IPSR Welcomes the 2020 Doctoral Fellows

Ten students were selected this summer to participate in the IPSR Doctoral Research Fellows program during the coming academic year. The fellows program provides a space for doctoral students to network, share experiences, and participate in faculty- and student-led workshops to advance their research and professional skills. Together the incoming fellows represent ten departments from across the College of Liberal Arts &
Sciences and the Schools of Education and Human Sciences and Public Affairs & Administration. Each member of the new cohort was selected by a review panel of program alumni from a competitive pool of applicants. The cohort represents a broad range of interests and perspectives with a shared commitment to interdisciplinary scholarship. Please join IPSR in congratulating the 2020-21 Doctoral Research Fellows!

Data Documentation Initiative releases the Cross Domain Integration standard

The Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) is an open collaboration created to develop data description (metadata) standards for the social, behavioral, and health sciences. Beginning with an XML based file description standard, DDI has evolved to offer multiple products aimed at documenting data from conceptualization to distribution. IPSR is a contributing member of the DDI Alliance.

Originally oriented toward survey data in the late 1990s, DDI has broadened its scope over time. The DDI Alliance currently offers two versions of the DDI standard, one for simple file description and another aimed at describing data across its lifecycle through the use of persistent shared metadata. DDI also offers a set of controlled vocabularies, and XKOS, an extension of the Simple Knowledge Organization System (SKOS) designed to allow description of statistical classifications. DDI also will be offering Structured Data Transformation Language (SDTL) a platform-independent language for representing data transformation operations.

One of the latest DDI efforts is to develop a standard to help integrate data across multiple research domains – the DDI Cross Domain Integration (DDI-CDI) standard. IPSR senior scientist Larry Hoyle is a member of the international team developing DDI-CDI. This standard is defined as a Unified Modeling Language (UML) class model, using a simplified subset of the UML set of tools. The UML representation is then also released in other forms, like XML. As a UML model, the model is available for community members.
to extend to other representations, like an R package that Hoyle and colleague Joachim Wackerow have been developing.

As part of the DDI-CDI release process the DDI-CDI working group, together with CODATA – *The Committee on Data of the International Science Council*, has been offering a series of webinars describing the new model and enlisting feedback from scientific communities beyond the social sciences. The DDI-CDI working group aims to have an official release of the new standard by spring of 2021.

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**Big Ideas Incubator**

Engaged KU is an initiative to advance community engagement at KU by enhancing collaborative efforts within and across units through integrated resources and support in the facilitation of a project. Through Engaged KU a team of faculty, staff, students, and community partners participate in collaborative learning and planning. The KU Center for Service Learning provides technical support for the development and implementation of a community engagement plan or project. One of the types of collaborative initiatives that can be supported is Engaged KU: Big Ideas Incubator.

**About the Big Ideas Incubator:** Many communities experience complex and challenging socio-economic problems, which require a collaborative and multidisciplinary approach. The Engaged KU: Big Ideas Incubator promotes community-university collaboration through multidisciplinary teams of faculty, staff, and students working to address a place-based problem or issue within the community.

The Big Ideas Incubator harnesses the full scholarly potential of KU faculty, staff, graduate students, and undergraduates to research, innovate, and collaborate with one another and with community partners to address some of the perplexing problems of today. The Big Ideas Incubator fosters intentional, sustained, and holistic research collaborations from across the University’s many schools and campuses while providing meaningful supports to community partners and strengthening bonds with our broader community. The impacts are simple: we embody the purpose of a public research university as we are improving the world
around us by creatively channeling our collective scholarly passions through community engagement. Each “big idea” will receive a three-year incrementally intensive scholarly network by first connecting faculty and staff (Year 1), then graduate students (Year 2), and undergraduates (Year 3). Each year also provides an increasingly impactful and expansive set of contributions to community partners.

The Big Ideas Incubator has three main objectives:

- First, to foster stronger, lasting, and more holistic relationships with community partners;
- Second, to provide structure and encouragement for cross-campus faculty and staff research collaborations; and
- Third, to include both graduate and undergraduate students in integrated learning and research opportunities that model interdisciplinary research and community engagement.

The goals of these objectives are to learn from and help build healthy communities in which we live, both locally and globally; to increase collaborative research, especially between the humanities, STEM, and medical research; and to prepare students as scholar-practitioners as they move into a rapidly evolving society in which community health is increasingly complex. Research activities of the Big Ideas Incubator will vary as the needs of the projects and the teams are identified.

Currently, the Big Ideas Incubator is in a pilot phase, if you have any questions or interest in engaging, please contact Katie Batza (batza@ku.edu) or Nicole Reiz (nreiz@ku.edu).
Surveillance Studies Research Center receives NSF RAPID funding

University of Kansas researchers studying what they call “digital homelessness” have received an additional grant to examine how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting Americans who don’t have easy access to the internet. Before the pandemic, people without their own devices or internet access often used local libraries to obtain those services, but many of those locations have been closed or greatly reduced their access during quarantine lockdowns.

“The folks we’re focused on don’t have a ‘digital home,’” said Bill Staples, principal investigator on the project, professor emeritus of sociology and director of the Surveillance Studies Research Center. “That is, their computing lives are resource-limited, transient, less private and more vulnerable to digital threats than those who own computers and access the web through broadband at their residences. When libraries closed, they were locked out of a digital life most of us take for granted.” Staples and his colleagues want to find out how — and if — people experiencing digital homelessness are coping.

These new funds supplement an existing $516,000 grant the team, including Staples,
Perry Alexander (AT&T Foundation Distinguished Professor of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science), and Drew Davidson (assistant professor, electrical engineering & computer science) received from the National Science Foundation.

To learn more about National Science Foundation RAPID funding, contact Nancy Cayton Myers (ncmyers@ku.edu).

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**Center for Compassionate & Sustainable Communities continues Spotlight on Care, partners on new research**

Together with The Commons and other campus partners, CCSC, continues to offer [weekly virtual Spotlight on Care meetings](#). In Fall 2020, Spotlight on Care meets on Thursday afternoons at 12 noon.

CCSC, in partnership with Lawrence-Douglas County and Haskell Indian Nations University, submitted a proposal to NSF’s Civic Innovation Challenge program for a community-led partnership around equity and justice in planning to reduce risks from natural hazards. CCSC affiliates have also been developing research proposals on local community resiliency (led by Texas A&M University at Galveston) and on EPSCoR proposals on adaptation and resilience.
Center for Environmental proposes new research

The Center for Environmental Policy is participating in three project proposals under consideration by the Kansas NSF EPSCoR office for the next phase of the EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Investment (RII) Track 1 program. The three projects examine surface water across Kansas, groundwater supplies in western and central Kansas, and rural community resilience in Kansas.

The Center is ready to submit a grant proposal to the NSF Environmental Sustainability program on the treatment of produced water generated by oil and gas extraction operations in four western U.S. states and the use of the treated water for various purposes (e.g., irrigation, aquifer recharge).

The Center continues to meet monthly with partners in our Environmental NGO Partnership Network and Environmental Agency Partnership Network. These meetings are spawning future activities. For example, the Center is arranging online presentations through webinar series supported by environmental NGOs, such as the Jayhawk Audubon Society.

The Center will also resurrect this fall its small group discussions starting this month.

Contact Dietrich Earnhart (earnhart@ku.edu), Center for Environmental Policy Director, to get involved.
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 outlining a book on Indigenous Research Sovereignty and planning a collaborative writing workshop with the Oneida Tribe in Green Bay, WI. Dr. Joseph Brewer’s project through the Indian Land Tenure Foundation (ILTF) ended in mid-July, but work on a book related to the project continues. Dr. Brewer continued progress on several NSF grants, working with his colleagues to plan next steps under consideration of the impacts of COVID-19. Along with Cody Marshall, faculty in the Indigenous and American Indian Studies Department at Haskell Indian Nations University, Dr. Johnson continued as Co-director of the Haskell Environmental Research Studies (HERS) summer internship program.

Unfortunately, the HERS 2020 program was postponed due to COVID-19 related concerns. The fifteen accepted applicants have been offered a one-year deferment to participate in HERS 2021. HERS faculty and staff re-oriented their work to three areas, (1) research & publication, (2) resource development & student mentoring, and (3) HERS 2021 planning. Five graduate students worked as HERS student mentors on program projects including, curriculum for critical spatial thinking, research proposal poster development,
research method toolboxes, and an implementation guide for writing groups in graduate school. The student mentors presented on their projects virtually during the HERS Summer Debrief (Aug. 12), but have agreed to continue their projects into the fall semester due to their impressive work. The summer culminated for the HERS program with the NSF KU EPSCoR Virtual Site Visit (Aug. 17), during which the co-directors presented on the HERS program to panelists, NSF staff, and the project team.

We also have exciting news from past HERS program participants:

- HERS alum Tyler Gerken (HERS ’19) won one of six master’s fellowships from the School of Public Health at the University of Washington. The $20,000 award will fund his thesis research on pathogenic bacteria in coastal waters, a threat to health and clean water in Hawai‘i.
- Daryline Dayzie (HERS ’18), joined the Rural Resource Resiliency (R3) NSF Research Traineeship program at Kansas State University as a research trainee. The R3 NRT program aims to prepare future leaders at the nexus of food, energy and water systems.
- Former HERS Curriculum Coordinator and GRA Lois Stevens accepted a faculty position as Assistant Professor in First Nation Education at the University of Wisconsin in Green Bay, WI. Lois plans to complete her doctorate program at KU this fall.
- Dr. Victoria Walsey, also a former HERS Curriculum Coordinator and GRA, received the 2020 Blanchard Faculty Member of the Year Award for Northwest Indian College. The Blanchard Faculty Member of the Year Award recognizes one distinguished faculty member at each of the tribal colleges who exemplifies a commitment to students, scholarship, teaching, and service to Native communities.

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Center for Science, Technology & Economic Policy advises on CARES Act funding
CSTEP has completed CARES Act reports for four counties to assist stakeholders in making evidence-based decisions about funding distribution: Miami, Wilson, Wabaunsee, and Johnson Counties and presented findings to all but Wabaunsee County. The team (Donna Ginther, Genna Hurd, Xan Wedel, Lindsay Jorgenson, and Thomas Becker) is also talking with Douglas County about CARES Act data indicators.

CSTEP continues to work on behalf of the Governor’s Council on Tax Reform. In addition, CSTEP is planning a project related to broadband access in the state of Kansas. KU for KS, the Economic Development Administration-funded University Center (led by Wally Meyer, School of Business, and Genna Hurd) received a $300,000 supplement to their existing funding to work on this project and to expand other economic development work in the COVID-19 climate.

Contact Donna Ginther (dginther@ku.edu), director of CSTEP and IPSR, to learn more.

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Center for the Study of Injustice plans events on Qualitative Methods for Social Justice and Migration Stories

The Center for the Study of Injustice has planned the following event series for Fall 2020:

Work Group on Qualitative Research Methods presents Qualitative Methods for Social Justice:

- International Research Ethics Panel featuring Hannah Britton, Ebenezer Obadare, and John Kennedy on Thursday, September 17, from 3 – 4:30 PM.
- Police, Community, and Justice: Using Qualitative Research in the Carceral State Panel featuring Steven Maynard-Moody, Chuck Epp, and Don Haider-Markel on Thursday, October 15, from 3 – 4:30 PM.

All events will be held by Zoom. To attend, RSVP to Christie Holland (cholland1321@ku.edu).
CMR, in collaboration with the Hall Center for the Humanities.

- **Migration Stories Lecture Series.** These events are open to everyone.
- **Migration Series Seminar:** The seminar format is designed as an active workshop where we will respond to a work-in-progress by a KU faculty member or graduate student. Participants are encouraged to read the work in progress and come prepared to workshop the piece with the presenter. Please note that these events are only open to faculty, staff, and graduate students. If you’re interested in attending these workshops, please sign up on this mailing list.

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**IPSR Annual Report**

A new annual report highlights changes and achievements at the Institute for Policy & Social Research over the past year. Read the report to find out what IPSR has been doing and what to expect in the year ahead.

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**Congratulations, Donna!**

Donna Ginther, director of IPSR and professor in the Department of Economics, was awarded a [Roy A. Roberts Distinguished Professorship](#).

In addition, IPSR affiliate Sarah Deer (Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies, School of Public Affairs & Administration) was named University Distinguished Professor, and Kathleen Lynne Lane (School of Education and Human Sciences) was awarded a Roy A. Roberts Distinguished Professorship.
The NSF program Advancing Informal STEM Learning (AISL) supports a broad range of projects that, from different angles, investigate ways of connecting audiences to STEM. This program seeks to expand access and engagement with members of the public at all ages. Through the Center for Advancement of Informal Science Education, NSF provides a wealth of resources to support AISL investigators. To learn more about these opportunities or prepare a proposal, contact Nancy Cayton Myers, (ncmyers@ku.edu).
Visualization of the Moment: Should you tell that data story?

We at IPSR are fans of The Pudding, an agency that publishes visual essays. Thanks to Xan Wedel for finding this gem: “Continue, Pivot, or Put It Down,” which maps out their editorial process in a flowchart.
2020 Kansas Economic Policy Conference

What is the Role of Government in a Crisis?

When the novel coronavirus pandemic hit the United States in March 2020, government at all levels needed to manage a public health crisis, continue providing essential services, and stave off economic disaster. In this half-day virtual conference, community leaders, policymakers, and scholars will discuss:

- The Kansas economy and economic development
- Public Health
- Education & Broadband
- Policy strategies for recovery

Join us on **October 22, from 12:30 to 4:30 pm** for a live stream of the Kansas Economic Policy Conference and stay on afterward for a virtual happy hour and additional conversation on session topics.

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**Research Roundtable**

IPSR invites you to join us for a virtual research roundtable on **Wednesday, October 7 from 2 to 3 pm** on Researching Responses to Gender-based Violence. Panelists include:

- Hannah Britton, Professor, Political Science and Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies
- Abigail Barefoot, doctoral student, Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies
- Patricia Sattler, doctoral student, School of Social Welfare

Steven Maynard-Moody, Professor, School of Public Affairs & Administration will moderate. **Registration is free and required.**
Join Red Hot Research remotely at The Commons to learn more about research from these IPSR affiliates:

- On September 18, Care & Aging featuring Tracey LaPierre, associate professor of sociology.
- On October 9, Rural/Urban featuring Joel Mendez, assistant professor of public affairs & administration; Abel Chikanda, assistant professor of geography & atmospheric science and African & African-American studies; John Rury, professor of education leadership & policy studies; and Wally Meyer, lecturer in business and director of the Entrepreneurship Program.
- On November 20, Graduate Research, featuring D'Arlyn Bell, public affairs & administration, emcee Elise Higgins, women, gender & sexuality studies.

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