



May 1, 2020

During PSC's annual celebration of departing trainees, mentors and preceptors have the opportunity to recognize their trainees' impressive scholarly achievements and to wish them good fortune on the road ahead. In the absence of an in-person celebration, PSC mentors have offered their written reflections on the PSC Trainee Class of 2020.

Predoctoral trainees

Shannon Ang, Sociology

Dr. Ang found his way to Ann Arbor from Nanyang Technological University for what may be the quickest route through the PhD program I've ever advised. Shannon is efficient at seemingly everything - including answering email, where his turnaround time is truly intimidating. Despite the speed, his work is deeply thoughtful and timely, as wealthy societies age rapidly and governments struggle to keep them healthy and their health care systems solvent. Dr. Ang's work is particularly relevant at this unprecedented time of COVID-19, given the challenges to independence, social integration and well being that are so pressing for everyone, but particularly the elderly. He has published extensively despite speeding through our program milestones, including work with a range of others in the PSC, and we'll all benefit from having such a gracious connection doing top shelf population research in Singapore in the coming years. *Sarah Burgard, mentor*

Ariel Binder, Economics

"I have known Ari since I helped recruit him to the University of Michigan, have acted as his principal mentor at the Population Studies Center here and have had the delight of coauthoring a paper with him.

"Ari's job market paper is, I believe, original and important... The simple version of Ari's idea is that part of the rewards to labor market activity for men involve marriage. If the prospects of marrying decline for men, the rewards from working also decline. Since there are mutual feedback effects, things are not quite so simple, but that is the basic idea."

"In his job market paper, Ari develops a simple theoretical model to formalize his idea. He goes on to produce reduced form evidence supporting his model first linking changes in the legal environment (no fault divorce laws) and then changes in the labor demand for women (holding constant the demand for men) to changes in male labor force participation. He then constructs and estimates a simple structural model in which he shows plausibly sized feedback effects could be large enough to rationalize the labor market changes we have observed. Not only does the paper develop a novel insight, it shows a command of both the theory of the family and empirical methodology. It is a paper that I expect to influence our thinking about trends in the labor force participation of less skilled men in the US."

"I cannot imagine an Economics PhD student who was a better fit for PSC. Not just his work on his job market paper, but his work with David Lam and with me falls squarely within economic demography. The four members of his committee, Ana Reynoso, David Lam, Pam Smock and myself, all have ties to PSC, and he is coauthoring papers with other pre doctoral trainees (Avery Calkins and Brenden Timpe)."

"On a more personal note, I have very much enjoyed working with Ari. I sense we have somewhat of a common perspective on the world we inhabit. Is this that we both are from NY (though opposite ends

of the State)? Or maybe it is that we both recognize that we married someone who is very much on her own scholarly trajectory. Ari, I will miss you.” *John Bound, mentor [excerpts]*

Avery Calkins, Economics

It has been an absolute pleasure and honor to work with Avery Calkins during her time at Michigan. Her work investigating the causes of gender differences in higher education outcomes, with an emphasis on major choice, is quite fascinating, especially, in how it informs efforts to increase female participation in STEM. Congratulations and best wishes on your transition to RAND! *Mel Stephens, mentor*

Katie Hauschildt, Sociology

Soon to be Dr. Hauschildt has been a pioneer among trainees in integrating quantitative and qualitative social demography to study a topic of relevance to social and health scientists, health care providers, bioethicists, and the public. Her massive qualitative data collection project studying end of life in hospitals, as they are experienced by families and patients and providers, has uncovered the ways in which racial disparities in access to preferred end of life care and practices occur in real time. She applies a population lens to move beyond the individual bedsides and draw important conclusions that are already influencing patient care as practiced at UM and that are critical to the circumstances of the COVID-19 era and beyond. Katie is also an accomplished tennis player and big fluffy dog wrangler. *Sarah Burgard, mentor*

Postdoctoral trainees

Lauren Brown

Lauren's dedication to improving the generalizability of social, biological, and health data, measures, and results cannot be overstated. Her tandem skills of superb scientific rigor and eloquent writing will make her a leader of population health and health inequality research. *Colter Mitchell, co-preceptor*

We were lucky to learn from Dr. Brown here in the Midwest for a few years, before she found her way back to Southern California for a terrific faculty position at San Diego State. Her public health students will be drawn to her thoughtful, critical take and focus on social disparities both in health and in access to the academy. A gerontologist by training, Lauren is an ambassador for multidisciplinary, and formed networks with our resident experts at PSC and beyond in the areas of collecting and integrating social and biological data on populations, genetics and epigenetics, and racial disparities in later life health. She also continues to be among the higher caliber of runners in the demographic community. *Sarah Burgard, co-preceptor*

Arianna Gard

Seeing the earnestness with which Arianna has integrated a population perspective into developmental neuroscience highlights her incredible talent, capacity, and productivity. From better measurement of context to literally writing the paper on sampling weights for neuroscientists, she is a model for highly impactful interdisciplinary work. *Colter Mitchell, co-preceptor*