

Cornell FSRDC Newsletter

A report of activities of the Cornell Federal Statistical Research Data Center

Eye on Researchers: Montez



Jennifer Karas Montez is a Professor of Sociology and Faculty Affiliate of the Aging Studies Institute and the Center for Policy Research at Syracuse University. She earned her PhD in Sociology with a Demography specialization from the University of Texas at Austin and did her postdoctoral training as a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health & Society Scholar at Harvard University.

Her research examines the large and growing inequalities in adult mortality across education levels and geographic areas within the United States. Her research project in the Cornell RDC is titled, “Education, Geography, and U.S. Adult Mortality Risk.” She is particularly interested in why the growing inequalities have been most troublesome among women. Her current work on this topic blends perspectives, from social demography and feminist geography to investigate the role of U.S. states in shaping women’s and men’s mortality in unique ways.

In a study she published with Anna Zajacova and Mark D. Hayward, “Explaining Inequalities in Women’s Mortality Between U.S. States,” *SSM – Population Health* (December 2016) they “found that the characteristics of people AND states matter. But states matter much more for women’s mortality than for men’s. This makes sense given that, in the U.S., women are more likely than men to raise children on their own, live in poverty, interface with the public health care system, and face other such hurdles which make states’ resources and policies particularly important to their lives.” (<https://jennkarasmontez.com/research/>)

Data Highlight: Decennial Census

As the Census Bureau prepares for the upcoming 2020 Decennial Census, we would like researchers to be aware of opportunities to use data from past Decennials in the RDC. Currently, data for 1950-2010 are available in the RDC. While public-use microdata include only a small sample of respondents, RDC researchers have access to data on all respondents. They can also work with sensitive variables, such as detailed geography and exact date of birth, that are not available publicly. Another advantage of working with the Decennial in the RDC is that it can be linked at the individual level via Protected Identification Keys (PIKs) to other demographic datasets, such as the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP). Recently, the Census Bureau has made policy changes that allow researchers to propose projects that link



respondents across Decennials since 2000 and to other mandatory surveys, notably the American Community Survey. Using these linked data, researchers will be able to apply innovative approaches to the study of migration and other topics.

Federal Policymaking and the RDC's

One year ago, both houses of Congress passed the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act and on January 14, 2019 the President signed it into law (P.L. 115-435). The Evidence Act follows on recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking issued in 2017. Of particular relevance to the Federal Statistical Research Data Centers is Section 303 of the law addressing “Increasing access to data for evidence.” In particular is the provision for a Standard Application Process, which includes the requirement for a common application form across all the statistical agencies.

The Federal Statistical Research Data Center Technical Working Group has a working prototype of the portal for the common application process. It is a small step, but an important first step toward streamlining the application process. ICPSR at the University of Michigan has developed the prototype which is on the web at

<https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/pages/appfed/index.html>. Called “ResearchDataGov: Application Portal for Restricted Data for Federal Statistics” it is available for researchers to explore and provide feedback.

New Active Projects

“Franchising and Labor Market Outcomes”

Rosemary Batt (Cornell), Can Ouyang (Cornell), Tashlin Lakhani (Ohio State; former Ph.D. student), Andrew Green (OECD; former Ph.D. student), and Johannes Schmieder (Boston University)

This research will examine the relationship between the use of the franchising business model and labor market outcomes. We will use two datasets: the Census Bureau's Economic Census (2007 and 2012) and the Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics data (LEHD). Use of these two data sets will allow us to answer the central research questions in this project: whether and why labor market outcomes vary systematically by ownership characteristics: franchisor versus franchisee status. The Economic Census asks questions about whether an establishment is linked to a franchise brand. Use of this data will allow us to identify establishments according to whether they are franchisor-owned or franchisee-owned. We will link this data to the LEHD data. The LEHD includes the Employment History File (EHF), which will allow us to compute tenure-earnings profiles for workers at a particular firm, as well as the job-to-job transitions of workers between firms, and turnover at the firm and establishment level. In addition, the LEHD



includes the Employer Characteristics File (ECF), which gives a rich set of establishment characteristics (industry, ownership, etc.) including firm age and firm size, which will allow us to be the first to address the rise of multi-establishment franchisee-owned firms. The LEHD also includes the Individual Characteristics File (ICF), which will allow us to answer important questions about the age and gender distributions within franchised establishments. Finally, the assignment of worker to establishment within multi-unit firms is imputed. We will require the Unit-to-Worker file, which includes imputed assignment of workers within multi-unit firms.

Continuing Active Projects

Cornell University:

- “The Link between Education Quality and Access and later life health and Mortality” (Internal)
Seth Sanders et al
- “Does Access to Health Care Affect Teen Birth Rates and School Dropout Rates? Evidence from School-based Health Centers”
Michael Lovenheim, Randall Reback (Barnard), and Leigh Wedenoja (Rockefeller Institute of Government; former Ph.D. student)
- “Government Welfare and Private Provision of Public Goods: Evidence from SNAP”
Nicolas Bottan
- “Experimental Estimates of the Long-Run Impacts of Welfare Reform” (Internal)
Amanda Eng, Pauline Leung, Zhuan Pei, Katherine Wen, et al
- “Multigenerational Exposure to Neighborhood Disadvantage and its Effects on Well Being”
Steven Alvarado and Alexandra Cooperstock
- “The Heterogeneous Effects of Education on Health and Productivity” (Internal)
Seth Sanders et al
- “The Impact of Childhood Nutrition Assistance on Child Health and Well-Being: Lessons from WIC and the School Breakfast and National School Lunch Programs” (Berkeley)
Barton Willage (Louisiana State; former Ph.D. student), Marianne Bitler (UC-Davis), Hilary Hoynes (UC-Berkeley), Krista Ruffini (UC-Berkeley), and Lisa Schulkind (UNC-Charlotte)
- “Race in Rural America: Differentials in Teenage Motherhood and High School Completion” (Triangle)
Seth Sanders and Laurel Wheeler (Duke)
- “Developing and Validating New Statistics on Intergenerational Inequality, Poverty, Mobility, and Opportunity” (Internal)
Laura Tach et al
- “Human Capital and Corporate Financing, Restructuring, and Governance”



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- Hyunseob Kim, Warren Bailey, Joao Vitor Costa, Antonio Falato (Fed), Edith Liu (Fed), Song Ma (Yale), David Matsa (Northwestern), Brian Melzer (Dartmouth), and Till von Wachter (UCLA)
- “The Role of Educators on Reporting Child Maltreatment”
Maria Fitzpatrick, Cassandra Benson (U.S. Air Force Academy; former Ph.D. student), Samuel Bondurant (Census), and Christopher Wildeman
- “Immigration Impacts, Immigrant Well-Being, and Geographic Context using the 1996-2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation”
Matthew Hall and Emily Greenman (Census)
- “How Housing and Labor Market Conditions Influence the Progression of Romantic Relationships”
Laura Tach, Sharon Sassler, Mariana Amorim (Washington State; former Ph.D. student), and Emily Parker
- “The Political Economy of Medicaid: Ideology, Eligibility, and the Consequences of Cost-saving Measures”
Jee-Hun Choi and Claire S.H. Lim
- “The LBD Initiative - Collaboration with RDC Researchers” (Internal)
Lars Vilhuber, Chih-Chung Lin, et al
- “Census Longitudinal Infrastructure Project - Linkage Development” (Internal)
Seth Sanders et al
- “The Incidence of a Local Labor Demand Shock with One-Sided Migration: American Indian-Owned Casino Gaming” (Triangle)
Seth Sanders, Martha Stinson (Census), and Laurel Wheeler (Duke)
- “Effects of Education on Health and Other Outcomes Using Variation in Social Security Benefits for Children”
Barton Willage (Louisiana State University; former Ph.D. student)
- “Estimating the Determinants of Private School Enrollment: The Role of School Attendance Zone Racial and Ethnic Composition”
Arnab Basu, Chia-Hua Lin, Salvatore Saporito (William & Mary), and Anna Choi (Pepperdine; former Ph.D. student)
- “Effects of DI on Health and Well-being”
Sarah Prenovitz (Abt Associates; former Ph.D. student)
- “SIPP 2014 Internal Research and Collaboration Project” (Internal)
Lars Vilhuber, Bill Block, Warren Brown et al
- “LEHD Data Infrastructure Project” (Internal)
Lars Vilhuber, Seth Sanders, and Sylvie Herbert et al
- “Research Program to Determine the Possibilities from Linking ACS & LEHD Data” (Internal)
Lars Vilhuber et al
- “Demographic Survey Improvement Project” (Internal)



Lars Vilhuber et al

Syracuse University:

“Research and Development Laboratories in the Production Process”

Kristy Buzard, Gerald Carlino (Philadelphia Fed), Robert Hunt (Philadelphia Fed), Tony Smith (University of Pennsylvania), and Anna Tranfaglia (Philadelphia Fed)

“SNAP and the Human Capital Investments of Young Adults”

Sarah Hamersma, Warren Brown (Cornell), Rhea Acuna, and Elmer Li (Cornell)

“The New York State Homestead Tax Option: Tax Incidence and Equity”

David Schwegman and John Yinger (adviser)

“The Relationship between SNAP and Mortality” (Kentucky)

Colleen Heflin, Samuel Ingram (Kentucky), Chaegyung Jun (Missouri), and James Ziliak (Kentucky)

“A Binational Perspective on Selective Migration among Korean Immigrants” (Missouri)

Colleen Heflin, Claire Altman (Missouri), and Chaegyung Jun (Missouri)

“Disparities in Healthcare Access and Utilization among Children with and without Special Healthcare Needs, and their Caregivers” (Missouri)

Colleen Heflin, Nancy Cheak-Zamora (Missouri), and Chinedum Ojinnaka (Arizona State)

“Knowledge of Health Status and the Timing of Retirement and Disability Claims”

Perry Singleton

“Education, Geography, and U.S. Adult Mortality Risk”

Jennifer Montez, Blakelee Kemp, and Julene Cooney

“The Effects of Pregnancy-Related Medicaid Expansions on Maternal, Infant, and Child Health”

Sarah Hamersma and Melanie Guldi (University of Central Florida)

“Occupational Variation in Health Care Coverage” (Wisconsin)

Colleen Heflin, Joan Hermsen (Missouri), and Leslie Hodges (Wisconsin)

“A Second Look at the Health Effects of Military Service Using the Vietnam-Era Draft Lottery as a Potentially Invalid Instrumental Variable”

Alfonso Flores-Lagunes and Xintong Wang (Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania)

University at Albany:

“Economic Impact of Science and Engineering Workers” (Boston)

Holden Diethorn, Gerald Marschke, Erling Barth (Institute for Social Research), Richard Freeman (Harvard), Kristina Steffenson McElheran (MIT), Andrew Wang (Harvard), Sifan Zhou

“Productivity and Wage Dispersion in the Great Recession and Beyond” (Boston)





Holden Diethorn, Erling Barth (Institute for Social Research), Wang Jin (MIT), Sari Kerr (Wellesley), Kristina Steffenson McElheran (MIT), Namrata Narain (Harvard), Andrew Wang (Harvard), Xiupeng Wang (MIT)

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