

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY PROGRAM

In Print

Alston, Lee J., Shannan Mattiace, and Tomas Nonnenmacher. "Coercion, Culture, and Contracts: Labor and Debt on Henequen Haciendas in Yucatán, Mexico, 1870–1915." *The Journal of Economic History*, 69, No. 1 (2009):104-37. The henequen boom coincided with the rule of Porfirio Díaz (1876–1911). During the boom, many Maya in Yucatan lost their rights to land and moved to henequen haciendas. As part of the implicit contract with hacendados, peons accumulated large debts at the time of marriage, most of which were never repaid. The authors argue that the debts bound workers to the hacienda as part of a system of paternalism and that more productive workers incurred more debt. They then examine the institutional setting in which debt operated and stress the formal and informal institutional contexts within which hacendados and workers negotiated contracts. "Debt and contract slavery is the prevailing system of production all over the south of Mexico... Debt, real or imaginary, is the nexus that binds the peon to his master...probably 5,000,000 people, or one-third of the entire population, are today living in a state of helpless peonage." ~ John Kenneth Turner (1910) *Barbarous Mexico*.

HEALTH AND SOCIETY PROGRAM

On January 23, research findings from interviews with teenage moms and dads by Janet Jacobs, **Stef Mollborn**, **Devon Thacker**, **Leith Lombas**, and Nicole Moore were presented to Colorado legislators at a forum at the state Capitol on pregnant and parenting teens' access to education. Undergraduate Sociology major and McNair Scholar Nicole Moore led a focus group and a panel of teenage moms. **Stef Mollborn** led a listening session for direct service providers and joined a panel of "voices from the field."

Publications

Mollborn, Stefanie. "Norms About Nonmarital Pregnancy and Willingness to Provide Resources to Unwed Parents." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 71, no. 1 (2009):122-34. Contested social norms underlie public concern about adults' and teenagers' nonmarital pregnancy. The original, vignette-based National Pregnancy Norms Survey (N = 812) measures these norms and related sanctions. Descriptive analyses report embarrassment at the prospect of a nonmarital pregnancy by age and gender of hypothetical prospective parents and age, race or ethnicity, and socioeconomic status of respondents. Multivariate analyses show that embarrassment about nonmarital pregnancy is frequently weak but much stronger when prospective parents are teenagers. Embarrassment predicts respondents' hypothetical sanctions of a new parent in their family by withholding several types of needed material resources. Because research has shown that such resources affect education and income, this study helps explain how violating norms might lead to negative outcomes among unmarried parents.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

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POPULATION PROGRAM

Publications

Pampel, Fred C. “Differences in the Influence of Family Background and Social Activities on Smoking of Minority and White High School Seniors, 1976–2004.” *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health* 10, no. 6(2008):507-15. This population-based study of high school seniors examines differences in the influence of several important determinants of smoking among white, African-American, Hispanic, and other teens. With national survey data for each year from 1976 to 2004, logistic regression is used to test for differences across race and ethnic groups (averaged over all years) in the effects on daily smoking of background factors such as living arrangements and parents’ education and social activities such as academic performance and religiosity. The results show similarity in effects across racial categories, but some determinants have weaker or reversed effects for African-American and Hispanic youth than for white youth. For example, high parents’ education increases smoking among Hispanic youth, has little influence among African Americans, and decreases smoking among whites. These results suggest that smoking patterns of minority teens differ in some ways from those of white teens.

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

Goldman, Mara	Personal Politics of Empowerment: An analysis of the links between property, civic participation and violence against women in East Africa University of Colorado (Innovative Grant Program)	07/01/09 - 06/30/10	New	\$49,994
Goldman, Mara	Collaborative Research: Property, Empowerment, and Gender-Based Violence in Rural Tanzania NSF	08/01/09 - 07/31/12	New	\$205,873
Ritchie, Liesel	Effects of Technological Disasters on Dimensions of Social Capital: A Longitudinal Study of the 2008 TVA Kingston Fossil Plant Ash Release NSF	09/01/09 - 08/31/12	New	\$499,885
Tierney, Kathleen	PIRE: Integrated Multi-Disciplinary Research and Education on Hazard Analysis, Management and Loss Reduction Regimes in the US and European and Pacific Rim Societies NSF	01/01/10 - 12/31/14	New	\$2,488,748

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IN FOCUS

Population Program Graduate Students



Population Program Graduate Students

Pictured left to right: Graduate students working toward a graduate certificate in population include, from left to right, Jeff Dennis, who is studying cumulative advantage theory and health over the life course; John Tribbia, who is interested in population and climate change; Bethany Everett, who is studying the relationship between sexual orientation and health; Casey Blalock, who is researching migration and HIV/AIDS in Africa; and Rob Kemp, who is interested in environmental sociology and population health.

“I've been able to work with geographers, economists, psychologists, and demographers.”

Ten students in various stages of doctoral training are actively undertaking research within the Population Program. Student interests span a wide range of topics—migration, fertility (including teen pregnancy), health and mortality (including issues related to food security and HIV/AIDS), gene-environment interactions, sexuality, and the social dimensions of climate change—and in various settings, including Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Mexico, South Africa, and the United States. The program draws graduate students from the departments of economics, geography, and sociology, and fosters inter-disciplinary collaboration. Bethany Everett remarks that her four-year affiliation “has truly been an interdisciplinary as well as inter-university experience, as I've been able to work with geographers, economists, psychologists, and demographers.”

While pursuing their own research, Population Program graduate students also work closely with faculty on other projects. Current student Jeff Dennis explains, “the biggest advantage of the Population Program is the opportunity to work with faculty on a regular basis; I have never felt that a faculty member did not have time to discuss a project with me.” These beneficial collaborations have resulted in many scholarly publications, including articles in *Climatic Change*, the *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, *Population and Environment*, *Social Science Quarterly*, and *Twin Research and Human Genetics*. Bethany Everett highlights the importance of these opportunities with regard to development of her own professional portfolio: “Before coming to CU, I had read plenty of research articles, but I didn't know how to do it myself, how to form or answer the questions. But over the last four years, I have gained invaluable experience researching a variety of topics ... and currently have one forthcoming publication and four requests to revise and resubmit papers for peer-reviewed journals—all of which are due to the willingness of faculty to work with me and their incredible levels of patience.”

Many of these polished research papers were first presented at professional meetings, such as the Add Health Users Conference, the American Sociological Association, the Midwest Sociological Association, the Population Association of America, and the Southern Demographic Association. The Population Program works to facilitate student attendance at these meetings as an additional component of professional development.

In addition to their conference participation and publication records, Population Program graduate students participate in a variety of intensive interdisciplinary workshops held at CU-Boulder and elsewhere. The Population Program has recently hosted workshops on environmental demography, biodemography, and economic demography. Current student Casey Blalock describes these workshops as excellent opportunities to explore topics in a short, focused format and “helpful in meeting people outside of our home departments.” Students have also attended workshops beyond the borders of CU-Boulder, such as RAND’s workshop on the demography and economics of aging, and their Summer Institute’s “Mini-Medical Scientists.”

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IN FOCUS

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Importantly, the Population Program fosters international educational and research experiences. Several graduate students are involved with the Population Program's *African Population Studies Research and Training Program (APS)*. APS and the Population Program have funded international travel for student participation in courses, in the annual University of the Witwatersrand/Brown University/University of Colorado/African Population Health and Research Center (WBCA) Colloquium on Emerging Population Issues, and to undertake research in several African countries. During the summer of 2008, for example, several students participated in a short course on longitudinal modeling held at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa, either as student participants or as teaching assistants.



Selected students, instructors, and staff from African Population Studies Research and Training Program's longitudinal methods summer short course, CU-Boulder.

Population graduate students also actively pursue external research support. Recent awards have come from CU-Boulder's Sociology Department, the Beverly Sears Graduate Student Grant Program, the Sociologists AIDS Network, RAND, and the Add Health Users Conference. Several proposals are currently under review at NIH, NSF, the Horowitz Foundation, the Midwest Sociological Society, and the American Psychological Foundation. IBS staff, including administrative and computing support, is often noted as a key benefit of affiliation with the Population Program.

Overall, the Population Program offers an excellent setting in which graduate students can pursue their own research, collaborate with faculty on a variety of projects, and tap into different types of networking experiences on campus as well as through professional meetings and external workshops. As Jeff Dennis states, "the support of the faculty in the Pop program has pushed me to maximize my time in graduate school rather than just fulfilling requirements." Bethany Everett agrees: "Being involved in the Pop Center has shaped my entire graduate career." Obviously, intellectual community is also important, as Bethany exclaims, "Pop students are the best!"

RESEARCH PROPOSALS SUBMITTED

Continued from page 2

Environment and Society Program cont'd

Tierney, Kathleen	NL-US Water Crisis Research Network (NUWCREN) Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management- Kingdom of the Netherlands	07/01/09 - 06/30/12	New	\$211,618
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Health and Society Program

Mollborn, Stefanie	Health Disparities among a Vulnerable Population: A Longitudinal Analysis NICHD	12/01/09 - 11/30/11	New	\$144,809
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Political and Economic Change Program

Westfall, Aubrey Brown, David S. (as faculty sponsor)	Doctoral Dissertation Research in Political Science: Ties that Bind: Examining the Role of Human Rights in Family Reunification Policy Formation NSF	09/01/09 - 08/31/10	New	\$11,910
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Holland, Ted O'Loughlin, John (as faculty sponsor)	Doctoral Dissertation Research: Geography and Identity among Russia's Buddhist Populations NSF	01/01/10 - 12/31/10	New	\$12,000
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Population Program

Everett, Bethany Rogers, Richard (as faculty sponsor)	Doctoral Dissertation Research: Sexual Orientation and Health Trajectories: A Biobehavioral Examination of Health Disparities NSF	06/15/09 - 06/14/10	New	\$9,825
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Stawkowski, Magda	REG: Radioactive Knowledge: State Control of Scientific Information in Post-Soviet Kazakhstan NSF	06/01/09 - 05/31/10	New	\$5,000
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Menken, Jane	Unpacking Self-rated Health in Aging Populations in Africa and Asia NIH via Harvard University	12/01/09 - 11/30/14	New	\$312,950
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Menken, Jane Tania Barham and Nizam Khan (Co- PIs)	Long-term Effects of Health and Development Interventions in Rural Bangladesh NIH/NIA	01/01/10 - 12/31/14	New	\$4,177,221
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Menken, Jane	African Population Studies Research and Training Program William and Flora Hewlett Foundation	07/01/09 - 06/30/12	New	\$1,100,000
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RESEARCH PROPOSALS AWARDED

Political and Economic Change Program

Levy, Adam O'Loughlin, John (as faculty sponsor)	Border Narratives and Territorial Controls: The Case of Moldova European Commission	09/01/08 - 08/31/09	New	\$1,712
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Population Program

Pampel, Fred	Worldwide Patterns and Change in Gender Egalitarianism NSF	05/15/09 - 10/31/10	New	\$82,980
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Problem Behavior

Woodward, Bill	State Homeland Security Program State of Colorado - Governor's Office of Homeland Security	01/20/09 - 05/31/10	New	\$250,000
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Jane A. Menken, Institute Director

<p>Environment and Society Program J. Terrence McCabe, Acting Director <u>Natural Hazards Center</u> Kathleen Tierney, Director</p> <p style="text-align: center;">■</p> <p>Political and Economic Change Program Edward S. Greenberg, Director</p> <p style="text-align: center;">■</p> <p>Problem Behavior Program Terence P. Thornberry, Director <u>Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence</u> Delbert S. Elliott, Director</p>	<p>Health and Society Program Richard Jessor, Director</p> <p style="text-align: center;">■</p> <p>Population Program Richard G. Rogers, Director <u>CU Population Center</u> Richard G. Rogers, Director <u>Population Aging Center</u> Jane A. Menken, Director</p> <p style="text-align: center;">■</p> <p>Computing and Research Services Jani S. Little, Director</p>
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IBS Newsletter Staff:

Melissa McNabb Editor	Nancy Thorwardson and Thomas Dickinson Website Coordinators
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