

**Syracuse University
Center for Policy Research**

Maxwell School
426 Eggers Hall
Syracuse, NY 13244-1020

Telephone:
315-443-3114

Website:
www.maxwell.syr.edu/cpr

Director
Shannon Monnat

**Associate Director,
Administration**
Peg Austin

Associate Director
John Yinger

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CPR Connection Editors:

**Emily Minnoe, Katrina Fiacchi,
& Michael Kuss**

Syracuse University
Maxwell School of
Citizenship & Public Affairs
Center for Policy Research



Director's Corner: Len Lopoo

Dear colleagues and friends,

I hope you are all well and enjoying the summer. I am writing today with a review of some of the exciting CPR events over the past year.

Mona Hanna-Attisha, founder and director of the Michigan State University and Hurley Children's Hospital Pediatric Public Health Initiative, was the Lourie Lecturer this past fall. Hosted as a "fireside chat" by **Shannon Monnat** (SOC), [the lecture](#) was titled "Health Policy, Equity, and the Lead Poisoning Crisis: A Conversation with Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha." Susanna Loeb, Professor and Director of the Annenberg Institute at Brown University, delivered the Miner Lecture in March of 2022. The title of her presentation was "Scaling Promising Practices Through Tools, Communication, Research, and Adaptation: The Case of High Impact Tutoring in Response to the Pandemic-Induced Learning Needs." Later in March, Katy Milkman, the James G. Dinan Professor at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, gave the 2022 Volcker address, "How to Change: Adapting for a Post-Pandemic World." All of the talks were outstanding, and we had engaging conversations with the speakers following them.



We also adapted our CPR series with both virtual and in-person seminars. In the fall, Syracuse University Professor of Political Science, Shana Kushner Gadarian, presented "Pandemic Politics: How COVID 19 Exposed the Depth of American Polarization." Former CPR Director and current University of Wisconsin Professor, Tim Smeeding gave a talk about "Implementing a U.S. Child Allowance via a System of Monthly Refundable Child Tax Credits." In the spring, Elizabeth Linos (University of California-Berkeley) presented "It's Not Your Fault: Reducing Stigma," Sanya Carley (Indiana University-Bloomington) delivered "Energy Insecurity and Utility Disconnections in the U.S.," and Seth Gershenson (American University) closed the year with the in-person seminar "Who Refers Whom? Variation in Teachers' Proclivities to Make Disciplinary Referrals."

We have seven CPR graduate associates who have completed their doctoral programs this year: **Yoon-Jung Choi** (PAIA), **Stephanie Coffey** (ECN), **Giuseppe Germinario** (ECN), **Mattie Mackenzie-Liu** (PAIA), **Christopher Rick** (PAIA), **Joaquin Urrego** (ECN), and **Yao Wang** (ECN). Yoon accepted a position as an assistant professor at Florida International University, Stephanie will be an assistant professor at Saint Anselm College, and Yao will be an assistant professor at Ohio State. Giuseppe joined the U.S. Census Bureau as an economist, and Mattie will be a research associate at the Urban Institute. Chris accepted an appointment in the Department of Environmental Health at Boston University as a postdoctoral fellow, and Joaquin is a postdoctoral scholar at the University of California-Berkeley. We are proud of and happy for all of them!

Before I close, I want to announce that as of June 30, 2022, I have stepped down as Director of the Center for Policy Research. It has been a wonderful 10-year run. Professor **Shannon Monnat**, the Lerner Chair for Public Health Promotion and Professor of Sociology, has taken over as of July 1, 2022. Shannon has done a sensational job running the Lerner Center for Public Health Promotion for the past five years, as well as starting many great initiatives here at Syracuse University, including co-founding the Policy, Place, and Population Health Lab. I cannot tell you how happy I am to see CPR in such capable hands. I want to thank Dean David Van Slyke, Associate Dean **Andrew London** (SOC), former Dean Jim Steinberg, and former Associate Dean **Michael Wasylenko** (ECN) for all their support for the past decade. I also owe a debt of gratitude to Associate Director **Peggy Austin** for her partnership over the past 10 years. I could not have done it without her and the wonderful CPR staff over the years. I also want to close by saying what a pleasure it has been to work with the unbelievable faculty in CPR. We have world-class scholars in so many areas. It has been a true joy to collaborate with all of you.

-Len Lopoo

Director's Corner: Shannon Monnat

I want to begin my message with a thank you and congratulations to our outgoing Director, Len Lopoo. Among his many accomplishments as CPR Director over the past 10 years, Len has built a vibrant seminar series with consistently strong attendance, supported faculty and graduate student research through CPR's small grants program, increased the diversity of CPR's research area strengths, worked with CPR's staff and faculty to dramatically increase our external funding, facilitated linkages with Federal Statistical Research Data Centers (FSRDCs) at Cornell and New York – Baruch, and created new research infrastructure in the form of the Maxwell X Lab. I have big shoes to fill.



I have long been impressed with the topical and methodological diversity and quality of research coming from CPR scholars. I am committed to supporting disciplinary and interdisciplinary policy-relevant research and disseminating the findings from that research to enable leaders to make informed decisions. I have several goals that I plan to hone through discussions with CPR faculty, graduate students, and staff over the next several months. Some of these goals include building synergies both across CPR's affiliated centers and programs (Lerner Center for Public Health Promotion, Maxwell X Lab, the Center for Policy Design and Governance, and the Education Finance and Accountability Program) and across other SU centers and institutes, enhancing our engagement with and the dissemination of our scholarship to non-academic audiences, expanding graduate student and postdoc training opportunities, and continuing to increase CPR's external research funding. To help develop strategies to achieve these and other goals, I will be instituting an advisory committee, comprised of CPR Senior Research Associates, beginning in the Fall 2022 semester. I will provide more details about the Advisory Committee in the coming weeks.

CPR recently sponsored the first in what I hope will be a series of public panels that cover timely policy issues. In "[What's at Stake Post Roe?: Implications of the Supreme Court's Dobbs vs. Jackson Abortion Ruling](#)" CPR Senior Associate, **Sarah Hamersma** (PAIA), as well as four other Maxwell School faculty members discussed the history of abortion in the U.S. and how the Supreme Court's decision in Dobbs vs. Jackson may affect access to abortion and other reproductive services, economic and health outcomes and inequities, political mobilization and voting behaviors in upcoming elections, and what the decision may mean for the Supreme Court going forward. If you have ideas for future panels on pressing policy topics, please contact me.

We have many exciting events already scheduled for Fall 2022. Thank you to those of you who provided recommendations for speakers for our seminar series; I received 29 suggestions! Please continue to send suggestions as they arise. For now, check out [CPR's events page](#), and mark your calendar for these events.

In closing, I am excited to work with CPR faculty, affiliates, staff, students, and alumni to build on the Center's strong foundation. If you have ideas for CPR or just want to chat about your research, feel free to send me an email and we can set up a time to meet.

-Shannon Monnat



The Maxwell School has recently updated [their website](#)!

Please check the [CPR website](#) regularly for more details on past and future seminars and lectures. We will continuously update the schedule of upcoming events. 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.

Faculty Focus



Sean Drake's (SOC) book, [*Academic Apartheid: Race and Criminalization of Failure in an American Suburb*](#), was published by University of California Press in March 2022. The book addresses long-standing problems of educational inequality from a nuanced perspective, looking at how race and class intersect to affect modern school segregation.



Colleen Heflin (PAIA) has had multiple works published within the last year, including a chapter, titled "U.S. Food and Nutrition Policy Across the Life Course," in the book *Life-Course Implications of U.S. Public Policies*, authored by

Janet M. Wilmoth (SOC) and **Andrew London** (SOC). Colleen has also had several other co-authored works published in the *Journal of Family and Economic Issues*, the *Journal of Applied Gerontology*, *SSM-Population Health* and the *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*.

Colleen was the Principle Investigator for funded research on topics including "Increasing Access to SNAP for Older Adults Through the Standard Medical Deduction" with the National Institute of Aging through the Center for Aging and Policy Studies; "Employment Instability as a Barrier to Child Care" through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; "Increasing WIC Participation by Linking with SNAP and Other Social Programs" through Share Our Strength. Colleen was also a Co-Investigator on "Food Insecurity and Chronic Diseases in Low-Income Older Americans: The Role of SNAP Receipt in Medication Underuse" through University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research.



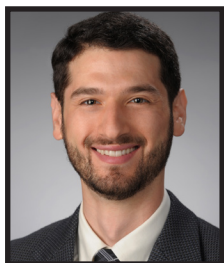
Amy Lutz's (SOC) co-authored book, [*Parenting in Privilege or Peril: How Social Inequality Enables or Derails the American Dream*](#), was published by Teachers College Press in October 2021. The book, co-authored with Pamela R. Bennett and Lakshmi Jayaram, calls for a shift in public policy away from trying to change working-class parents to improving the social contexts in which society asks them to raise the next generation.



Shannon Monnat (SOC) has had multiple works published within the last year in publications such as the *Disability and Health Journal*, *Forum for Health Economics and Policy*, *Journal of Rural Social Sciences*, *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, *ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, and the *Journal of Rural Health*.

Shannon was appointed to the Population Association of America Committee on Population Statistics (COPS). COPS is a prestigious group of PAA members who examine technical issues and activities important to federal statistical agencies and advise the PAA leadership on the issues. She was also elected Vice President of the Rural Sociological Society (RSS).

Shannon received several grants, including a \$1.95 million grant with **Doug Wolf** (PAIA), **Jennifer Karas Montez** (SOC) and **Emily Wiemers** (PAIA) to examine the impacts of states' COVID-19 policies on psychological health, drug overdose and suicide. Shannon also received the 2021 Excellence in Research Award from RSS, which recognizes a member who has made outstanding contributions to rural-oriented research; the 2021 RSS Fred Buttel Outstanding Scholarly Achievement Award, which recognizes outstanding scholarship that advances the field of rural sociological knowledge; and the 2022 SU Excellence in Graduate Education Faculty Recognition award which honors faculty who have made significant, positive influence on graduate education through their commitment to superior graduate teaching, dedication to department and community presence, and research initiatives.



In the last year, **Michah W. Rothbart** (PAIA) had articles accepted for publication in multiple journals, including *Education Finance & Policy*, *Public Budgeting & Finance*, and *Economics of Education Review*. This year, Michah was also a member of a research team, which includes CPR's **Amy Ellen Schwartz** (ECN/PAIA), that received a five-year grant from NIH to study the impacts of COVID-19 on child education, health, and wellbeing in NYC.



Austin McNeill Brown's (SOC SCI) co-authored paper, "Identity Transformation Through Substance Use Disorder Recovery: Introducing the Six Stage Model," was published in the *Qualitative Report*. The paper reviewed 30 written personal recovery biographies which were contained within student applications to the collegiate recovery program housed in the Center for Young Adult Addiction and Recovery at Kennesaw State University.



Myriam Gregoire-Zawilski (PAIA) was awarded the "Larry D. Schroeder Award for Excellence in Ph.D. Research." This award is given to a current PAIA Ph.D. student who has best demonstrated excellence in research.



Claire Pendergrast's (SOC) co-authored article, "Socio-Spatial Disparities in County-Level Availability of Aging and Disability Services Organizations," was published in the *Journal of Rural Social Sciences*. The article uses county-level data from the National Neighborhood Data Archive and the American Community Survey to explore if and how availability of aging and disability services organization varies across the rural-urban continuum and across compositional characteristics of counties.

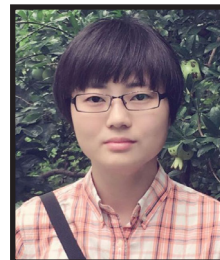
Claire also had a co-authored paper, "The Devastating Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Older Black and Latinx Adults: Implications for Health and Well Being," published in the *Journals of Gerontology: Series B*. The paper highlights the devastating economic impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent economic recession on older Black and Latinx adults, with a particular focus on the foreign-born population.

Claire also co-authored a paper (along with **Yue Sun** [SOC] and **Shannon Monnat** [SOC]), published in *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World*, that assessed sociospatial disparities in the availability of "third places" in the U.S.

She led a paper (co-authored by Shannon Monnat), published *Disability and Health Journal* that examined differences in COVID-19 impacts between working-age with versus without difficulties with activities of daily living.

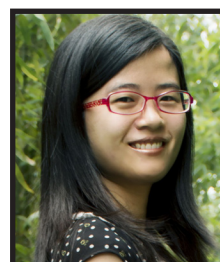


Christopher Rick (PAIA) was awarded the Yimin and Xiao Zhuang Graduate Student Travel Award for the North American Regional Science Conference (NARSC). The conference was held in November 2021. The award provides financial support for graduate students to participate in the NARSC Conference. Christopher was one of three students selected.



Yue Sun's (SOC) article, "The Social Correlates of Flood Risk: Variation Along the US Rural-Urban Continuum," was published in *Population and Environment*. The article shows that risk of flooding is higher in rural tracts, in tracts with larger relative shares of socioeconomically vulnerable populations, and in tracts reliant on flood-vulnerable industries.

Yue also led a paper (co-authored by Kent Cheng and **Shannon Monnat**), published in the *Journal of Rural Social Sciences* that examined rural-urban differences in COVID-19 mortality rates.



Xiaoyan Zhang (SOC SCI) & **Shannon Monnat's** paper, "Racial/Ethnic Differences in Clusters Of Adverse Childhood Experiences And Associations With Adolescent Mental Health," was published in *SSM - Population Health*. The paper examines patterns of exposure to ten adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), including socioeconomic adversity, among non-Hispanic (NH) White, NH Black, and Hispanic 9-year-olds and determined associations between membership in ACE exposure "classes" and depression and anxiety scores at age 15.

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 November 4, 2021. Participants included, **Mattie Mackenzie-Liu** (PAIA), **Dongmei Zuo** (SOC SCI), **Stephanie Coffey** (ECN), **Christopher Rick** (PAIA), **Giuseppe Germinario** (ECN), and **Maeve Maloney** (ECN).



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 **Candi Patterson**, who has been a staff member here in Maxwell and a part of the Center for Policy Research (CPR) family since 2002. Candi is the Computer Systems Specialist. 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 Candi giving us this opportunity.



What brought you to Syracuse University and CPR?

Prior to my time at Syracuse University, I worked in Rome, NY at the Griffiss Airforce Research Lab for 4.5 years. I was tired of the commute and needed something closer to home, so I was elated to cut the drive time to 10%. A short story: When I was a junior in high school, I was part of SU's STEP program and stayed on campus in Lawrinson Hall for about 6 weeks in the summer. It was exciting to get a feel of what college life would be like. I loved the vibe of the campus and felt like it had come full circle when I got the position here.

What has changed over the years as CPR has transformed into what we know today?

The technology has changed. When I came to CPR, there was a file server (Unix System) and a web server (Unix System) and several restricted data machines. The next year came a Beowulf Cluster (Linux system). The cluster was a rack of individual computers (36 flat) that acted as one unit. It was extremely loud and sounded like an airplane taking off. A bigger HVAC system had to be added to the room because it generated so much heat! Now, we have Mac computers, virtual machines, and restricted data providers are moving towards virtual access.



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 enjoy helping the graduate students with their tech setup for their dissertations and always try to be encouraging - "You got this!"

What is your favorite story or memory from your time in CPR?

We had a variety of CPR community events. One was volunteer reading to a Pre-K class at Martin Luther King Elementary School. Sometimes we would go together, and sometimes we'd go on our own. We also had a holiday giveaway (Holiday Families), where we would gather lists and collect

presents to donate to two or three local families. We would have a wrapping party with pizza in the conference room and sometimes other departments would come to help!

Another favorite event was the CPR basketball game. Faculty, staff, and students would get together to play. It was not competitive at all - we just played for fun! I had to hold back my competitive side. All skill levels were welcome. If you were new to basketball, we were happy to teach you. There was a nice mix of sporty people and people who were not. It was always funny to see Peggy run with the ball.

Is there any advice you would give to new staff, faculty members, or graduate students who are joining CPR?

Participate in CPR events, build community, and get to know others. You're at Syracuse University—learn as much as you can and try new things! Look into all the benefits at the University. There are a few discounts/free services that are often missed.



Staff Stop

Peggy Austin is looking forward to her daughter Michelle's wedding in August. It has been two years in the making thanks to COVID. This past year she has been enjoying trips to Maryland to visit her daughter, Cassandra, and husband, Steve, but most importantly her two grandchildren. This is her 39th year at SU!

Katrina Fiacchi completed her ninth year in CPR this May, with the last six in the position of Administrative Specialist. She is happy to be back in the office to interact with her fellow staff, the faculty, and graduate students. This summer, Katrina is looking forward to traveling for the first time in a while for a beach vacation with her husband, daughter, dog, parents, and sister.

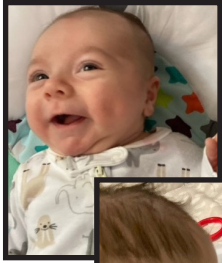
Michael Kuss is enjoying learning and getting acclimated to his relatively new role as Administrative Assistant with CPR. He will continue to assist with fiscal, admin, and event support. He is looking forward to good walking and hiking weather, as well as traveling to Boston and Florida to see friends and family this summer.

Emily Minnoe will be celebrating five years working in CPR this August. She is excited to be back in the office, where she gets to work with and interact with students and her colleagues. Emily and her husband recently added a new golden retriever puppy, named Ellie, to their family.

Candi Patterson says, "It's hard to believe I will be celebrating 20 years. When I first arrived at SU, I was amazed at all of the 'Lifers' that had been here so long and now I've joined the club." She enjoys walking outside and is glad to have the warm weather back. She's done the Monday Mile routes through-out the city/county for many years over the summer and her new venture is to take on the Erie Canal routes. She's also hoping to take some trips to see friends/family that were put on hold due to Covid.



From the Field



Congratulations to **Lincoln Groves** (Ph.D., PAIA '15) and his wife who welcomed a son, Emerson John Groves, in March 2022! After leaving CPR in 2015, Lincoln went on to work as a National Poverty Fellow at the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at the Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He now is working at a software company.



Larry Miller (Ph.D., PAIA '09) is the Vice President of Learning and Workforce Development at Greenville Technical College, serving more than 20,000 students across 100+ academic programs. Larry and his wife, Sue, will celebrate their 27th wedding anniversary this year. Larry's son, Teddy, is entering his freshman year of high school this fall.



Pengju Zhang (Ph.D., PAIA '16) is an assistant professor and Director of International Programs at the School of Public Affairs and Administration at Rutgers University. This year, he has had two journal articles published: "The Fiscal and Economic Impacts of Municipal Dissolution: Evidence from New York" in *International Tax and Public Finance* and "Cap and Gap: The Fiscal Effects of Property Tax Levy Limits in New York" in *Education Finance and Policy*. In 2021, his paper, titled "Does the ACA Medicaid Expansion Affect Hospitals' Financial Performance?," was published in *Public Finance Review*.

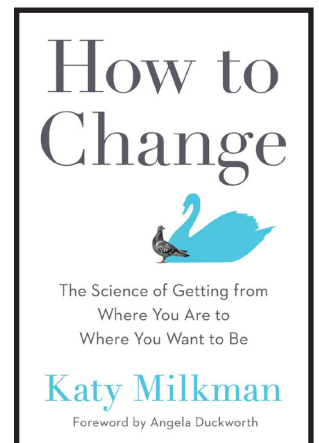
The Paul Volcker Lecture in Behavioral Economics



The Seventh Annual Paul Volcker Lecture in Behavioral Economics was held virtually on March 10, 2022. Our speaker, Dr. Katy Milkman (University of Pennsylvania) presented "How to Change: Adapting for a Post-Pandemic World."

Dr. Milkman co-founded and co-directs the University of Pennsylvania's Behavior Change for Good Initiative, alongside her Wharton colleague, Angela Duckworth. Her research is transforming our understanding of behavior change. She is the former president of the International Society for Judgment and Decision Making, and one of Wharton's most sought-after teachers. Milkman is the host of Charles Schwab's popular behavioral economics podcast *Choiceology* and has also worked with or advised dozens of organizations on how to spur positive change, including Google, the U.S. Department of Defense, the American Red Cross, 24 Hour Fitness, Walmart, Morningstar, and the White House.

Milkman is also the author of *How to Change: The Science of Getting from Where You Are to Where You Want to Be*, which was declared "an invaluable guide to success" by Charles Schwab and Laszlo Bock, CEO of Humu and former Google SVP of People Operations, has said, "If your goal is to get better, or to make your teams or business better, read this book."



Camp Econometrics XVI

The 16th Annual New York Camp Econometrics, hosted by Professor **Badi Baltagi** (ECN), was held April 8-10, 2022 at the Mirror Lake Inn in Lake Placid, NY.

This was the first camp held in-person since the beginning of the COVID pandemic. It was very successful, bringing together academics from an impressive collection of New York universities, including Syracuse University, University of Rochester, SUNY Albany, and SUNY Binghamton, as well as Canadian universities, including McGill, Queen's University, and York University. One presenter from the University of Orléans traveled to Lake Placid from France.



This year's keynote speaker was Jean-Marie Dufour, Professor and William Dow Chair of Political Economy at McGill University.

For more information about Camp Econometrics, or to be added to the Camp Econometrics email list, please contact [Katrina Fiacchi](#).

Syracuse Webinar Series on Property Tax Administration and Design

The [Syracuse Webinar Series in Property Tax Administration and Design](#) (2021-2022), organized by **Yilin Hou** (PAIA) and **John Yinger** (PAIA/ECN) (with **Michael Wasylenko** [ECN]), successfully concluded in May. This Series creates a global platform for the exchange of research focused on property taxation. The Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 seasons each included nine presentations, with five from within the U.S. and the other four by authors worldwide. The organizing committee is international with members in Europe and Asia. Despite its narrow focus, the series has drawn a wide audience from around the world and received high praise from researchers, practitioners, and graduate students.

The University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy is joining Maxwell to co-sponsor the 2022-2023 Syracuse-Chicago Webinar Series. Yilin Hou of Maxwell and Chris Berry of Harris are working on the details for the next year. The format will remain the same, again with an international organizing committee and presenters/papers from within the US and other countries.

For more information on the Syracuse-Chicago Webinar Series, please contact [Emily Minnoe](#).

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.

Fill out our form on the [CPR/Metro Alumni Page](#)!



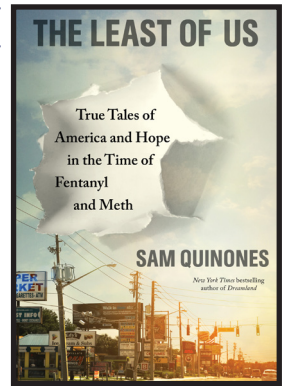
The 34th Annual Herbert Lourie Memorial Lecture on Health Policy



Save the date! Join us on **Thursday, September 29, 2022 at 4:00pm** for the 34th Annual Lourie Lecture with Sam Quinones.

Sam Quinones is a Los Angeles-based freelance journalist, a reporter for 35 years, and author of four acclaimed books of narrative nonfiction. He is a veteran reporter on immigration, gangs, drug trafficking, and the border.

He is the author of the highly-acclaimed, *Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic*, published in 2014. His latest book, *The Least of Us: True Tales of America and Hope in the Time of Fentanyl and Meth*, was published in October 2021. *The Least of Us* chronicles the emergence of a drug-trafficking world, producing massive supplies of fentanyl and methamphetamine cheaper and deadlier than ever, and marketing to the population of people with addiction created by the nation's opioid epidemic, as the backdrop to tales of Americans' quiet attempts to recover community through simple acts of helping the vulnerable.



For more information about the Lourie Lecture, please contact [Katrina Fiacchi](#) or visit the [Lourie Lecture webpage](#).

The Lerner Center



The Lerner Center had another exciting and productive year! The [Population Health Research Brief Series](#) continues to thrive as a major outlet for disseminating the findings from research to non-academic audiences. Since its inception, we have published over 185 briefs, covering a wide range of population health topics. The briefs have generated significant media attention, including *The Atlantic*, NBC News, NPR, *TIME*, *The New York Times*, and many other outlets. We appreciate the many CPR members who have contributed to this series.

The Lerner Center was awarded a renewal grant through the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation to continue providing workshops on implementing Plans of Safe Care for expectant mothers with substance use disorder. The Center was also awarded a mini-grant from CenterState CEO in partnership with the Maxwell X Lab and DIEMlife to evaluate the impact of email nudges on individuals participating in a Healthy Monday wellbeing competition.

As part of Monnat's NIH U01 grant, we are collecting additional waves of the National Wellbeing Survey - a national survey of working-age adults first collected in 2021. Wave 2 is currently in the field. These data will enable research that provides important insights about demographic and geographic differences in physical, mental, and behavioral health and COVID-19 impacts. Additionally, 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.

One of the many things that makes the Lerner Center special is our [Healthy Monday](#) programming. We continued to develop new programming, including a 1-credit DeStress for Success course, which will be taught for the first time in Fall 2022. In an effort to bridge the community to our campus, and in recognition of National Public Health Week, we hosted community advocate JT Houston for a Lunch N' Learn. Drawing from his experience growing up in the city

of Syracuse and the principals of positive psychology, Houston educated audience members on the power of loving yourself and spreading positivity within the community.

Finally, the Center has undergone several personnel changes. Lerner Chair for Public Health Promotion and Director **Shannon Monnat** stepped down from her role as Director and transitioned to Director of the Center for Policy Research. She will remain Lerner Chair for Public Health Promotion, responsible for directing the research activities of the center, editing the Population Health Research Brief Series, and advising Lerner Center Graduate Research Assistants. The prior Associate Director, **Alexandra Punch**, was promoted to Center Director. She will handle day-to-day operations. We also hired a new Assistant Director, **Emily Graham**. Emily is a graduate of SU's Falk College and a Navy Veteran that comes to us with several years of health promotion experience. Emily will coordinate Healthy Monday and other health promotion programming. The Center also welcomes **Xue Zhang** as its Lerner Postdoctoral Scholar. Dr. Zhang received her Ph.D. in Regional Science from Cornell University. She is interested in community development, demography, and the relationship between policy and community health. Dr. Zhang will be working with Monnat on her NIH U01 study.

To keep up to date with all our initiatives, follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#).

Maxwell X Lab



The Maxwell X Lab had another busy and exciting year. We've continued working closely with our local community partner organizations on salient projects that aim to strengthen communication strategies and service delivery. We are also fortunate in creating new relationships with partners outside of Syracuse and even New York. Many of the projects completed in the past year have allowed us to use a wider set of methods, like qualitative data collection via interviews and new visualization techniques with mapping technology. Below is a sample of our latest work:

- In collaboration with Help Me Grow (HMG), we tested if a texting campaign that leveraged the importance of timing could better encourage parents to respond to the HMG team more consistently.
- In collaboration with the Early Childhood Alliance (ECA), we used administrative and mapping data to contribute to a landscape analysis of childcare services in Onondaga County.
- In partnership with the Syracuse University School of Education and local school districts, we began a multi-year evaluation and behaviorally informed intervention to help recruit students to enroll in a new initiative to recruit, train, and retain teachers of color to Central New York.
- In partnership with the Glimmerglass Festival in Cooperstown, NY, we are continuing a multi-year evaluation using a mixed-methods approach to evaluate the company's equity, diversity, and inclusion efforts.

During the 2021-2022 academic year, the lab hosted three undergraduate research assistants with support from the SOURCE, a program in the Office of Research at Syracuse University. We also worked with one RA in the MPA program. At the end of the semester, we hosted our inaugural presentation day for RAs to discuss their research contributions. Two RAs, Alana Coffman and Abdullah Ar Rafee will continue to work in the lab through Summer 2022.

In March 2022, the lab returned for a third year to present at the Rockefeller Local Government Lab Conference. Senior Associate, **Michelle Kincaid**, presented a talk titled "Maxwell X Lab: Applied Research in Central New York."

Syracuse University

Maxwell X Lab:
Applied Research in
Central New York

Michelle Kincaid, Senior Associate
mkincai@syr.edu