding member of the department’s Center on Population, Gender and Social Inequality, which later grew into the interdisciplinary [and NIH-funded] Maryland Population Research Center, where Joan served as Associate Director from 2009-2012, and continues to serve as Training Director. She also served as the sociology department’s Director of Graduate Studies from 2002-2008.

Much of Joan’s recent research has focused on gender, family, health, and the life course, with an emphasis on the long-term consequences of earlier life course experiences as well as the changing nature of intergenerational relationships. One study looks at gender differences in informal support to family and friends; another considers the long-term impact of children on mothers’ careers; and a third study, forthcoming in *Demography*, examines intergenerational coresidence and the changing fortunes of older and younger adults. In addition, she has also studied the impact of lifetime financial strain on health at older ages.

Joan is married to Len Blackman. They have one son, Jeffrey, now age 17, who is considering Michigan as a possible college destination. Jeffrey visited Ann Arbor when Joan attended the PSC 50th anniversary celebration, and the highpoint [for him] was undoubtedly the PSC private tour of the Big House!
Departing Trainees

The following PSC trainees are about to take leave of the Center for other pursuits.

Kate Ambler, PhD in economics (2013). On to Postdoctoral Fellowship, International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington, DC.

Emily Beam, PhD in economics (2013). On to Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics, National University of Singapore.

Cass Dorius, PSC Postdoctoral Fellow. On to Assistant Professor, Human Development and Family Studies, Iowa State Univ.

Shawn Dorius, PSC Postdoctoral Fellow. On to Assistant Professor of Sociology, Iowa State Univ.


Caroline Hartnett, NIA Postdoctoral Fellow. On to Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of South Carolina.

Jessica Hoel, PhD in economics (2013). On to Postdoctoral Fellowship, International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington, DC.

Elyse Ann Jennings, PhD in sociology (2013). On to Postdoctoral Trainee, Carolina Population Center, University of North Carolina.

Kenzie Latham, NIA Postdoctoral Fellow. On to Assistant Professor of Sociology, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI).

Sarah Taylor, PhD in economics (2013). On to Postdoctoral Fellowship, Duke University.

Jessica Wyse, NIA Postdoctoral Fellow. On the job market in public policy.