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Population Research Center

1155 East 60th Street, Suite 341

Chicago, IL 60637

Telephone: 773.256.6315

Fax: 773.256.6313

www.popcenter.uchicago.edu

The Founding and Early History of the PRC

Donald J. Bogue, research associate PRC

The Population Research Center is 51 years old. It was organized in 1958 by five demographers of the Sociology Department: **Phillip M. Hauser**, **Dudley Duncan**, **Evelyn Kitagawa**, **Beverly Duncan**, and **Donald J. Bogue**. It was a vehicle to receive grants and contracts for

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Letter from the Director

I am writing to introduce you to the inaugural issue of our Population Research Center (PRC) Newsletter. In these pages we share our history, publication highlights, and plans for the current and upcoming quarters. Through funding from NICHD, our NORC-University of Chicago enterprise is able to initiate and facilitate population research informed from the disciplines of economics, sociology, psychology and the health sciences.

The PRC's charge is multifaceted—it helps faculty to conceptualize and perform novel research, it creates opportunities for collaboration, and it hosts workshops and meetings that allow for exploration and development of fresh approaches to population-related research questions. What it is and how it operates is reflected in the work of its faculty. For example, **Ofer Malamud** examines the effect of home computer use on child outcomes, **Jens Ludwig** is incorporating biological endpoints into the Moving to Opportunity study, **Mario Small** is exploring network inequality, and **Yang Yang** is developing new

models and methods for cohort analysis. These PRC faculty associates represent different career stages, different disciplines, and different emphases on substance versus method. What they share is an active role in our population studies community. You will read about other faculty associates and their activities in this Newsletter, including **Scott Allard** and his upcoming conference, Understanding a Dynamic Decade: Population Trends, Public Policy, and the 2010 Census in Chicago.

We are enthusiastic about our urban theme, the hallmark of our research activities of the PRC. The PRC's urban emphasis is rooted in the emerging significance of global trends in urbanization, the ongoing and pressing concerns regarding urban populations in the US, and the long-standing interest in urban questions among our faculty.

We continue to contribute to urban research through work like that described above and through joint efforts with departments and divisions across the University. For instance, as a component of the Harris School's Urban Policy Initiative, we are jointly sponsoring the visit of **Laurence Steinberg** (Temple University) on February 25, 2010. He will speak on "A Social Neuroscience Perspective on Adolescent Risk-Taking." We will co-sponsor two other such events—**Kathryn Edin** (Harvard University) and **Elisabeth Gerber**

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for research and expanded training in demography and urban ecology at a time when the Social Science Division had limited capacity to administer such projects. The PRC's roots are even older. It was a reorganization and expansion of the Chicago Community Inventory, a research center founded by **Ernest Burgess** and **Louis Wirth** to sponsor urban research in Chicago.

Nineteen fifty-eight was a time of national and international concern over rapid population growth—"The Population Bomb." Private foundations and the federal government offered generous grants to find quick ways to reduce high fertility, both in the U.S. ("Baby Boom") and in developing countries. This included bringing large numbers of students from overseas for long-term training (MA and PhD) in demography and family planning.

During the same period the influx to northern cities of migrants from the South was creating rapid turnover in urban neighborhoods and inducing great social change.

To this were added programs to redevelop or demolish urban slums as a part of a "War on Poverty" and security worries about the possible impact on cities of atomic warfare, generated by the Cold War with the Soviet Union.

With youthful enthusiasm the PRC founding quintet simultaneously tackled this panoply of research problems while teaching others about them. **Philip M. Hauser**, himself a Chicago sociology graduate, had served as assistant director of the U.S. Census Bureau. Both an experienced administrator and one well connected with potential sources of funds to study population explosion and urban change, he was the obvious choice and the driving force to organize and direct the newly born PRC.

Dudley and Beverly Duncan (both Chicago graduates) greatly expanded their urban ecology studies under the PRC. They hired their best students as research assistants, and with them issued a steady stream of articles and monographs on segregation, social change, and

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urban research methodology that today stand as classic contributions.

Evelyn Kitagawa (also a Chicago graduate) and Donald Bogue (a student of the famed human ecologist **Amos Hawley** at University of Michigan) focused on the newly formed demography program. The Ford Foundation, Population Council, Rockefeller Foundation, and U.S. Agency for International Development all provided fellowships for overseas students to study demography and research methodology. Lacking texts, they began to write manuals as they taught. Kitagawa focused on mortality research. Bogue specialized in fertility, health education for family planning and migration. Together they launched a course on Demographic Research Methods. Bogue and his wife Elizabeth focused on the computerization of demography by creating software for commonly used demography techniques.

The Duncans and Kitagawa based their research and teaching primarily on data for the United States. Bogue, with extended assignments as a demographer for the United Nations in Asia and Latin America, focused on the demography of developing nations. Being simultaneously chairman of Sociology and

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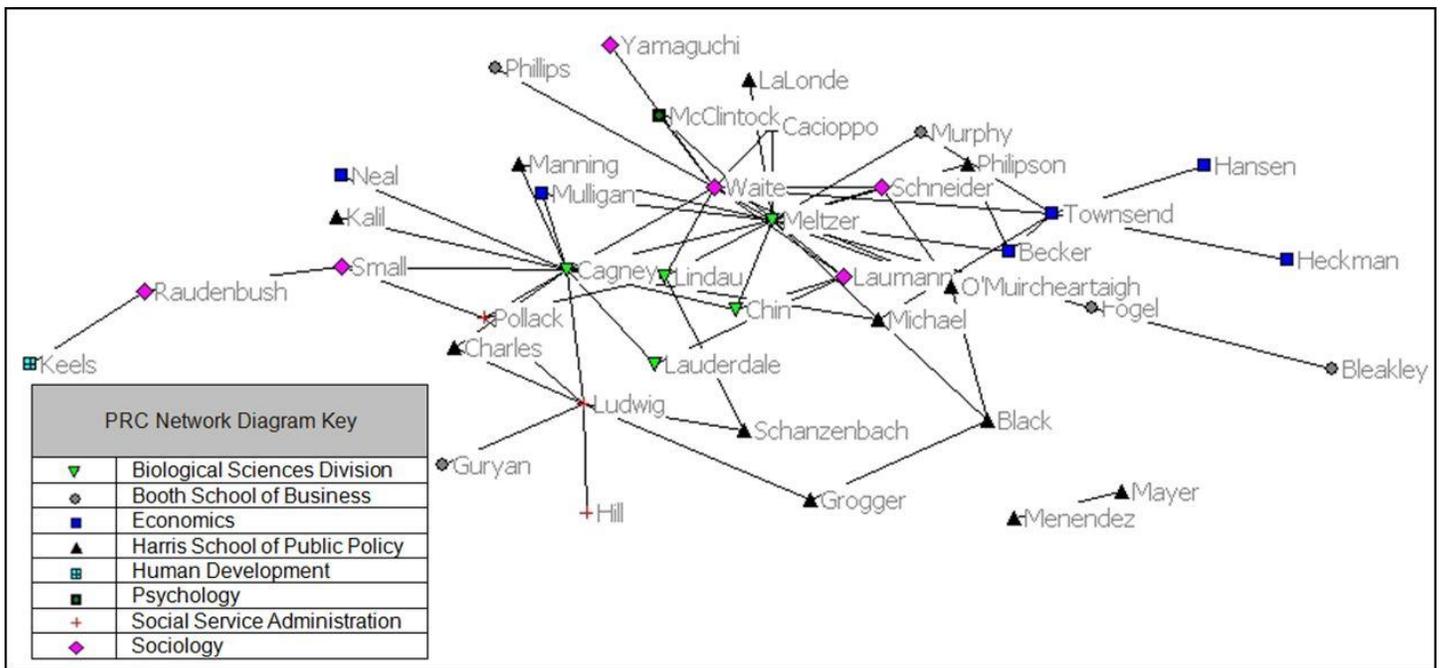
Director's Letter, cont'd from p. 1

(University of Michigan)—later in the Spring. We also work closely with other centers within the Academic Research Centers of NORC (e.g., Center on Aging) as well as centers at the University (e.g., Center for Health and the Social Sciences) to explore questions of great import to the study of urban context. We invite you to attend our Demography Workshop (Thursdays, 12:00-1:20), or meet with us to discuss pilot possibilities or assistance with grant applications. We also invite faculty from other institutions to arrange a visit in our center should they believe their scholarship would benefit from an opportunity to interact with our faculty associates.

Sincerely,



Kathleen A. Cagney
Director, Population Research
Center, Associate Professor,
Department of Health Studies,
University of Chicago



This sociogram demonstrates the multidisciplinary nature of the PRC's research program.

THE PRC WELCOMES NEW RESEARCH ASSOCIATES, RESEARCH AFFILIATES, AND STAFF

New Research Associates:



Scott W. Allard, an Associate Professor at the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration (SSA), joined the Population Research Center as a Research Associate in 2009. Prior to his appointment at the University of Chicago, Allard held faculty positions at Syracuse University and Brown University.

He is the author of *Out of Reach: Place, Poverty, and the New American Welfare State* (Yale University Press), released in 2009, which examines geographic or place-based variation in the person-based assistance upon which the safety net rests. The book focuses upon spatial mismatches between the location of low-income populations in metropolitan areas and the location of social service programs that address basic material needs and barriers to greater self-sufficiency.

Allard's research centers on social welfare policy, federalism and intergovernmental relationships, and urban policy.

Allard is acting as the faculty organizer of "Understanding a Dynamic Decade: Population Trends, Public Policy, and the 2010 Census in Chicago."

Amy Claessens is an Assistant Professor at the Harris School of Public Policy. Claessens' research addresses education, public policy and child development, examining policy affects on child development. Her research on school readiness has been included in the *New York Times*.



Claessens has partnered with the Australian Government to examine early childhood policy.

Claessens holds a PhD from Northwestern University and was a post-doctoral scholar with Center for Human Potential and Public Policy at the University of Chicago.

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Heather Hill is an Assistant Professor at the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration.



Hill's research focuses on poverty and inequality, program evaluation, maternal employment, unmarried parents, and the health and development of young children. This research has examined the effect of welfare policy, such as Milwaukee's New Hope Project, on families and low income workers. Hill holds a Ph.D. in Human Development and Social Policy from Northwestern University and has worked as a research analyst for Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.

Erik Hurst is the V. Duane Rath Professor of Economics and Professor of Economics and Neubauer Family Faculty Fellow at the University of Chicago Booth School Of Business.



Hurst's research interests include macro-economic policy, consumption, time use, entrepreneurship, and household financial behavior. His research has been featured in the *New York Times*, the *Economist* and the *Washington Post*.

Harold Pollack was recently promoted to full professor in the School of Social Service Administration (SSA) and joined the Population Research Center as a Research Associate. Pollack acts as faculty chair of the Center for Health Administration Studies

and Co-Director of The University of Chicago Crime Lab, evaluating crime reduction pilot programs. His research addresses substance abuse among welfare recipients and pregnant women, child health, and HIV and hepatitis prevention in intravenous drug users, addressing the junction of poverty policy and public health. Prior to joining the School of Social Service Administration, Pollack held positions at Yale University and the University of Michigan. In



June 2009, Pollack received the Valerie Jarrett Award for Faculty Leadership and Mentoring from the SSA.

Pollack is also a blogger for *The Huffington Post*, a special correspondent for *The New Republic* and a contributor to *The Washington Post's* feature on the health-care debate.

New Research Affiliate:

Kathryn Neckerman, a Research Affiliate with the Population Research Center, is the Executive Director of the Center for Health and the Social Sciences at the University of Chicago. Neckerman's research interests include urban inequality and health. She has held a faculty



position at Columbia University and served as the associate director of Columbia's Institute for

Social and Economic Research and Policy. ♦

New Staff:

Veronica Wald joined the Population Research Center as the Deputy Director of Academic Research Centers.

Wald's prior experience with the Center for Population Economics, University of Chicago Booth School of Business



and General Clinical Research Center at the University of Chicago Biological Sciences Division, among others, focuses on pre- and post-award management of research centers. Wald specializes in the development of large, complex NIH grants but also welcomes the opportunity to work on smaller projects.

Bix Firer, a graduate research assistant with the Population Research Center, is a student in



the Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences, focusing on cultural anthropology. His research addresses questions of nationality, language, and representation

among Roma activists in Eastern Europe.

Jeffrey Fiore, a graduate research assistant with the Population



Research Center, is pursuing a Masters in the School of Social Service Administration (SSA). His research interests include poverty and inequality. Prior to

joining SSA, Fiore earned a Master of Accountancy degree from the University of Iowa. ♦

As facilitator of the programmatic activities of the PRC Kathleen Parks has for the past 13 years nurtured the aspirations of faculty researchers from pilot submissions to awarded project grants. She holds a Masters degree in Project Management and a MBA and 15 prior years experience as a research administrator at Madison.

For this first issue of the PRC Newsletter we asked her to explain the process whereby a faculty member becomes a research associate of the PRC.

Each year in one of two ways, University of Chicago researchers ranging from newly-minted PhDs to tenured faculty members become new associates of the PRC. A colleague who is already a PRC research associate recruits the individual, realizing that this researcher's areas of interest intersect with the PRC's overarching theme of human and social capital in an urban context. Or a faculty member learns about the PRC and indicates an interest in becoming a part of this collaborative, interdisciplinary Center. In either case, we ask the prospective research associate to provide a CV to the PRC executive committee for consideration. The Director, Kate Cagney, then meets with the prospective member to talk about the Center and formally extends the invitation.

Researchers at other institutions and non-tenure track researchers who collaborate with PRC research associates are nominated and invited to join as research affiliates in a similar process. The PRC's research affiliates are based in research departments throughout

the University of Chicago, at other research universities in Chicago and other cities, and at NORC.

The Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), which provides the primary support for the PRC, encourages research associates of their funded centers to work in the substantive areas of research they have identified. A recent DBSB council report suggested that researchers think about the following questions:

- Why and how are families reshaping themselves?
- What are the causes and consequences of population health?
- Why do people move? How does migration reshape societies, communities, families, and people?

Researchers who want to know more about the PRC should feel free to call me (773.256.6302) or drop by my office on the third floor of the Harris School. I'd like to mention that the PRC is one of the seven centers in the NORC Academic Research Centers portfolio. The others are: Center for Advancing Research and Communication in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics; Center for Excellence in Survey Research; Center for the Study of Politics and Society; Center on Demography and Economics of Aging; Cultural Policy Center; Joint Center for Education Research; and Ogburn Stouffer Center for the Study of Social Organizations.

Kathleen E. Parks

director of PRC, Hauser gave his available time to collaborating with Kitagawa and the Duncans in their projects.

A tradition of weekly meetings for demographers was created by Evelyn Kitagawa as "Demography Brownbag" noontime sessions. They continue to this day as the Demography Workshop, with greatly expanded coverage and a larger audience. During this early period Bogue founded and became the first editor of the journal *Demography*, which also continues. He also published a world-oriented textbook, *Principles of Demography*.

After decades of cutting-edge work the Duncans went to the University of California. They were replaced by Nathan Keyfitz, (also a Chicago graduate), who ushered in a new era of mathematical demography. His writings are still awing and inspiring young demographers. The American and international students who graduated from the pioneering

PRC-sponsored programs described above were numerous and talented. They have in turn created or joined new population centers in many parts of the world, including several U.S. leading universities.

They now are rapidly retiring; third generation demographer-ecologists whose academic fathers/mothers trained at PRC during its early years are taking over.

The early PRC was a leader in defining and increasing the analytical depth of both the study of population and urban ecology. Today under a multi-departmental sponsorship and NORC support, it continues to innovate by broadening the scope and fostering interdisciplinary coordination of population and socio-environmental research. ♦



RESEARCH ASSOCIATE SCOTT ALLARD ORGANIZES 2010 CENSUS CONFERENCE

Scott W. Allard, a recent arrival to the community of PRC Research Associates, is faculty organizer of the February 26, 2010 conference "Understanding a Dynamic Decade: Population Trends, Public Policy, and the 2010 Census in Chicago." The conference will address the dramatic demographic changes of the past decade and their effect on the 2010 census, health, housing and public policy during a day of panels and speakers.

The conference brings together researchers, community groups and policymakers to address these issues.

The panels will present

information necessary for community groups and members of the media to understand and report on the 2010 census. In addition to organizing the conference, Allard will moderate the panel "Current Population Trends," featuring Brookings Institute Senior Fellow **Alan Berube** and Chapin Hall Research Fellow **Robert Goerge**.

PRC Director **Kathleen Cagney** will speak on "Health Disparities and Insurance Coverage" with NORC Vice President and Director of Public Health Research, **Michael Davern**. NORC President **John Thompson** will moderate a panel

on the 2010 Census and Chicago that includes Deputy Undersecretary for Economic Affairs **Nancy Potok** and Regional Census Director **Stanley Moore**. Chicago journalist **Alex Kotlowitz**, is the keynote speaker for the event. Among other presentations, **Ann Marie Lipinski** will moderate a panel of journalists about covering the Census and the stories behind it.

Co-sponsors of the conference include the School of Social Service Administration, the PRC, the University's Office of Civic Engagement, Chapin Hall, NORC, and the Harris School. ♦



Final Speaker of the Winter Quarter Demography Workshop

March 4 - **Steven Haider**, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Michigan State University

"A Deadly Disparity: A Comprehensive Assessment of the Black-White Infant Mortality Gap" explains and quantifies the incredible disparity in black and white infant mortality rates exists in the United States. To explain the gap, the paper divides the mortality into three distinct components: fitness at birth, neonatal mortality and post-neonatal mortality. Ninety percent of all infant mortality can be explained by fitness at birth, which cannot be described by background characteristics. The rest of the gap is in post-neonatal mortality, which can be described by differing background characteristics. A decrease in infant mortality explainable by background characteristics corresponds to the large number of deaths due to low fitness at birth.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY PRC RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

Chin, Marshall H., Alexander-Young, M., Burnet, D. L. (2009). Health care quality-improvement approaches to reducing child health disparities. *Pediatrics*, 3(124), 224–236. doi:10.1542/peds.2009-1100K

Heckman, James J., S. H. Moon, Pinto, P. A. Savelyev, A. Yavitz (2010). The rate of the return to the High/Scope Perry Preschool Program. *Journal of Public Economics*, 94: 114-128, doi: 10.1016/j.jpubeco.2009.11.001

Hoynes, H. W., & **Schanzenbach, Diane Whitmore** (2009). Consumption responses to in-kind transfers: Evidence from the introduction of the food stamp program. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 1(4),

109–139. doi:10.1257/app.1.4.109

Lauderdale, Diane S., Knutson, K. L., Rathouz, P. J., Yan, L. L., Hulley, S. B., & Liu, K. (2009). Cross-sectional and longitudinal associations between objectively measured sleep duration and body mass index: The CARDIA Sleep Study. *American Journal of Epidemiology*, 170(7), 805–813. doi:10.1093/aje/kwp230

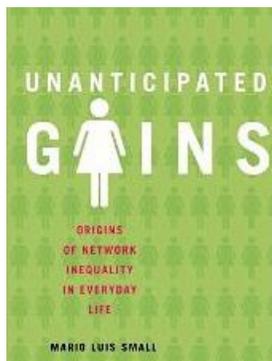
Meltzer, David O., Basu, A., & Meltzer, H. (2009). Comparative effectiveness research for antipsychotic medications: How much is enough? *Health Affairs*, 28(5), 794–808. doi:10.1377/hlthaff.28.5.w794

Peek, M. E., Wilson, S. C., Gorawara-Bhat, R. Odoms-

Young A., Quinn, M. T., & **Chin, Marshall H.** (2009). Barriers and facilitators to shared decision-making among African-Americans with diabetes. *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, 24(10), 1135–1139. doi:10.1007/s11606-009-1047-0

Williams, J. B., Pang, D., Delgado, B., Kocherginsky, M., Tretiakova, M., **McClintock, Martha K.,** et al. (2009). A model of gene-environment interaction reveals altered mammary gland gene expression and increased tumor growth following social isolation. *Cancer Prevention Research*, 2(10), 850–861. doi:10.1158/1940-6207. CAPR-08-02 ♦

A NEW BOOK ON NETWORK FORMATION



Small, Mario Luis (2009), *Unanticipated Gains: Origins of Network Inequality in Everyday Life*, Oxford University Press

Relying on scores of in-depth interviews with mothers, quantitative data on both mothers and centers, and detailed case studies of other routine organizations (from beauty salons and bath houses to colleges and churches), *Unanticipated Gains* shows that how much people gain from their connections depends substantially on institutional conditions they often do not control, and through everyday process they may not even be aware of.

Research Associate Recognized by LERA



Jonathan Guryan, Associate Professor of Economics, Booth School of Business, was awarded the 2009 **John T. Dunlop Outstanding Scholar Award** from the Labor and Employment Relations Association. The award recognizes

Professor Guryan's outstanding academic contributions, as a new entrant to the field, to research concerning labor and employment.

SPRING DEMOGRAPHY WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

- April 1** **Robert Jensen**, Associate Professor of Public Policy, School of Public Affairs, UCLA, presents "Economics, Culture and Bias in India"
- April 8** **Seth Sanders**, Professor of Economics and Public Policy, Sanford School of Public Policy, Duke University
- April 15** **Training in the Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research**
- April 22** **Diane Lauderdale**, Associate Professor, Epidemiology, Department of Health Studies, University of Chicago
- April 29** **Laura Schechter**, Assistant Professor, Agricultural & Applied Economics, University of Wisconsin at Madison, presents "'Vote-Buying and Reciprocity"
- May 6** **C. Hoyt Bleakley**, Associate Professor of Economics, Chicago Booth, University of Chicago, presents "Health, Human Capital, and Development"
- May 13** **Erik Hurst**, V. Duane Rath Professor of Economics and Neubauer Family Faculty Fellow, Booth School of Business, University of Chicago
- May 20** **Jishnu Das**, Senior Economist, the World Bank
- May 27** **David Canning**, Professor of Economics and International Health, Department of Global Health and Population, Harvard University, presents "The Impact of Malaria on Settlement and Land Use—Evidence from the Amazon"
- June 3** **Christina Paxson**, Hughes Rogers Professor of Economics and Public Affairs, Dean of the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University

The Demography Workshop is held Thursdays between noon and 1:20 p.m. at the Harris School, Room 140C,



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