Dear colleagues and friends,

I hope you are all well and safe after what has been a very unusual year. As I write this message today, Syracuse University has just removed the mask mandate and social distancing requirements for those who have been vaccinated. I saw the smiling faces of many students, staff, and faculty live for the first time in too long as I walked to work this morning. I hope this is just the start of a very positive future and a return to a more normal school year this fall.

The faculty and staff in CPR have been mostly working remotely, but we did have a number of terrific virtual events this year. Dr. Sandro Galea, Dean of the Boston University School of Public Health, started off the year, presenting the Lourie Lecture titled "Health Have, Health Have Nots in a Time of COVID-19." Dr. Brigitte Madrian, Dean of the Marriott School of Business at Brigham Young University, delivered the Volcker Lecture in March titled "Applying Behavioral Insights to the Design of Public Policy."

We also adapted our CPR seminar series to a virtual seminar that went smoothly in large part to our outstanding staff who became experts at Zoom and other virtual technologies. Andrew Hill (Montana State University) presented "Physician-Patient Race-Match Reduces Patient Mortality" and Todd Ely (University of Colorado – Denver) delivered "Private Foundation Payout Behavior Under Public Constraints" in October. In March, Kasey Buckles (University of Notre Dame) gave a seminar titled "The Drug Crisis and the Living Arrangements of Children," followed by Matt Kraft (Brown University) who discussed "More than Teaching: The Long-Run Effects of Teachers' Mentoring Relationships with Students" in April. We also had a graduate student seminar in October and two econometric workshops. The first, led by Jan Ondrich, was a refresher on survival analysis, and, in the second, Yulong Wang reviewed time series analysis.

We have several CPR graduate associates who have completed their doctoral programs: Dahae Choo (ECN), Jeehee Han (PAIA), and Yi Yang (ECN). Dahae has accepted a postdoctoral position in the Department of Economics at Seoul National University. Jeehee is leaving for Texas A&M where she will be an Accountability, Climate, Equity, and Scholarship (ACES) Fellow and a visiting assistant professor in the Bush School of Government and Public Service. Yi will join Amazon as an economist. We are really happy for and proud of all of them!

Please check the CPR website regularly for more details on past and future seminars and lectures. We will continuously update the site as we make concrete plans for next year. You will also learn more about the research the faculty, graduate students, and our CPR Visiting Scholars are producing. Don't forget to follow us on Twitter and "like us" on Facebook to receive the most current updates. I wish you the very best this summer.

-Len Lopoo
Faculty Focus

Sarah Hamersma (PAIA) received a two-year grant from the William T. Grant Foundation to support her project, "Keeping the 'Great Equalizer' Fed: SNAP Access and Young Adults' Educational Engagement." This year Sarah also had multiple journal articles published, including "Insurance Expansions and Adolescent Use of Substance Use Disorder Treatment" with Johanna Catherine Maclean, published in Health Services Research and an article co-authored with CPR alum Jinqi Ye, published in Social Science and Medicine titled "The Effect of Public Health Insurance Expansions on the Mental and Behavioral Health of Girls and Boys."

In May, Colleen Heflin (PAIA) testified before Congress as part of a Rules Committee Roundtable Examining the Hunger Crisis Among Veterans and Military Families. This committee was organized by the U.S. House of Representatives Rules Committee Chairman, James P. McGovern (D-MA) and was the second in a series of committee events highlighting the reality of food insecurity in America and examining the steps that Congress and the Biden administration could take to equitably combat it.

Amy Lutz's (SOC) co-authored book, Parenting in Privilege and Peril: How Social Inequality Enables or derails the American Dream, is being published by Teachers College Press. The book, co-authored with Pamela R. Bennett and Lakshmi Jayaram, asks whether the American dream that exists for the middle class is equally available to the working class. Using extensive interviews with parents and a variety of data sources, the authors examine how social contexts and culture affect parenting decisions.

In the last year, Michah W. Rothbhart (PAIA) has had articles accepted or published in multiple journals, including solo-authored work in Education Finance & Policy and Public Budgeting & Finance, and co-authored work in the Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory and The American Review of Public Administration. An article co-authored with CPR's Colleen Heflin (PAIA) and Mattie Mackenzie-Liu (PAIA), "Below the Tip of the Iceberg: Examining Early Childhood Participation in SNAP and TANF from Birth to Age Six," has also been accepted in Population Research and Policy Review.

Last summer, Saba Siddiki's (PAIA) new book, "Understanding and Analyzing Public Policy Design," was published as part of the Cambridge Elements in Public Policy series. Siddiki’s Element adds to the current discourse on the study of policy design. She has also had numerous co-authored articles published this year in journals such as Public Administration, The Electricity Journal, and Policy and Society. Siddiki’s latest article, forthcoming in Policy Studies Journal, is titled "Linking Policy Design, Change, and Outputs: Policy Responsiveness in American State Electricity Policy."
Pillars of CPR

This section of the newsletter is dedicated to CPR faculty or CPR staff members who have been a part of the Center for 20 or more years. In this issue, we feature **Madonna Harrington Meyer** (SOC), who has been a faculty member here in Maxwell and a part of the Center for Policy Research (CPR) family since 1997. Madonna is a University Professor, Meredith Professor of Teaching Excellence of Sociology, a CPR Senior Research Associate, Faculty Affiliate of the Aging Studies Institute, and a Faculty Research Affiliate of the Lerner Center. We had the opportunity to delve into the history of CPR through the eyes of someone who has been here to see it morph into what it is today. We appreciate Madonna giving us this opportunity.

**What brought you to Syracuse University and CPR?**
I was eager to move from the University of Illinois to the Syracuse University Center for Policy Research because of the strength in aging policy – Tim Smeeding, Richard Burkauer, Doug Wolf, and Chris Himes formed the core back then. I directed the Gerontology Center from my office in CPR for a few years, with a lot of assistance from Martha Bonney and Peggy Austin.

**What has changed over the years as CPR has transformed into what we know today?**
For me personally, one of the biggest changes is that the Aging Studies Institute, directed by Janet Wilmoth, is now independent of CPR. Another is that now there are so many more sociologists included in CPR. My favorite features of CPR, namely its commitment to research on public policy and its multidisciplinary constitution, remain unchanged.

**You have helped so many faculty and graduate students with their work/research throughout the years. Are there any particular projects or grants you helped with that stand out in your memory?**
I loved working with Chris Himes and Doug Wolf on the papers about how the decline in marriage is reshaping access to Social Security benefits, especially for black women. I am hoping that by mentioning it here I will finally be able to talk Doug into updating the analyses! I have loved working with wonderful graduate students on various books, including Pam Herd, Chantell Frazier, Dalton Stevens, Elizabeth Daniele, and most recently Ynesse Abdul-Malak, on *Grandparenting Children with Disabilities*, and Sarah Reilly, Claire Pendergrast, Amra Kandic, and Winston Scott on an upcoming book with Colleen Heflin, *Hunger SNAPS: Food Insecurity Among Older Americans*. What a joy to work with so many outstanding emerging scholars!

**What is your favorite story or memory from your time in CPR?**
I have so many, but one quick story: Pam Herd was always leaving her keys everywhere... and I do mean everywhere. One day Peggy Austin dropped them off on my desk and said, "By the way she loses her keys I can tell she's going to be a great professor." Was Peggy ever right!

**Is there any advice you would give to new staff, faculty members, or graduate students who are joining CPR?**
Once we are done socially distancing, get to know people outside your home department. And don't miss the holiday party at Dinosaur BBQ!
Yoon-Jung Choi’s (PAIA) solo-authored paper, "Property Tax Interaction among Overlapping Local Jurisdictions: Quasi-experimental Evidence from School Bond Referenda," was accepted for publication in *International Tax and Public Finance*. She is a 2021-22 Oskar Morgenstern Fellow at the Mercatus Institute and served as a 2020-21 C. Lowell Harriss Dissertation Fellow at the Lincoln Institute. She was also selected for this year's Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award.

Jeehee Han (PAIA) was selected for the 2021 Lincoln Institute Scholars Program, which provides an opportunity for recent Ph.D.s specializing in public finance or urban economics to work with senior economists. Jeehee was also selected to receive a grant from the Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy for the 2020 award year. The Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy supports emerging scholars through small grants to promote scholarship with a social policy application.

Mattie Mackenzie-Liu (PAIA) had four papers published this year: "Do Foster Care Agencies Discriminate Against Gay Couples? Evidence from a Correspondence Study" with David Schwegman (PAIA ’20) and Leonard Lopoo (PAIA) in the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, "From Fostering Hope to Lingering Harm: The Unintended Impact of the OxyContin Reformulation on Child Welfare Utilization" in the *Social Service Review*, "When States Align Social Welfare Programs: Considering the Child Support Income Exclusion" with Colleen Heflin (PAIA) and Leonard Lopoo in the *Social Science Quarterly*, and "Below the Tip of the Iceberg: Examining Early Childhood Participation in SNAP and TANF from Birth to Age Six" with Colleen Heflin and Michah W. Rothbart (PAIA) in the *Population Research and Policy Review*. Mattie also won one of the graduate school's Summer Dissertation Fellowships.

Maeve Maloney (ECN) received the John H. Thompson and Jesse Burkhead Economics and Geography Program Fund. Maeve also received an Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award.

Joaquin A. Urrego (ECN) received the John H. Thompson and Jesse Burkhead Economics and Geography Program Fund. The grant is awarded to students whose research intersects the fields of geography and economics.

Several graduate associates from CPR had the opportunity to present their research to an audience made up of their peers and CPR faculty at the CPR Graduate Student Seminar on October 8, 2020. Participants included, Mary "Emmy" Helander (SOC. SCI.), Jeehee Han (PAIA), Ziqiao Chen (PAIA), and Claire Pendergrast (SOC).
Quarantine and social-distancing did not stop our faculty and graduate students from taking on new research. Over the last year, the coronavirus created many new and important research opportunities, causing many CPR scholars to shift their focus to pandemic related research. This section includes some of this work.

Badi Baltagi's (ECN) co-authored paper, "Cities in a Pandemic: Evidence from China," was presented at the 10th European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association, held virtually April 29-May 1.

Sarah Hamersma (PAIA) wrote an article for Convivium Magazine, "Countering Counter-Factual COVID Confusion," where she explains how properly designed studies can help us know if pandemic policies are working.

Colleen Heflin (PAIA), Leonard Lopoo (PAIA), and CPR graduate associate, Clay Fannin (PAIA) are working on a paper about the barriers to accessing SNAP and WIC during the COVID pandemic. The objective of their research is to examine the local implementation of federal policy waivers aimed to ease the administrative burden and public health risk associated with in-person enrollment in nutrition assistance programs during COVID-19.

CPR graduate associate, Claire Pendergrast's (SOC) article, "There Was No 'That's Not My Job': New York Area Agencies on Aging Approaches to Supporting Older Adults During the COVID-19 Pandemic," was published in the Journal of Applied Gerontology. Her research examines strategies used by Area Agency on Aging (AAAs) to support older adults' health and well-being during COVID-19. Findings showed that AAAs rapidly expanded capacity and dramatically modified their program offerings, communications activities, and service delivery to address emergent needs and minimize COVID-19 exposure risk for staff and clients.

CPR graduate associate, Lauryn Quick (PAIA) and Colleen Heflin's (PAIA) article, "Housing Insecurity During the Coronavirus Response," was published as a Research Brief by the Lerner Center for Public Health Promotion. Their study was cited by Common Dreams in an article titled "New York to Offer Undocumented Migrants Up to $15,600 in Pandemic Relief."

Michah W. Rothbart's (PAIA) research studying the potential impacts of cutting back state aid to school districts during the COVID pandemic on racial funding equity was accepted for publication in Recent Advancements in Education Finance and Policy (eds. Thomas Downes and Kieran M. Killeen). The chapter offers simulations of a variety of potential state aid cutback policies on the distribution of state aid, assessing differences by the racial composition of school districts and offering a methodology for state governments to consider the unintended effects of distributing aid cuts on racial equity.

Amy Ellen Schwartz (PAIA/ECN) and Maria Zhu (ECN) were both co-authors on an article, published in Covid Economics, titled "The Global COVID-19 Student Survey: First Wave Results."
From the Field

Andrew Friedson (Ph.D., ECN '12) was recently promoted to Associate Professor in the Economics Department at the University of Colorado Denver. His research focuses on health care, health insurance, and public health. His recent work on COVID-19 risk, mitigation policies, and public behavioral responses have appeared or are forthcoming in *Economic Inquiry*, the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, the *Journal of Urban Economics*, and the *Journal of Risk and Uncertainty*. He and his wife just welcomed their 3rd child, and now play exclusively 2-3 zone defense.

Emily Gutierrez (Ph.D., PAIA '20) is a research associate in the Center on Education Data and Policy at the Urban Institute, where her research focuses on K–12 education policies that aim to mitigate educational inequities, disparities, and external factors that affect student success. In March, Emily and her husband welcomed their son, Elliott.

Kelly Stevens (Ph.D., PAIA '17) is an Assistant Professor at the University of Central Florida in the School of Public Administration. Her research interests include energy policy, environmental policy, air quality, climate change, renewable energy, and smart grids. Kelly and her husband have two daughters, Sylvie, age 3, and Elise, who joined her mom, dad, and sister in October.

Calling All Alumni

Alumni - we want to highlight your memories and achievements on social media and in the next CPR Connection Newsletter! We encourage you to update us on what you have been up to, where you are employed, and how your time in CPR has impacted your life.

Follow Us!

If the pandemic has taught us anything, it is that we value staying connected to those in the CPR Community. Follow us on social media to keep in touch! Share your research, and discuss data & findings that are produced by graduate students, faculty, and staff in the Center. We'll meet you there!

Follow us on Facebook & Twitter!

Fill out our form on the CPR/Metro Alumni Page!
Peggy Austin just became a grandmother again. Her daughter, Cassandra, and son-in-law, Steve, welcomed Margaret Anna (Meg) on May 26th. Peggy was there to help out with Meg and her grandson, Michael-1½ years old, for a few weeks. She is looking forward to vacation this year in Bethany Beach with her daughter, Michelle, and future son-in-law, Pedro. Peggy is also looking forward to CPR being back at 100%. It has been a long year of not seeing colleagues.

In May, Katrina Fiacchi celebrated her eighth year at the Center for Policy Research. Every year has brought new challenges and learning experiences, and Katrina is grateful for all the opportunities to grow and learn new things. Because of the switch from in-person events to virtual events this past year, one of her main goals was to learn how to organize engaging virtual events that run smoothly. In June, Katrina and her husband, Joe, welcomed a little girl named Lillian (Lily) Jane.

Emily Minnoe continues her position as an Administrative Assistant at the front desk of CPR. Throughout the past year, Emily continued to run the CPR Seminar Series virtually. Learning to host visitors in this way gave her a new appreciation for days filled with in-person meetings and lectures. She looks forward to once again seeing people in person and greeting them when they enter the Center.

Candi Patterson continues to enjoy working in CPR as a computer consultant. While part of her job involves assisting users hands-on at their computers, it was great to make use of tools to assist users remotely and have a visual while they are at their computers. She is thankful to have had the opportunity to work from home during the pandemic.

Candi looks forward to exploring new walking trails in the area and vacationing this summer. She says it's hard to believe her youngest is now a teenager.

This February, Laura Walsh and her family welcomed their second child, Ella, into the world. Big brother, Mack, has been a great help and loves making Ella smile. Laura is looking forward to coordinating another successful (in person!) Lourie Lecture and can't wait to see all her colleagues that she has missed for the last year and a half.

The Paul Volcker Lecture in Behavioral Economics

The Sixth Annual Paul Volcker Lecture in Behavioral Economics was held virtually on March 29, 2021. Our speaker, Dr. Brigitte Madrian (Brigham Young University), presented "Applying Behavioral Insights to the Design of Public Policy."
A video of Dr. Madrian's lecture can be found on the Maxwell School YouTube page.

Dr. Madrian is the Dean and Marriott Distinguished Professor in the Brigham Young University Marriott School of Business where she has a joint appointment in the Department of Finance and the George W. Romney Institute of Public Service and Ethics. Her current research focuses on behavioral economics and household finance, with a particular focus on household saving and investment behavior. Her work in this area has impacted the design of employer-sponsored savings plans in the U.S. and has influenced pension reform legislation both in the U.S. and abroad. She also uses the lens of behavioral economics to understand health behaviors and improve health outcomes.

The Paul Volcker Symposium in Behavioral Economics

A student-organized symposium on behavioral economics was held virtually on March 30, 2021. The symposium included three impressive young scholars. Shahzeen Attari (Indiana University) spoke about perceptions of energy use and systems. Alex Maki (U.S. Food and Drug Administration) discussed pathways from interpersonal influence to environmental action. Lisa Zaval (Columbia University) presented work on leveraging legacy to drive sustainable decision making.

Camp Econometrics XV

The 15th Annual NY Camp Econometrics, hosted by Professor Badi Baltagi (ECN), was held virtually on April 10-11, 2021. This year's camp drew academics from all over the world, including econometricians from France, India, Germany, Spain, China, the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States. Graduate students from various universities also participated.

This year's keynote speaker was Jeffrey M. Wooldridge, University Distinguished Professor, Michigan State University, Department of Economics.

For more information about Camp Econometrics, or to be added to the Camp Econometrics email list, please contact Katrina Fiacchi at kfiacchi@syr.edu.
The 33rd Annual Herbert Lourie Memorial Lecture on Health Policy

Save the date! Join us on Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 4pm for the 33rd Annual Lourie Lecture with Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha. To be added to our electronic invitation list, please contact Laura Walsh at lcwalsh@syr.edu.

The Lerner Center

A year characterized by a pandemic, political upheaval, racialized violence, and a record number of drug overdoses certainly brings to bear the importance of conducting and promoting population health research, education, and outreach. To say that the Lerner Center was busy is an understatement. We somehow managed to expand several existing initiatives while also taking on several new efforts including our COVID-19 community outreach page and COVID-19 tracker for New York State Counties (many thanks to graduate RA Yue Sun (SOC) for updating this tracker weekly!).

Our graduate and faculty affiliates rose to the occasion this year, producing briefs on pressing population health issues affecting us locally, regionally, and nationally for the Lerner Center Population Health Research Brief Series. Since the series began in February 2019, we have published 134 briefs that have been accessed over 80,000 times. The briefs have generated significant media attention, including from The Today Show, Vox, The New York Times, PBS, NPR, and many more outlets. We are excited about the continued growth of this series and appreciate the many CPR members for their contributions.

The Center dove into several new research projects this year. To better understand the effects of COVID-19 on drug use and overdose, we began conducting surveys and interviews with people who use drugs in New York State. Stay tuned for the findings! The Center continues its DOJ-funded work with the Maxwell X Lab to study the effects of different treatment interventions among NYS Opioid Court participants and evaluate the fidelity of Opioid Court implementation. With funding from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation and in partnership with Crouse Hospital, the Center developed and hosted a series of workshops to educate over 150 healthcare providers and community health workers on implementing Plans of Safe Care with pregnant women with substance use disorder. We also administered our National Wellbeing Survey to a nationally-representative sample of over 4,000 U.S. adults ages 18-64 in February and March of 2021. The survey captures several domains of physical,
 mental, psychological, behavioral, and social health and COVID-19 impacts.

Our Healthy Monday program has expanded substantially over the past year, and now involves a service-learning program for undergraduate students, a DeStress for Success seminar series for undergraduate students, and additional Monday Miles. On May 17th, the Lerner Center launched the Healthy Monday Race Across the U.S. Using the science behind the 'Healthy Monday Reset' and the accessibility of a web-based app, this quest challenges participants to engage in healthy behaviors while sparking friendly competition and the chance to win prizes.

Congratulations are in order on several fronts. The Lerner Center received the 2021 Excellence in Campus Partnership Award from Falk College. This award recognizes an outstanding relationship with a campus partner that has a direct impact on student learning and development. Lerner Graduate Fellow Mariah Brennan (SOC. SCI.) was selected for a prestigious position in RAND's 2021 Graduate Student Summer Associate Program, and Graduate Fellows Claire Pendergrast (SOC) and Xiaoyan Zhang (Human Dev.) were finalists for the 2021 SU Graduate Dean's award for Excellence in Research and Creative Work. Lerner Center postdoc Danielle Rhubart accepted a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of Biobehavioral Health at Penn State University. Finally, we wish Mary Kate Schutt all the best in her new position with The Flourishing Center in NYC. Mary Kate has made tremendous contributions in her role as Lerner Center Program Coordinator. She will be greatly missed!

Maxwell X Lab

The Maxwell X Lab continues to expand its portfolio of projects in diverse policy areas and geographic locations. The lab faced some challenges as the pandemic reshaped operations for our local government and nonprofit partners. However, the pandemic also helped accelerate projects related to resource distribution for families in need and adaptive permitting policies for businesses to operate under pandemic restrictions. Below is a sample of our latest work:

- In collaboration with the CNY Diaper Bank, the Early Childhood Alliance (ERA), and the Allyn Foundation, we designed a behavioral intervention to increase take-up of Help Me Grow, a county-wide initiative connecting families in need to community resources in Onondaga County, NY.
- In partnership with the City of New Orleans, we evaluated a curbside dining and parklet program. The program sought to increase seating capacity and revenue for restaurants operating under stay-at-home and other pandemic related restrictions.
- In partnership with the Glimmerglass Festival in Cooperstown, NY, we are using a mixed-methods approach to evaluate the company's equity, diversity, and inclusion efforts.

In September 2020, "Testing Behavioral Interventions Designed to Improve On-Time SNAP Recertification," co-authored by X Lab Director Leonard Lopoo (PAIA), Professor Colleen Heflin (PAIA), and X Lab Managing Director Joe Boskovski, was published in the Journal of Behavioral Public Administration. The authors found that behaviorally informed text message reminders are more effective than recorded phone messages in reducing learning costs for SNAP applicants. This is the X Lab's first peer-reviewed article.
Staff spotlight: In July 2021, Hannah Patnaik joined the lab as our new Managing Director. Hannah received her Ph.D. in Public Administration and International Affairs from the Maxwell School in May 2021. Hannah has a broad interest in understanding and identifying solutions to reduce poverty and improve the well-being of people through evidence-based policy. Hannah is based in Washington, D.C.

X Lab Co-Founder and former Managing Director, Joe Boskovski, started a new opportunity in the private sector. We wish him well in his new role!

During the 2020-2021 academic year, the lab hosted four undergraduate research assistants with support from the SOURCE, a program in the Office of Research. One RA, Juliette Geraghty ('22, policy studies and economics) will continue to work in the lab through summer 2021.

In June 2021, the lab returned for a second year in a row to present at the Rockefeller Local Government Lab Conference. Senior Associate, Michelle Kincaid, presented a talk titled "Maxwell X Lab: SNAP and Supporting Families in Need."

Grad Babies of CPR

On behalf of CPR, we extend a warm congratulations to Spencer Shan Holtz (PAIA), Mattie Mackenzie-Liu (PAIA), and Christopher Rick (PAIA) on the arrivals of their newest family members! We wish you so many happy and wonder-filled times ahead.

Hayes Allen Shan Holtz
August 2020

Ian Mackenzie-Liu
January 2021

Asher Rick
February 2021