**Director’s Corner**

Greetings from the fourth floor of Eggers Hall. The fall semester of the 2018-19 academic year has ended, and I am writing to pass along some of our highlights since our last newsletter.

We had some wonderful guests for the CPR seminar series, including Lucy Qiu (University of Maryland), who spoke about solar panel adoption, and Chloe East (University of Colorado-Denver), who presented her work on the effects of immigration policy on labor markets. We also had seminars from our own Len Burman and Yilin Hou, as well as our graduate students. Len spoke about designing a synthetic tax data set and Yilin presented some of his research on citizen’s ability to pay property taxes in China.

In the spring, we have a full slate of speakers as well, including Michael Wasylenko (Syracuse University), Peter Bergman (Columbia University), Christopher Ruhm (University of Virginia), Jim Ziliak (University of Kentucky), and Anna Haskins (Cornell University). In addition, Deirdre Nansen McCloskey will be our Volcker Lecturer on April 8, 2019. Her lecture is titled “What Might Be Wrong with Behavioral Economics?”

The Maxwell X Lab continues to grow and is making important contributions to our community. A list of the projects completed by the lab to date can be found on the Maxwell X Lab Website. In particular, please see the recent news coverage on a project that saved the City of Syracuse over one million dollars.

Please check our website regularly for more details on past and future seminars and lectures. You will 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.

-Len Lopoo

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**Faculty Focus**

Colleen Heflin (PAIA) and Michah Rothbart (PAIA) received a $100,000 grant from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) to research the relationship between student participation in the US Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and school readiness. The research project, “SNAP Uptake and School Readiness in Virginia,” will draw from Virginia state administrative data from 2007 through 2012 to match households with young children that received SNAP, Medicaid, or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits with test-takers on the Virginia school readiness exam.

Badi Baltagi (ECN) was named a Fellow of “Econometric Reviews.” This designation is given to authors who have a publication score of 3 or above. Professor Baltagi was awarded the Kuwait Prize 2018 in the field of administrative sciences (economics). He was being recognized for his distinguished scientific research in theoretical and applied panel data econometrics.

Leonard Lopoo (PAIA) was appointed Maxwell Advisory Board Professor of Public Policy, in recognition of his outstanding scholarship and service to the Maxwell School.

Colleen Heflin (PAIA), in partnership with the Maxwell X Lab, is the principal investigator for a grant from the USDA to help redesign the SNAP recertification process in Minnesota (MN). This study is part of a larger project being conducted through a partnership between the Maxwell X Lab at Syracuse University and Hennepin County’s (MN) Human Services and Public Health Department. The project uses randomized control trials (RCTs) and cost benefit analysis to create an evidence-base for how to reduce administrative churn in the SNAP caseload cost-effectively in Hennepin County, MN. Heflin and her team will use econometric analysis to explore the applicability and effectiveness of traditional and more behavioral-based nudges to reduce churn. To assess the broad applicability of their findings, they will also use ERS administrative data to examine whether the factors identified as influencing churn are similar in other states.
Grad Bag

Angie Mejia’s (SOC) paper, “Joven, Extranjera, y Deprimida e América: Ruminations of an Immigrant to Prozac Nation,” was published in Cultural Studies <-> Critical Methodologies and was the second place winner of the 2018 Graduate Student Best Paper Award. The prize is funded through the Memorial Fund for William Pooler, Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Syracuse University.

David Schwegman (PAIA) was selected as a 2018 APPAM Equity and Inclusion Fellow. The fellowship supports the travel and participation of up to 40 students from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds at the APPAM Fall Research Conference. David’s paper, “Rental Market Discrimination Against Same-Sex Couples: Evidence From a Pairwise-Matched Email Correspondence Test,” was published in Housing Policy Debate.

Iuliia Shybalkina’s (PAIA) paper, “The Relationship between Citizen Engagement Design and Outcomes: An Empirical Study of Participatory Budgeting,” was accepted to the Consortium on Collaborative Governance (CCG) Emerging Scholars Workshop. The CCG is hosting this workshop in February to advance research on collaborative governance within the public administration field by connecting outstanding emerging scholars with each other and with senior scholars. Iuliia’s paper with Professor Robert Bifulco, “Does Participatory Budgeting Change the Share of Public Funding to Low Income Neighborhoods?“ was published in Public Budgeting & Finance.

Saied Toossi’s (PAIA) co-authored paper with former CPR graduate associate, Pengju Zhang, titled “Video Gambling Adoption and Tax Revenues: Evidence from Illinois,” was published in Public Budgeting & Finance.

Staff Stop

Laura Walsh has recently returned to CPR after taking some time off for maternity leave. She and her husband, Alex, welcomed their first child into the world on August 21st; a blonde hair, blue eyed boy named Macklin “Mack” Edward Walsh. When deciding on his name, they wanted it to be two things: 1) something they both could agree upon, and 2) a name that highlights their Irish roots.

From day one, Mack has been the light of his family’s lives and such a joy to have in this world. His smile and his giggle are contagious and he makes every day so special. Alex and Laura truly believe they have the world’s happiest baby.

When it came to venturing out of the house, his parents certainly were not afraid. Besides countless trips to Mom’s favorite store, Target, Mack has traveled to Chicago (twice!), the apple orchard, Skaneateles multiple times, and even the War Memorial to watch his Dad referee a hockey game!

While returning to work is hard after spending so much time at home with Mack, Laura is looking forward to getting back into a routine and seeing everyone in CPR!
Mary Daly (Ph.D., ECN) has been named President and Chief Executive Officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. Daly’s appointment as the San Francisco Fed’s 13th president and chief executive officer was made by eligible members of the Bank’s Board of Directors with the approval of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Kerri Raissian (Ph.D., PAIA) is the new Co-Leader of the Scholars Strategy Network, Connecticut Chapter, an organization focused on building partnerships between researchers, practitioners, and policymakers. She remains active with the Doris Duke Fellowship for the Promotion of Child Well-Being and a mentor to current doctoral students. Currently, Kerri is working with several past fellows on papers seeking to better understand the determinants of child maltreatment and understand how policy can prevent child maltreatment and promote child well-being. In October, Kerri and her husband Tony welcomed their third child, Ronin “Rory” Scott. Rory joins big brother, Mack, and big sister, Laurel.

Laura Rodriguez (PAIA) recently started a new job as Research Manager at Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) in the Dominican Republic. Her role is mainly to oversee ongoing research, as well as identify new project opportunities in that country. Specifically, she is working on a large evaluation of the country’s Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) program. IPA, in collaboration with the Dominican Government and the Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA) at Berkeley, took advantage of a planned expansion of the program to randomize eligible households to newly available spots.

Save the Date
Paul Volcker Lecture in Behavioral Economics

Deirdre Nansen McCloskey will deliver the Fifth Annual Paul Volcker Lecture in Behavioral Economics on Monday, April 8, 2019 from 4:00-5:30pm in the Maxwell Auditorium. The topic of this year’s lecture is “What Might be Wrong with Behavioral Economics?”

The Volcker Symposium, featuring young scholars working in the behavioral economics field, will be held the following day, Tuesday, April 9, 2019.

For more information about Dr. McCloskey or the Volcker Lecture and Symposium, please visit the Volcker webpage or contact Katrina Fiacchi at kfiacchi@syr.edu, 315.443.9040.

Upcoming Events

February 21- CPR Seminar Series featuring Michael Wasylenko (Syracuse University)

February 28- CPR Seminar Series featuring Peter Bergman (Columbia University)

March 21- CPR Seminar Series featuring Christopher Ruhm (University of Virginia)

March 28- Econometrics Methods Workshop, Yoonseok Lee (Syracuse University)

April 4- CPR Seminar Series featuring James Ziliak (University of Kentucky)

April 8- Paul Volcker Lecture, Deirdre Nansen McCloskey (University of Illinois at Chicago)

April 12-14- Camp Econometrics

April 18- CPR Seminar Series featuring Anna Haskins (Cornell University)
Diplomatic Pouch
Assistant Professor of Public Administration and International Affairs, **Saba Siddiki** traveled to Hamburg, Germany to present her research at the European Consortium for Political Research conference.

In August, I traveled to Hamburg, Germany to attend the European Consortium for the Political Research conference to present findings that I have been conducting with a colleague, Dr. Chris Koski, from Reed University. Our recent studies examine the effectiveness of net metering policies of American states over the last decade.

While I was there, I took a bus tour of Hamburg. It was a bit overcast, but most summer days there seem to be hot and sunny. Other than the weather, the tour was fascinating. Hamburg is a port city that was founded in 500 AD. The feel of the city is very old and nautical—everywhere you go, there are paintings and statues of sailors. In heavy contrast to most of the city is Hafencity, a district just outside of Hamburg. The district is quite modern and is adorned with hotels, shops, office buildings, and residential areas right on the old port of Hamburg.

I did not have many opportunities to go out and explore the city, but we were able to enjoy a lot of the local cuisine. I was surprised to learn that Germans are big tea drinkers. Every dining place I visited had a large selection of teas to choose from. The tea was always served with honey and an assortment of rock sugar.
The Lerner Center welcomed Mary Kate Lee as our new Program Coordinator for the Healthy Monday Programs. Her Lerner Center responsibilities include managing the Healthy Monday Syracuse campaign, building campus and community partnerships, and working with the Lerner Fellows to conduct applied population health research and evaluation, and public health promotion initiatives. We also bid farewell to Leah Moser, who has moved with her family to Missouri. Leah has been with the Center since 2011, holding the positions of Lerner Fellow, Program Coordinator, Assistant Director, and Program Director. We want to extend a warm thank you to Tom Dennison as well, who retired from his faculty position in the department of Public Administration and International Affairs at the end of spring 2018. During his time with the Lerner Center, Tom guided the Center’s research agenda and strategic priorities, helped establish the Healthy Monday programming on campus and throughout Onondaga and Madison counties. Tom also helped develop the Lerner Center Graduate Fellows program, and built campus and community partnerships that continue to be essential for the Center’s long-term goals. We offer our sincerest appreciation to Leah and Tom for all they have done to build the Lerner Center. We wish them both the best.

The Lerner Center continues to support student development through its Graduate Fellows Program. Each year a team of four graduate students work to support the Healthy Monday campaign and community health initiatives. Our current fellows are a dynamic and multi-disciplinary group: Stephanie Spera (PAIA), Katie Mott (Food Studies), Sean Withington (PAIA), and Angie Mejia (SOC).

Funded by a CUSE grant award to Shannon Monnat, the Lerner Center organized a Population Health Symposium in November 2018. This event, attended by nearly 100 participants, aimed to build interdisciplinary relationships between population health scholars on the hill to generate proposals for external funding.

Congratulations to the Inaugural Lerner Center Fellows Grant Program awardees for the projects “Nudging Physical Activity in Early Adolescents with ADHD” and “Impact of Gardening on Refugee Mental Health, Community Building, and Economic Well-Being in Central New York.” The purpose of the Fellows Grant Program is to fund population health or health promotion research at Syracuse University that focuses on impacting health behaviors, institutions, systems, or policies to reduce risk for and/or consequences of chronic disease and/or premature mortality at the individual, community, or societal levels.

For more information on any of the Lerner Center staff, students, or programming, please visit the Lerner Center website.

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Camp Econometrics XIV
Save the Date

New York Camp Econometrics XIV will be held on April 12-14, 2019 at the 1000 Islands Harbor Hotel in Clayton, NY.

This year’s keynote speaker will be Dr. Elie Tamer, Louis Berkman Professor of Economics at Harvard University.

For more information about Camp Econometrics, contact Katrina Fiacchi at kfiacchi@syr.edu / 315.443.9040 or visit our website.