



Julie Allen
NIA Postdoctoral Fellow

PSC Preceptor: Arline Geronimus

Field: Public Health

PhD: University of Michigan School of Public Health (Health Behavior and Health Education)

Research Interests: To better understand and address the complex interactions between contextual, psychosocial, biological, and behavioral factors involved in stress and coping processes that contribute to disparities in chronic disease among older U.S. adults, with an emphasis on the health of Black men.

What's next: Assistant Professor in the Department of Health and Exercise Science, University of Oklahoma

Advice for incoming trainees: UM is an incredibly rich environment with a wealth of opportunities for supporting research and junior scholar development. Take advantage of everything you can while you're here.

Best Ann Arbor Experience: It's hard to choose, but I love hiking at Silver Lake, Art Fair, Top of the Park, the restaurants, and so much more.





Lauren Brown
NIA Postdoctoral Fellow

PSC Preceptors: Sarah Burgard, Colter Mitchell

Field: Gerontology

PhD: University of Southern California Davis School of Gerontology

Research Interests: Minority health, stress and aging; The unique difficulties African Americans face in reaching older adulthood; Molecular biomarkers of aging

What's next: Assistant Professor in the School of Public Health at San Diego State University

Advice for incoming trainees: Two years isn't enough time to do much, so manage your expectations and pick one project/grant/publication you are determined to finish.

Best Ann Arbor Experience: Running along the Huron River, getting chased by a wild turkey, and the ethereal swans at Gallup Park.





Arianna Gard
NICHD Postdoctoral Fellow

PSC Preceptor: Jeffrey Morenoff, Colter Mitchell

Field: Psychology

PhD: University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; Developmental Psychology

Research Interests: Neurobiological mechanisms linking poverty and poverty-related adversities to youth socioemotional development

What's next: Assistant Professor of Developmental Psychology, University of Maryland College Park

Advice for incoming trainees: Seek interdisciplinary training, but maintain a core expertise in your field

Best Ann Arbor Experience: picnics in the Arboretum





Shannon Ang
Predoctoral Trainee

PSC Mentor: Sarah Burgard
Field: Sociology

Dissertation Title: Three Papers on Social Participation over the Life Course

Abstract:

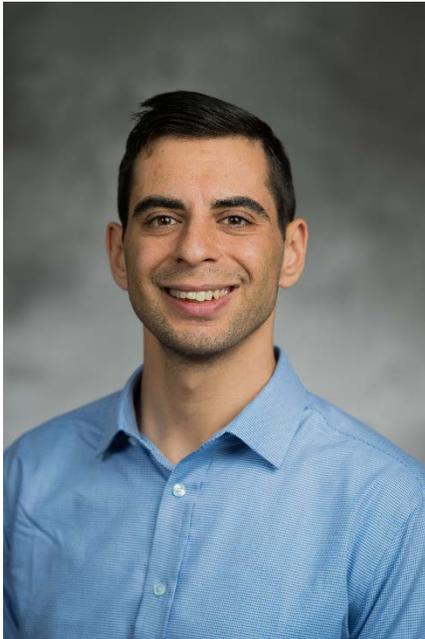
This dissertation addresses existing gaps in the literature by applying the life course perspective to the study of social participation and health. I do this through a series of papers that (1) examine how social participation varies over age and cohort; (2) establish how the association between social participation and health changes with age; and (3) investigate how social participation and health is associated in the context of marital dyads.

What's next: Tenure-track Assistant Professor at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Advice for incoming trainees: PSC has lots of resources and a ton of like-minded people you can meet. Try and make full use of the resources, and make many friends!

Best Ann Arbor experience: Food from Monahan's (in Kerrytown)!





Ariel Binder
Predocctoral Trainee

PSC Mentor: John Bound
Field: Economics

Dissertation Title: "Essays on Marriage and Labor Markets"

Abstract (Excerpt): The distribution of labor market activity across U.S. individuals has changed dramatically since 1960. While nearly all working-age men used to participate in the labor force, men without a college education now experience substantial joblessness. At the same time, married women—especially those with college degrees—have taken up careers in increasing numbers. My dissertation explores relationships between American marriage and labor markets. It reveals new channels through which changing marriage-and-family arrangements have affected the evolution of labor market behaviors across gender and education subgroups. Its results help define the current landscape of labor and marriage inequality in the United States, and inform current debates over policies to promote job and family security."

What's next: Economist, Center for Economic Studies, U.S. Census Bureau

Advice for incoming trainees: Commit only to research projects you truly believe in and are passionate about. Break a big task into a series of smaller ones, and celebrate every accomplishment along the way, no matter how small. Take advantage of UM and PSC's greatest asset -- its people -- to build a supportive network of friends and colleagues.

Best Ann Arbor experience: Spending Fall Saturdays walking through the Arb and going to football tailgates.





Jessica Gillooly
Predoctoral Trainee

PSC Mentor: Jeffrey Morenoff
Field: Joint Doctoral Program in Public Policy and Social Science

Dissertation Title: “911, Is This an Emergency?”: How 911 Call-Takers Extract, Interpret, and Classify Caller Information

Abstract [Excerpt]: Using a mix of quantitative, qualitative, and conversation analytic methods, I find that call-driven policing is complex and presents unique challenges to police-work that are currently overlooked in police reform conversations. By developing a framework around key call-taking duties, I highlight how decisions associated with extracting, interpreting, and classifying caller information shape police responses. I find that not all call-takers are created equal when executing these duties—under certain conditions call-takers exercise discretion and do so in non-uniform ways. This variability in behavior has subsequent consequences for police action. By drawing attention to how the decisions call-takers make have consequences for the kinds of people and places that receive police services and the quality of those services, I explicate a new mechanism through which inequality can arise in the criminal justice system.

What’s next: Postdoctoral Fellowship, Policing Project at New York University Law School

Advice for incoming trainees: Take advantage of all the resources UM has on campus such as the Clark Geospatial Library, the Ford School Writing Center, and the Center for Statistical Consultation and Research (CSCAR). Folks are there to help you as you embark on your research projects!

Best Ann Arbor experience: Cafe Zola





Avery Calkins
Predoctoral Trainee

PSC Mentor: Melvin Stephens
Field: Economics

Dissertation Title: "Gender, Grades, and College Major During the Dot-Com Crash"

Abstract: Although the dot-com crash had similar labor market effects for new graduates in engineering and computer science, it had different effects on who chose each major: women disproportionately left computer science, but not engineering. I investigate the mechanism behind the gender difference in reaction to the dot-com crash using administrative data on students from a four-year public university. At said university, women underperform (relative to men) by more in computer science than engineering courses. I estimate a structural model of major choice where students choose a major to maximize expected lifetime utility, conditional on grades, the labor market, and other factors. I find that if the distribution of grades had been the same in engineering and computer science, the gender difference in reaction to the dot-com crash would have been 33 to 42% smaller, suggesting that students reacted to the dot-com crash in accordance with their perceived comparative advantage. My results suggest that grades are an important component in retaining women in computer science degree programs. Universities hoping to encourage women to major in computer science should investigate the sources of women's underperformance in STEM courses and work to help women improve their performance.

What's next: Associate Economist, RAND Corporation

Advice for incoming trainees: Take advantage of the PSC workspace. I benefited a lot from coming to the office every day and talking to other PSC students about our research.

Best Ann Arbor experience: I will really miss the beautiful Ann Arbor summers.





Katrina Hauschildt
Predoctoral Trainee

PSC Mentor: Sarah Burgard

Field: Sociology

Dissertation Title: Whose Good Death? Inequality and the End of Life

Abstract: Traditionally disadvantaged groups are more likely to want life-sustaining treatments and are the beneficiaries of greater spending and intervention at the end-of-life (EOL), yet these outcomes are considered disadvantageous by clinicians and scholars. This dissertation investigates how diverse individuals experience EOL health care, and how and when differences become disparities. First, I use Health and Retirement Survey data to demonstrate racial and socioeconomic differences in EOL preferences and decisions and demonstrate preferences for more aggressive treatment are correlated with a lower likelihood of congruent decisions. Second, I employ ethnographic and interview methods to examine communication and decision-making about life-sustaining treatments, and find that population-level inequities arise through 1) clinical patterns of valuation and standardization in medicine, and 2) differences in institutional resources among hospitals that treat demographically different populations. Collectively, my findings reinforce the need for a nuanced understanding of the mechanisms that produce inequality when designing health care interventions focused on alleviating disparities. Further, this research reveals how cultural tastes influence the clinical valuation of treatments and provides clinicians and policymakers with strategies for improving the health care experiences of disadvantaged groups.

What's next: Postdoctoral Fellowship, VA Center for Clinical Management Research

Advice for incoming trainees: Take advantage of the diversity of research and knowledge at UM and amongst your peers—read each other's work, go to talks and workshops around campus, and seek out colleagues in other disciplines. One of the great benefits of being at ISR and UM is the germination of your own questions, ideas, and solutions that will come from listening and learning broadly.

Best Ann Arbor experience: Summer evenings outside with friends





Tarlise Townsend
Predoctoral Trainee

PSC Mentor: Neil Mehta

Field: Joint Doctoral Program in Health Management & Policy and Social Science

Dissertation Title: Contemporary Issues in Population Health: Disability, Pain Management, and Opioid Overdose in the United States

Abstract [Excerpts]: Tarlie’s dissertation addresses several contemporary health challenges affecting the US population, drawing on methods and perspectives from health services research, social demography, and medical sociology. Her first paper examines the pathways from educational attainment to disability, estimating the contributions of excess body mass index (BMI), cigarette smoking, and manual labor to educational disparities in disability incidence. Papers 2 and 3 speak to the ongoing opioid crisis. In Paper 2, she investigates whether the 2016 CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain influenced opioid prescribing in chronic pain patients—and, if so, whether these changes varied by patient race/ethnicity, thereby alleviating or exacerbating preexisting racial/ethnic disparities. In Paper 3, Tarlie asks how scarce resources available to reduce opioid-related mortality can be allocated for maximum health benefit. She compares the cost-effectiveness of naloxone distribution to people likely to witness or experience overdose, police and firefighters, and emergency medical services.

What’s next?: Postdoctoral Fellowship, Center for Opioid Epidemiology and Policy, NYU Langone Department of Population Health

Advice for incoming trainees: Participate in all the seminars and lunch chats that you can, even those that don’t seem immediately relevant to your research. That corss-pollination can both trigger new insights and introduce you to people whose ideas or feedback could shape your trajectory as a scholar.

PSC Mentor: Neil Mehta

Best Ann Arbor experience: Biking from the Old West Side to campus on a spring day, smiling at neighbors and enjoying the trees in bloom.

