

FALL 2013

VOLUME 2 | ISSUE 2

# SMS socialforces

the BIENNIAL NEWSLETTER of

THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOMEDICAL SCIENCES, MAILMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



## SMS in action

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE  
PRACTICUMS AND FIELDWORK  
OF SMS STUDENTS



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# welcome

FROM THE CHAIR



**W**elcome to the third edition of SMS Social Forces! My first year at SMS was incredibly rewarding and exciting. In the following pages, you will see the many accomplishments of our faculty, staff, and students since the last issue.

I am thrilled to welcome our new and continuing MPH/MS and doctoral students, as well as new faculty and staff, to the SMS department. In this issue of Social Forces, you will see thought-provoking research findings, compelling new fall courses, and the outstanding faculty, staff, students, and alumni that make SMS such an exceptional, interdisciplinary department.

I am looking forward to the rest of the year! Please send any and all feedback and thoughts about the newsletter to Ms. Yasmin Davis at [yj17@columbia.edu](mailto:yj17@columbia.edu).

**Lisa R. Metsch, PhD**  
Stephen Smith Professor and  
Chair of Sociomedical Sciences

## A warm welcome to new SMS faculty and staff

- **Allyson DeLorenzo**, Project Health Coordinator
- **Marie Fatil**, Data Collection Analyst (SMS Miami Team)
- **Yohansa Fernandez**, Project Coordinator
- **Ursula M. Staudinger**, PhD, Robert N. Butler Professor of Sociomedical Sciences and Founding Director of the new Robert N. Butler Columbia Aging Center
- **Pamela Valera**, PhD, MSW, Assistant Professor of Sociomedical Sciences
- **Deborah White**, Community Outreach Coordinator (SMS Miami team)
- **Iveth Yanez**, Data Collection Analyst (SMS Miami team)
- **Allison Zucker**, Project Coordinator

# SMS snapshots...



Professors Bayer, Link, Hopper, and Nathanson discuss findings from the NRC/IOM report, *U.S. Health in International Perspective: Shorter Lives, Poorer Health*, at a lunchtime discussion.



Doctoral students Althea Anderson, Mariana Martins, Nadav Antebi, and Will Mellman at the Doctoral Student Potluck Lunch.



Professor Samuel Roberts presents at one of the SMS Food for Thought Seminars.



Professor Eugene Litwak, speaker Dr. Merrill Silverstain, Professor Peter Messeri, and SMS Chair Lisa Metsch at the 2013 Annual Eugene Litwak Honorary Lecture.



Professor Jennifer Hirsch speaking at one of the Gender, Sexuality, and Health Seminars.



Professor Diana Hernandez and doctoral student Brennan Rhodes-Bratton at the Doctoral Student Welcome Dinner.

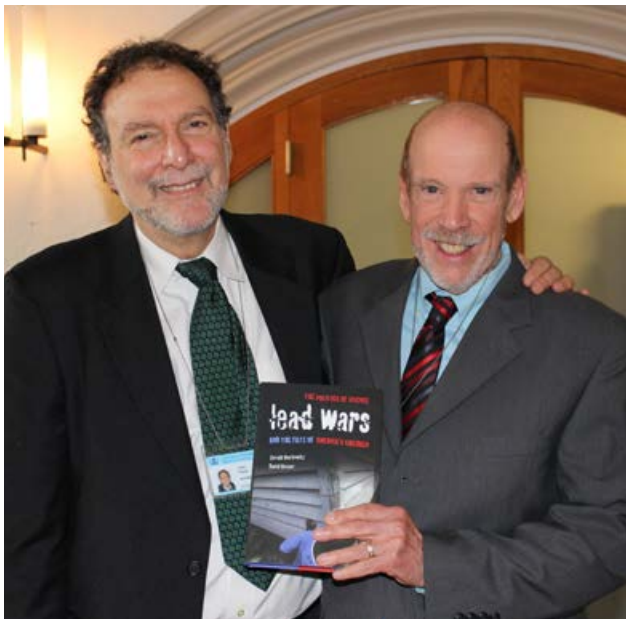


Professor Hatzenbuehler presents at one of the Gender, Sexuality, and Health Seminars.



Doctoral student Sara Lewis speaking at one of the SMS Food for Thought Seminars.

# SMS snapshots...



SMS Professor David Rosner and SMS and CUNY Professor Gerald Markowitz

*"In this incisive examination of lead poisoning during the past half century, Gerald Markowitz and David Rosner focus on one of the most contentious and bitter battles in the history of public health. Lead Wars details how the nature of the epidemic has changed and highlights the dilemmas public health agencies face today in terms of prevention strategies and chronic illness linked to low levels of toxic exposure."*

— University of California Press



## Book Celebration

On Tuesday, April 30, 2013 the Department of Sociomedical Sciences celebrated the publication of *Lead Wars: The Politics of Science and the Fate of America's Children* (University of California Press) by SMS Professors, David Rosner and Gerald Markowitz.



SMS and Center for History and Ethics Professors Amy Fairchild, Ron Bayer, James Colgrove, David Rosner, and Kavita Sivaramakrishnan

*"Lead Wars is an unflinching study of the challenge that lies at the heart of almost all that we do in public health. A long history of social inequality, combined with the corporate corruption of science, has created health hazards that demand considerable resources to eliminate, raising one of the central ethical questions in the field: Given the inequalities that perpetuate public health problems, is it ever acceptable to look for cheaper ways to mitigate harm? The answers Markowitz and Rosner provide are provocative and sure to unsettle."*

– SMS Professor Amy Fairchild

# Professor Ronald Bayer *Celebrating 25 Years*



Professor Bayer addresses the audience

The event brought together health scholars and leaders who have been centrally engaged in the issues that have defined Professor Bayer's career and continue to be focal points of controversy and conflict. The presentations and discussions encompassed the issues that have spanned Professor Bayer's career at Columbia and defined its course for the future.

On October 25, 2013, the Departments of Sociomedical Sciences and Epidemiology came together for a symposium in honor of Ronald Bayer's 25 years at Columbia entitled *Risky Business: Confronting the Moral and Political Foundations of Public Health*.



Professor Bayer with current SMS Chair Lisa Metsch, and former SMS Chairs, Professors Richard Parker, Eugene Litwack, and Amy Fairchild



The symposium audience



Dean Fried greets Professor Bayer

# research findings



## ARTICLE

### Half empty or half full? New York's soda rule in historical perspective

SMS Professor Amy Fairchild published an article in the May 9, 2013 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, reflecting on New York City's thwarted "giant-soda ban" and how it raises historic questions about the role of public health in shaping individual behavior. Fairchild writes that the proposal itself represents a "glass-half-empty or glass-half-full" measure for combating obesity. On one hand, the ban on the sale of sugar-sweetened drinks larger than 16 fluid ounces arguably does little on its own to curtail obesity, especially as it appears to merely limit a single behavior. Yet, on the other hand, the ban could be seen as not an attack on individual choice, but as a limitation directed at the beverage industry, which has committed a type of "industrial pollution" that disproportionately affects impoverished neighborhoods.

Fairchild demonstrates that this debate reflects an ongoing tension seen in the history of public health initiatives. Before

the emergence of "germ theory" and the focus on individual behavior, public health efforts focused on environmental conditions, initiating social reform and industrial regulation to target the roots of poverty and widespread disease. From this perspective, Fairchild asks us to consider the giant-soda ban as a public health initiative targeting a fundamental source of the obesity epidemic: the corporate behavior of the beverage industry. Framed in this way, the soda ban follows in the "grand tradition of public health activism," which, with strong and active support from the medical and public health communities, can challenge the industries and businesses that "contaminate our social environment."

**Source:** Fairchild A ((2013). Half empty or half full? New York's soda rule in historical perspective. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 368(19): 1765-1767.



## ARTICLE

## Stigma as a fundamental cause of population health inequalities

SMS Professors Mark Hatzenbuehler, Jo Phelan, and Bruce Link have written an article entitled, “Stigma as a Fundamental Cause of Population Health Inequalities,” published in the *American Journal of Public Health*. The concept of stigma has been broadly applied in public health writing and research, most often to analyze how specific factors, such as race, sexuality, and class, affect the health outcomes of a group of people within a particular community. In this article, the authors propose an expansive reconceptualization of stigma from a sociological perspective. Arguing that the full power and significance of stigma have been obscured by the persistent focus on an individual-level of analysis (in which one stigmatizing feature is selected and its associated outcomes are examined within one community), the authors seek to reframe stigma by presenting a conceptual framework describing the multiple psychological and structural pathways through which stigma influences health.

Hatzenbuehler, Phelan, and Link confirm that the body of research on stigma has made “a compelling case that stigma represents an added burden that affects people above and beyond any impairments or deficits they may have,” and that stigma can adversely affect a variety of outcomes such as housing, employment status, social relationships, educational opportunities, and access to and quality of health care. The authors organize the health consequences of stigma into four categories: (1) resourc-

es: access to financial capital, social capital, power, and so on; (2) *social isolation*: as a result of fears of exposure or rejection, or concealed stigmas; (3) *psychological and behavioral responses*: such as internalized stigma and/or coping responses; and (4) *stress*: as a result of discrimination and diminished social position.

The authors conclude with a call for “greater theoretical and empirical attention to stigma,” which may allow for new understandings of how findings related to stigma overlap between and across communities. Utilizing existing databases, such as the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, would allow researchers to identify and compare health outcomes among stigmatized populations. In addition, other research databases may have untapped opportunities to reveal important findings related not only to individual stigma, but also to structural stigma, a topic which is currently understudied. Finally, the authors recognize that public and private funders have a fundamental role to play in the reexamination of stigma, and argue that in order to ensure this research occurs, interdisciplinary funding agencies must make a significant effort to invest in such research.

**Source:** Hatzenbuehler M, Phelan J, Link B (2013). “Stigma as a fundamental cause of population health inequalities.” *American Journal of Public Health*, 103(5), 813-821.

ARTICLE

## Persistent household food insecurity, HIV, and maternal stress in peri-urban Ghana

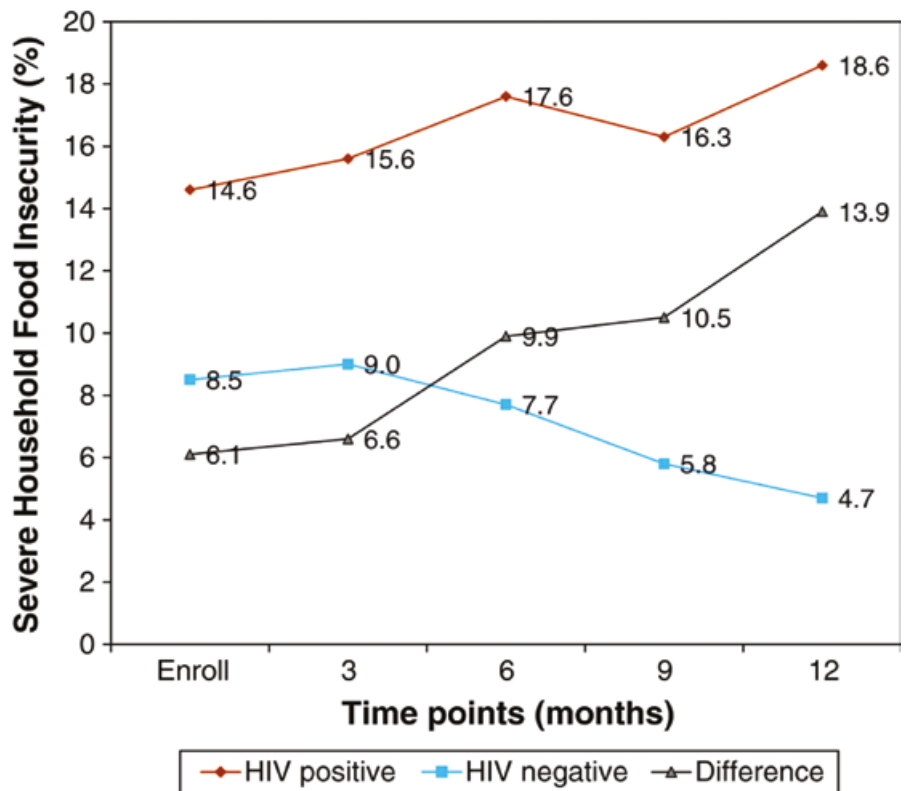
SMS Associate Research Scientist Jonathan Garcia and colleagues have authored a paper entitled, “Persistent household food insecurity, HIV, and maternal stress in peri-urban Ghana,” published in the March 2013 issue of *BMC Public Health*. This article analyzes the synergistic relationship between persistent household food insecurity (defined as limited or uncertain availability of foods that are nutritionally adequate, safe, and acquired through socially acceptable ways) and being newly diagnosed with HIV on maternal stress. It also traces the prevalence of severe household food insecurity among newly diagnosed HIV-positive mothers and HIV-negative counterparts for 12 months post-partum. Analyses are based on syndemic theory, where multiple vulnerabilities not only coexist but are also rooted in social inequalities and, as in a vicious cycle, the presence of one condition is likely to exacerbate the second condition. The main findings were that (1) mothers were 15 times more likely to perceive stress if they were HIV-positive

and lived in households where food insecurity persisted, and (2) the prevalence of severe food insecurity increased across time in the households of HIV-positive mothers, whereas it decreased in the households of HIV-negative mothers (see Figure).

This study has implications for multidimensional intervention design that aims to address co-existing and interrelated vulnerabilities, such as seropositivity and food insecurity, which might lead to mental health issues. Although the study did not measure food insecurity before mothers acquired HIV, the article also points to future research that explores potential bidirectional causal relationships between food insecurity and HIV infection. This study offers recommendations with immediate implications for Ghana, where the authors assert the second HIV/AIDS National Strategic Framework implemented for the period of 2006–2010 did not fully address the need for understanding how to handle the risk of mental health problems, including mental stress, associated with an HIV diagnosis, and does not recognize that this risk becomes highly amplified in the presence of household food insecurity.

**Source:** Garcia J, Hromi-Fiedler A, Mazur RE, Marquis G, Sellen D, Lartey A, Pérez-Escamilla R (2013). Persistent household food insecurity, HIV, and maternal stress in peri-urban Ghana. *BMC Public Health*, 13:215.

Prevalence of Severe Household Food Insecurity (PSHFI) from enrollment to 12 months post-enrollment as a function of maternal HIV status in peri-urban Ghana (N=232)







## ARTICLE

## Banning smoking in parks and on beaches: Science, policy, and the politics of denormalization

SMS Professor Ronald Bayer and SMS doctoral student (History and Ethics) Kathleen Bachynski have authored a new review in the July 2013 issue of *Health Affairs*. Their article examines contemporary efforts to extend public smoking bans from indoor settings to parks and beaches. A review of state and local statutes showed that during 1993-2011, smoking was banned in 843 parks and 150 beaches across the United States. Three justifications for these restrictions have been invoked: (1) health risks of passive smoke to nonsmokers, (2) pollution caused by cigarette butts, and (3) long-term risks to children from seeing smoking in public. In their analysis, the authors found that scientific evidence supporting these claims is far from definitive, and in some cases weak. Instead, Bayer and Bachynski conclude that the genuine impetus behind such bans is the impera-

tive to denormalize smoking as part of a broader public health campaign to reduce tobacco-related illness and death.

By invoking third-party harms as the justification for outdoor smoking bans, despite relatively weak evidence, advocates have sought to avoid the charge that smoking bans represent yet another case of overreaching by the "nanny state." There is, however, a case for such bans which rests on the duty of government acting in the name of public health to restrict smoking in order to protect smokers themselves. Bayer and Bachynski argue that advocates for outdoor smoking bans should be candid about the limits of arguments based solely on third-party harms as they confront the lethal consequences of tobacco use. While invoking limited evidence may prove effective in the short run, it is hazardous for public health policy makers, for whom credibility and public trust is essential.

**Source:** Bayer R and Bachynski KE (2013). Banning smoking in parks and on beaches: Science, policy, and the politics of denormalization. *Health Affairs*, 32(7): 1291-1298.

## ARTICLE

## Going in and getting out of the colonial asylum: Families and psychiatric care in French Indochina

Recent SMS PhD graduate (History and Ethics) Claire Edington has authored an article which appeared in the July 2013 issue of *Comparative Studies in Society and History*. This article forms one part of a broader project that looks beyond the asylum to examine the social history of psychiatry and mental illness in French Indochina. Drawing on archival research conducted over two years in Vietnam and France—including hundreds of patient case files—Edington's project traces the movements of patients in and out of asylums and between prisons, poor houses, youth reformatories, hospitals and family homes. She argues that together, these individual patient itineraries challenge our notion of the colonial asylum as a closed setting where patients rarely left, run by experts who enjoyed broad and unquestioned authority. Instead, they reveal how ideas about what it meant to be abnormal, as well as normal enough to return to social life, were debated between psychiatrists, colonial authorities and the public throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Edington demonstrates how families and communities actively participated in psychiatric decision-making throughout the interwar years in ways that forced French experts to engage with local understandings and practices around insanity. By debating the suitability of individuals for social life, Vietnamese families engaged with professional psychiatrists to find common space for thinking about and discussing mental illness, while also pursuing their own strategies that significantly limited the power of experts. Debates revolved around the mental health of the patient but also the capacity of the families to assume their care upon release and the asylum itself as the most appropriate site for treatment and rehabilitation. By considering how lay people and experts came together to negotiate the confinement and release of asylum patients, this paper offers a novel perspective on the development of psychiatric knowledge and power in colonial settings. Situating the history of psychiatry within the local dynamics of colonial rule, as opposed to expert discourse, the asylum emerges here less as a blunt instrument for the social control and medicalization of colonial society than as a valuable historical site for reframing narratives of colonial repression and resistance.

**Source:** Edington, C (2013). Going in and getting out of the colonial asylum: Families and psychiatric care in French Indochina. *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 55(3): 725-755.

Inside courtyard of the Voi Asylum, Tonkin [constructed by the French colonial government in 1934]



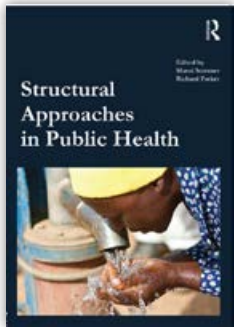
*Edington demonstrates how families and communities actively participated in psychiatric decision-making throughout the interwar years in ways that forced French experts to engage with local understandings and practices around insanity.*

## RESEARCH FINDINGS

### NEW BOOK

## Structural Approaches in Public Health

Editors **Marni Sommer**  
and **Richard Parker**  
Published March 2013  
by Routledge



Within the past two decades, scholars have recognized the limitations of individual-level public health interventions. Renewed interest in structural approaches within the public health community has been offset by limited uptake, due to ongoing practical and ethical debates and divergent theoretical definitions of “structural.” *Structural Approaches in Public Health* confronts these issues in three parts—first, by discussing the ways in which various structural factors have been conceptualized within public health and across disciplines; second, by exploring how structural interventions have been designed and implemented in various contexts related to population health; and third, by examining the significant challenges inherent in evaluating the impact of structural interventions in practice. Together, this comprehensive text underlines the vital importance of structural interventions, and outlines directions for future research to further develop and refine structural approaches in public health.

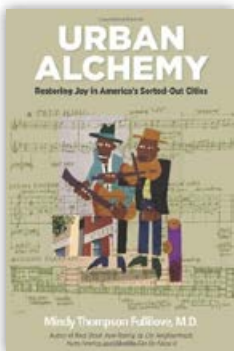
*Marni Sommer, DrPH, MSN/MPH, RN, is an Assistant Professor of Sociomedical Sciences*

*Richard Parker, PhD, is a Professor of Sociomedical Sciences and Anthropology*

### NEW BOOK

## Urban Alchemy: Restoring Joy in America's Sorted-Out Cities

By **Mindy Thompson Fullilove**  
Published June 2013  
by New Village Press



What if fractured neighborhoods were causing public health problems? What if a new approach to planning and design could tackle both the built environment and collective well-being at the same time? Using the work of French urbanist Michel Cantal-Dupart and the American urban design firm Rothschild Doyno Collaborative as guides, Dr. Mindy Fullilove takes readers on a tour of successful collaborative interventions that repair cities and reconnect communities to make them whole. Using her unique perspective as a public health psychiatrist to explore and identify ways of healing social and spatial fractures simultaneously, Fullilove identifies nine tools that can mend our broken cities and reconnect our communities to make them whole.

Source: Urban Alchemy and <http://www.newvillagepress.net>

*Mindy Thompson Fullilove, MD, is a Professor of Sociomedical Sciences at CUMC*



A shooting gallery housed in an energy plant displays the poor living conditions the attendees call home.



Homeless user sets up "tent-like home" under a busy expressway.



Syringe exchange at "Punto Fijo," ICI's syringe exchange program.



The physical evidence of injection drug use with Xylazine, a horse sedative, and other drugs.

**PROJECT NAME:** Proyecto PACTo: Enhanced HIV Care Access and Retention for Drug Users in San Juan, Puerto Rico (NIDA R01 DA035280-01)

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS:** Lisa Metsch, PhD, Jorge Santana, MD

**PROJECT DIRECTOR:** Paco Castellon, MPH

**PROJECT GOAL:** To assess the impact of a multi-level intervention focused on the HIV treatment cascade for substance users in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

This summer, SMS Professor Diana Hernández and Project Coordinator Yohansa Fernandez conducted fieldwork for the ethnographic phase of Proyecto PACTo, a NIDA-funded study awarded to Columbia University and the University of Puerto Rico. Proyecto PACTo seeks to utilize ethnographic findings to implement and evaluate a community-level, structured approach to enhancing HIV care access and retention for HIV-positive substance users in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The primary purpose of the ethnographic phase of the study is to ensure that the intervention is culturally and contextually situated, and to assist in future recruitment of HIV-positive substance users. Fieldwork consisted of key informant interviews with HIV researchers, service and medical providers and Puerto Rico Department of Health representatives, as well as over 58 hours of observations. Hernández and Fernandez also accompanied Iniciativa Comunitaria de Investigacion, Inc. (ICI), a community research partner with the study, on syringe exchange outreach to shooting galleries in the San Juan metro area and attended two overnight rounds, which involved providing food, clothing and wound care to homeless individuals and/or injection drug-users (IDUs). In these outings, the team had over 35 informal conversations and over 150 encounters with members of the target population.

Respondents explained that there are very few shelter options and no middle ground between housing and homelessness. Homeless individuals may seek shelter under bridges and in

shooting galleries. Stigma, violence, family conflict, and trauma are common facets of life for substance users, who also reported encountering significant barriers to accessing institutional and social support. For many homeless IDUs, shooting galleries function as safe spaces where they are able to access support and shelter and feel a sense of belonging—however, shooting galleries also involve considerable risks for HIV and HCV transmission due to drug use practices. The most commonly discussed themes were lack of housing options and institutional and network support barriers to HIV care. Results are currently being prepared for publication.

up with Lisa by telephone. The below transcript has been edited for length a

**1**

**Pollack:** Your team conducted a randomized trial comparing HIV risk reduction counseling in two groups, one provided HIV risk reduction counseling, and another provided the same testing without such counseling. Why was this an important question to ask?



Prof. Lisa Metsch may have just saved 1 treatment groups lots of money. (Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health)

**Metsch:** In 2006, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a new guideline for adult and adolescent HIV testing in clinical settings. In an effort to make HIV screening more routine in medical care, important departures from prior recommendations. Before 2006, there was an emphasis on testing individuals with specific risk factors.

**LETTERS**

**An Overhaul of the Social Sciences?** **6**

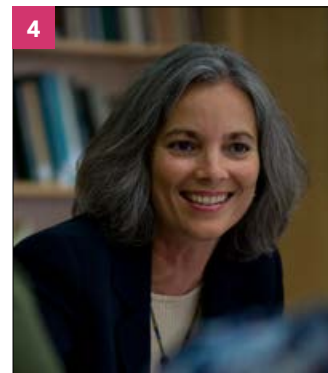
Published: July 28, 2013

**To the Editor:**

**Connect With Us on Twitter**  
For Op-Ed, follow @nytopinion and to hear from the editorial page editor, Andrew Rosenthal, follow @andyNYT.

**Opinion**

Re "Let's Shake Up the Social Sciences" (Gray Matter, Sunday Review, July 21): As members of a longstanding interdisciplinary social science department (anthropology, history, psychology, sociology), we take strong exception to Nicholas A.



**5**

**CONFRONTING THE SORRY STATE OF U.S. HEALTH**

By Ron Bayer, Amy Fairchild, Kim Hopper, Constance A. Nathanson

On January 2013, the U.S. National Research Council (NRC) and Institute of Medicine (IOM) issued a report titled "Confronting the Sorry State of U.S. Health." The report is a stark, sobering, and to describe the relative deprivation of health care in the nation as a whole, the "U.S. health disadvantage." How can this be explained and what can be done?

Constance Nathanson is the director of the Center for Health Equity Promotion and the director of the Center for Health Equity Promotion.




**3**

**Viewpoint: Antismoking Advocates Misused Science**

Evidence that smoking in public places endangers the health of others is strong, even while the argument against smoking is strong

By Arthur Caplan & John Caplan July 22, 2013 247 Comments

Nothing drives academic cruder than when the right-wing ignores, undermines or dismisses scientific evidence to achieve ideological public-policy goals that they favor, whether the issue in question is smoking or abortion. But as a new science-based proposition...




**1)** In October 2013, SMS Chair **Lisa Metsch** and colleagues published "Effect of Risk-Reduction Counseling With Rapid HIV Testing on Risk of Acquiring Sexually Transmitted Infections: The AWARE Randomized Clinical Trial" in *The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*, which received media attention including an interview with Dr. Metsch published in *The Washington Post*.

**2)** Professor **Mindy Fullilove** published *Urban Alchemy: Restoring Joy in America's Sorted-out Cities* in June 2013 through New Village Press, and SMS celebrated her book launch at a special SMS Food for Thought.

**3)** Professor **Ron Bayer** and doctoral student **Kathleen Bachynski** published "Banning Smoking in Parks and on Beaches: Science, Policy, and the Politics of Denormalization" in *Health Affairs* in

July 2013, which received widespread media attention from online news publications such as the *L.A. Times*, *PBS*, *Forbes*, *Time Magazine*, and *The Atlantic Cities*.

**4)** Professor **Ana Abraido-Lanza** was selected for the prestigious 2013-2014 Columbia University Provost Leadership Fellows Program. Fellows are appointed for two years and the program aims to develop leadership skills for some of Columbia's outstanding tenured faculty.

**5)** Professors **Ron Bayer**, **Amy Fairchild**, **Kim Hopper**, and **Constance Nathanson**, in their August 2013 article, "Confronting the Sorry State of U.S. Health," in *Science*, appealed to President Obama to create a National Commission on the Health of Americans in order to begin reversing the decline in the comparative status of U.S. health.

**6)** Professor **Constance Nathanson**, along with five other SMS faculty members—**Amy Fairchild**, **Jennifer Hirsch**, **Kim Hopper**, **Peter Messeri**, and **Richard Parker**—wrote a Letter to the Editor in response to "An Overhaul of the Social Sciences?" in the *New York Times* on July 28, 2013.

**7)** Doctoral student **Somjen Frazer** was named a 2013 Point Scholar by the Point Foundation, an organization that empowers promising LGBTQ students to achieve their full academic and leadership potential, despite the obstacles often put before them, to make a significant impact on society.

Associate Professor of  
Sociomedical Sciences

## Ana Abraído-Lanza



*Reflecting back on the types of issues to which I am drawn, I suppose another way of framing my program of research is to say that I enjoy “pushing the research envelope.”*

Ana Abraído-Lanza is an Associate Professor of SMS, Program Co-Director of the Initiative for Maximizing Student Development at MSPH, and Co-Director of the Community Engagement Core Resource of the Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research. She was recently selected for the prestigious 2013-2014 Columbia University Provost Leadership Fellows Program.

Professor Abraído-Lanza’s research centers on understanding health disparities between Latinos and non-Latino whites. She is particularly interested in the social (broadly defined), cultural, and psychological factors that promote health and well-being among Latino populations in the US. Her research on the Latino mortality paradox has contributed to national and international debates on the mental and physical health of Latinos specifically, and on general factors that influence immigrant health. Her current work focuses on acculturation, breast cancer screening, and community- and neighborhood-level determinants of health behaviors among Latina women.

**What types of research questions characterize your program of research on Latinos?** My program of research seeks answers to intriguing questions related to findings that don’t “fit the mold” of accepted principles, concepts, or theories. Why do Latinos have better health than would be expected on the basis of their sociodemographic profiles? Is it true that “fatalistic” beliefs among Latina women prevent them from obtaining breast cancer screening tests? If so, why are there such high rates of mammography screening among Latinas in Washington Heights? Is religiosity a “passive form” of dealing with chronic illness? Rather than focusing on risks, what are the cultural and other resources that promote the health of Latinos? How do these change over time or with greater exposure to life in the United States? How does the interplay between socioeconomic factors and acculturation contribute to disparities in health? These are just a sample of questions that my students and I have pursued over the past several years. Reflecting back on the types of issues to which I am drawn, I suppose another way of framing my program of research is to say that I enjoy “pushing the research envelope.”

**How is research on acculturation relevant to public health?** This is an emerging and important area of inquiry in public health, in part because some of the findings are so paradoxical. On the one hand, acculturation is associated with better health outcomes and, on the other, with risky behaviors. In addition, there is growing debate as to whether acculturation should even be a subject of inquiry or whether the field of public health would be better served by studying some of the correlates of acculturation—namely, social class and inequities in health care.

**What are some of the goals/current projects of the Initiative for Maximizing Student Development (IMSD)?** The broad goal of the IMSD is to contribute to national efforts to develop a research workforce that is representative of the population of the United States. Among other objectives, the program enhances students’ skills by offering opportunities to work with dedicated mentors in research placements that reflect their interests.

**Is there a book or article that you’ve enjoyed recently?** I recently read a series of articles on Diversity Science in *Psychological Inquiry*. Some provocative questions are posed about Affirmative Action (e.g., “Should racial classifications of any kind be inherently suspect?”) and point to the dangers of promoting the myth that color-blind approaches can reverse racial inequalities in higher education and other sectors of society.

Associate Professor of  
Sociomedical Sciences

## Patrick A. Wilson



Focusing on what types of **situations** influence risk, as opposed to which types of **people** engage in risk behaviors, not only reduces the tendency to victim-blame, but also aligns more accurately with human experience.

Patrick A. Wilson is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociomedical Sciences.

Professor Wilson's work and the work of his research lab, the SPHERE (Society, Psychology, and Health REsearch) lab, explore the psychological, social, and cultural contexts that shape individual- and community-level health outcomes, and seek to improve the lives of those who are disproportionately affected by HIV and other health disparities, such as men who have sex with men, racial/ethnic minority populations, and youth. Some of his more recent studies have involved exploring institutional and community responses to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, designing and testing culturally appropriate behavior change interventions, developing novel technology-based methods for investigating health behaviors, and increasing cultural relevance in HIV/AIDS research. Notably, he has used structured diaries to help understand how health behaviors are situated within a social, temporal, and geographic/physical context.

### How does the use of "structured diaries" aid in your research efforts?

Structured diaries are basically short, quantitative assessments that are administered over time, at varying frequencies, depending on what the phenomenon of interest is. Using an approach that involves structured diaries allows researchers to "capture life as it is lived" (to quote a colleague, mentor, and renown expert in diary research, Professor Niall Bolger). The diaries allow for describing behavior change over time and the antecedents to behavior change, but in a very fine-grained and nuanced manner. Structured diaries also promote a focus on within-person factors that may promote health/reduce risk. Far too often, notably in HIV and substance use research, a between-person approach has been used to understand risk. Focusing on what types of situations influence risk, as opposed to which types of people engage in risk behaviors, not only reduces the tendency to victim-blame, but also aligns more accurately with human experience.

### How is this method of data collection relevant to public health interventions?

Diaries are often considered interventions on their own, as the act of recording one's behavior over a period of time may provide insights into patterns that the persons was previously unaware of. However, most researchers employing diaries agree that more intervention is necessary to promote actual behavior change. I have a project that involves implementing daily diaries with young MSM to examine risk behavior triggers. We are examining the feasibility and acceptability of providing feedback to youth on their risk triggers (e.g., depressed affect, stressful events, etc.), uses this feedback to create a "teachable moment" to motivate behavior change. Diaries are not that uncommon in public health interventions. Weight-loss interventions in popular culture have successfully used various forms of diaries for years (think "Weight Watchers"), and are starting to be used more frequently in sexual health promotion and substance use interventions.

**Is there a book or article that you've enjoyed recently?** A book that I've recently read and enjoyed is *Middlesex*. It is not an academic text—even busy professors need to enjoy some fiction here and there! I highly recommend giving it a read if you haven't before, as it explores the true meaning of gender and exemplifies what we mean when we describe gender as a social construct. Also, the story is set in my hometown of Detroit, MI, so you know it's going be good!

## Kirk Grisham

Staff Associate



Kirk Grisham started in August 2010 as the Project Director for the *You & Me Study*, which explores how power dynamics across race and HIV-serostatus impact the lives of men in intimate relationships with other men. He has worked with the investigators on developing/refining their qualitative and quantitative instruments and conducting data collection/analysis.

**What attracted you to SMS?** As an undergraduate at Queens College, CUNY, I became interested in how social scientists approached HIV, both pragmatically and theoretically. I read Dr. Mindy Fullilove's *Rootshock* cover to cover, and after meeting Dr. Bob Fullilove at CHAMP (Community HIV/AIDS Advocacy Mobilization Project) meetings, I knew that wherever they would be was a good place to work and study. Working on the "You & Me Study" has been great—it is a lot of work to be immersed into every aspect of the project, but it is very rewarding.

**What are your interests/activities outside of work?** I enjoy pretty much anything sci-fi/fantasy-related, including comic books, video games, TV series and movies. Currently, I am immersed in the genealogy of Marvel's the X-Men, reading all of the trade volumes back to the 80s.

**What are you reading now?** I really wish I had something more interesting to say, but it is a task enough keeping up with my *New Yorkers*! But, I generally like *Jacobin Magazine* and *Lambda Literary* (their "Reader Meet Author" and "The Banal and the Profane" series are my favorites).

## Jill Pace

Project Coordinator



Jill Pace started in August 2012 as the Project Coordinator on *Promoting Action Towards Health (PATH)*, an intervention for newly HIV-diagnosed MSM that incorporates health enhancement and positive prevention strategies. PATH is integrated into HIV care settings and has the potential to significantly increase engagement in care and adherence to HIV treatment and reduce sexual risk among newly HIV-diagnosed MSM.

**What attracted you to SMS?** I came to SMS from NIH and was attracted by the opportunity to work in a more hands-on capacity on a research study. I was familiar with Dr. Patrick Wilson through his work on the *Adolescent Medicine Trials Network (ATN) for HIV/AIDS Interventions* and was excited by the opportunity to join his research team. Additionally, I felt the SMS department is a unique interdisciplinary department with many exciting and innovative research projects.

**What are your interests/activities outside of work?** Outside of work, I enjoy spending time in Central Park with my fiancé and dog, Virginia, running, and checking off my NYC "to-do" tourist list.

**What are you reading now?** I am currently reading *The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer* by Siddhartha Mukherjee.



## Emily M. Cherenack

Project Coordinator



Emily Cherenack started in May 2012 as a Project Coordinator and is involved with multiple projects with SMS Professor Patrick Wilson that focus on HIV treatment or prevention and which utilize a variety of methods such as daily diaries, critical consciousness coaching, and community ethnography.

**What attracted you to SMS?** My overall career goal is to improve the well-being of those who are disproportionately affected by negative mental and physical health. Consequently, Dr. Patrick Wilson's culturally-focused research with HIV-positive youth sparked my interest. Dr. Wilson has inspired me to focus on the role of stigma and discrimination on outcomes such as self-efficacy and self-worth and to adopt a sense of critical consciousness, both professionally and personally.

**What are your interests/activities outside of work?** One of the best things about attending Barnard College was meeting friends at Barnard and Columbia from around the globe, which has allowed me to travel to new places. Last year I visited my friend in Maui for a backpacking trip, and this year I am traveling to South America to visit friends in Uruguay and Argentina. The only drawback is that I miss my friends that are no longer in New York!

**What are you reading now?** I am currently reading *Transatlantic* by Colum McCann. I love Colum's novels because his characters evoke a sense of empathy and depth, and the deliberateness of his word choice creates a lyrical aesthetic that I strive to replicate in my own work.

## Kalvin Leveille

Community Outreach Coordinator



Kalvin Leveille started in June 2013 as a Community Outreach Coordinator, and leads all recruitment efforts and community engagements for SMS Professor Patrick Wilson's research studies, which focus on HIV prevention and sexual health among men who have sex with men (MSM) throughout New York City.

**What attracted you to SMS?** Prior to working here, my experience in the HIV prevention field was primarily in managing and providing direct services within a community-based environment. What attracted me to SMS was the opportunity to work with Dr. Patrick Wilson, for whom I have tremendous professional respect, as well as the opportunity to expand my knowledge of HIV prevention in a research environment.

**What are your interests/activities outside of work?** I really love to spending time with my friends and being creative. When I am with my friends, I feel like I am at home because it is all laughs and love for each other. Being creative is also very important to me because it is when I feel most in touch with my inner-self. It allows me to be at peace.

**Do you own a pet?** Yes, I have two dogs. They are full breed shiba-inus, my favorite breed. Blonco (the boy) is all white and turned 5 years old on September 14th. Harper (the girl) has a golden coat and is 2 years old.

## Meet our new doctoral students



### Amaya G. Perez-Brumer

**Degree Program:** PhD (Sociology)

Amaya G. Perez-Brumer is an incoming doctoral student (Sociology) and recipient of the NIH predoctoral training grant in gender, sexuality and health. Amaya received her BA in Italian studies and history from Colorado College in 2007. She received her MSc from Harvard School of Public Health in the Department of Society, Human Development and Health in 2013. Prior to coming to Columbia, Amaya was a Rotary International Ambassadorial Research Fellow working for the UCLA Program in Global Health (PGH) satellite office in Lima, Peru. Amaya is broadly interested in multidisciplinary strategies for HIV/STI prevention and control among men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender individuals in Latin America. Currently, she is using quantitative and qualitative methods to assess the relationship between social determinants and voluntary partner notification among MSM and transgender women recently diagnosed with HIV/STIs in Lima, Peru.



### Caroline Parker

**Degree Program:** PhD (Anthropology)

Caroline Parker joins the Department of Sociomedical Sciences as a doctoral student in sociomedical sciences and anthropology. She received her BA in human sciences in 2012 from St. John's College, University of Oxford. Caroline's undergraduate dissertation explored the impact of health inequalities and skewed sex ratios on the prevalence of teenage motherhood among African Americans living in economically-disadvantaged urban areas. She has contributed to research in several areas including; mass drug administration programs as a tool for the control of neglected tropical diseases, penal policy in the UK and USA, obstacles to providing coordinated care for ex-offenders, and the mental health of street-based sex workers and trafficked women in the UK. Caroline chose SMS for her doctoral studies because of its truly interdisciplinary approach to public health. She hopes to assess the ability of mass drug administration programs to control lymphatic filariasis and other neglected tropical diseases in Latin America and the Caribbean, using approaches from both epidemiology and ethnography.



### Alexander Julian Martos

**Degree Program:** DrPH

Alexander Martos, an incoming DrPH student, graduated from the University of California, Irvine in 2009 with a BA in public health policy. After spending two years as an AmeriCorps volunteer and a teen parenthood prevention program facilitator, Alexander enrolled at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), where he obtained his MPH in 2013. While at UCLA, Alexander served as a co-Chair for the student organization *Queers for Public Health*, and as an Albert Schweitzer Fellow, creating a sexual education curriculum for gay men and designing and delivering a health curriculum for Health Services Academy High School. Alexander has also interned with the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center, and has contributed to research on sexual orientation and gender policy through the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law. As an incoming DrPH student in the Department of Sociomedical Sciences, Alexander plans to focus on sexual minority health research with an emphasis on intervention design and evaluation.

## Meet some of our MPH students

INCOMING



### Ryan Quan

Ryan Quan is a laid-back, nature-loving San Francisco Bay Area native and a first-year MPH student in the Department of Sociomedical Sciences. Prior to attending Mailman, Ryan graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with a BS in microbial biology. Wishing to marry his background in the sciences with his passion for community action, he served as a coordinator for a non-profit organization

in San Jose, where he implemented gang violence prevention and wellness education programs for low-income adults and adolescents. Ryan's undergraduate research and professional experience built up his interest in public health, and he is now looking to engage in research and community-based action to improve healthcare access for populations of low socioeconomic status, and to mitigate healthcare inequalities related to infectious diseases. Ryan is looking forward to collaborating with the rest of the Mailman community as they work together towards securing the right to quality healthcare for all people.

INCOMING



### Alexandra Zenoff

Alexandra Zenoff graduated from The Johns Hopkins University in 2010 with a BA in international relations and East Asian studies. After graduation, she served as a community health educator with the Peace Corps in Cambodia, where she worked with midwives and nurses in the prenatal care unit of a rural health center. Upon returning to the US, she worked as a health educator in a San

Francisco Bay Area high school through HealthCorps, a non-profit organization, where her work focused on healthy weight promotion through interactive programming such as health fairs, cooking clubs, fitness classes, and classroom lessons. Alexandra chose to pursue her MPH in sociomedical sciences because she is interested in studying social determinants of health, particularly how health is affected by socioeconomic status and/or self-identifying as part of a marginalized population. During her time here, she hopes to learn methods of health promotion that may help to empower disenfranchised groups to make healthy behavior changes.

CONTINUING



### Zachary Peters

Zachary Peters received his BA in zoology & physiology from the University of Wyoming in 2009. As a second-year health promotion student, Zachary is primarily interested in the intersections of health promotion and environmental sustainability, and the design and evaluation of evidence-based public health programs, particularly in correctional settings and recently incarcerated populations. For his

practicum, Zachary worked with two governmental agencies. At the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence, he was responsible for developing a report for the NYC Network for Healthy Teen Relationships Conference. At the NYC DOHMH Bureau of Correctional Health Services (CHS), Zachary worked to evaluate HIV testing protocol in NYC jails by analyzing evaluation data, monthly testing reports, and transcripts of key informant interviews to determine the effectiveness of the INSTI one-minute HIV test in this setting. Zachary has found working with the NYC DOHMH to be gratifying, and may continue after he completes the MPH program.

CONTINUING



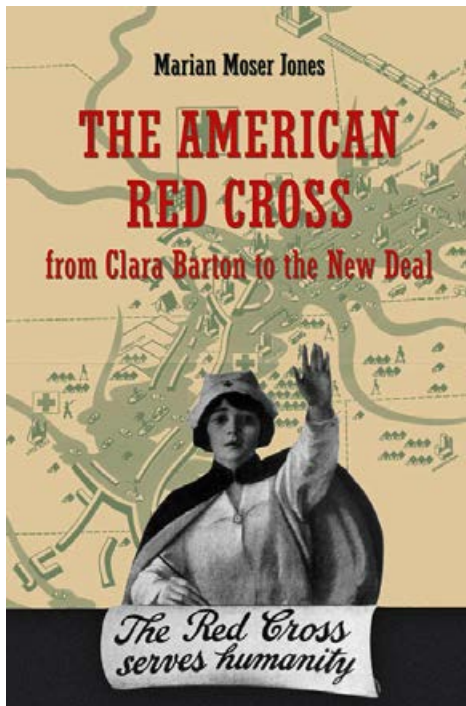
### Gloria Vidal

Gloria Vidal received her BA in anthropology from Haverford College in 2009, and is currently a second-year MPH student in SMS. While at Haverford, Gloria conducted ethnographic research on the intersection of capitalism, delocalized resource dependency, and social shifts in Athabaskan communities in Alaska. In 2008, she worked as an international volunteer with an NGO in Nicaragua, focusing on

children's emotional well-being and life skills attainment, which led to an interest in childhood trauma and mental health. Since then, Gloria has worked as a case manager for youth involved in the foster care and juvenile justice systems in Washington State. In 2011, Gloria conducted ethnographic research in Bali, Indonesia, focusing on changing concepts of social hierarchy for women due to the tourism industry. Her current research interests include trauma, mental health, displaced peoples, and capitalism. For her MPH practicum, she is conducting a quantitative study in the Dominican Republic to measure the impact of a sexual and reproductive health peer education program for low-income youth. After the MPH program, Gloria is interested in pursuing a PhD in cultural anthropology.

## Marian Moser Jones

MPH '05, PhD '08



**What were the topics of your thesis and dissertation?** I wrote my Master's thesis on a joint voluntary-state effort in the 1920s to conduct public health surveillance, specifically on children in NJ who had become physically disabled by polio. I wrote my dissertation on the American Red Cross and how it became the primary provider of disaster relief in the U.S. In both cases, I was looking to examine the voluntary origins of disaster relief and humanitarian assistance.

**What have been your professional activities since then?** I turned my dissertation into a book, *The American Red Cross from Clara Barton to the New Deal*, which was published by Johns Hopkins University Press earlier this year. I have also completed some article-length projects, notably *Poison Politics: A Contentious History of Consumer Protection Against Dangerous Household Chemicals in the United States*, which my co-author (Isidore Daniel Benrubi) and I began under the guidance of SMS professor David Rosner, and which was published by AJPH in May. My academic career has involved a two-year stint as an Assistant Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University's Science Technology and Society program, a Stetten postdoctoral fellowship at the NIH, and my current position as an Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland School of Public Health. I teach courses on public health and the welfare state in historical perspective, and on maternal and child health in its socio-political context. Right now I am working on a project that examines the future(s) of homelessness in sociohistorical context.

**How has the "SMS lens" (seeing public health as embedded in particular social, cultural, economic, and political contexts) influenced your professional attitudes and approaches to addressing public health issues?** As my students and colleagues know, I never take my SMS lens off. While some in public health tend to focus narrowly on collection and analysis of data without stepping back to ask about the contexts that produce public health problems, I strive to be the persistent voice that reminds them why context matters. Not everyone wants to hear about the history of this or that public health problem, or the social and political context in which these problems are addressed (or avoided), but I am determined to continue to remind others in the field that public health cannot really be a viable discipline without these factors. If we really want to solve the major public health problems of the day, we need to understand the social factors and political factors that are producing these problems, and to take the long view that only a knowledge of history allows you to take.

Marian Moser Jones, PhD, MPH  
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Participants in the SPW Research Training Workshop on Sexuality and Political Change held in Rio de Janeiro, 18-22 March 2013.

## Center for the Study of Culture, Politics and Health

The Center for the Study of Culture, Politics and Health (CCPH) is a research center based in the Department of Sociomedical Sciences at the Mailman School of Public Health and directed by Professor Richard Parker.

CCPH provides an intellectual space for the examination, through empirical research, analysis and collective reflection, of how the intersections of cultural and political forces in diverse settings shape institutional and community responses to public health issues. It seeks to reinforce SMS's broader research agenda by exploring the development of public health solutions that are sensitive to political and cultural processes, and the development of research methodologies that assess the feasibility and sustainability of these solutions.

CCPH is currently focusing on five major areas that reflect the expertise of faculty members associated with the Center: (1) gender, sexuality and health; (2) globalization and global public health; (3) social movements and community mobilization; (4) culture and context/structure and agency; and (5) the politics of public health. These themes resonate in a range of topics that are currently being explored through projects developed by CCPH associated faculty members.

One example of a longstanding CCPH initiative is Sexuality Policy Watch (SPW). Initially created in 2002, SPW has been funded by the Ford Foundation for 12 years with a total of over \$4.5 million in

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*CCPH seeks to reinforce SMS's broader research agenda by exploring the development of public health solutions that are sensitive to political and cultural processes, and the development of research methodologies that assess the feasibility and sustainability of these solutions*



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grant support (Richard Parker, PI). SPW is a global knowledge network of researchers, advocates and policymakers focusing on the global politics of sexuality, health and rights. SPW's members are drawn from a wide range of countries, including Argentina, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Senegal, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, the USA, and Vietnam. It operates through two Secretariats, one in the global North based at CCPH/SMS in New York City, and the other in the global South based at ABIA (the Brazilian Interdisciplinary AIDS Association) in Rio de Janeiro. SPW publishes a regular newsletter, books and other electronic publications that disseminate its research activities and provide access to its ongoing analysis of policy debates and political struggles around issues linking sexuality, health and rights in the 21st century. More SPW information can be found at <http://www.sxpolitics.org/?cat=1>.

Another example of CCPH activity is

its ongoing collaboration and support for the STAR (Social Science Training and Research) Partnership—a project linking SMS to the Center for Research and Training on HIV/AIDS (CREATA) at Hanoi Medical University (HMU), and aimed at building social science research capacity in response to HIV/AIDS and related public health issues. Initially funded by NICHD through a five-year grant of \$2.5 million, and just refunded through a second five-year grant of \$2 million (Jennifer Hirsch and Richard Parker, PIs), STAR is playing a key role in building research infrastructure, training social science researchers working on health issues in Vietnam, and linking them to broader knowledge networks focused on the global response to HIV/AIDS.

SPW and STAR are just two examples of key long-term initiatives that CCPH has been engaged in. Other examples of recent initiatives developed by faculty members associated with CCPH include studies supported by NIDA, NIMH and

the CDC (Patrick Wilson, PI) that focus on HIV prevention, treatment and care for men who have sex with men and other marginalized populations, particularly in ethnic minority communities in the US; a range of projects and studies supported by NICHD, UNICEF and the Gates Foundation (Marni Sommer, PI) that examine gender, development, and structural barriers to health and well-being among young people in Tanzania and other developing countries; and research supported by NICHD (Patrick Wilson, Jonathan Garcia, and Richard Parker, PIs) focusing on religious institutions and the response to HIV, particularly among ethnic minority populations in the US and in Brazil.

For more information, see <http://www.mailman.columbia.edu/academic-departments/centers/culture-politics-health/center-study-culture-politics-and-health>.

**Top** (Left to Right): Eric Schrimshaw, Hamish Gunn, Ivette Estrada, Helen-Maria Lekas, Jessica Roberts-Jaiswal, José Diaz, Elizabeth Ebright. **Bottom** (Left to Right) Nadav Antebi (Nadiva), Karolynn Siegel, Marie Onaga.



## Center for the Psychosocial Study of Health and Illness

The Center for the Psychosocial Study of Health and Illness is a multidisciplinary research group focusing primarily on the psychological, social, and practical issues surrounding adaptation to and surviving illness.

### History and Mission

Established in November 1997, the Center is directed by Professor Karolynn Siegel, and is comprised of a research team whose disciplinary training includes sociology, health psychology, developmental psychology, and environmental psychology. SMS Professors Helen-Maria Lekas and Eric Schrimshaw are long-standing members of the Center. MSPH graduate students also participate in the Center's research activities.

The mission of the Center is to investigate the psychological, social and practical issues impacting patients and their caregivers as they relate to: (1) adaptation to illness, (2) surviving illness, or (3) being at risk for disease; (4) and engagement in medical care. The Center's activities include not only research, but also service and training activities. Other issues that have been addressed through research at the Center include palliative care, end-of-life issues, aging, family care-giving, and cross-cultural variations on the illness experience. Overall, the Center's research projects consistently address one of four public health topics: (1) health promotion and illness behavior, (2) living with chronic or life-threatening disease, (3) caregiving, or (4) end of life care.



Research at the Center utilizes both quantitative and qualitative methodologies, and studies are designed to inform the development of services and programs for at-risk populations, patients, and their family members or caretakers.

Research at the Center utilizes both quantitative and qualitative methodologies, and studies are designed to inform the development of services and programs for at-risk populations, patients, and their family members or caretakers. Research has focused primarily on populations living with HIV/AIDS and cancer.

### Current Projects

The following are a selection of the current projects underway at the Center.

*Heterosexuals Online Partnering and HIV-Risk* (NIMH) examines how heterosexual internet-users utilize the internet to meet sexual partners. It also investigates how aspects of online partnering and other online sexual pursuits may contribute to HIV sexual risk behavior.

*Understanding Discontinuation of Outpatient Care among HIV-positive Inpatients* (NIMH) examines the individual- and structural-level factors that hinder engagement in care for HIV-positive inpatients. Innovative features of this study include the use of Cockerham's *model of health lifestyle* as a sensitizing framework, and bedside qualitative interviews with hospitalized HIV-positive patients.

*Use of Smartphones Applications for*

*Partnering among MSM* (NIMH) explores how sexual risk behaviors among MSM may be facilitated by the nature of GPS-enabled smartphone applications (e.g., Grindr, Scruff), the way they are used, and the processes by which sexual partnering occurs via these applications.

*Desires for Pregnancy, Contraception, and HIV Risk among Serodiscordant Couples* (NICHD) is a study investigating the perspectives and behaviors of HIV serodiscordant partners regarding contraceptive, sexual, and/or reproductive behaviors that may result in HIV transmission or pregnancy. The aims of this study are to examine desires, motives, and deterrents for conceiving, perceptions of risk, strategies used to manage risk, and how serodiscordant partners negotiate and communicate about these topics.

*Symptoms and Illness Behaviors of HIV-Infected Older Adults* (NIA) examines the role of symptom interpretation on illness behaviors among older adults with HIV/AIDS, with the primary aim of examining symptom appraisal processes, coping responses, and self-care activities.

### Recent Past Projects

*MSMW: Pathways, Motives, and Behaviors* (NIMH) explores the sexual behaviors of men who have sex with men and women (MSMW), but who have not disclosed their bisexual behavior to their female partners. The aims of this study are to identify the needs fulfilled by MSMW's relationships with both men and women, their reasons for concealing bisexual behavior, potential differences in risk reduction strategies MSMW may engage in with their partners, and how MSMW construct risk.

*Women Living with HIV in Two Time Periods* (NIMH) investigates how HAART medications have changed the psychosocial experiences of women living with HIV/AIDS, with the specific aim of examining changes in psychosocial adaptation, coping strategies, and illness-related adaptive tasks.

*Self-Care Among Cancer Patients at the End of Life* (NINR) examines of the role of symptom interpretation on self-care behaviors among older cancer patients with advanced disease and their caregivers, aiming to explore the symptom appraisal process, coping responses, and different types of self care activities.



# New SMS Course Offerings—Fall 2013

## Applied Qualitative Data Analysis for the Social Sciences with Atlas.ti | P8782

**When:** Tuesday, 4:00-6:50 pm  
(meet 2nd quarter)

**Instructor:** Diana Hernandez, PhD

This course is intended to prepare students to carry out qualitative research methods using Atlas.ti in a laboratory approach that emphasizes the application of advanced concepts in qualitative data analysis while drawing on a standard and widely used qualitative data analysis software package. Lectures, demonstrations, discussions, hands-on work with software and data, and readings will be the main class activities.

## Health Communication P6775

**When:** Tuesdays, 5:30pm-8:20 pm  
**Instructor:** Renata Schiavo, PhD

Health Communication has emerged as an important field of theory, research, and practice in the 21st century. As recognized by several public health and global health agendas, well-designed and implemented health communication interventions can have a positive impact on public health and health care outcomes, as well as health equity. This course will introduce students to the field of Health Communication theory and practice, and its key action areas. It will prepare them to design, implement and evaluate health communication interventions within a systematic, participatory, engaging, process-oriented, and multidisciplinary framework that aims at behavioral, social, and organizational results and ultimately, improved public health outcomes.

## Public Health in Asian-Americans: Concepts and Applications in Research | P8761

**When:** Tuesdays, 5:30pm-8:20 pm  
**Instructor:** Stella Yi, PhD

Health research on race/ethnic subgroups in America has historically focused on blacks and Hispanics but less so on Asian Americans, despite the fact that Asian Americans are one of the fastest growing minority groups in the United States. This course will introduce fundamental public health issues in Asian Americans in the context of overarching themes such as the “model minority” or the broader psychological implications of the immigration/acclulturation experience. An applied approach will be emphasized in this course, such that students will gain an understanding of how to practically operationalize research in Asian Americans in the real world. Further, the themes of this course may be extended to health disparities research at large and the challenges faced when focusing on a specific subgroup of the population.

## The New Stairwell Art

The new artwork in the stairwell showcases maps of Manhattan with adjoining descriptions of significant historical sites and events, and is the collaborative work of Professor James Colgrove and recent SMS MPH '13 graduate (History and Ethics track), Soyoung Hwang. Soyoung composed the written blurbs, identifying and describing events, phenomena, and locations in Manhattan significant to public health. Soyoung attempted to select sites and events that convey a broad and holistic understanding of public health: “I wanted to demonstrate how public health is tied into larger city or national social events and movements. For example, the NY City draft riots, the Stonewall riots, the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire, as well as the Washington Heights riots are included. Also I wanted include events that showcased more radical trends in public health, such as ACT UP and the Young Lords. Ultimately, I just wanted it to be an interesting and compelling history of public health in Manhattan.” Soyoung is currently co-founder of HealthKeep: a HIPAA-compliant news and social health network recently featured on Forbes.



# Selected Bibliography of Publications, Grants and Fellowships

(MAR–SEP 2013)

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## GRANTS

PhD Student **Amy Dao**. Weatherhead East Asian Institute SYLFF Grant.

Professor **Ruth L. Fischbach**. Simons Foundation. "Implications of Autism Genetic Research and Autism-related Social Stigma." \$550,000.

Professor **Amanda Geller**. Columbia Population Research Center (CPRC) seed grant of \$11,445 for her project titled, "Understanding Parental Incarceration Through Survey and Administrative Data." (July 2013-July 2014)

Professor **Amanda Geller**. National Science Foundation grant as Co-Principal Investigator for the project, "IBSS: Measuring Justice, Managing Equity: An Interdisciplinary, Multi-Level Approach to Understanding Bias and Equity in Police Stops and Use of Force." The project is under the direction of Phillip A. Goff, John C. Glaser, Steven Raphael, and Amanda B. Geller. (9/15/13—8/31/16). \$228,632.

Professor **Diana Hernandez**. The Fund for Public Health in New York on behalf of the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Nurse-Family Partnership program. \$40,000. The grant entitled, Qualitative Analysis of Client Retention in the NYC Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) Program runs from 09/23/13-01/10/14.

Professors **Jennifer Hirsch** and **Richard Parker**. NIH Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development. \$1,986,706. The grant entitled, Columbia-Vietnam Social Science Training and Research Partnership: STAR II runs from 09/30/2013-8/31/18.

Professor **Rachel Shelton**. American Cancer Society. Mentored Research Scholar Grant in the amount of \$729,000 for her project, "Interpersonal Influences on Treatment Decision-making among Stage II Colon Cancer Patients." (7/1/2013-6-30/2018)

PhD Student **Heather Wurtz**. Institute of Latin American Studies. Pre-Dissertation Field Research Travel Grant.

## FELLOWSHIPS

PhD candidate **Kathleen Bachynski**. Communication in Health and Epidemiology Fellowship at Columbia University.

PhD student **Abby Dicarilo**. Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality (IRWGS) Graduate Fellowship.

DrPH candidate **Akuia Gyamerah**. Fulbright U.S. Student Award to Ghana.

PhD candidate **Sara E. Lewis**. Mellon Interdisciplinary Graduate Fellowship of the Interdisciplinary Center for Innovative Theory and Empirics (INCITE). Weatherhead East Asian Studies Institute at Columbia University Dissertation Writing Fellowship.

PhD candidate **Anne Montgomery**. American Association of University Women (AAUW) Dissertation Fellowship.

PhD candidate **Siri Suh**. Mellon/ACLS (American Council of Learned Societies) Dissertation Completion Fellowship (DCF). American Association of University Women (AAUW) Dissertation Fellowship.

PhD student **Heather Wurtz**. National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.

# calendar

FALL 2013

Take note of these upcoming events

EVENT	TIME & PLACE	DATES				
BAGEL BASH	11:30AM—1:00PM, ARB 532	—	FRI SEPT 20	FRI OCT 18	FRI NOV 15	—
FACULTY MEETING	11:30AM—1:00PM, ARB 532	—	WED SEPT 18	WED OCT 16	WED NOV 20	WED DEC 18
FOOD FOR THOUGHT AND SMS GRAND ROUNDS	11:30AM—1:00PM, ARB 532	WED SEPT 11	WED SEPT 25	WED OCT 9	WED NOV 13	WED DEC 11
SEMINARS IN GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND HEALTH	11:30AM—1:00PM, ARB 532	—	—	WED OCT 2	WED NOV 6	WED DEC 4
MSPH ASSEMBLY	11:45AM—12:45PM, ARB 8TH FLOOR AUDITORIUM	—	TUE SEPT 10	TUE OCT 8	TUE NOV 12	TUE DEC10
MSPH GRAND ROUNDS	4:00PM—5:30PM, ALUMNI AUDITORIUM, 650 W. 168TH STREET	—	WED SEPT 18	WED OCT 9	WED NOV 13	WED DEC 11
DEAN'S SEMINAR ON INCARCERATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH	HESS COMMONS	—	THU SEPT 19 11:30AM—1:00PM	THU OCT 3 1:15PM—2:45PM	THU OCT 31* 11:30AM—1:00PM	THU DEC 12 12:00PM—1:00PM

\* HAMMER HEALTH SCIENCES 401 ON THURSDAY OCT 31

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Lisa R. Metsch, PhD  
Stephen Smith Professor and Chair  
of Sociomedical Sciences

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