Researchers in training build knowledge and connection

The Haskell Environmental Research Studies Institute (HERS) summer internship program, under the direction of Jay Johnson, director of the Center for Indigenous Science, Research, and Technology, and Cody Marshall of Haskell Indian Nations University (HINU), had another successful summer with 15 interns completing the program. The HERS program is a collaboration between Haskell Indian Nations University and the University of Kansas teaching Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians how to do research on the various effects of climate change on natural and human systems, and how to prepare for graduate school. The program had support from GRAs Trina McClure and Lois Stevens, five KU graduate student mentors, and staff member Mandy Frank.

After an intensive six weeks of developing individual research projects, the HERS interns traveled to Boulder, CO to present original research and to engage in hydrology and weather instrumentation fieldwork at the Haskell Natural Hazards Center.
University Corporation of Atmospheric Research (UCAR). At the conclusion of the HERS program in late July, the top-four research papers were selected. Top-four paper writers will be provided a travel award to present their research at a national conference of their choice during the academic year.


Questions? Contact Mandy Frank, mandy.frank@ku.edu. Applications for summer 2020 open in early January.

**IPSR Doctoral Research Fellows, 2019 – 2020**

This fall, IPSR welcomes a new cohort of participants in our Doctoral Research Fellows Program! Congratulations to Sifat Adiya (Economics), Daniel Bagheri Sarvestani (Anthropology), Jyleesa Hampton (SPAA), Elise Higgins (WGSS), Grace Leu (Special Education), Courtney McDaniel (Communication Studies), Haruka Nagao (Political Science), Justin Preddie (Social Psychology), and Scott Tuttle (Sociology).

The Doctoral Research Fellows Program helps to develop the next generation of interdisciplinary social science scholars by providing training and support. Throughout the academic year, fellows will meet to discuss topics such as dissertation writing and publishing, interdisciplinary research collaboration and management, early-career work-life balance, graduate research funding, and job placement inside and outside academia. Their work will conclude in April with a presentation of the fellows’ current research.

Questions? Contact Whitney Onasch, wonasch@ku.edu. Applications for the 2020-21 academic year open in spring 2020.

**Funding for cross-disciplinary, community-engaged research**

**Resilient Futures for Rural Communities Through Renewable Energy**

As the world’s population expands to an expected 9 billion people by 2050, there will be an urgent demand to balance different resources: renewable energy, agricultural products, and fresh water. Meanwhile, farming communities across the US face challenges such as low prices for agricultural products, high prices for energy and fertilizer, pollution from runoff and waste, and depleting water supplies.

To craft a creative, multifaceted set of responses to these challenges, Mary C. Hill and a team of researchers from across the U.S. have been awarded a $2.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation for their project “INFEWS/T2 FEWtures: Innovation Analysis Framework for Resilient Futures, with Application to the Central Arkansas River Basin.” Hill is a professor in KU’s Department of Geology. Through this research, Hill and her team will find ways for small town and rural communities to use renewable energy to treat water and produce fertilizer in an economically feasible way. They will also study how these innovations can contribute to resilience for small communities.

**Technology Education for Women Post-Incarceration**

Over the past 40 years, the population of women in state prisons across the United States has increased by 834 percent. While men continue to be the vast majority of the prison population, the rate of incarceration of women is growing. Of the 1 million women under some type of criminal justice supervision on any given day, 60 percent have a child under the age of 18, so it is especially important that women leaving incarceration have the
knowledge and skills to find jobs or continue education. Yet their involvement in the criminal justice system interrupts such opportunities, and most post-incarceration programs connecting people to these educational and employment resources are not designed for women.

An interdisciplinary research team led by Hyunjin Seo, University of Kansas associate professor of digital/emerging media, Docking Faculty Scholar in the William Allen White School of Journalism & Mass Communications and fellow at the Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University, secured a $1.4 million National Science Foundation grant to support research that will address this challenge. The project, “Technology Education for Women in Transition: Broadening Participation Through Innovations,” will offer evidence-based technology education for women who have been recently released from incarceration.

**New at IPSR: Center for Compassionate & Sustainable Communities**

IPSR is pleased to launch a Center for Compassionate & Sustainable Communities (CCSC). The CCSC engages in research development, knowledge translation, and public engagement activities aimed at fostering more compassionate, just, and sustainable communities. Core topics include reducing risks associated with natural hazards and the climate crisis, linking social equity and environmental quality, and innovating approaches to public engagement to shape local policy and planning.

One initiative that sets the CCSC apart is dedicated programming to broaden and support our understanding of what it means to care within academia and our communities. Check out the CCSC’s work through the Spotlight on Care series, co-presented with The Commons (details in Events).

A team of faculty, graduate students, and staff from across KU coordinates the Center’s work, including individuals from CLAS, the Schools of Engineering, Journalism, Law, Public Administration and Affairs, and Social Welfare, as well as the Spencer Museum of Art, the Commons, and the Libraries. To get involved as a new affiliate or for questions, contact Ward Lyles, ward.lyles@ku.edu, and Carrie Caine, caine@ku.edu.

**IPSR on the media**

PBS News Hour recently featured a piece from Iowa Public Radio’s Peter Tubbs on the RedTire program at the University of Kansas. RedTire connects business owners seeking to sell their businesses to entrepreneurs interested in purchasing and running an established business. To date, RedTire has assisted with 63 completed transactions for an estimated $36 million in private sector investment and is currently assisting with 126 transactions. The program has retained approximately 550 jobs in Kansas. Learn more about this program at IPSR’s October 18 research luncheon.

**Episode 5 of Unwinding** features Hannah Britton, Professor of Political Science and Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies and Director of the Center for the Study of Injustice at IPSR. Meet Britton, and learn about how she incorporates hands-on, qualitative research methods in her classes, the invaluable contributions of her students, KU’s unique position in advancing human trafficking research, and her ongoing work with the Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Initiative to understand and address the root causes of exploitation that affects communities from the Global South to the Midwest. For more episodes of Unwinding, including episodes featuring IPSR affiliates Katie Rhine and Ward Lyles: http://blog.college.ku.edu/category/heart-of-ku/unwinding-a-podcast/

**KCUR’s Central Standard** featured an interview with Hyunjin Seo on the recent NSF grant she and a team of researchers from KU, KU Medical Center, and University of Missouri-Kansas City received for their project to offer technology education to women transitioning out of incarceration.
Research Spotlight – Kansas Statistical Abstract 2018

KU’s Institute for Policy & Social Research published its 53rd Kansas Statistical Abstract covering information through August 2018. The Abstract, published annually, includes data on 16 categories: Agriculture; Banking and Finance; Business, Industry and Exports; Climate, Communications and Information; Courts, Crime and Public Safety; Education, Employment and Earnings; Energy and Natural Resources; Government; Housing and Construction; Income; Parks and Recreation; Population; Transportation; and Vital Statistics and Health. The Abstract is compiled from state and federal data sources ranging from the Kansas State Department of Education to the U.S. Census Bureau. The Abstract is prepared by IPSR’s Xan Wedel, Genna Hurd, and IPSR student administrative assistant Abby Byrd.

This year’s Abstract presents several new maps. These maps reflect ongoing areas of interest for Kansans, such as a county-by-county look at the average small business loan amount at origination and a map of natural attractions in Kansas. One new map shows voter participation rates in the United States, by state, for the November 2016 election. More sobering data includes a map of infant mortality rates in Kansas, by county, and life expectancy at birth in Kansas by county.

Research Opportunity – Future of Work

With major changes forecast for the Future of Work, funders are interested in jump-starting research that can help the United States adapt, including National Science Foundation’s Future of Work at the Human-Technology Frontier program, the Russell Sage Foundation’s Future of Work priority, and the Ford Foundation’s Future of Work(ers) area. KU is hosting two events in October that relate to this topic: The Future of Work: A Workshop takes place on October 17. On a broader topic and a local scale, the Kansas Economic Policy Conference on October 24 will address What Counts for Economic Development in Kansas? Speakers will address population changes, workforce cultivation, and local and regional economic development strategies. Consider attending these events to explore how your research idea might evolve, and in the meantime, meet with a member of IPSR’s research development team to discuss your ideas and seek funding for your future of work (or other) research.

If you’re interested in exploring this challenge, contact Nancy Myers (ncmyers@ku.edu).

Visualization of the Moment

Human Terrain: Visualizing the World’s Population in 3D depicts the world’s population and its shifts from 1990 to 2015. Glide around your favorite parts of the globe to get a visual sense of where people cluster, or take a guided tour to see changes in the populations of the cities in the United States, Hong Kong, Lagos, and Kinshasa. To view this map, visit: https://pudding.cool/2018/10/city_3d/

Ask IPSR – Data Security

Q: If my data includes information about individuals, what do I need to do to keep it secure?

A: Head over to KU’s policy library and look over the Data Classification and Handling Policy (http://policy.ku.edu/IT/data-classification-handling) and the Data Classification and Handling Procedures Guide (https://policy.ku.edu/IT/data-classification-handling-procedures). As these documents explain, it’s key that you know what classification of information you’re dealing with in order to determine what security practices are necessary to safeguard that information. IPSR staff can help you set up secure storage for IPSR project as needed. You can also take the “Security Awareness at KU” online course in the Learning & Development section of MyKU to learn more.
EVENTS

This fall, IPSR Research Luncheons are scheduled for 11:45 am to 1 pm on the following dates:

- **September 6**, Blake 210: **Tim Pleskac**, Department of Psychology, “Comparison of single- and double-blind review of scientific abstracts for a high-stakes international conference.”
- **October 18**, Blake 210: **Wally Meyer**, Entrepreneurship Program Director and **Genna Hurd**, IPSR Associate Researcher
- **November 1**, Malott Room, Kansas Union: **Xan Wedel**, IPSR Senior Research Data Engineer and Lead, State Data Center

The **Graduate Student Working Group on Qualitative Research** is holding these events:

- **On September 27, 3 to 4:30 pm**, Blake 210: **Steven Maynard-Moody** will present on narratives, story collection, and analysis.
- **On October 25, 3 to 4:30 pm**, Akiko Takeyama, Ben Chappell, and Katie Rhine will be on a panel to discuss ethnography

**Center for Migration Research events** for Fall 2019:

- **September 27, 3:30 to 5 pm**, Bailey 318: **Bart Dean** on CMR research
- **November 7, 3:30 to 5 pm**, Bailey 318, **Ludwin Molina** on CMR research

The Commons and the Center for Compassionate & Sustainable Communities are presenting **Spotlight on Care**. This series is presented weekly, as a collaborative effort to bring attention and awareness to care and well-being at the University of Kansas. Offered **weekly on most Wednesdays in Fall 2019** at 12 noon in Spooner Hall. Visit [www.thecommons.ku.edu](http://www.thecommons.ku.edu) for more information.

**knowledges** at the **Spencer Museum of Art** will be exhibited through January 5, 2020. For more information about the exhibition: [https://www.spencerart.ku.edu/exhibition/knowledges](https://www.spencerart.ku.edu/exhibition/knowledges)

The Center for Compassionate & Sustainable Communities is co-sponsoring **Mindfulness for Peace and Well-Being: Buddhist and Therapeutic Application**, on September 14. This event is sponsored by KU, the Center for East Asian Studies, and the School of Social Welfare.

**Sarah Deer**, Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies and School of Public Affairs & Administration, will present “**Sovereignty of the Soul: Centering the Voices of Native Women**” from 7:30 to 9pm on **October 1** at Spooner Hall. The **Hall Center for the Humanities** is organizing this event.

The Center for Compassionate & Sustainable Communities is co-sponsoring a **LEED Training Workshop**, presented by Lorne Mlotek, Leading Green, and Elaina Sutley, Civil, Environmental, and Architectural Engineering, on **October 3** from 6 to 9 pm in LEEP2.

On **October 17** at the Kansas Union, UIDP and the University of Kansas are hosting **The Future of Work: A Workshop**. This daylong event will bring together academia, industry, not-for-profit organizations, and government stakeholders to discuss research challenges and collaboration opportunities associated with building the human-technology partnership and augmenting human performance. More information at [https://uidp.org/event/future-of-work-kansas/](https://uidp.org/event/future-of-work-kansas/)
Red Hot Research No. 57: Public Scholarship, hosted by The Commons from 4 to 5:30 pm on October 18, 2019, will feature Katie Batza, Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies, and Mary Hill, Geology.


Alonzo L. Plough, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s VP, Research-Evaluation-Learning and Chief Science Officer, will be visiting IPSR on Monday, November 11 and giving a lecture at 12:30 in the Malott Room of the Kansas Union.

The Hall Center for the Humanities will host The Urban Experience Seminar from 3 to 4:30 pm on November 14, in the Hall Center Seminar Room. Megha Ramaswamy, Preventive Medicine and Public Health, will present “Women, Sexual Health, and Leaving Jails.”

In honor of his twenty years of service as leader of Institute for Policy & Social Research, we have established the Steven Maynard-Moody Student Research Fund. Funds will defray research expenses for KU students. Contribute to the fund through IPSR’s page at KU Endowment, and include the name of the fund in the “Special Instructions” field.

Got a tip? A comment? A question? Write us at IPSR@ku.edu.