

KUDOS

Terry Thornberry is the winner of the 2008 Edwin Sutherland Award of the American Society of Criminology given to “recognize outstanding contributions to theory or research in criminology on the etiology of criminal and deviant behavior, the criminal justice system, corrections, law, or justice. The distinguished contribution may be based on a single outstanding book or work, on a series of theoretical or research contributions, or on the accumulated contributions by a senior scholar.” According to Bob Bursik, President of the American Society of Criminology, the pool of candidates was unusually strong and deep this year but the award committee agreed that Terry clearly merits inclusion among the distinguished prior winners of this prestigious accolade. Congratulations!

Sharon Mihalic has been notified that she is the 2008 recipient of the Science to Practice Award from The Society for Prevention Research. She will receive the award in San Francisco in May for her outstanding contributions to advancing the field of prevention science. “This recognition is richly deserved for the fantastic work she has done over the years,” says Terry Thornberry.

Mike Radelet, Chair of Sociology and Faculty Research Associate, Problem Behavior Program, has recently won two CU Service Awards on April 14: one is the Boulder Faculty Assembly’s Award for Excellence for work on the Boulder campus (\$3,000) and the Chase Faculty Community Service Award from the CU System (\$10,000).

Hamilton Bean, doctoral candidate in the Communication Department and a START grant research assistant, has received a 2008-09 Dissertation Grant Award from the United States Department of Homeland Security. This highly competitive award is administered by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education. Hamilton’s proposed dissertation explores how organizational communication and culture mediate the conception, practice, and effects of “information sharing” within organizations possessing a homeland security mission. This project is significant for stakeholders in the Homeland Security-related Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics research areas, particularly those areas concerned with information sharing. His START mentor is **Lisa Keränen**, Assistant Professor of Communication and Natural Hazards Center Research Associate.

Christie Sennott is to be awarded a 2008 Beverly Sears Award from the CU Graduate School for her future research project entitled “The Impact of Childbearing on Partner Selection as a Regulation Strategy for HIV/AIDS Exposure in South Africa.”

INSTITUTE ACTIVITIES



Debbie Ash

CELEBRATING DEBBIE ASH!

After more than twenty-nine years, Debbie Ash is retiring from IBS and CU. Debbie has been the welcoming face of IBS to visitors over the years. Many were so struck by her calm competence and friendly goodwill that they tried to steal her away to their own institutions! To our great benefit, Debbie always chose to stay firmly established in IBS#1. She was named Employee of the Year in 1999, an honor she well deserved. We have been

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privileged to work with Debbie and she has been responsible for much of what IBS has been able to accomplish in these last few decades. Her absence will be felt by all of us whose lives and work she has touched. We wish her a rich and rewarding next phase of her continuing contribution to the welfare of others. There will be an all-IBS celebration of Debbie's legacy and a rousing sendoff for her on May 30 from 3-5pm at Koenig Alumni Center. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend!



Andrei Rogers

SPECIAL CELEBRATION IN HONOR OF ANDREI ROGERS' RETIREMENT

Please come celebrate Andrei Rogers' retirement Friday, June 6, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. in the Population Program Conference Room (1st floor, IBS#3). This year also marks 25 years of Andrei's stellar and extensive contributions to CU-Boulder's Department of Geography and the Population Program, IBS. We'll provide tantalizing appetizers and an extensive array of soft drinks, beers, and wines. Everyone is welcome.

IBS BUILDING FUNDRAISING KICKOFF

The Kickoff Event for the IBS Building Fund Campaign took place on Friday evening, April 25 at the residence of Chancellor Bud Peterson and his wife, Val Peterson. Turnout for the event was high as was enthusiasm for the new IBS building project. Chancellor Peterson welcomed people to the reception, pointed out the important role that IBS has played and continues to play in conducting collaborative, interdisciplinary research on socially important issues, and ensured his and the University's support for the building project. Jane Menken and Dick Jessor followed with brief remarks of welcome, thanks to the Foundation staff who were managing the fund-raising effort, and descriptions of on-going research efforts at IBS. The event was highlighted by the presence of Senator Ken Salazar at the specific invitation of **Del Elliott**, who introduced the Senator at the reception. The senator spoke about the importance of higher education in his life--he and his brothers and sisters were the first college graduates in his family--and the special regard he has for the University of Colorado and the Institute of Behavioral Science. He had special praise for the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence under Del's leadership. He concluded his remarks by urging reception attendees and others to contribute to the IBS building fund so that the Institute might continue its important work.

IBS was represented at the reception by the Program Directors, one faculty member from each program (Del Elliott, Lori Hunter, Jason Boardman, Stefanie Mollborn, and John O'Loughlin), IBS administrator Steve Graham, and CSPV members Jane Grady, Bill Woodward, and Eda Homan.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY PROGRAM

Lee Alston presented a seminar entitled "Land Reform, Land Conflict, and Land Use in Brazil" for the Princeton Program on Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy on April 14.

Alston gave the February 5th keynote address at a European Union Workshop "Which Governance for Which Environment? Institutions, Social Preferences and Knowledge for Governing Environmental Issues" held in Cargese, Corsica on February 4-8. He also

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IN FOCUS



Ezekiel (Zeke) Peters
Program Manager
Natural Hazards Center

I find disasters and emergencies interesting because they often bring poor environmental planning and pre-existing social inequities into focus.

Social and Policy Dimensions of Ecological Management

Zeke Peters was recently appointed Program Manager in the Natural Hazards Center, Environment and Society Program. He is also a paramedic at the Denver Health Authority and has been since 1996. He received his Bachelors Degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Ecology and Environmental Policy from Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts. Zeke won the Corbridge Initiative Award from the University of Colorado School of Law in 2006, the year he received his J.D.

As an undergraduate, my interests were in the life sciences. However, I soon discovered that I always gravitated toward ecological "management" problems, in other words, those with pressing social and policy dimensions. These interests led to work on subsistence management of resources important to Alaska Native populations. In turn, I developed a broader interest in how public agencies communicate with and are directed by their publics. Believing that the focused dissemination of scientific information could be a form of political activism, I produced a broad bibliography of literature on radiocontaminant cycling in northern ecosystems which was distributed by Alaska Public Interest Research Group (before internet access was widely available in rural areas).

I also served as a volunteer EMT in college and in the rural communities where I was doing natural resources work. After college, I intended to take a brief diversion to paramedic school before attending graduate school and returning to natural resources management in Alaska, where I would also serve as a volunteer paramedic. However, I unexpectedly arrived at the Denver Paramedic Division in 1996, where I stayed for the next decade.

I enjoyed paramedic practice and became heavily involved in the training of new paramedics. Thinking about the provision of ambulance services naturally led to many of the same broad questions about agency communication and priority setting, and the production and use of scientific information, that had arisen in my natural resources work. However, because paramedic practice--a concept that has existed for only 30 to 40 years--is relatively undefined, even inter-agency communications often lack common points of reference. Without a consistent dialogue within the agency about the nature of their work, it is unlikely that these agencies will ever have meaningful communications with their publics.

My work to engage these problems took two forms. First, with paramedic colleagues, I developed several innovative workshop curricula that foster critical thinking about decisions made on individual medical calls. Through the common vocabulary derived from this applied process, more meaningful theoretical conversations about paramedic practice and agency policy become possible. Following on this work with individual calls, I developed a system for understanding information flow and evaluating decision making on mass-casualty incidents through story telling.

Second, I entered the University of Michigan's Health Services Organization

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and Policy Ph.D. Program, in the political science cognate area, on a U.S. Public Health Service training grant. While I found the coursework interesting, and ultimately very useful, by the end of my second year in the program it became clear to me that I no longer saw myself as a full-time researcher. I concluded that a law degree would best fit the diversity of my academic interests and my continuing desire to engage in applied practice, activism, and policy making.

I completed law school at the University of Colorado in 2006, focusing primarily on natural resources and Indian and local government law. I was editor-in-chief of the *Colorado Journal of International Environmental Law and Policy*, and worked to strengthen the *Journal* in international water law, an area with many immediate and long-term public health implications. I also did externship work for Denver Health on quarantine and seizure powers during mass incidents. Before coming to the Natural Hazards Center, I returned to the Denver Paramedic Division full-time, where my work included mass-casualty incident exercise planning.

I find emergencies and disasters particularly interesting because they often bring poor environmental planning and pre-existing social inequities into focus. More narrowly, they provoke interesting questions about agency communications, priority setting, and decision making. In other words, thinking about disasters is inherently multidisciplinary and is one of the few academic pursuits that touches on all of my diverse interests.

I believe that the Natural Hazards Center's information dissemination program has successfully transcended many boundaries between disciplines and between research, practice, and policy. Of course, this holistic approach becomes increasingly challenging as knowledge about and interest in hazards and disasters continues to rapidly expand. In particular, as climate change comes to be understood as a natural hazard, I anticipate the scope of our work will expand exponentially. I am excited to join the Center staff in facing these challenges.

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presented his paper "Land Conflict, Land Reform and the Role of the Media."

RoseMarie Perez Foster was an invited speaker at the United Nations Headquarters' Seventeenth International Conference on Health and Environment: Global Partners for Global Solutions on April 24. She presented research on Chernobyl nuclear disaster survivors who have relocated to the United States. Her research was part of the Living with Radiation: Medical and Psychological Consequences of the Chernobyl Nuclear Accident program.

Natural Hazards Center

The Natural Hazards Center, in examining the uses of social media in disaster, presented the following papers at the 5th International Community on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management (ISCRAM) Conference in Washington DC, May 4-7.

Sutton, J., L. Palen, and I. Shklovski. "Backchannels on the Front Lines: Emergent Uses of Social Media in the 2007 Southern California Wildfires."

Vieweg, S.E., L. Palen, S. Liu, A. L. Hughes, and **J. Sutton.** "Collective Intelligence

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in Disaster: Examination of the Phenomenon in the Aftermath of the 2007 Virginia Tech Shooting.”

Hughes, A. L., L. Palen, **J. Sutton**, S. Liu, and S.E. Vieweg. “‘Site-Seeing’ in Disaster: An Examination of On-Line Social Convergence.”

S.B. Liu, L. Palen, **J. Sutton**, A.L. Hughes, and S.E. Vieweg. “In Search of the Bigger Picture: The Emergent Role of On-Line Photo Sharing in Times of Disaster.”

Jeannette Sutton and **Christine Bevc** presented “Collaboration across Boundaries: Research on Regional Preparedness Networks” at the 2008 Urban Area Security Initiative Conference in Charlotte, South Carolina on April 21. They drew upon data from more than one hundred interviews on regional collaboration and emergency preparedness. Their conclusions include the importance of distributed resources, the balance of decision-making power, and the liability of unconnectedness. Their research was funded through the Hazards Center’s National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) grant.

In Print

Lisa Keränen and Virginia Sanprie. “‘Oxygen of Publicity’ and ‘Lifeblood of Liberty’: Communication Scholarship on Mass Media Coverage of Terrorism for the Twenty-First Century” in *Communication Yearbook 32*, ed. Christina S. Beck (New York, Routledge 2008), 231-275. Diverse, state-of-the-discipline literature reviews across the field of communication are published annually in *Communication Yearbook*. Sponsored by the International Communication Association, these volumes offer insightful descriptions of research as well as reflections on the implications of findings for other areas of the discipline. Editor Christina S. Beck presents a diverse, international selection of articles that highlight empirical and theoretical intersections in the communication discipline.

Ritchie, L.A. and D.A. Gill. “The Selendang Ayu Shipwreck and Oil Spill: Considering Threats and Fears of a Worst-Case Scenario.” *Sociological Inquiry* 78, no. 2 (2008): 184–206. On December 8, 2004, the Selendang Ayu, a Malaysian-flagged freighter, ran aground off Unalaska Island in Alaska’s Aleutian chain. Despite rescue efforts by the United States Coast Guard, six of the Selendang Ayu’s crew members died. In addition to the deaths, more than 300,000 gallons of heavy bulk fuel oil spilled into the sea. Much of the oil washed onto the island’s shores, areas providing cultural, recreational, subsistence, and commercial fishing resources for residents of the renewable resource community of Dutch Harbor/Unalaska. The authors identify and examine different dimensions of risk, based on qualitative research conducted in 2005. They use a contextual constructionist approach to understand risk, which conceptualizes risk as an objective hazard, threat, or danger that is mediated through social and cultural processes. Research methods included thirty-one personal interviews, participatory observation, and a review of media coverage. Findings revealed several dimensions of risk perceived by residents: the incident in relation to Dutch Harbor/Unalaska as a high-risk community and more general current events, threats to the community’s annual \$1 billion seafood industry, threats to Alaska native subsistence culture, and issues of future risk and uncertainty. Interviews and observations support our conclusion that the Selendang Ayu incident represented a “shot across the bow” that could have been a “worst case” if oil had contaminated commercial fish processing. Residents believe that it is only a matter of time before another, more damaging accident occurs. Given this general perception, it is important to more clearly

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assess risk in Dutch Harbor/Unalaska and help the community increase resilience to the multiple hazards it faces. More broadly, Dutch Harbor/Unalaska serves as an example—all communities could benefit from better risk assessments and increased attention to resiliency.

Ritchie, L.A. and D.A. Gill. “Guest Editors’ Introduction: Voices of Katrina.” *Journal of Public Management and Social Policy* 13, no. 2 (2007): 1-4. For several decades, qualitative social science research that employs sound, appropriate methodologies and theoretical frameworks to guide interpretation of findings has proven to be effective in efforts to inform decision-makers. Although policymakers tend to rely heavily on quantitative data, the value of qualitative research in planning and policymaking is well established in public management research. This is especially the case with respect to issues typically affecting underrepresented and at-risk populations. The work of qualitative researchers to identify and clarify social problems provides critical perspectives that might otherwise go unnoticed and unaddressed. Recognizing that there is no “correct” recounting of any given event or situation, qualitative researchers offer interpretations that, as Denzin and Lincoln (2000) suggest, may be likened to light striking a crystal, reflecting different perspectives. The complexities of long-studied issues such as education, crime, poverty, disease, mental health, and others demand the attention of multiple disciplines, perspectives, and methodological approaches. The social impacts of natural and human-caused/ technological disasters also demand better understanding informed by a variety of perspectives. As a subfield, disaster sociology has a rich and established tradition of qualitative research dating back to Prince’s research (1920) on the 1917 Halifax explosion. It is imperative these qualitative approaches be used to improve our understanding and public policy approaches to disasters.

Paton, D., B.F. Houghton, C.E. Gregg, D.A. Gill, **L.A. Ritchie**, D. McIvor, P. Larin, S. Meinhold, J. Horan, and D.M. Johnston. “Managing tsunami risk in coastal communities: Identifying predictors of preparedness.” *The Australian Journal of Emergency Management* 23, no. 1 (2008): 4-9. The authors discuss the testing of a model predicting tsunami preparedness. Using data collected from a community identified as facing a high risk from locally-generated tsunamis, the model illustrates how people’s beliefs about the efficacy of mitigation interact with social context factors (community participation, collective efficacy, empowerment, trust) to influence levels of tsunami preparedness. The implications of the findings for tsunami hazard education programs are discussed.

HEALTH AND SOCIETY PROGRAM

Jeff Dennis presented “Predictive Factors of Positive Birth Outcomes Among Adolescent Mothers,” a paper co-authored with **Stefanie Mollborn**, at the Southwestern Social Science Annual meeting in Las Vegas, NV on March 13.

Christie Sennott gave a presentation entitled “‘I’d Rather be Dead’: An Investigation of the Personal and Societal Benefits of Housing People who are Chronically Homeless” at the Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri in March.

In Print

Sennott, Christie. “Harlem,” in *Encyclopedia of Race, Ethnicity, and Society*, ed. Richard T. Schaefer (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2008).

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Boardman, J.D., C.L. Blalock, and T.M.M. Button. “Sex Differences in the Heritability of Resilience.” *Twin Research and Human Genetics* 11, no. 1 (2008): 12–27. The authors examine the heritability of psychological resilience among United States adults aged twenty-five to seventy-four years. Using monozygotic and same sex dizygotic twin pairs from the National Survey of Mid-Life Development in the United States (MIDUS), they show that positive affect is equally heritable among men ($h^2 = .60$) and women ($h^2 = .59$). They then estimate the heritability of positive affect after controlling for an exhaustive list of social and inter-personal stressors, as well as operationalize the residual for positive affect as resilience. According to this specification, the heritability of resilience is higher among men ($h^2 = .52$) compared to women ($h^2 = .38$). Also shown is that self-acceptance is one of the most important aspects of psychological functioning that accounts for the heritability of resilience among both men and women. However, compared to women, men appear to derive additional benefits from environmental mastery that may enable otherwise sex-neutral resilient tendencies to manifest.

POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE PROGRAM

In Print

Sikora, P., S. Moore, **E. Greenberg,** and L. Grunberg. “Downsizing and Alcohol Use: A Cross-lagged Longitudinal Examination of the Spillover Hypothesis.” *Work & Stress* 22, no. 1 (2008): 51-68. An area of concern for investigators and practitioners is the possible linkage between stressful workplace events and alcohol use and abuse. However, work in this area, specifically testing a “spillover hypothesis,” offers inconclusive evidence of a relationship between many work-based stressors and alcohol use. Using a three-wave panel sample ($N=455$) from a large United States industrial firm that has undergone numerous downsizing events in the last decade, four alternative causal hypotheses using fully cross-lagged three-wave mediational latent factor models were compared via structural equation modeling. Separate models were analyzed for layoff experience and job security perceptions; a motivational factor (escape reasons for drinking) was included in each model. The authors found large autoregressive effects for problem alcohol use in the stability models. One reason for weak support for spillover models may be that problem alcohol use is more stable over time than previously theorized. All alternative causal models fit the data well; however, the only model comparisons showing significant improvement over the stability models were those including reverse paths. Reverse causal models should be explicitly considered when examining the link between alcohol problems and the workplace. The authors suggest that, for some workers, problematic alcohol use may be antecedent to, rather than a consequence of, stressful workplace experiences.

Greenberg, Edward S. “Spillovers from Cooperative and Democratic Workplaces: Have the Benefits Been Oversold?” in *Cooperation: The Political Psychology of Effective Human Interaction*, ed. Brandon A. Sullivan, Mark Snyder, and John L. Sullivan (Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2008), 219-239. Scholars and practitioners generally agree that employee cooperation in the workplace is beneficial for both employees and their companies. Employees in cooperative settings tend to report higher levels of morale, job satisfaction, organizational citizenship, commitment to the organization, and trust in organizational leaders, as well as lower absenteeism, tardiness, and intention to quit, all of which contribute to better organizational performance. Research regarding the degree to which these cooperative arrangements in the workplace spill over into employees’ lives outside

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of work is less clear, however. In this chapter, the author examines spillover effects on employees who are involved in a subset of cooperative workplace arrangements, namely those related to decision-making on the job. He examines possible spillover effects among employees in worker-owned and/or worker-run companies (namely, producer cooperatives and employee stock ownership firms or ESOPs) where employee/owners meet, deliberate, and decide both broad and specific company policies, and in workplace teams in conventional firms where employees are responsible for deliberating and deciding certain questions related to production or delivery of a service. If cooperation in the workplace produces spillover effects, one ought to see such effects in these two types of cooperative decision-making settings. Noting that one cannot examine all possible spillover effects the author's focus in this chapter is on those areas of potential spillover effects of cooperative decision making most often cited by advocates for worker-owned and managed companies, and for teams in conventional workplaces. For the former, enhancement of democratic citizenship has been the possible spillover effect that has received the most attention; for the latter, employee well-being, defined mostly in terms of mental and physical health, and work-family conflict, has garnered the most attention. The author asks, then, whether participation in decision-making by employees in worker-owned and worker-run companies has important spillover effects on their roles as citizens in the larger society and whether being on work teams in conventional companies positively or negatively affects employees' well-being outside the workplace. He focuses on empirical research that addresses these questions, some from secondary sources and some from his own several research studies devoted to these topics. Though he finds some empirical evidence of positive spillovers to both citizenship and well-being, there is less than might be supposed, given the enthusiastic literature that extols the positive benefits of workplace democracy and work teams. He finds this conclusion both troubling and unavoidable.

POPULATION PROGRAM

Population Program Participation at the 2008 PAA Meetings. The Population Program had a superb showing at this year's 2008 Population Association Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, April 16-18. Nine faculty members, four postdoctoral fellows and research associates, and four graduate students chaired three sessions, were discussants in two sessions, gave nine presentations, and gave three poster presentations. Participants included **Francisca Antman, Tania Barham, Jason Boardman, Justin Denney, Jeff Dennis, Bethany Everett, Lori Hunter, Nizam Khan, Peter Lovegrove, Robert McNown, Jane Menken, Stefanie Mollborn, Georges Reniers, Fernando Riosmena, Rick Rogers, Olumide Taiwo, and Jill Williams.**

Working Papers

<http://www.colorado.edu/ibs/pop/pubs/wp.html>

Rogers, Andrei, Bryan Jones, and Wanran Ma. "Repairing the Migration Data Reported by the American Community Survey" (POP2008-01).

Crowder, Kyle and **Liam C. Downey.** "Inter-Neighborhood Migration, Race, And Environmental Hazards: Modeling Micro-Level Processes Of Environmental Inequality" (POP2008-02). This study combines individual-level data from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics with neighborhood-level environmental hazard data derived from the Environmental Protection Agency's Toxics Release Inventory to provide the first empirical examination of racial and ethnic differences in migration between

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neighborhoods with varying levels of environmental pollution. Results indicate that profound racial and ethnic differences in exposure to industrial pollution are maintained more by differences in mobility destinations than by differential effects of pollution on the decision to move. Conditional upon moving, black and Latino householders enter neighborhoods that are significantly more polluted than those accessed by whites, while other-race householders enter neighborhoods with less pollution. These differences cannot be explained by group differences in socioeconomic resources or other micro-level characteristics but are shaped, in part, by group differences in the reaction to non-white populations that tend to be concentrated in highly polluted areas.

Reniers, Georges. “Marital Strategies for Regulating Exposure to HIV” (POP2008-03). In a setting where the transmission of HIV primarily occurs through heterosexual contact and where no cure or vaccine is available, behavioral change is imperative for containing the epidemic. Abstinence, faithfulness and condom use most often receive attention in this regard. In contrast, this paper treats marriage as a resource for HIV risk management via mechanisms of *positive selection* (partner choice) or *negative selection* (divorce of an adulterous spouse). Retrospective marriage histories and panel data provide the evidence for this study, and results indicate that men and women in Malawi increasingly turned to union-based risk-avoidance strategies in the period that the threat of HIV/AIDS materialized. Although both sexes strategize in a similar fashion, men are better equipped than women to deploy these strategies to their advantage. The paper concludes with reflections on the long-term and population-level implications of these coping mechanisms.

Leblang, David. “Diaspora Bonds and Cross-Border Capital” (POP2008-04). What explains cross-national patterns of international portfolio and foreign direct investment? While existing explanations focus on the credibility of a policymaker’s commitment, we emphasize asymmetries of information between the borrower and lender. We hypothesize that migrant networks—connections between migrants residing in investing countries and their home country—decrease information asymmetries and increase cross-national investment. This hypothesis is tested using dyadic cross-sectional data and the results are robust to a variety of specifications. We conclude by suggesting that countries of emigration provide their expatriate communities with voting rights in order to harness their investment potential.

Riosmena, Fernando. “Socioeconomic Context and the Association between Marriage and Mexico-U.S. Migration” (POP2008-05). In this paper we analyze how the association between Mexico-U.S. migration and marriage varies across socioeconomic settings in places of origin. Using Mexican Migration Project data, and employing bilevel survival analysis with controls for socioeconomic, migrant network, and marriage market characteristics, we find that the pre-to-post-marriage migration gradient was sharpest in areas of recent industrialization, where female employment in manufacturing might have diminished the need for postmarital migration while complementing household income. Marital status was not significant in smaller rural areas, where age-profiles of earnings are flatter and female work is unpaid, making migration attractive later in the life course.

PROBLEM BEHAVIOR PROGRAM

The 2008 Blueprints Conference was held March 17-19 at the Adam’s Mark Hotel in Denver. The Blueprints Conference is a 3-day conference exploring model programs with

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positive results for youth and their families, hosted by The Blueprints for Violence Prevention Initiative at the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence. The conference drew nearly 1,100 attendees from the U.S. and about a dozen other countries. Conference highlights included presentations by distinguished prevention science expert, **Dr. Delbert Elliott** and economist, Steve Aos, as well as many other seasoned practitioners in the field. This biannual conference has motivated the prevention field to adopt evidence-based programs and provide support, guidance, and tools by program experts to help practitioners implement these programs successfully in their own communities. Visit the Blueprints Conference website at <http://www.blueprintsconference.com/>.

In Print

Mihalic, S.F., A.A. Fagan, and S. Argamaso. "Implementing the Life Skills Training drug prevention program: factors related to implementation fidelity." *Implementation Science* 3, no. 5 (2008). Widespread replication of effective prevention programs is unlikely to affect the incidence of adolescent delinquency, violent crime, and substance use until the quality of implementation of these programs by community-based organizations can be assured. This paper presents the results of a process evaluation employing qualitative and quantitative methods to assess the extent to which 432 schools in 105 sites implemented the Life Skills Training (LST) drug prevention program with fidelity. Regression analysis was used to examine factors influencing four dimensions of fidelity: adherence, dosage, quality of delivery, and student responsiveness. Although most sites faced common barriers, such as finding room in the school schedule for the program, gaining full support from key participants (i.e., site coordinators, principals, and LST teachers), ensuring teacher participation in training workshops, and classroom management difficulties, most schools involved in the project implemented LST with very high levels of fidelity. Across sites, 86% of program objectives and activities required in the three-year curriculum were delivered to students. Moreover, teachers were observed using all four recommended teaching practices, and 71% of instructors taught all the required LST lessons. Multivariate analyses found that highly rated LST program characteristics and better student behavior were significantly related to a greater proportion of material taught by teachers (adherence). Instructors who rated the LST program characteristics as ideal were more likely to teach all lessons (dosage). Student behavior and use of interactive teaching techniques (quality of delivery) were positively related. No variables were related to student participation (student responsiveness). Although difficult, high implementation fidelity by community-based organizations can be achieved. This study suggests some important factors that organizations should consider to ensure fidelity, such as selecting programs with features that minimize complexity while maximizing flexibility. Time constraints in the classroom should be considered when choosing a program. Student behavior also influences program delivery, so schools should train teachers in the use of classroom management skills. This project involved comprehensive program monitoring and technical assistance that likely facilitated the identification and resolution of problems and contributed to the overall high quality of implementation. Schools should recognize the importance of training and technical assistance to ensure quality program delivery.

UPCOMING COLLOQUIA

Please refer to the following webpage for the IBS colloquia schedules:
<http://www.colorado.edu/ibs/events/colloquia.html>.

RESEARCH PROPOSALS SUBMITTED

Environment and Society Program

Foster, RoseMarie Perez	DRU: Modeling Nuclear Disaster Risk: The Effects of Perceived Risk and Radiation Exposure on Post-Chernobyl Psychosocial and Health Behavior Outcomes in Ukrainian Residents National Science Foundation	10/01/08-09/30/11	New	\$750,000
Ritchie, Liesel	Enhancing Targeted Research in the Advanced Technological Education Program National Science Foundation	07/15/08-07/14/10	New	\$1,594,223
Tierney, Kathleen	Assessing and Managing Failure Vulnerabilities of Complex Infrastructure Systems National Science Foundation via the University of California, Berkeley	01/01/09-12/31/12	New	\$178,989

Political and Economic Change Program

O'Loughlin, John	AOC: The Dynamics of Secessionist Regions: Eurasian Unrecognized Quasi-States after Kosovo's Independence National Science Foundation	10/01/08-09/30/11	New	\$749,970
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Problem Behavior Program

Grotpeter, Jennifer	Mean Girls (and Boys) and Delinquency: Augmenting Traditional Delinquency Research with Relational Aggression in the National Youth Survey Family Study Department of Justice	01/01/08 - 12/31/09	New	\$386,249
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RESEARCH PROPOSALS AWARDED

Environment and Society Program

Tierney, Kathleen	Collaborative Research: DRU-Warning Decisions in Extreme Weather Events: An Integrated Multi-method Approach National Science Foundation	04/01/08-03/31/11	New	\$271,000
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Political and Economic Change Program

Mobarak, Mushfiq Co-PI, Keith Maskus	The Causal Impact of Foreign and Domestic Doctoral Students on Knowledge and Innovation in US Universities: Evidence from Enrollment Shocks National Science Foundation	07/01/07-06/30/10	New	\$156,738
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Problem Behavior Program

Thornberry, Terry	Louisiana Models for Change Ninth Judicial District Court	02/29/08-06/30/08	New	\$60,000
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Jane A. Menken, Institute Director

Environment and Society Program

Lee J. Alston, Director

Natural Hazards Center

Kathleen Tierney, Director

■

Political and Economic Change Program

Edward S. Greenberg, Director

■

Problem Behavior Program

Terence P. Thornberry, Director

Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence

Delbert S. Elliott, Director

Health and Society Program

Richard Jessor, Director

■

Population Program

Richard G. Rogers, Director

CU Population Center

Richard G. Rogers, Director

Population Aging Center

Jane A. Menken, Director

■

Computing and Research Services

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