SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER

COVID Research Pivot Awards

Folashade Agusto, assistant professor of ecology & evolutionary biology, and Donna K. Ginther, Roy A. Roberts Distinguished Professor of Economics, won COVID Research Pivot Awards. These awards recognize researchers who adjusted their research to better understand the coronavirus pandemic and to provide valuable information to the public and policymakers.
Agusto and collaborators developed a model to investigate the effects of pandemic control efforts. The model incorporates multiple factors that affect perception of risk, such as local case rates, behavior of neighboring communities, unpopular public health policies and media reporting. Agusto's model lends insight into human behavior and perception, which provides information on the effectiveness of public health interventions. Her model can help inform regional control efforts and be applied to future disease management and policy decisions.

Ginther and a team of IPSR staff members created a COVID-19 web resource center to provide information on the virus's economic impact locally and globally. Her research has made her an adviser to Gov. Laura Kelly, the Kansas Department for Children and Families, the Kansas Department of Commerce, KU Public Affairs, KU Research, Mid-America Regional Council and other entities. Local and national news organizations have covered Ginther's research on COVID-19’s effect on the economy, extending its reach to a broad public audience.

Both Agusto and Ginther serve on the Faculty Advising COVID Team, a group developing a body of research to support KU leaders as they make evidence-based decisions about how to control the spread of COVID-19 on the KU campus.

Watch the full video from the virtual KU COVID Research Pivot Symposium.

COVID-19 and Human Behavior

In March 2021, IPSR and The Commons sponsored a two-event series: “Mapping Behavior Around the Virus: Behavioral Scientists Examine Activity amid COVID-19 Pandemic.”

On March 18, researchers from the Faculty Advising on COVID Team addressed behavioral trends amid natural disasters, local and global lessons from the pandemic, potential policy responses to prevent future problems, and implications for the fall 2021 semester at KU. Speakers included Ward Lyles, associate professor of public affairs & administration; Derek Reed, associate professor of applied behavioral science; Tim Pleskac, professor of psychology, and Donna Ginther, Roy A. Roberts Distinguished Professor of Economics.

On March 25, researchers discussed what we can learn from behavioral sciences during the COVID pandemic, how participatory modeling is used, what lessons policymakers can take from the pandemic, how research has engaged and served communities, and what opportunities are available on campus for compassionate community. Presenters included Vincent Francisco, Kansas Health Foundation Professor of Applied Behavioral Science; Kyle Metta, KU postdoctoral fellow in community systems, Center for Community Health and Development; Lyles; and Megah Shah and Radhia Abdirahman, both KU students.

Watch recordings of the March 18 and March 25 events.
As of May 4, 2021, approximately 450 people per 1,000 in Douglas County were vaccinated, thanks in part to the efforts of the volunteers who staffed vaccine distribution sites. Many of these volunteers were KU staff using paid time off. IPSR staff members Whitney Onasch, Jena Gunter, Nancy Myers, Genna Hurd, and Donna Ginther helped with these efforts.

Gunter said: "I've been fortunate enough to take vacation time off to volunteer at the clinic. While volunteering I have encountered many KU employees also volunteering, some I've never met in person and some I haven't seen in a year. I was happy to see two of my employees volunteering who I haven't seen in person since the pandemic hit. I've also ran into two others who I've only interacted with via email during my 6+ years at KU. It was so great to see the support of so many KU staff helping the community. A plus was meeting two for the first time in person."

Thanks to all who have supported efforts to keep Kansans safe and healthy during these difficult times.

Congratulations!

*Beth Bailey named a 2021 Andrew Carnegie Fellow*

University of Kansas scholar Beth Bailey was named one of 26 researchers in the 2021 class of Andrew Carnegie Fellows.

Bailey, a Foundation Distinguished Professor in the Department of History and the founding director of the Center for Military, War, and Society Studies, is a leading historian of the modern United States whose research interests include the U.S. Army in World War II, military engagement and America’s role in global politics, and the history of the Vietnam War.
the modern United States and the history of gender and sexuality in 20th century America. Bailey will use the $200,000 funding that accompanies this fellowship to complete a book on the U.S. Army and “the problem of race” in the Vietnam era. The project examines U.S. Army efforts to address calls for racial justice and to manage the racial conflict that exploded during the late 1960s and early 1970s. The army's actions, she argues, must be understood in the context of its “institutional logic” — the collective force of the Army's culture, history and tradition, its structure and organization, its avowed mission and purpose, its policies and practices.

As part of the project, she will also host a symposium at the Center for Military, War, and Society Studies on the role of the U.S. military in social change.

Jack Zhang awarded a Wilson China Fellowship

Jiakun Jack Zhang (Political Science) was selected to the 2021-2022 cohort of the Wilson China Fellowship. This fellowship intends to help build bridges between traditional academia and the policy world and to support a new generation of American scholarship on China. Last year's cohort included the current Biden administration NSC China Director, Rush Doshi, and scholars such as Sheena Greitens, Adam Liff, and Oriana Mastro. Zhang's proposed project on “Multinational Corporations and Economic Statecraft in U.S.-China Competition” links to his Trade War Lab project. This project supports funded research, offers student training, facilitates exchange with other academic centers, and enables campus outreach on the politics of trade and conflict.

Grant Toolkit

IPSR is developing a library of resources for affiliates and other users to assist with research and proposal development. Information will be housed in a SharePoint site accessible through the IPSR website. Many resources will be readily available to all affiliates and others can be used by permission. Resources will include funded proposals, agency panel reviews, organizational tools, boilerplate for use in proposals, templates, writing tips, budgeting tools, and general guidance.

Contact Nancy Cayton Myers (ncmyers@ku.edu) for more information. We anticipate publishing resources as soon as June 1, 2021. We will be building in additional resources over the coming weeks. Let us know if you have information you would like us to include.

RESEARCH CENTER UPDATES
Center for Compassionate & Sustainable Communities

Spotlight on Care, a series jointly sponsored with The Commons, the Spencer Museum of Art, and other campus partners continued through spring 2021 with multiple events in the realm of climate change, justice and care. In addition, the Graduate Student Collective has been meeting regularly and hosting academic professionalization events for students on topics like how to put together a great doctoral committee.

CCSC also have added videos on its website showcasing work sponsored through mini-grants awarded in Spring 2021. Check out this conversation with scholar and poet Megan Kaminski on the prairie divination deck she’s creating.

CCSC is developing a repository of climate and care related course materials stemming from Director Ward Lyles's NSF CAREER award.

In addition, CCSC has two publications due out later this spring:

- Caring as Class: Resolving the Emotional Paradox of Climate Change Education – Journal of Sustainability Education – Lyles, Overstreet, Wu, and Moore (NSF CAREER Project)
- Jazz on Tulsa Time? The Remarkable Story of the Network of Flood Mitigation Champions behind the Tulsa Turnaround – Natural Hazards Review – Lyles, Pennel, and Riley (SCIPP Project)

To learn more about these groups and initiatives, contact Ward Lyles (wardlyles@ku.edu).

Center for Environmental Policy

The Center for Environmental Policy and Environmental Protection Agency (Region 7) are working toward an agreement to partner on several mutually beneficial activities. These will include collaborating on joint research projects and sharing information about research-related training and seminars. EPA Region 7 will share information about student internship and employment opportunities and will offer grant application
training to CEP affiliates. EPA Region 7 will share training tools with CEP, and in turn, CEP will serve as a community partner and resource to EPA Region 7 for research related seminars and special events. In addition, CEP and EPA Region 7 will encourage and facilitate visits among EPA personnel, and CEP affiliates for research consultations, meetings, workshops, and tours.

To learn more about CEP and this partnership, contact Dietrich Earnhart (earnhart@ku.edu).

Center for Indigenous Science, Research, and Technology

Dr. Jay T. Johnson, director of the Center for Indigenous Research, Science, and Technology (C-FIRST), and Professor and Associate Chair in the Department of Geography & Atmospheric Science, continued work on the RCN: Facilitating Indigenous Research, Science, and Technology Network (FIRST) grant, focusing efforts on publishing on Indigenous Research Sovereignty, and planning a collaborative meeting with the Oneida Tribe in Green Bay, WI, and writing and editing the Mentoring Our Own Native Scientists (MOONS) report.

In April, 3 HERS GRAs and 4 HERS alumni presented at the virtual American Association of Geographers (AAG) conference.

HERS program returns in Summer 2021

Dr. Johnson continued as co-director of the Haskell Environmental Research Studies (HERS) summer internship program along with Cody Marshall, faculty in the Indigenous and American Indian Studies Department at Haskell Indian Nations University (HINU). The HERS staff continued with program planning and recruitment, including sending the annual recruitment mailer and two virtual recruitment events in February. The HERS 2021 application closed in early March, and acceptance offers went out in late March.

The HERS staff met weekly to finalize the program calendar and curriculum, and worked with key collaborators throughout the semester including: Dr. Brian Lagotte to discuss the HERS writing curriculum; Carrie Cornelius (HINU) and L. Marie Avila to discuss the information literacy curriculum and the involvement of Haskell and KU libraries; Dr. Uros Petrovic (HINU) to discuss the Critical Thinking curriculum; and, MAPS researchers Dr. Amy Burgin and Samantha Thomas, and Coordinator of Digital Scholarship, Jamene Brooks-Kieffer, to discuss the data carpentry workshop and curriculum for HERS interns.
The 2021 HERS program is eight weeks, and begins on June 6. HERS interns will be the KU on-campus until July 17. They will complete the last two weeks of the program remotely. The HERS 2021 cohort comprises 14 interns with six participants from Haskell’s student body, and seven other campuses including two from the University of Hawai‘i-Hilo, Fort Lewis College, University of Hawai‘i-West O‘ahu, University of Oklahoma, University of Colorado-Boulder, University of Idaho, and Salish Kootenai College. Interns represent eleven different tribes from nine states across the country.

An edited volume based on the Center’s 2020 work and edited by KU faculty member David Farber is coming out this year. *The War on Drugs: A History* offers a fifty-year view of US government policy on drugs. Contributors examine the effect of drug policy on domestic incarceration and racial injustice as well as transnational networks and economies. The volume will be available through NYU Press.

The Center is hosting a symposium on the United States, War, and Environment in the Pacific World in October, bringing scholars from throughout the US and beyond.
Surveillance Studies Research Center

The Center’s National Science Foundation-sponsored research into the how public internet users navigate the internet and what security threats they face continues apace. The team, including Bill Staples, IPSR research professor and director of the Center, KU-ITTC faculty Perry Alexander and Drew Davidson and their graduate student researchers are wrapping-up a one-year NSF RAPID program investigation into how public libraries and their computer patrons have coped with the COVID-19 pandemic. The team surveyed and interviewed a sample of users about their experiences and a representative sample of library directors across the United States about library policies and practices during the pandemic. Finally, team members have compiled related stories from news sources around the country to capture what journalists have found out about what has happened in their communities.

The team is also midway through their NSF Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace grant, “Safeguarding and Enhancing the Experience of Public Internet Users.” One outcome of this work has been the development of a device the team calls the PUPS—public user privacy and security—appliance: an isolated, portable, virtual computing environment on a USB stick. The PUPS provides a "digital home" to those experiencing what the team has called “digital homelessness” which will provide users with a functional, seamless computing experience from one session and device to the next. The team has a working prototype of the PUPS and is currently engaged in user testing at regional libraries.

COLUMNS

Funding opportunity – Trans-Atlantic Platform
Recovery, Renewal and Resilience in a Post-Pandemic World

As illustrated by such recent initiatives as the UN Research Roadmap for the COVID-19 Recovery: Leveraging the Power of Science for a More Equitable, Resilient and Sustainable Future, an effective post pandemic recovery must be strongly informed by insights and evidence from social sciences and humanities.

T-AP RRR will support international collaborative research
projects that advance our understanding of the complex and dynamic societal effects of COVID-19. This understanding, in turn, should advance knowledge of how to mitigate the negative societal effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and support recovery and renewal in a post-pandemic world. Specifically, T-AP RRR invites research proposals that address one or more of the following challenges: reducing inequalities and vulnerabilities; building a more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable society; fostering democratic governance and participation; advancing responsible and inclusive digital innovation; and/or ensuring effective and accurate communication and media.

More information is outlined in this [Dear Colleague Letter](#). Submissions are due July 12, 2021. Contact Nancy Cayton Myers (ncmyers@ku.edu) if you are interested in submitting a proposal for this or other funding opportunities.

### Resource – Information Session on NSF’s Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate

Kansas State University’s Office of Research hosted an overview session via zoom on the National Science Foundation’s (NSF) Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBE). Dr. Kellina M. Craig Henderson, SBE’s current Deputy Assistant Director, presented information about the directorate. This Directorate focuses on human behavior and social organizations, in particular how economic, political, environmental, social, and cultural forces affect the lives of people from birth to old age – and how people in turn shape those forces.

Contact IPSR@ku.edu to request access information to the recorded session. Contact Nancy Cayton Myers (ncmyers@ku.edu) to learn more about NSF programs that might fit your research agenda.

### Visualization of the Moment – Election Map

This [map from the New York Times](#) shows the results of the 2020 election by precinct, shaded to show the lead of the winner in percentage points, and the change from the 2016 election.
Ask IPSR – Ask the Program Officer!

Q: Do I really need to contact a program officer before I start work on a proposal?

A: Yes! Regular readers of this newsletter know that we strongly urge researchers to contact a program officer before beginning a proposal in earnest, especially when seeking funding from a federal agency. The National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health recently posted blogs on this topic.

Contact Nancy Cayton Myers (ncmyers@ku.edu) if you’d like assistance researching potential funding opportunities or crafting messages to program officers about your research.

COMING EVENTS

Virtual Symposium on the Social Determinants of Health: The Emerging Epidemic of Diabetes and Metabolic Syndrome Among Indigenous Peoples
The underlying causes of health inequalities and inequity between groups are unquestionably linked to shortcomings in the social determinants of health. As the WHO has noted, the social determinants of health are factors like income, education, stress, social marginalization, gender, age, and food security that affect how people live and function. Our symposium will bring together stakeholders from across the care spectrum to discuss the structural disparities that hinder members of local communities from living healthy and prosperous lives. Emphasizing the special case of diabetes, the symposium examines the causes of health disparity among Indigenous Peoples, and identifies evidence-based strategies that have been effective locally, regionally, and internationally. This will enable us to identify priorities for research over the next few years to address the social determinants of health. Experts will address obstacles and successes, outline best practices and strategies for advancing the long-term aim of improving community health and well-being, as well as the building of inclusive and prosperous local economies. Oriented to practitioners and policy formulators alike, the conference will enable public health specialists, medical anthropologists, rural sociologists, development experts, and leaders from across the Americas to learn about and explore new solutions for addressing the region’s most pressing issues.

May 14 12-1 – “The Impact of Obesity on Health across Populations”

Anthony G. Comuzzie, Ph.D., FTOS, Chief Executive Officer, The Obesity Society, Obesity Expert

Register: https://kansas.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYlf-qrgDMuHtOOwhKLgu_vznZ4i-0iA7Cb

May 21 12-1 – “Relevant Research Approaches to Designing Better Strategies to Improve Healthcare Access for People with Diabetes and Hypertension in Low and Middle-income Countries”

Amalia Pesantes, MPH, PhD, Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, Dickinson College, Contributing author on Human Organization essay "It is not easy living with this illness": A syndemic approach to medication adherence and lifestyle change among low-income diabetes patients in Lima, Peru*

Register: https://kansas.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcqcu2rrTouG9Llb1c_12gKHVNW7XoZreL

May 28 12-1 – "Food and Nutrition Insecurity and Health Disparities Among the Guaranis, Kaiowa and Terena Indigenous Communities in Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil – Empowering Healthcare Workers to Promote Healthcare Access"

Verônica Gronau Luz, Ph.D., MPH, RD Associate Faculty at Federal University of Grande Dourados, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil
Brazil

Register:
https://kansas.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJU1de2hrzwpHNYqYTFvgt06z35kEZw9g3xg

Sponsored by the KU Diabetes Institute, Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies, and IPSR's Public Anthropology workgroup. Session recordings are available on request.

Convergence Accelerator Workshop –
Sustainable Systems
Enabling Food Security in
Extreme Environments and Food Deserts

Join the NSF-sponsored Convergence Accelerator workshop “Sustainable Systems Enabling Food Security in Extreme Environments and Food Deserts employing a Convergence of Food, Energy, Water and Systems”. Some of the workshop topics include Food Security, Sustainable Systems and Agriculture; Renewable Energy and Sustainable Water Resources; Sustainable, Integrated and Smart Systems; and Social Engagement, Policy, and Education. The overall workshop objective is accelerated convergence of sustainable food systems and food security through a facilitated convening of vested stakeholders from academia, industry, government agencies, NGOs, foundations and others, enabling accelerated innovation.

The workshop will be virtual with parallel and converging breakout sessions, and is scheduled for May 19-21, 2021. The results of this NSF-sponsored Convergence Accelerator workshop will inform future investments from the National Science Foundation for sustainable food systems and food security research and innovation at the intersection of food, energy, water and systems.

Find more information about the NSF Convergence Accelerator program, learn more about the workshop, and register.

2021 Kansas Economic Policy Conference – Save the Date

The 2021 Kansas Economic Policy Conference will take place on Thursday, October 21, 2021, on the topic: “The COVID Recovery in Kansas: A Work in Progress?”
Look for more information on the program and registration in the coming months.

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