

Annual Report 2020



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH CENTER

Surveying the State

P. 16

Digging into Big Data

P. 10

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| About the SSRC..... | 4 |
| Special Collaborative Partnerships..... | 6 |
| Annual Impact..... | 7 |
| Research Fellows..... | 8 |
| Digging into Big Data..... | 10 |
| Social Relations Collaborative's 4-Year Study Comes to a Close..... | 13 |
| Surveying the State..... | 16 |
| 70 Years of the SSRC..... | 20 |
| Addressing Inequalities at Home and Abroad..... | 22 |
| Reactions to the COVID-19 Pandemic..... | 26 |
| Wolfgang Frese Survey Research Lab..... | 28 |
| Grants & Contracts..... | 32 |
| Publications..... | 34 |
| Presentations..... | 37 |
| Awards & Recognitions..... | 41 |



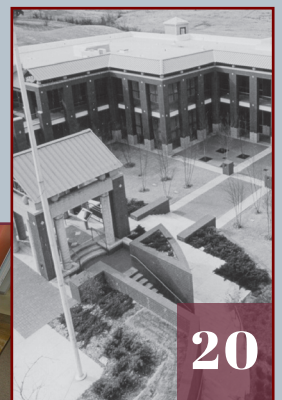
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28



20

Letter from the Director



The Social Science Research Center has a long and proud tradition as a location for meaningful social science research for scholars on our campus and beyond. Its origins can be traced to the Social Science Round Table, a faculty group that began meeting shortly after World War II. This body's goal was to promote research in sociology, history, economics, political science, and other related disciplines. Its signal contribution was to advocate for the creation of a research organization to facilitate social science research on campus. From their vision and efforts grew the Social Science Research Center, which was formally recognized in 1950 as the University's first campus-wide research enterprise. Following this vision of a campus wide organization, the Center reports to the Vice President of Research and Economic Development and the Vice President for the Division of Agriculture, Forestry, and Veterinary Medicine.

The Center, from its origin, has emphasized interdisciplinary research and the application of social science knowledge to the most critical problems facing the state, region, and nation. In addition to scholars on campus, the Social Science Research Center has become a place for scientists from other institutions to come and conduct research, study, and participate in the special environment of the Center. Collaboration across disciplines, across institutions, and even across nations is an essential feature of the Center's strategy of development.

Over the last 5 years, the Center's research programs have received over \$43 million dollars in financial support. Grants and contracts were awarded to Center scientists from over 80 extramural sources of funding, including many of the most prestigious research organizations in the nation. For example, our research is currently being supported by the National Science Foundation, National Institute of Health, National Institute of Justice, USAID, and the Centers

for Disease Control, as well as numerous other federal and state agencies. Foundation support is also important with substantial investments in the Center by the Kellogg Foundation, the Annie E. Casey Foundation and others. The amount of extramural support is among the largest for such social science enterprises nationwide.

Strong collaboration with academic departments has led to the establishment of several social science laboratories that greatly enhance the University's capabilities to carryout cutting edge research projects. The Wolfgang Frese Survey Research Laboratory was established as a joint effort between the Department of Sociology and the Department of Political Science and Public Administration in 1981. It is operating continuously as a facility for conducting rigorous academic social surveys and is responsible for hundreds of studies for projects housed at the University and beyond.

The Social Relations CollABortative is a joint venture between the Department of Psychology and the Social Science Research Center that focuses on experimentation and social relations. It is currently the home of the "The reasons for retaliation research project" that is funded by the National Institute of Justice. The Message Laboratory was recently initiated between the Department of Communications and the SSRC to lead in research on the science of science communication.

The Social, Therapeutic & Robotics Systems Laboratory (STaRS) is a joint venture between the Department of Computer Science and Engineering and the Social Science Research Center. STaRS conducts interdisciplinary research on the interaction between robots and humans and is currently funded by grants from the National Science Foundation.

The Civic Life Laboratory, our newest lab, is jointly sponsored by the Department of Communications, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, and the SSRC. It is utilizing experimentation of simulation games to study civic engagement and political polarization.

My colleagues and I are most appreciative of the fine support we receive from the leadership of Mississippi State University and are thankful for the opportunities that this fine institution has provided us.

Sincerely,

Arthur G. Cosby
William L. Giles Distinguished Professor and Director

About the SSRC

The Social Science Research Center (SSRC) was established at Mississippi State University (MSU) in 1950 to promote, enhance and facilitate social science research and related scholarly activities. The Center is organized with university-wide responsibilities and reports to the Vice President for Research and Economic Development and the Vice President for Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine. The Center offers a superior research environment with an impressive array of research opportunities and options, state-of-the-art facilities, laboratories and support units that enhance and expand both the scope and quality of social science research. The SSRC fosters a rigorous and independent research environment to ensure objective, relevant and unbiased analyses.

The success of the SSRC relies primarily on the expertise, talents and entrepreneurial skills of its scientists. Individual scientists, or self-organized teams of researchers, provide the impetus and direction of funded research projects. They determine their research agendas and benefit from the SSRC facilities as they so choose. Research fellows and research associates, supported by an administrative staff and graduate and undergraduate research assistants, conduct both sponsored and unsponsored research projects. Funding for projects comes from a variety of sources including federal and state agencies, foundations, MSU units and other public

and private entities. The SSRC research portfolio usually exceeds \$10 million a year.

Research issues that social scientists face are now so profoundly complex that their solutions demand the combined resources of multiple disciplines, multiple professions and multiple institutions. From its origin, the SSRC has had a strong interdisciplinary emphasis. Scientists from a number of disciplines, both on campus and off, come together in the SSRC to work on common research problems. It is the norm to find various combinations of such diverse disciplines as psychologists, business professors, sociologists, social workers, geographers, historians, economists and political scientists joining together to bring to bear their expertise on various research problems.

The range of interdisciplinary involvement goes beyond the social sciences. The Center often becomes a place where social scientists team with colleagues from agriculture, engineering and other disciplines. The SSRC also forms partnerships, strategic alliances and collaborative agreements with entities such as state agencies, off-campus national-level research organizations and professional groups. These various interdisciplinary research enterprises provide a steady stream of innovative projects and creative investigations.

The organizational structure of the Social Science Research Center (SSRC) is purposely flat, with several internal research units, normally led by coordinators, reporting to the Director. Project directors operate with a great deal of autonomy and take full responsibility for the conduct of their projects.

Over the years, the SSRC has developed strong working relationships with faculty members and administrators in the College of Arts & Sciences, the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine, the College of Business and the College of Education. In addition, it has established strong linkages with outside funding sources, including federal and state agencies, research entities and foundations.

The research faculty members in the SSRC are the driving force for the Center's activities. Together, they define the Center's goals, develop research agendas, prepare and submit proposals and conduct research. The SSRC maintains a small staff of full-time research faculty to support ongoing research activities. These individuals are normally affiliated with an academic department. Other faculty members hold joint appointments on a continual basis between academic departments and the SSRC. A third category of faculty members works in the Center on a periodic basis, depending upon funding of a particular grant or contract, or is supported via summer appointments while developing research proposals. In order to facilitate the efforts of the research faculty, the SSRC seeks to maintain collegial, cooperative relationships with academic departments and other campus entities.

The Center maintains a core staff of experts to assist in the financial and personnel aspects of preparing, submitting and administering research grants and contracts, as well as individuals who manage specific Center programs, such as the Mississippi Alcohol Safety Education Program (MASEP). Research associates and graduate and undergraduate assistants support research and administrative activities. In addition, the Center employs many individuals on an intermittent basis to serve the needs of the individual projects.

The continued success of the SSRC is clearly dependent upon the personnel who participate in its activities. Attracting bright, capable, energetic and entrepreneurial individuals and then encouraging their continued intellectual and professional growth is a key element in the SSRC organizational philosophy. By keeping bureaucratic requirements to a minimum, the SSRC seeks to create an environment that fosters, facilitates and enables innovative and creative research efforts.

Mission Statement

The SSRC conducts research to explore social, economic, political, human resource and social-environmental problems facing the state, nation and world. Scientists strive to present findings to a variety of constituents in a meaningful way to improve the health, safety and well-being of all people.

Statement of Goals

The Social Science Research Center strives to be a center of excellence for social science research that serves the entire university community. This collective ambition is reflected in our institutional goals:

- To contribute to the University's graduate and undergraduate programs by involving students in research projects through assistantships and other work arrangements.
- To conduct rigorous, objective and unbiased research on relevant social, economic, political, human resource and social-environmental problems facing the state, nation and world.
- To provide a vehicle for unique social research and public service programs that do not fit more traditional academic structures.
- To provide a support system for the University to plan, develop, secure funding for and conduct social research on problems of interest to the scientific community and to consumers of research findings.
- To provide a mechanism whereby existing social science research capabilities in the University can be matched with funding sources.

SSRC Facilities

The SSRC is currently located in the Mississippi Technology Center, in the Thad Cochran Research, Technology and Economic Development Park. The Mississippi Health Policy Research Center (MHPRC) is located at the CAVS E building in Canton. In addition to the core space at CAVS E, the SSRC has access to state-of-the-art conference and meeting facilities.

Special Collaborative Partnerships

In recent years, the productivity of the SSRC Scientists remains high and the support from extramural organizations is quite varied. Our research benefits from awards and partnerships from the following:

American Academy of Pediatrics
Annie E. Casey Foundation
Bezos Family Foundation
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
E Q Health Solutions
Education Services Foundation
Federal Motor Carriers
Flight Attendant Medical Research Institute
Harvard Law School
Harvard School of Public Health
National Institute of Justice
National Institute on Drug Abuse
National Institutes of Health
National Science Foundation
New York Sea Grant
Northern Gulf Institute
Rice Research and Extension Center at the University of Arkansas
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Southeastern Universities Research Association
Tec de Monterrey, Mexico

Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine
U.S. Agency for International Development
U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Commerce
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Department of Transportation
U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration
University of Applied Sciences VERN', Zagreb
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
University of Illinois
University of Kentucky
University of Split, Croatia
University of Tennessee, Health Science Center
University of Zagreb, Croatia
W.K. Kellogg Foundation
Walton Family Foundation
Prevention Research Center at Washington University in St. Louis

Within Mississippi, the SSRC has partnerships with and/or funding from the following:

Blue Cross & Blue Shield Foundation of Mississippi
The Bower Foundation
Center for Mississippi Health Policy
Center for Population Studies at University of Mississippi
College of Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi State University
Health Care Foundation of North Mississippi
Healthy Mississippi
Mississippi Alcohol Safety Education Program
Mississippi Area Health Education Center
Mississippi Attorney General's Office
Mississippi Association of Grantmakers
Mississippi Center for Education
Mississippi Center for Justice
Mississippi Department of Education
Mississippi Department of Human Services
Mississippi Department of Medicaid
Mississippi Department of Mental Health
Mississippi Department of Public Safety

Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services
Mississippi Department of Transportation
Mississippi Division of Public Safety Planning
Mississippi First
Mississippi Health and Advocacy Program
Mississippi Health Care Association
Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning
Mississippi Non-profits
Mississippi Office of Highway Safety
Mississippi Public Health Institute
Mississippi State Department of Health
North Mississippi Medical Center
Office of Research and Economic Development
Mississippi State Department of Health, Office of Tobacco Control
Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi
Preusser Research Group, Inc.
Public Health Program at Jackson State University
Tougaloo College
University of Mississippi Medical Center

SSRC Annual Impact

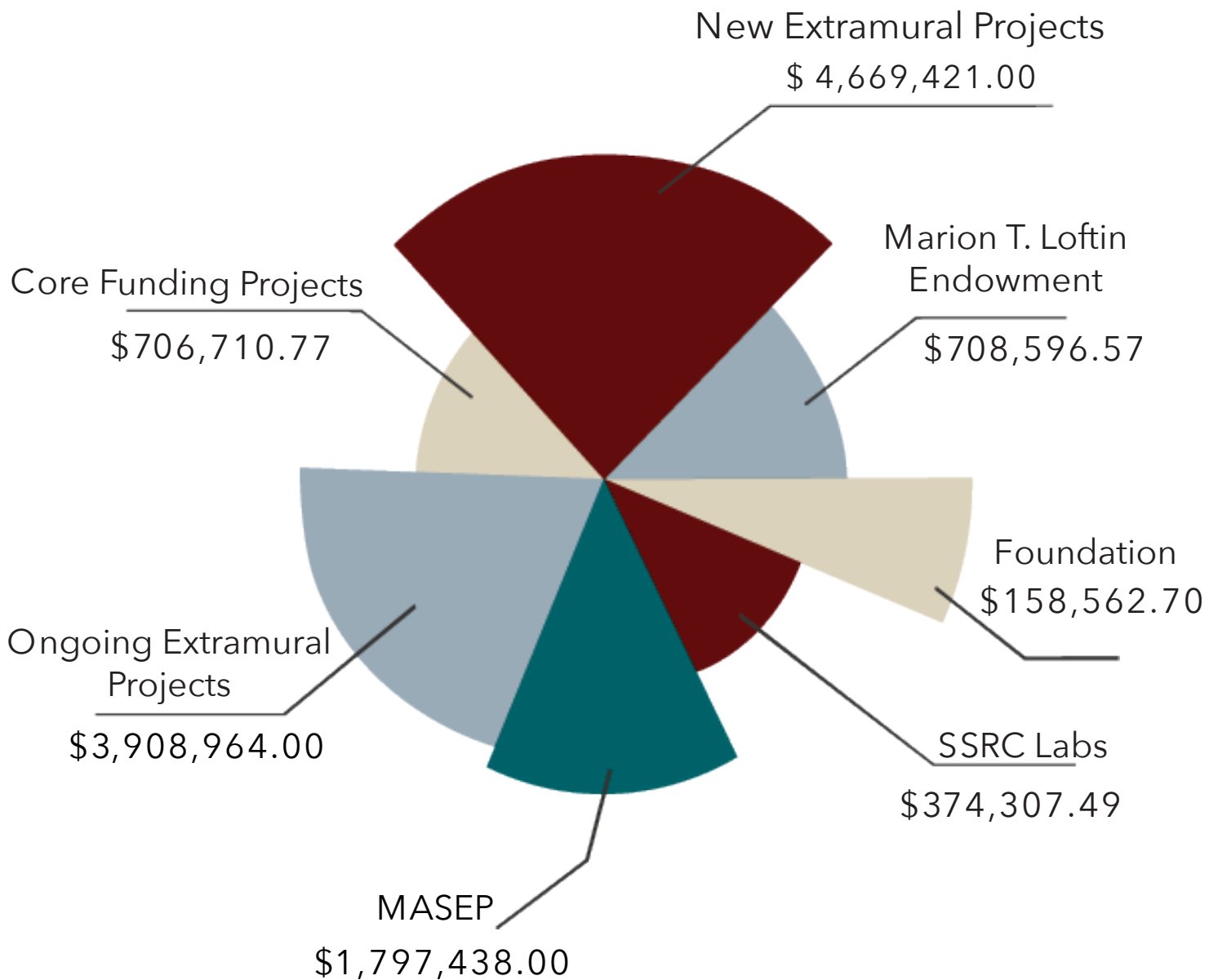
Publications 43

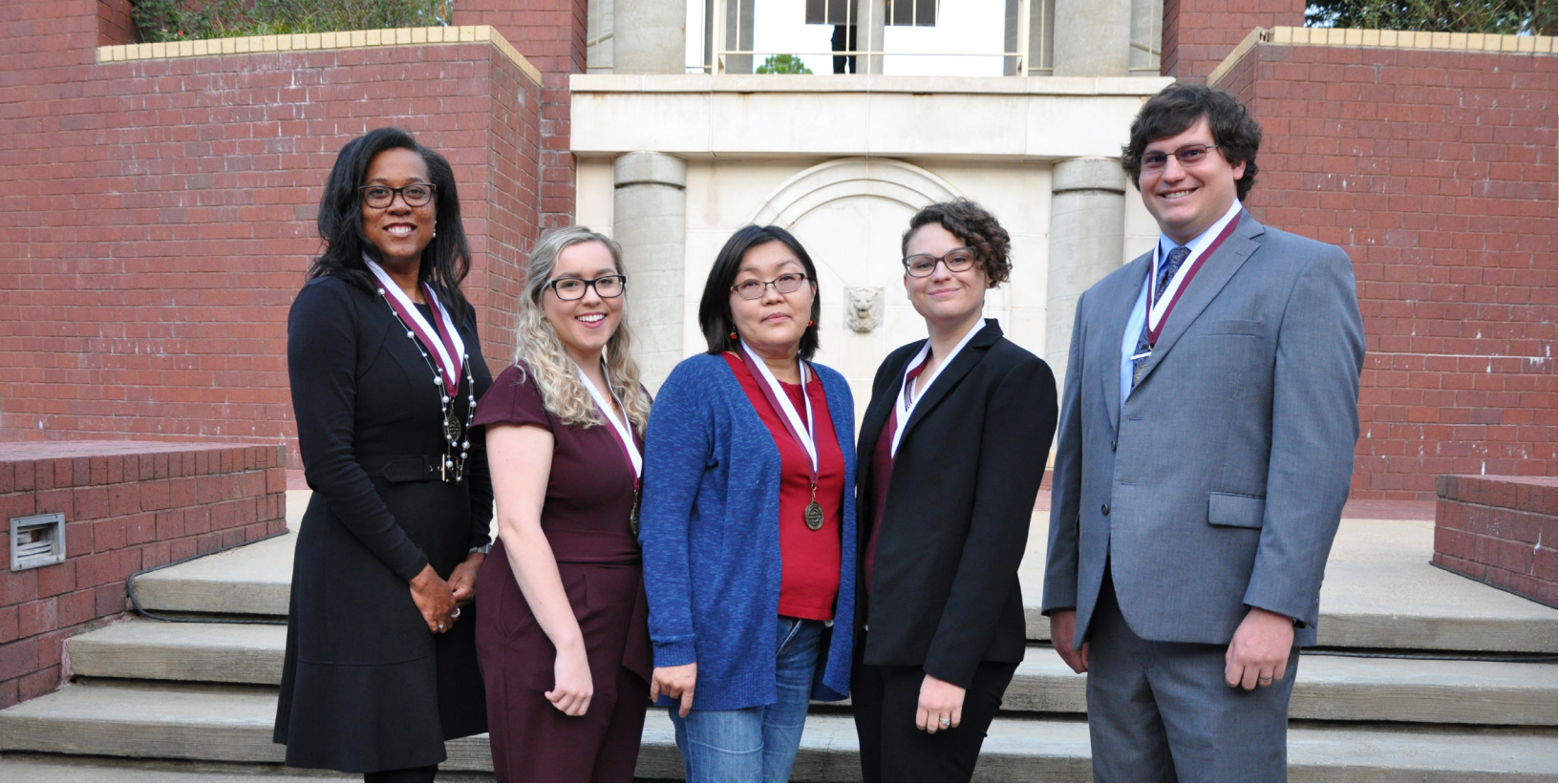
New Projects 20

Ongoing Projects 12

Presentations 70

**Total Funding:
\$12,324,000.53**





Left to right: Tawny McCleon, Terri Hernandez, Dari Jigjidsuren, Izzy Pellegrine, and Ben Porter

Research Fellows

Terri Hernandez

Terri Hernandez received a Ph.D. from the College of Media and Communication at Texas Tech University. She is currently a tenure-track assistant professor at MSU in the Department of Communication. Hernandez's research interests include intergroup relations, branding, consumer behavior, and social and digital media. In addition, she runs the student-led public relations & integrated student media (PRISM) agency. PRISM is a full-service media/marketing agency, that provides full-service communication packages to local businesses. PRISM helped the SSRC develop the Evaluation & Research Group's logo, website, and information brochure and the Gender Impacts Lab's logo and website design.

Dari Jigjidsuren

Dari Jigjidsuren has earned her PhD and Master's degrees in Social Work and Public Health from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. After graduation Jigjidsuren worked as an evaluation specialist at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute in Chapel Hill where she collected and analyzed data on child and teacher outcomes for the North Carolina state school system. Her research experience is mainly focused on interventions to ensure early childhood well-being with a particular focus on marginalized populations. She also has expertise in community practice, and program development and evaluation. The last three years Dari lived in Mongolia where she conducted research including the baseline study on domestic violence among young children, established a nonprofit to advocate for Mongolian patients with rare diseases, and served as an advisor to the Mongolian disability portal "We Can Do MN". In the future, Dari is looking forward to conducting research to improve the outcomes for children in marginalized rural communities.

Tawny McCleon

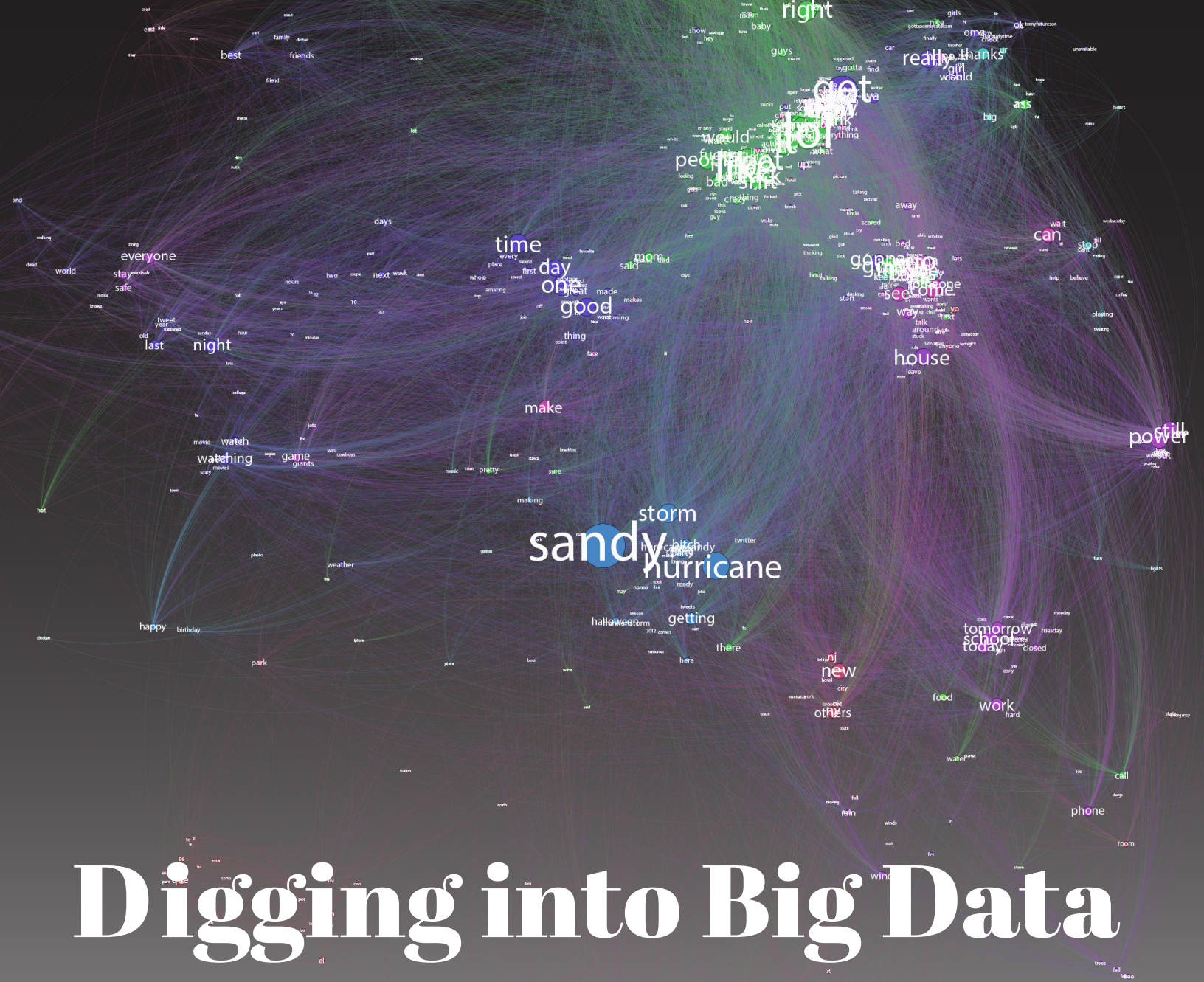
Tawny McCleon, NCSP is currently an associate professor in the School Psychology Program in the Department of Counseling, Educational Psychology and Foundations. She serves as the Graduate and Program Director for the School Psychology Programs, the Director of the Assessment Clinic in the School Psychology Services Center, and the Field-based Placement Coordinator. She completed her graduate studies at Mississippi State University in which she earned a M.S. in school psychology/psychometry and a Ph.D. in educational psychology with an emphasis in school psychology (APA-accredited; NASP approved), and she completed her pre-doctoral training at Houston Independent School District in Houston, Texas (APA-accredited) which was the fourth largest school district within the U.S at the time of completion. McCleon joined the SSRC as a part of the Social Relations Collaborative in 2015 as a co-primary investigator with the School Safety Project funded by the National Institute of Justice. Her research interests include crisis prevention and intervention, school violence, academic assessment, emotional and behavior disorders, multicultural issues in assessment, and social skills training.

Izzy Pellegrine

Izzy Pellegrine began working at the Social Science Research Center as an undergraduate research assistant in 2008 with the Family and Children's Research Unit under the direction of Linda Southward. After completing her bachelors' degrees in Sociology and in Social Work, Pellegrine joined the Survey Research laboratory team in 2012 as a graduate research assistant. Following the completion of her MS in Sociology, she has stayed on at the SSRC moving into the position of Research Associate and then Project Manager and sharing time between the Survey Research Laboratory and the Family and Children's Research Unit. Pellegrine is also pursuing a PhD in Sociology and is ABD in the Department of Sociology at MSU. Her work in the department focuses on critical race and sexuality studies with an emphasis on sexuality education. Through the department, Pellegrine was also named a primary investigator – along with co-PI's Melanie Walsh and Amanda Gochanour – on a statewide Needs Assessment of LGBTQ populations in Mississippi, which is the first statewide academic study in Mississippi to focus on this marginalized group. Moving forward, she is developing an ethnographic study of sex education for her dissertation work.

Ben Porter

Ben Porter completed his Ph.D. studying social psychology with a minor in data analysis at University of Houston. His graduate work examined how principles of Self-Determination Theory are associated with positive functioning within romantic relationship. After graduation, he began examining how exposures and experiences of military service affect the health and well-being of service members and Veterans. Porter continues to serve as a biostatistician and Head of the Veterans Health Research Area for the Millennium Cohort Study, the largest prospective cohort study of military personnel collected to date. Generally, his work has focused on Veterans within this study, but he has writing on an eclectic range of topics from PTSD to physical health functioning to psychometrics.



Digging into Big Data

How the SSRC's newest lab is using
open source data and computer
science

Word cloud image of keywords collected during the Hurricane Sandy project.

By: Emile Creel

“Quarantine, a time some people might view as a downtime, really was used for creativity and advancement of knowledge for us because that’s when the lab was developed,” said Megan Stubbs-Richardson, an assistant research professor at the Social Science Research Center. (SSRC).

The Data Science for the Social Sciences Laboratory (DS3), one of the SSRC’s newest labs, is working with that creativity and knowledge to build a multidisciplinary team ready to explain problems from different viewpoints and technologies as they approach their first projects.

At the SSRC’s retreat in February of 2020, discussion of developing the lab began. Stubbs-Richardson and John Edwards, an associate research professor and director of the SRCC’s Wolfgang Frese Survey Research Laboratory, led the charge of bringing in mentors, students, and colleagues from computer science, sociology, public administration, criminology, and other disciplines. The team received its first funded project in July of 2020.

“Coming from different disciplines we have a unique way of looking at the same idea,” said Edwards.

Stubbs-Richardson also

notes the benefits of having seasoned researchers like SSRC Director Art Cosby, along with student researchers, and how that builds the dynamics of the group.

“The students are equally creative to all of us, and so, they bring their own fresh ideas to project. For example, Shelby Gilbreath, an undergraduate student, is our hashtag trending expert for our COVID project. She keeps track of all things related to COVID and lets us know the latest hashtags and information across demographics,” she said.

Edwards had interest in the work, partly because he had participated in a previous lab at the SSRC working with social media and machine learning. The Innovative Data Laboratory was in many ways a forerunner for the DS3, collecting social media data and using it to identify trends or aid communities.

“At the time we were looking exclusively at Twitter data, and we were one of a select few research institutions doing that. We received a grant from the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration that ran from 2014-2015. My thought all along has been ‘how can we do some good with this data?’,” said Edwards.

He saw how to enact good when using machine learning

and social media with their work five years ago. The team collected tweets from people who didn’t evacuate during Hurricane Sandy, and the group at the time programmed computers to search those tweets for images with damage. From the images, the team learned that those residents were identifying damage publicly before first responders could even get to the area. Many times, the tweets were so exact the team knew precisely what street or address had a fallen tree or other major debris. They saw how analyzing these tweets could aid first responders in getting to the hardest hit areas first.

Stubbs-Richardson also sees the insights open source data can provide, especially when combined with data science approaches.

“We’re taking a big data approach with machine learning. More computer science methods that can take in huge amounts of data and make sense of it rather quickly,” she said.

The DS3 hopes to grow projects that will work with social media, machine learning, and other big data sources. Currently, they have a collection of data from Twitter geolocated tweets that the team has been amassing since 2015. Researchers have used the tweets on work concerning

Hurricane Sandy, the Flint Water Crisis, and other societal and cultural issues.

The researchers see the opportunities within open source data like social media in part because of the instantaneous nature of many of the platforms. As Edwards explains, with a survey you can get targeted direct answers, but social media opens the door to thoughts the audience might not share in the more formal setting of a telephone-based survey. Both are necessary but can give different insights based on your research needs.

The technical members of the group write programs and algorithms to pull posts from social media sites that use key phrases, words, or locations that may be of interest. The team is currently researching emotional expressions as tied to various social institutions such as family, economy/work, government, education, religion, and healthcare associated with the COVID-19 pandemic across ten to fifteen different social media platforms for the National Science Foundation (NSF) RAPID grant (Analyses of Emotions Expressed in Social Media and Forums During the COVID-19 Pandemic). To accomplish this, they used the data pulled from the platforms then research assistants like Shelby Gilbreath and others with the team sort through the posts to categorize them.

“We have for starters all of the geolocated tweets since 2015 and a lot of what we can do with that is link some community factors to the geo coordinate level, and they can assist us in explaining public opinion or whatever topic we’re approaching at the time,” said Stubbs-Richardson.

In addition to the Twitter data collection that has been in place for years, the team’s programmers take an application programming interface, an endpoint made available by various websites for programmers to connect to the platforms. With this connection, programmers write code to pull data from the platforms.

“Platforms are interested in giving you the application programming interface because they don’t want you scraping data off their platform and slowing down both the website and your system,” explained Stubbs-Richardson.

Stubbs-Richardson adds that one aspect of the current NSF grant is that it is a RAPID project, meaning the team is analyzing the data of a current event, the pandemic in this case, so that it might help people better intervene in the event.

“We’re really trying to capture all of the emotions that are out there related to coping and not just the negative like panic and fear or anxiety, but we’re also

getting into some positives people are experiencing,” she said. “We’re building a data set that captures all of those emotional responses and then looking at how it’s associated with the different institutions.”

She continues that they are seeing how the pandemic may be affecting food concerns for those who have unstable employment or if families are experiencing additional stress as they are spending more time at home and indoors. These may all be part of the final dataset they produce over the next few months.

The issues of stress and security are common themes in Stubbs-Richardson’s work, and she and others in the team are also looking at sentiments toward police officers and racial tensions right now following many of the current societal events.

“We all continue to advance our skill sets in the methods and different data analytics that we can apply to this large data because there will always be some kind of social problem that we can approach as a group,” said Stubbs-Richardson, “and we have the perfect environment because of all the different disciplines and the creative energy that each faculty, staff, and student brings to the mission of the DS3 laboratory.” ■

For more information on the DS3, visit www.ssrc.ds3.msstate.edu.

Social Relations Collaborative's 4-Year Study Comes to a Close

By: Madeline Burdine

The Social Relations Collaborative, which was formerly known as The Advanced Social Psychology Lab, was founded at Mississippi State University in 2005. Since its transition in 2012, the Collaborative has been inviting the perspectives of multiple fields in which its collaborative work provides remarkable insight into understanding human social behavior.

The fields included in the Collaborative thus far are Psychology, Sociology, Education, Counseling, Marketing, Computer Science, Communication, Anthropology, Engineering, and Human Sciences.

Although schools are generally a safe environment for most children, aggression in schools has proved a high level of both short and long-term harmful consequences to youth. This warrants aggression recognition as a public health concern.

As research on bullying continues to grow, it is only recently that the role of social identities and intergroup dynamics in aggression among adolescents has gained attention.

Funded by the National Institute of Justice's Comprehensive School Safety Initiative, concern of school shootings is a huge driving force behind the funding of this project, which came out to be approximately \$1.7 million.

"People are, of course, concerned about school shootings and the perception that kids were bullied, rejected, or socially excluded before shootings in more than 90% of cases," said Sinclair. "It was a key question as to what made those kids snap whereas other kids who have been bullied don't. That's one of the main reasons that our study was funded."

The goal of the Collaborative's 4-year School Safety Project has been to address the critical need for research on identity-based aggression among adolescents.

"In particular, our focus was to test a new theoretical model examining when rejection leads to aggression," said Colleen Sinclair, head of the 4-year Project.

Specifically, the project addresses several gaps in previous identity-based aggression research.

"When people are rejected, such as when they are bullied, research is established throughout 40 years that it leads people to be aggressive," said Sinclair. "However, that's not the only behavioral response, right? People get rejected all the time without lashing out at people. So, one of the drawbacks of the preceding research was that they basically only gave people

the option to respond aggressively. So, we wanted to expand what was being measured by testing the new multi-motive model.”

According to Sinclair, this multi-motive model is meant to lay out the intervening factors that lead people to choose one behavioral response over another.

Sinclair and her team, which was a collaboration with David May in Criminology, Tawny McCleon in School Psychology, Megan Stubbs-Richardson of the Social Science Research Center, Rebecca Goldberg in Counseling Psychology, as well as two research associates, four graduate research assistants, and ten undergraduate assistants, proceeded to conduct four years of surveys to test the theoretical model, three being in Starkville’s local high school and the fourth being a national sample using a Qualtrics panel.

The team created two amendments to the original model in which they built in two additional predictors.

The first addition addressed how socially alienating an experience was for an individual. The second was how much the individual perceived they were being attacked by a group or group representative as a group member.

The team found that much rejection was identity-

based, meaning that people were being targeted due to sociodemographic identities such as race, religion, or national origin.

This research was also

“We went in a school district and helped them understand what's going on in their district.” - May

complemented by vignette studies, which provide scenarios in which people are asked how they would respond.

In addition, the team reinvented the experimental paradigm called the Cyberball Game, originally invented by Kip Williams. The team reinvented the game by adding a social media component to the original invention. Every player of the experiment was led to interact on social media prior to entering the game. Within the game, players were randomly assigned to either be included or excluded in the ball tossing. Upon the closing of the game, players were given the opportunity to respond, including a full spectrum of responses rather than aggression alone.

David May, whose primary role in the project was to serve as the liaison between

the study’s team and the schools, worked largely on data collection for this project.

“I think it’s very important to help the local school district get a better understanding of what’s going on in their schools,” May said. “This project was a good example of how a

multidisciplinary team can work effectively with action research. We went into a school district and helped them understand what was going on in their district specifically. I think this research was very helpful for the district, and I know that they have been very appreciative of this project and are looking forward to working with us in the future.”

According to the study, identity-based aggression was prevalent in the current sample of high school students. Further, correlations revealed that there were positive links between rates of identity-based victimization and negative affect such as self esteem.

Throughout the course of the study, victimized students were first asked whether they felt they were

targeted because of a social identity, including race, gender, religion, politics, nationality/immigration status, or sexual orientation. 52% of victimized students responded affirmatively (yes or maybe) indicating that they felt that at least one of their social identities may have led to their victimization. Thus, 39% of the total sample – victimized or no – reported experiencing some form of identity-based aggression.

Identity-based aggression was most prevalent in the cyber category (e.g., on-line or through text message). Also, race-based remained the most common despite the sample being largely African American. The highest rate of race-based victimization was among other racial minorities (e.g., Asian American, Native American, mixed race youth). Rates among white

and African American youth were relatively equivalent (24.5% and 22.4% respectively).

Next, students were asked to report whether the experience produced negative affect (e.g., fear, anger) or had a negative impact on their self-concept (e.g., lowering their self-esteem). Table 1 (shown below) shows that all correlations indicate that higher levels of perceived identity-based victimization are linked to higher rates of negative psychological consequences.

The majority of youth surveyed reported a recent victimization, and approximately half of these incidents were perceived as potentially identity-based, especially when the incident occurred online. In response, identity-based victims expressed negative

effects (fear, anger) and negative self-evaluations more so victims who experienced non-identity-based victimization.

These heightened negative emotional responses make it more likely to see effects such as social withdrawal, self-harm, and even aggression.

To the team's knowledge, this study was the first to extend the model to this capacity.

An additional unique contribution of this Project includes the finding that identity-based bullying is particularly problematic online. ■

For more information on the Social Relations Collaborative, visit www.socialrelationslab.com.

SURVEYING THE STATE

The products of a baseline survey of Mississippi parents

Spring 2020
A MISSISSIPPI THRIVE! Policy Brief

Marking Children's Developmental Milestones: Findings from a Baseline Survey of Mississippi



Most children... professional check on their development.

Screenings from a health care provider

23% of children were screened by a health care provider



from health care providers.

families who get information developmental milestones from:

59% Health Care Providers



Child Health and Development Survey, 2018

The earliest stages of life deserve our state's attention.

The earliest stages of life matter much more than people once believed. The architecture of the brain is built from the bottom up, with intense construction going on from infancy through age eight. In the early years, children develop many different types of important skills, laying the foundation for later learning and abilities [1]. In the first months of life, babies learn to focus their vision and move their muscles intentionally, setting them up to explore the world around them as they grow. As a toddler learns to calm down after being upset, they are developing the abilities that will let them manage stronger emotions or bigger problems when they are older. When a preschooler learns to share and play with others, they are laying down the foundation of having good relationships throughout life.

These skills are essential to the child's future and also to the future of our state. When we do what it takes for Mississippi's children to thrive, we equip tomorrow's neighbors, workforce, and leaders to do what it takes for Mississippi to thrive.



The things young children typically do at certain ages are called **developmental milestones**. It is important for adults to pay attention to children's progress toward these milestones and notice when children do not reach the milestones at the expected time. If there is a delay or other concern, it is usually easier and more effective to take action right away, rather than waiting. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that health care providers monitor development at all wellness visits and complete formal checks on developmental milestones at 9 months, 18 months, and 24 or 30 months old [2].

Mississippi is taking an innovative approach to marking more milestones.

The Child Health and Development Project (CHDP) is focused on making sure that every child in Mississippi benefits from a professional check on their overall development. CHDP is a partnership between The University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC)'s Children's of Mississippi, Mississippi State University's Social Science Research Center, and the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA). Thanks to funding from HRSA, a comprehensive survey was conducted to examine how many young children in Mississippi received an assessment of their developmental progress. This brief summarizes key results from the 2018 Mississippi Child Health and Development Survey (MCHDS).

Parents, can start a... ask parents a structured ones. For example, it's... d to use two-word... he American Academy... oughout infancy and

received a recent... s and 6 years of... alth care, child

children

on but not others.

Child health and... ting of the many... ildren need.

Child health... es (51%)... r their children,... cal early... s are not... ng with... onse

...ve received a developmental health screening

... of behavioral concerns?



| | |
|-----|-----|
| Yes | 51% |
| | 43% |
| | 43% |
| | 41% |
| | 34% |

Child Health and Development Survey, 2018

Above: Excerpt from the policy brief.

By: Emile Creel

As the Child Health and Development Project: Mississippi Thrive!, a collaboration between the Social Science Research Center (SSRC) and the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC), came to life three years ago, the research team felt strongly that, to fully understand child development in Mississippi, they needed a baseline measure of screenings, parent knowledge, and health care practices.

To address this need, the team developed a telephone survey for Mississippi parents that was administered statewide. Ben Walker, a project manager at the SSRC, worked with the project and survey from the initial stages of writing the grant that received its first round of funding from the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) in 2017. Walker teamed up with Dustin Brown, an assistant professor in the Mississippi State University Department of Sociology, and Izzy Pellegrine, a research associate at the SSRC, to lead the SSRC's work with the survey, beginning with learning about an important national survey.

The National Survey of Child Health (NSCH) is administered every two

years by mail and online through funding also from a division of HRSA. The NSCH was a helpful starting point for the survey team as they considered the types of questions to ask. Although the NSCH broke down data at the state level, the responses didn't cover as wide a range as the Mississippi Thrive! team needed or have a large enough sample size to truly understand the state of Mississippi.

"The national survey is really high quality, but the state-level subgroup numbers were less precise than what we needed for in depth analyses. The idea was to use the national survey as a model but focus specifically on young children in the state, so we could have a larger sample of zero to five-year-olds," said Walker.

With a model for their survey, they consulted with UMMC and HRSA to hone the questions to gain the most insight.

"The people at UMMC and HRSA were really helpful with the vetting process. We put all of the pieces together, sent the survey out for feedback, and tried as best we could to incorporate all of that feedback," said Brown, who holds a doctorate in sociology and is also a research fellow at the SSRC.

"The questions considered key indicators about developmental screenings, healthcare experiences, and the individual child. The national survey didn't ask whether screenings were done in childcare or school settings. It was important for us to determine if that was a potential avenue for screenings, so we added some questions asking parents if their children were screened in childcare," said Walker.

Additionally, they had to consider how they would administer the survey, and another SSRC resource provided valuable expertise. The Wolfgang Frese Survey Research Laboratory (SRL) was consulted, and Brown says the team decided that a phone survey through the lab would be the most effective method for collecting responses within their time constraints.

Surveyors called both cell and landlines through a random digit dial sample of Mississippi residents asking adult respondents the names and ages of those in the household, and households were asked to provide information about a single age-eligible child in the household. After interviewing from April to August of 2018, the SRL had reached the needed 1,000 responses and began to sort

through the data.

Once the survey sub-team obtained results from the Mississippi Child Health and Development Survey (MCHDS), they again turned to the NSCH as they began to understand the data. This national survey allowed the team to have a reference point for the MCHDS results.

“One of the surprises for us and UMMC was the developmental screening rate in Mississippi. The screening rate in the national survey for children ages 9 to 36 months in 2016 was around 17%, which happened to be the lowest in the nation. When we looked at our results two years later in 2018, our number was 26.9%. In 2018, estimated developmental screening rates for children ages 9-35 months in Mississippi from our parent survey (26.9%) and the NSCH (27.1%) are basically identical,” said Brown.

Mississippi Thrive! has evolved its tactics over the last two years and honed its message in many ways from when the grant was written, but the results of this survey continue to offer insights.

“One thing this survey makes clear is that efforts to improve early childhood developmental health promotion, screening, and treatment in Mississippi are a tremendous need. Too

many children are not having their developmental health adequately monitored and supported, which can impact their lifelong trajectory,” said project co-principal investigator, Heather Hanna.

“Too many children are not having their developmental health adequately monitored and supported.” -Hanna

In addition to the insights they have gained for the project and used in presentations with practitioners and parents, the team has created two notable products from the results. Both the policy brief, *Marking Children’s Development Milestones: Findings from a Baseline Survey of Mississippi*, and an interactive online chartbook are useful for practitioners, parents, researchers, and healthcare workers.

The chartbook is a feature on the project website that breaks down the survey data by racial groups, insurance status, and parent education. The team says sharing this aggregated information helps give a better picture of early childhood developmental health across the state.

While the chartbook

is geared toward many audiences and breaks down the information, the short policy brief details the results of the survey in a more condensed way. It is more likely to be utilized by those wanting an

overview or those seeking to influence early childhood policy. The brief includes many of the major findings, an explanation of the survey methods and process and policy, and evidence-based recommendations for promoting children’s developmental health.

“The brief has a narrower focus. It gives the baseline findings and just a limited few key indicators. It really introduces the survey to the those are working in the area of child health and development. The chartbook is really for people who may want to dig into the data and explore it for themselves, where the brief is more curated,” said Walker.

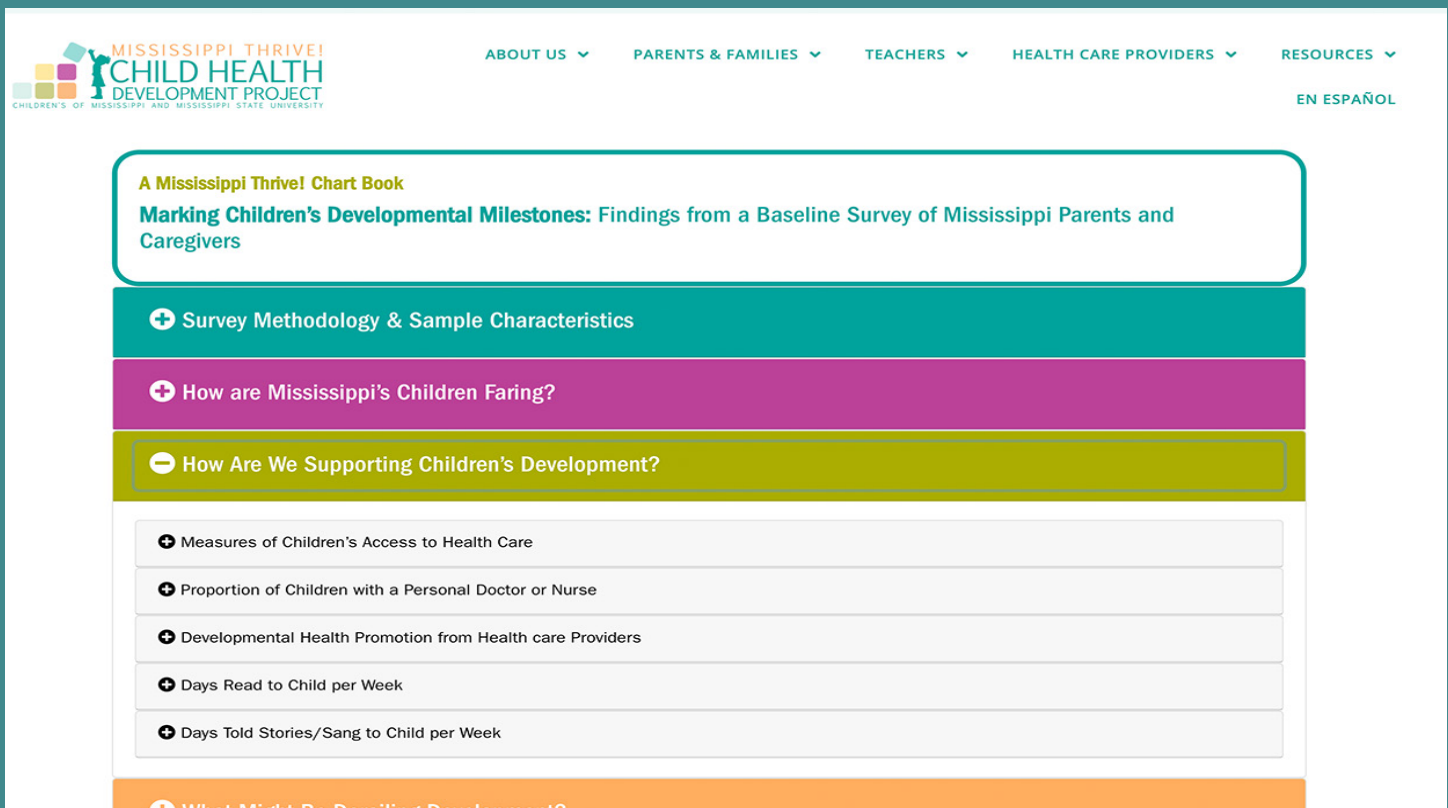
With both of these resources, sub-teams on the Mississippi Thrive! project present webinars, trainings, and attend conferences to

reach childcare workers, parents, and health care workers with the information about early childhood developmental health in Mississippi.

The survey continues to be used as a resource for the project as different sub-teams complete their work, and the survey team now focuses much of their time on being a support unit to the other sub-teams. When someone has a research

question, Walker or Brown can provide data from the MCHDS, a healthcare survey the team also administered, or from secondary data they received to aid in the work of the other sub-units as they present findings, write papers, and train groups across the state. ■

Find the policy brief, chartbook, and other resources online at www.mississippithrive.com.



Above: Excerpt from the online chartbook.

70 Years of the SSRC

1950

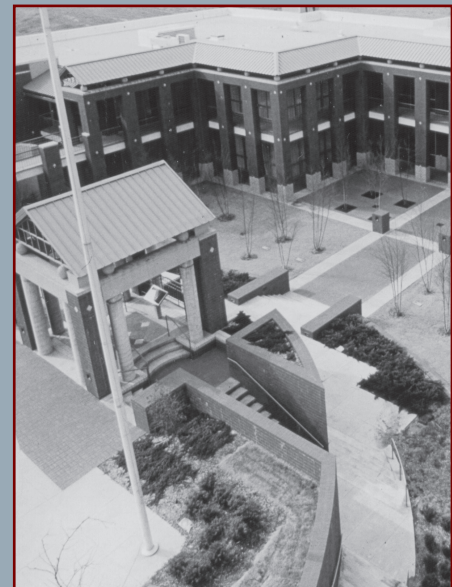
The Social Science Research Center (SSRC) was officially established in 1950. It operates as a university-level, multi-disciplinary research unit, organized with university-wide responsibilities under the supervision of the vice presidents for research and graduate studies and of agriculture, forestry and veterinary medicine.

The Wolfgang Frese Survey Research Laboratory (SRL) has been conducting scientifically-based survey research for over 30 years. Using local, state, and national samples, the laboratory has collected data for over 650 research projects.

1981

1972

The Mississippi Alcohol Safety Education Program was developed in 1972 with funding from the Governor's Highway Safety Program, the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol, and the Mississippi Department of Health. The main focus of the early curriculum was to educate participants about alcohol, its effects on the body, and how these effects impair one's ability to drive.



In 1986, the SSRC began reporting to the Division of Agriculture, Forestry, and Vet Medicine, as well as, its traditional supporter the Office of Research and Economic Development.

1986

1990

To begin the 90's, the center moved to it's current location in the Mississippi Technology Center in the Thad Cochran Research, Technology, and Economic Development Park.



2016

In 2016, the center began developing and supporting mutple individual labs like The Message Laboratory, the Social Relations Collaborative, and the Evaluation and Research Group.

2020

Seventy years after its founding, social scientists continue to work together to address social problems and research issues, to train students in research methods and to contribute to the scholarly atmosphere of Mississippi State University.





Kathleen Ragsdale (PI), Laura Ingouf (MSU undergraduate), and the Fish4Zambia survey team head out on the lake to collect data at a temporary fishing camp.

Photo Credit: Tabitha Mulilo, WorldFish Zambia

ADDRESSING INEQUALITIES AT HOME AND ABROAD

HOW THE GENDER IMPACTS LAB'S WORK COVERS CONTINENTS

*By: Emile Creel, Kathleen Ragsdale, and Mary Read-Wahidi
Photos by Kathleen Ragsdale*

“Gender and health disparities cut across all of our work, and we constantly see so many similarities even though the people we work with are living in very different countries and cultures,” said Kathleen Ragsdale, co-director of the Gender Impacts Lab and a research professor at the Social Science Research Center (SSRC).

Ragsdale and Mary Read-Wahidi, co-director of the lab and an assistant research professor at

the SSRC, have been working together for years on how gender impacts health and well-being. With the support of the SSRC in 2020, they had the opportunity to bring their research in the U.S. and sub-Saharan Africa under one umbrella – the Gender Impacts Lab. Launched in the spring of 2020, the lab’s website was developed by students in Mississippi State University’s Department of Communication under the supervision of Terri Hernandez.

“We’re very proud of our lab’s site and the online presence Dr. Hernandez’s team built. In fact, the site recently won awards at the Public Relations Association of Mississippi,” said Ragsdale.

The site details the mission and scope of their research program, which focuses on ongoing and completed projects in the U.S., Ghana, Mozambique, and Zambia. It is purposefully designed to highlight the lab’s work and – equally importantly – to serve as a learning tool

and vehicle to showcase the common themes of their work – whether in Mississippi or sub-Saharan Africa – and the importance of gender-responsive approaches to improving health and well-being.

“We conduct hands-on research in the U.S. and globally to address gender equity to improve community development, health, and to empower women and men, boys and girls,” said Ragsdale.

For example, as part of their United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded work with the Feed the Future Soybean Innovation Lab, Ragsdale and Read-Wahid are currently working on a project in Ghana to support ownership of low-cost and locally fabricated mechanized threshers among smallholder women farmers.

In many parts of rural Ghana – as in many parts of sub-Saharan Africa – smallholder women farmers are expected to thresh both their own fields and their husbands’ fields, which is a tremendous physical and time burden for women as mechanized threshing is rarely available. But preliminary results from their thresher evaluation project clearly shows that mechanized threshing impacts women’s agricultural productivity, food security, profits, and empowerment. In fact, their team found that mechanized threshers have the potential to reduce the labor need to thresh one acre of the crop from two weeks of hand-threshing (beating with sticks) to only four hours using a mechanized thresher.

As part of their USAID-funded work with the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Fish, Ragsdale and Read-Wahidi are currently working on the FishFirst!



Laura Ingouf (discussion notetaker) and Annie Mumba (translator/field team leader) pose with local men at the Chinsanka fishing camp after a focus group.

Zambia project to develop ComFA+Fish products that are biofortified to improve nutrition for infants in the “first 1,000 days of life,” which is a critical time for brain development in young children. In fact, this project is called, FishFirst! Zambia to highlight the important role that fish can play in optimizing infant nutrition in those first 1,000 days. ComFA+Fish stands for Complementary Food for Africa + dried fish powder, and Ragsdale and Read-Wahidi will be working with colleagues at WorldFish and the University of Zambia to develop and test ComFA+Fish products/ recipes that can be used by women entrepreneurs to start or expand businesses while filling an important gap in high-quality, low-cost, and locally available weaning foods for infants.

Their work in Zambia began in 2018 with funding



A girl and her infant sister pose with other local children at Chinsanka fishing camp with Annie Mumba (Fish4Zambia translator/ field team leader).

from the Innovation Lab for Fish – which is based at MSU– to conduct a one-year project, Fish4Zambia. As PI of this project, Ragsdale conducted fieldwork at Zambia’s Lake Bangweulu in 2019. She was accompanied by Laura Ingouf, a senior anthropology major at MSU and undergraduate student researcher with the Gender Impacts Lab.

“Participating in fieldwork as an undergraduate has exposed me to some of the issues and complications that may arise during fieldwork and has helped me to become more prepared for the constantly evolving nature of fieldwork. I learned how to plan and coordinate teams of researchers, but also how to adapt to whatever circumstances arise,” said Ingouf.

She continued, “I think the most memorable thing for me was working with our Zambia partners, including staff from WorldFish, a professor and students from the University of Zambia, and the translators and enumerators who had experience working in the fishing villages where we conducted our research. Even though we were only in the country for a short time, it was good to know that they would still be there, continuing this work and applying it to their local context.”



Men and boys from Chinsanka fishing camp fishing on Lake Bangweulu, which is known as the lake "where the sky and water meet" because it is so vast.

During the Lake Bangweulu fieldwork, Ragsdale and Ingouf interviewed men, women, and youth who are small-scale fishers, fish processors, and sellers/traders of fresh and dried fish to better understand how gender equity and other socioeconomic factors impact food security, nutrition, and economic development in the region. Ragsdale recounted that being on the lake felt exactly like being on the ocean, as the lake is so vast. In fact, Lake Bangweulu is locally known as the place 'where the sky and water meet.'

The Fish4Zambia research team conducted 397 surveys and completed 21 focus group discussions. The data they collected provided valuable answers to many of their research questions.

As Read-Wahidi explained, “With the Fish4Zambia, we had a lot of questions about the different roles of men and women fishers

across the fish value chain, and how that impacts the livelihoods of all members of fishing families. In terms of food security, we ultimately wanted to understand the extent to which the fish that were caught at Lake Bangweulu made their way into the poor inland households where they’re needed most.”

Ragsdale added, “We saw that getting fish into poorer households as a food source – even among fishers – isn’t always happening because fish have such a high value and are an important source of cash income for vulnerable families. And so, the benefits of nutritious fish don’t always go directly to the family because of economic issues.”

Preliminary analysis of the Fish4Zambia data shows that, although women are equally as likely to pursue fishing, processing, and selling or trading as livelihoods, they are less



Young men in dugout canoes pull in their fishing net on Lake Bangweulu. Their catch includes Haplochromis mellandi and Tilapia randalli.

likely to have ownership and control of fishing assets critical to their economic success. They also found that husbands and wives make different decisions concerning the use of income earned from fishing.

Men typically earn more than women, and women's income is typically channeled towards household needs. As Ragsdale explained, "Men have more economic power and more capital, and they may spend money on something like a basic cell phone, which leaves women at a technology disadvantage and with less autonomy over different decisions. At the same time, women tend to target their extra income toward making sure children's school fees are paid, healthcare needs are met, and food is provided for the family. Those are their priorities."

The team is now looking forward to continuing their

work in Zambia with the FishFirst! Zambia project. With this three-year project, the Gender Impacts Lab will shift its attention from Lake Bangweulu to Lake Kariba to continue to investigate men and women fisher's roles and ways that fish can improve nutrition for infants in their first 1,000 days of life, through easy and accessible products like ComFA+Fish.

Work from Fish4Zambia is currently being disseminated via reports, journal articles, and webinars for the Innovation Lab for Fish, USAID, Feed the Future, and the broader scientific community. Additionally, the Gender Impacts Lab plans for the coming years' projects to include the development of online courses, workshops, and webinars.

"We're trying to take the tools we've developed and the things we've learned and package them into

workshops or courses because we want to have a suite of tools that can be utilized by others. We're looking into a really effective way to get our research out in ways that will make a real impact with a broader audience," said Read-Wahidi.

Whether a short drive from MSU or a days-long flight, the Gender Impacts Lab continues to aim to impact the people with whom they work.

"Gathering information by directly engaging with the people who are impacted by this work is so important because, otherwise, it could fail to address people's actual needs," said Ingouf. ■

To learn more, visit the lab online at www.genderimpactslab.ssrc.msstate.edu.

Reactions to the COVID-19 Pandemic

This year the SSRC like every organization has faced new challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As Mississippi State University transitioned quickly to a remote work and class plan in mid-March, our scientists and staff adjusted to an unprecedented work environment. The following are a few of our members experiences.



Dr. Holli Seitz
Assistant Professor and
Director of The Message Laboratory

As part of MSU's response to COVID-19, I joined a working group of colleagues and students tasked with developing a health communication campaign to promote COVID-19 prevention behaviors among MSU students. This presented an opportunity to leverage my communication research skills to address an urgent issue of importance to the campus and community. Working together, our team (which included undergraduate and graduate students) conducted surveys and interviewed approximately 15 MSU students and 15 parents of MSU students to examine their beliefs about COVID-19 prevention behaviors such as wearing face coverings and maintaining physical distance while interacting with others. Based on the survey and interview data, we were able to make recommendations to the working group to inform the Cowbell Well communication campaign for students. We are currently conducting a detailed analysis of the data and working on a manuscript to inform other college public health campaign efforts.



Dr. Ronald Cossman
Associate Research Professor and Research Fellow

Every crisis is also an opportunity. I have been overwhelmed at the dedication, innovation and creativity that my colleagues have shown in surmounting every barrier to research during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Charlie Schloemer
Systems Administrator

When we got the word this spring to evacuate the campus, no one knew much about the virus, only that it could not be contained. Most of SSRC's staff were eager to get equipment checked out and get out of the building. We checked out dozens of desktop computers, laptops, webcams, printers, scanners, and peripherals. It was a scramble, fast-paced and chaotic, and as quickly as it began it was over. Our IT group spent the next couple of weeks fielding support calls and emails from our newly at-home workforce, making sure everyone was settling in well and could access their usual programs and data.

As any systems administrator, I have responsibilities for the computer systems, servers, databases, and web sites, but the most important and urgent tasks I perform are related to end user support. These are also the most gratifying. I like people, and I like helping them to solve problems, or to find new or better ways for working smarter, to scope out projects, or sometimes just to commiserate (e.g., "Yes, SPSS does seem to crash more often since IBM bought it!"). It is nearly always my preference to come to my user's desk when providing support, but with Covid that has changed to its opposite. Even though many of our staff have returned to our building, our support is now remote whenever possible. We're making the most of it, and doing pretty well, I think, but I welcome a time we can be safely together again.

Wolfgang Frese Survey Research Laboratory

In the past year, the Wolfgang Frese Survey Research Laboratory (SRL) collected data for twelve significant research projects. The SRL conducted two surveys in response to the global health pandemic. The first of these surveys assessed Mississippians' knowledge, attitudes, and practices concerning social distancing and their confidence in the state's ability to contain the spread of the virus. The second pandemic related survey focused on the Governor's efforts to increase access to broadband internet for children who were required to continue their education from home. This survey gauged the likelihood that customers of the 4-County Electric Power Association would subscribe to high speed internet if it was provided as a new service through the power company's existing infrastructure. Broadband internet service supplied through existing power lines is one of the fastest and most cost-effective approaches to providing high speed internet to rural areas that have few options for obtaining internet download speeds greater than 25 Mbps.

Aside from the two fast-tracked surveys in response to the health pandemic, the SRL continued collecting data for a wide range of research topics. The laboratory evaluated stakeholders' opinions of a national Oil Spill Workshop implemented by the Sea Grant programs and sponsored by the National Academy of Sciences. The SRL also documented the work history and challenges to employment of persons with visual impairments; recruited hundreds of individuals living in rural southeast Missouri to track their levels of physical activity; measured Mississippians' attitudes and opinions toward issues affecting children, such as education and access to healthcare; interviewed health care providers to better understand the practices of developmental health promotion, screening, and referral resources; measured the behaviors and opinions of Black Mississippians regarding nutrition, tobacco use, and infant feeding; evaluated public opinion of smoke-free options in Mississippi casinos; and measured the degree to which Mississippians live in smoke free homes, work in smoke free environments, and understand the health risks of using tobacco. Additionally, the SRL continued its work in collecting client satisfaction data for two state agencies that provide critical services to Mississippians in need. This year, the SRL completed its 18th annual client satisfaction survey for the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services and its 5th annual client satisfaction survey for the Mississippi Department of Mental Health.

The SRL has completed another successful year in contributing to the overall productivity of the Social Science Research Center. Dr. John F. Edwards began his thirteenth year of directing the SRL, with the continued assistance of Laura Grandfield as laboratory manager, Amanda Gochanour as research associate, and Izzy Pellegrine as programmer and methodologist. New staff members include Ashleigh Andrews and Grace Jaiyeola as shift supervisors. In the past year, the SRL also employed a staff of more than 40 telephone interviewers. Additionally, Dr. Wolfgang Frese continues to lend his expertise in survey methodology as an Emeritus Research Professor.

Mississippi COVID-19 Survey

In collaboration with the SRL, the Tobacco Control Unit at the Social Science Research Center designed a telephone-based survey to assess knowledge, attitudes, and practices concerning social

Distancing as well as confidence in the state's ability to handle the coronavirus outbreak. Additionally, the survey focused on the social distancing practices of tobacco users, given the evidence that smoking and vaping may increase the risk of a severe COVID-19 infection. This survey included responses from a representative sample of 1,200 adults residing in the state of Mississippi. Funding for this project was provided by the Mississippi State Department of Health.

4-County Electric Power Association Broadband Internet Survey

The SRL conducted a telephone-based survey on behalf of 4-County Electric Power Association. This probability-based survey included opinions from 400 Association members randomly selected from over 39,000 members who receive their electric service from 4-County. The purpose of this survey was to measure members' interest in subscribing to a 4-County broadband internet service if the Association built a broadband system that could provide internet services across 4-County's existing infrastructure.

Oil Spill Workshop Evaluation Survey

On behalf of the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, the SRL conducted a web-based survey of all participants of an Oil Spill Workshop implemented by the Sea Grant programs throughout the U.S. These workshops were sponsored by the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine's Gulf Research Program and the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative. The purpose of the survey was to measure the workshop participants' opinions regarding the relevancy of information provided by the workshop organizers and provide additional evaluation measures of workshop effectiveness.

NRTC Job Retention and Career Advancement Consumer Survey

On behalf of the National Research and Training Center on Blindness and Low Vision, the SRL conducted a survey of individuals with visual impairments. SRL interviewers conducted unstructured interviews with 35 respondents who were blind or visually impaired to gather information regarding their work history and any challenges to employment that they may have faced due to their disability.

Multilevel Approaches for Promoting Physical Activity in Rural Communities

The SRL continued its partnership with the Prevention Research Center at Washington University in St. Louis to collect data for a large-scale research project funded by the National Institutes of Health. The purpose of this research is to better understand the physical activity practices of people living in rural southeast Missouri. The SRL recruited an additional 500 survey respondents for participation in a telephone-based survey that tracks the respondents' levels of physical activity over a three year period. This data collection effort is establishing a baseline measure of the respondents' engagement in physical activity and will continue to track related constructs during and following intervention methods designed to increase the physical activity practices of residents in rural communities across Missouri.

2019 Mississippi Children Survey

The SRL conducted a statewide survey of Mississippian's attitudes and opinions toward issues affecting children, such as education and access to healthcare. This telephone-based survey included a representative sample of 400 adults residing in the state of Mississippi. Funding for this survey was provided by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

(Continued on the next page.)

Mississippi Health Practitioners Survey

On behalf of the Mississippi Thrive! project at the Social Science Research Center, the SRL conducted a survey of health care providers' opinions and practices around developmental health promotion, screening, and referral resources. This web-based survey of approximately 3,500 healthcare providers included pediatricians, physicians' assistants, and nurse practitioners across the state of Mississippi. Funding for this survey was provided by a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Survey for the Gulf Coast Healthy Families, Mothers, and Babies Initiative

In collaboration with the SRL, researchers from the Mississippi Public Health Institute designed a telephone-based survey to measure the behaviors and opinions of Black Mississippians regarding nutrition, tobacco use, and infant feeding. A telephone-based survey was administered to a representative sample of Black adults residing along the Mississippi Gulf Coast in Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties.

Public Opinion of Smoke-free Casinos in Mississippi

In collaboration with the SRL, the Tobacco Control Unit at the Social Science Research Center designed a telephone-based survey to measure public opinion of smoke-free options in Mississippi casinos. This survey included responses from a representative sample of 900 adults residing along the Mississippi Gulf Coast in Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties. Funding for this project was provided by the Mississippi State Department of Health.

2018 Northwest Arkansas Quality of Life Survey

On behalf of the Tobacco Control Unit at the Social Science Research Center, the SRL administered the Mississippi Social Climate Survey of Tobacco Control. Results from this survey assist researchers in better understanding the degree to which people in Mississippi live in smoke free homes, work in smoke free environments, understand the health risks using tobacco, and talk to their children about tobacco use. This telephone-based survey of the general public included a representative sample of 1,500 adults residing in the state of Mississippi. Funding for this research was provided by the Mississippi State Department of Health.

2019 Mississippi Vocational Rehabilitation Client Satisfaction Survey

On a quarterly basis, the SRL conducts telephone-based interviews with approximately 250 individuals who received vocational rehabilitation services from the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services (MDRS) during the prior 12 months. This client satisfaction data assists the MDRS in program evaluation and development.

2019 MDMH Client Satisfaction Survey

On behalf of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health (MDMH), the SRL conducted an online, tablet-based survey of client satisfaction. For a three-week period, all clients receiving mental health services throughout the state of Mississippi were provided with an opportunity to share their opinions about the quality of services they received from MDMH. The results of this survey are used to improve the quality of MDMH services.



Photo by Alan Burns.

Grants & Contracts

New Projects

- Baird-Thomas, C. (2020, June.) "Medicaid Access Project Evaluation," Mississippi Health Advocacy Program.
- Bethel, C. (2019, October). "CHS: Large: Collaborative Research: Participatory Design and Evaluation of Socially Assistive Robots for Use in Mental Health Services in Clinics and Patient Homes," National Science Foundation.
- Gardner, S. (2019, July). "Episcopal Community Services MindSet Program Evaluation," Episcopal Community Services.
- Gardner, S. (2019, July) "The Alliance Evaluation," Community Foundation for Mississippi.
- Gardner, S. (2020, January) "DYS 2019 Report," Mississippi Department of Human Services.
- Gardner, S. (2020, February) "2019 DMC Report," Department of Public Safety.
- Gardner, S. (2020, April) "Division of Youth Services Annual Report," Department of Human Services.
- Hanna, H., Baird-Thomas, C. (2019, September.) "HRSA Early Childhood Developmental Health System: Implementation in a High Need State," University of Mississippi Medical Center, Health Resources and Services Administration.
- McMillen, R. (2019, July). "Data Sets," American Academy of Pediatrics, Flight Attendant Medical Research Center.
- McMillen, D. L. (2019, July) "Pathfinder, Yr 21," Office of the Provost, Mississippi State University.
- McMillen, R. (2019, July.) "Surveillance and Evaluation Services for the Mississippi Comprehensive Tobacco Control Program," Mississippi State Department of Health.
- Porter, B. (2020, May.) "Analysis Contract with Mississippi Office of Highway Safety," Mississippi Office of Highway Safety, Mississippi Department of Public Safety.
- Ragsdale, K. & Read-Wahidi, M. (2019, September). "Focus 4 Teens Evaluation, Year 5," Mississippi First, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Ragsdale, K. & Read-Wahidi, M. (2019, November.) "GRADA FIL Year 1," USAID.
- Ragsdale, K. & Read-Wahidi, M. (2019, November.) "USAID Soy Year 7," University of Illinois U.S. Agency for the International Development.
- Robertson, A. (2019, July) "20th Circuit Adult Drug Court Treatment Enhancement Project," Madison County Court, SAMHSA.
- Robertson, A. (2019, July.) "Asthma Control Program Evaluation Year 3 Extension," Mississippi State Department of Health, CDC.
- Robertson, A. (2019, October.) "Evaluation of the Second Chance Act Re-Entry Program for Adults with Co-occurring Substance Abuse and Mental Health Disorders Competitive Grant," MS Department of Mental Health, U.S. Department of Mental Health.
- Walker, B. (2019, August) "Economic Impact of Mississippi Grants & Philanthropy," Louisiana State University, Mississippi Association of Grantmakers.
- Walker, B. (2020, January.) "Mississippi Kids Count Data Partnership," Children's Foundation of Mississippi- The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Ongoing Projects

Baird-Thomas, C. & Southward, L. (2019, April). "Vroom Outreach Project," Bezos Family Foundation.

Cossman, R. E. (2018, September). "Mississippi HPV Vaccination Promotion, Year 5," National AHEC, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Gardner, S. (2019, March). "Rankin County Youth Court Drug Court Evaluation," Rankin County Youth Court, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency.

Hanna, H. & Baird-Thomas, C. (2018, September). "HRSA Early Childhood Development Health System: Implementation in a High Need State," University of Mississippi Medical Center, Health Resources and Services Administration.

Haana, H. & Southward, L. (2019, January). "Mississippi KIDS COUNT," Annie E. Casey Foundation.

McMillen, R. (2018, August). "Smoke-free Policy Disparities and Outcomes in Rural communities in Southern States," University of Kentucky College of Nursing, National Institutes of Health.

Robertson, A. A. (2019, April). "Evaluation of the Second Chance Act Re-Entry Program for Adults with Co-occurring Substance Abuse and Mental Health Disorders," Mississippi Department of Mental Health, United States Department of Justice.

Ragsdale, K. (2017, September). "Focus4Teens Evaluation, Year 4," Mississippi First, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Ragsdale, K. & Read-Wahidi, M. (2019, March). "Fish 4 Zambia," US Agency on International Development.

Ragsdale, K. & Read-Wahidi, M. (2018, November). "USAID Soy Project, Year 6," University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, US Agency on International Development.

Robertson, A. A., Fountain, B., & Baird-Thomas, C. (2018, September). "Advancing, Inspiring, Motivation for Community Health through Extension (AIM for CHANGE)," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Walker, B. (2019, March). "Mississippi School Health Council Technical Assistance Project, Year 5," Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi, W. K. Kellogg Foundation.

Publications

Peer Reviewed & Book Chapters

Becan, J. E., Fisher, J. H., Johnson, I. D., Bartkowski, J. P., Seaver, R., Gardner, S. K., Aarons, G. A., Renfro, T. L., Muiruri, R., Blackwell, L. F., Piper, K. N., Wiley, T. A., & Knight, D. K. (2020). Improving Substance Use Services for Juvenile Justice-Involved Youth: Complexity of Process Improvement Plans in a Large Scale Multi-Site Study. *Administration and Policy in Mental Health and Mental Health Services Research (APMH)*, 47(1), 501-514. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10488-019-01007-z>

Brittain, A.W., Tevendale, H.D., Mueller, T., Kulkarni, A.D., Middleton, D., Garrison, M.L.B., Read-Wahidi, M.R., & Koumans, E.H. (2019). The Teen Access and Quality Initiative: Improving adolescent reproductive health best practices in publicly funded health centers. *Journal of Community Health*, 1-11. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10900-019-00781-z>.

Cawood, M., Grossi, B., Koontz, V., Arrigona, N., Robertson, A., Blackwell, L., Scanu-Hansen, T., Hammersly, K., Schmaus, G., Steele, E. H., & Welsh, W. N. (In Press). Response to JJ-TRIALS Implementation and Collaboration: Impressions and Recommendations by Juvenile Justice Partners. *Journal of Applied Juvenile Justice Services*.

Dennis, M.L., Smith, C.N., Belenko, S., Knight, D., McReynolds, L., Rowan, G., Dembo, R., DiClemente, R., Robertson, A., & Wiley, T. (2019). Operationalizing a behavioral health services cascade of care model: Lessons learned from a 33-site implementation in juvenile justice community supervision. *Federal Probation Journal*, 83(2), 52-64.

Dozier, M. E. & Porter, B. (Forthcoming). Prevalence of probably hoarding and associated consequences at the scene of Mississippi fires, 2009-2019. *Journal of Public Health in the Deep South*.

Elkington, K. S., Robertson, A. A., Knight, D. K., Gardner, S. K., Funk, R., Dennis, M., Oser, C. B. & DiClemente, R. J. (2020). HIV/STI service delivery within juvenile community supervision agencies: A National survey of practices and approaches to moving high risk youth through the HIV care cascade." *AIDS Patient Care and STDs*, 34(2), 72-80. <https://doi.org/10.1089/apc.2019.0157>.

Elkington, K. S., Spaulding, A., Gardner, S. K., Knight, D. K., Belenko, S., Becan, J. E., Robertson, A. A., Oser, C. B., & DiClemente, R. J. (2020). A system-level intervention to encourage collaboration between juvenile justice and public health agencies to promote HIV/STI testing. *AIDS Education & Prevention*. 34(2), 72-80. DOI: 10.1089/apc.2019.0157.

Gardner, S. K., Elkington, K. S., Knight, D. K., Huang, S., DiClemente, R. J., Spaulding, A. C., Oser, C. B., Robertson, A. A., & Baird-Thomas, C. (2019). Juvenile Justice Staff Attitudes about HIV/STI Prevention, Testing, and Treatment Linkage. *Health & Justice*, 7(15), 1-8. doi.org/10.1186/s40352-019-0096-7.

Green, J.J., H. Hanna, L. Woo, R. Haggard, and A. Buffington. 2019. "Using Community Engagement Approaches to Bolster 2020 Census Participation." *Choices*. Quarter 4.

Guttmann, K., Flibotte, J., DeMauro, S. B., & Seitz, H. (2020). A mixed methods analysis of parental perspectives on diagnosis and prognosis of NICU graduates with cerebral palsy. *Journal of Child Neurology*, 35, 336-343. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0883073820901412>.

Huang, S., Gardner, S. K., Piper, K. N. Coleman, A. S., Becan, J. E., Robertson, A. A., & Elkington, K. S. (Forthcoming). Bridging systems to implement HIV/STI programming within the juvenile justice system: Strengths and challenges of a local change team approach. *AIDS Education and Prevention*.

McMillen R, Klein JD, Wilson K, Winickoff JP, Tanski S. (2019). E-Cigarette Use and Future Cigarette Initiation Among Never Smokers and Relapse Among Former Smokers in the PATH Study. *Public Health Reports*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0033354919864369>.

McMillen R, Winickoff JP, Gottlieb M, Tanski S, Wilson K, Klein JD. (2019). Public support for smoke-free section 8 public housing. *Western Journal of Nursing Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0193945919826238>.

Nichols, C.R., Wright, L.D., Bainbridge, S.J., Cosby, A., Hénaff, A., Loftis, J.D., Cocquempot L., Katragadda S., Mendez G.R., Letortu P., Dantec N.L., Resio D. & Zarillo G. (2019). *Collaborative Science to Enhance Coastal Resilience and Adaptation*. *Front. Mar. Sci.* 6(404). <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2019.00404>.

Pourebahim, N., Sultana, S., Edwards, J. F., Gochanour, A., & Mohanty, S. (2019). Understanding Communication Dynamics on Twitter During Natural Disasters: A Case Study of Hurricane Sandy. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, 37(1-19).

Radican-Wald, A., Edwards, J. F., Parrish, D. R., & Gochanour, A. (2019). Policies on Hand-Held Mobile Device Use While Driving: Considerations for Mississippi. *Journal of Public Health*.

Health in the Deep South, 1(1).

Robertson, A. A., Fang, Z., Weiland, D., Joe, G., Gardner, S., Dembo, R., McReynolds, L., Dickson, M., Pankow, J., Dennis, M., & Elkington, K. (2020). Recidivism among Justice-Involved Youth: Findings from JJ-TRIALS. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 47(9), 1059-1078 <https://doi.org/10.1177/0093854820922891>.

Robertson, A. A., Hiller, M., Dembo, R., Dennis, M., Scott, C., Henry, B. F., & Elkington, K. S. (2019). National survey of juvenile community supervision agency practices and caregiver involvement in behavioral health treatment. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10826-019-01488-4>.

Robertson, A., Xu, X., & Morse, D. (2019). Interagency Relationships and Juvenile Justice Referrals to Substance Use Services. In Garets, M., Archer, S., Kitchens, C., Cochran, G., & Gordon, A. J. The 2019 Addiction Health Services Conference: Insights, review, and abstracts. *Substance Abuse*, 40(4), 469-472 (Supp 113). PMID: 31847783.

Robertson, A. A., Zhou, Q. M., Tatch, A., & Walsh, M. (2019). Gender-Specific Predictors of Recidivism among DUI Offenders. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*, 80(6), 641-650.

Shope, T. R., Walker, B. H., Aird, L., Southward, L. H., & Martin, J. M. (2019). Influenza Vaccine Requirements in US Child Care Centers. *J Ped Infect Dis*.

Smith, C. N., & Seitz, H. H. (2019). Correcting misinformation about neuroscience via social media. *Science Communication*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1075547019890073>.

Steen, J., Robertson, M. N., Seitz, H., Downey, L., Hardman, A., & Buys, D. (2019). Addressing the opioid epidemic: Defining Cooperative Extension's role [Ideas at Work]. *Journal of Extension*, 57. <https://joe.org/joe/2019december/iw3.php>.

Surbhi, Satya, Brooks, Ian M., Shuvo, Sohul, Zareie, Parya, Tolley, Elizabeth A., Cossman, Ronald E., Leak, Cardella, Davis, Robert, Stewart, Altha, J., and Bailey, James E., "A Mid-South Chronic Disease Registry and Practice-based Research Network to Address Disparities." *The American Journal of Managed Care*. 26(7):e211-e218. DOI: 10.37765/ajmc.2020.43764.

Swanson, D., & Cossman, R. E. A Simple Method for Estimating the Number of Unconfirmed COVID-19 Cases in a Local Area that Includes a Confidence Interval: A Case Study

of Whatcom County, Washington. *medRxiv, the Preprint Server for Health Sciences*. <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.04.30.20086181v1>.

Valentine N, McClelland E, McMillen R. (2019). Smoke-free local ordinances and household policies protect youth from combustible tobacco, but ordinances appear to have little impact on non-combustible tobacco use. *Children*, 4, DOI:10.3390/children6030044.

Project & Policy Publications

Kolbila, R., Ragsdale, K., Read-Wahidi, M.R., & Clark, K. (2020, May). Women's Thresher Project Evaluation: Preliminary Results Report (Technical Report). USAID and the Feed the Future Soybean Innovation Lab. 16 pg. <http://soybeaninnovationlab.illinois.edu/sites/soybeaninnovationlab.illinois.edu/files/thresher-eval-prelim-results.pdf>.

Kolbila, R., Ragsdale, K., Read-Wahidi, M.R., & Clark, K. (2020, May). Women's Thresher Project Evaluation: Benefits of Women-Led Thresher Micro Enterprises in Ghana (Technical Brief). USAID and the Feed the Future Soybean Innovation Lab. 2 pg. <http://soybeaninnovationlab.illinois.edu/files/thresher-eval-brief.pdf>.

Long, Bradley. 2020, May. What's Your Routine? How to Thrive With Your Child As Their World Changes. *Parents & Kids Magazine*. Page 28. Online publication.

Long, L. & Gardner, S. (2019, December). Mississippi Thrive!: A Multi-Institutional Partnership to Improve Children's Developmental Health. Brief prepared for MS Department of Health, Office of Childcare Licensure with Director's Orientation Training Evaluation Results.

Martin, H. (2020, May). A whole new world. *Parents & Kids Magazine*. Page 23. Online publication.

Martin, H. (2020). One Day at a Time. <https://mississippithrive.com/parents-families/>.

Mississippi KIDS COUNT Project Team. (January 2020). 2020 Mississippi KIDS COUNT Fact Book. Place: n.p. Publication developed for the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Available at: <https://kidscount.sscc.msstate.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/KC-Factbook-2020.pdf>.

Mississippi KIDS COUNT Project Team. (January 2020). 2020 Mississippi KIDS COUNT Legislative Countdown Calendar. Place: n.p. Publication developed for the Annie E.

Publications

Casey Foundation. Available at: <https://kidscount.ssrc.msstate.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Final-2020-Calendar.pdf>.

Ragsdale, K., (2020, January 6). Fish4Zambia Builds Capacity Through Student Fieldwork Training. Feed the Future Fish Innovation Laboratory website. <https://www.fishinnovationlab.msstate.edu/newsroom/2020/01/fish4zambia-builds-capacity-through-student-fieldwork-training>.

Ragsdale, K., Marinda, P., Read-Wahidi, M.R., Pincus, L., & Torell, E. (2019, August 28). Fish4Zambia Trip Report: July 14- July 28. USAID, Feed the Future Fish Innovation Lab for Fish, Social Science Research Center, Mississippi State University. 22 pp.

Ragsdale, K., Marinda, P., Read-Wahidi, M.R., Pincus, L., Torell, E., Kolbila, R., Mulilo, T., Sakapaji, R., Tembo, M., & Ingouf, L. (2019, November 18). Fish4Zambia Report: Gender Disaggregated WEFI Results: Research in Zambia's Lake Bangweulu Region among Fishers, Processors and Traders. USAID, Feed the Future Fish Innovation Lab for Fish, Social Science Research Center, Mississippi State University. 41 pp.

Ragsdale, K., Read-Wahidi, M.R., Rico Méndez, G., & Lower, K. (2019). The State of Soybean in Africa Series: Why Gender and Land Matter – Examples from Rural Ghana. FarmDoc Daily (9):204, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. <https://farmdocdaily.illinois.edu/2019/10/the-state-of-soybean-in-africa-why-gender-and-land-matter-examples-from-rural-ghana.html>.

Read-Wahidi M, Ragsdale K. (2019, November 26). GRADA-SIL: Gender Responsive Agricultural Development Assessment, 2019 Results from Feed the Future Soybean Innovation Lab Implementing Partners. USAID, Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Soybean Value Chain Research, Social Science Research Center, Mississippi State University. 38 pp.

Robertson, A. A., & Steele, E. H. (2019, October). Impact of Parent Representation in Child Protection Cases. Report to the Mississippi Children's Justice Commission, Mississippi State Supreme Court. Social Science Research Center, Mississippi State University.

Robertson, A. A., Steele, E. H., & Gresham, K. (2019, April). Letting Teachers Talk: Results of the Teacher Survey on Student Testing. Report to the Mississippi Department of Education, Student Testing Task Force. Social Science Research Center, Mississippi State University.

Sinclair, C. (2020). 10 Ways to Spot Online Misinformation. The Conversation. theconversation.com/10-ways-to-spot-online-misinformation-132246.

Swanson, D. & Cossman, R.E. (2020, April 14). How Many Unconfirmed Cases of COVID-19 are in Whatcom County? NorthWest Citizen. <https://nwcitizen.com/entry/how-many-unconfirmed-cases-of-covid-19-are-in-whatcom-county>.

Swanson, D. & Cossman, R.E. (2020, June 27). Revisiting the Estimation of Unconfirmed Cases of COVID-19 in Whatcom County. NorthWest Citizen. <https://nwcitizen.com/entry/revisiting-the-estimation-of-unconfirmed-cases-of-covid-19-in-whatcom-county>.

Presentations

Brown, D., Pellegrine, S., Walker, B. Southward, L., & Buttross, S. (2019, November). Predictors of Early Childhood Developmental Screening and Surveillance in Mississippi and the United States. Poster presented at the 2019 American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.

Cossman, Ronald E. (2019, August). Place Predicts Need: Predicting Unmet Healthcare Needs in Small Populations. Presented at the Second Annual Delta Clinical and Translational Science Health Disparities Conference, University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson, MS. Conference sponsored by The University of Mississippi Medical Center, Tulane University, and The University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

Gardner, S. K. (2019, July). Examining the Mediating Effect of Substance Use Treatment Services Receipt on the Relationship between Treatment Need and Recidivism Rates for Justice-involved Youth in Participating JJ-TRIALS Sites. Presented at the International Academy of Law and Mental Health. Rome, Italy.

Gjika, A. & Stubbs-Richardson, M. (2019, November). Digital feminist activism and narratives of gender-based violence in the #MeToo movement. Presented at the American Society of Criminology in San Francisco, CA.

Green, J., Hanna, H., & Turner, S. (2019, August). The 2020 Census: Why it Matters for YOUR Community and How You Can Help. Webinar presented to MSU Extension agents, faculty and staff.

Green, J. J., Woo, L., Hanna, H. L., & Turner, S. (2020, February). Outreach and Community Engagement for the 2020 Census: Insights from Mississippi and Beyond. Poster presentation at the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Southern Rural Sociological Association.

Hanna, H. & Hicks, K. (Feb 2020). Mississippi Complete Count Committee Education Subcommittee 2020 Census Webinar.

Loehwing, M. (2019, November). Amazon's CamperForce: Selling Housing Insecurity as a Retirement Lifestyle. Presented at the National Communication Association Convention, Baltimore, MD.

Loehwing, M., (2019). Safety and Justice: How Should Communities Reduce Violence. Community forum with MSU Holmes Cultural Diversity Center.

Loehwing, M., (2019, October). Tiny Houses for the Homeless: Reinventing Housing Assistance as Picturesque Poverty. Invited presentation at the annual Distinguished Alumni Lecture for the Department of English at Indiana University.

Long, B. & Long, L. (2019, November) Become a Brain Builder: Understanding the importance of supporting early development. Presented to the Mississippi Migrant Education Service Center Staff at Mississippi State University.

Long, L. (2020, February). How to build young children's brains by using Serve and Return interactions.

Presented at Family Engagement Seminar of Early Childhood Academy/MS Community College Board at MS Gulf Coast Community College.

Long, L. (2020, February). Mississippi Thrive! exhibit booth, Early Childhood Academy meeting for the Mississippi Community College Board.

Long, L. (2020, June) MIECHV Healthy Families Mississippi Training: BRAIN BUILDING: Supporting Early Childhood Development. Presented virtually through Zoom platform to Maternal and Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting Program / Healthy Families Mississippi staff.

Long, L. & Martin, H. (2019 October) Preparing to Launch: How to Become an Early Years Brain Builder for K-3 Success. Presented to Save the Children Mississippi Staff and Regional Managers at the Save the Children Summit in Jackson, MS.

Long, L. & Martin, H.. (2019, November) Mississippi Thrive!. Presented to the Jackson Campaign for Grade-Level Reading at the United Way of the Capital Area office, Jackson, MS.

Long, L. & Poole, C. (2019, July) Serve and Return: How to build young children's brains by using Serve and Return Interactions. Presented to the Early Childhood Annual Conference sponsored by MDE, Office of Early Childhood and Head Start in Natchez, MS.

Long, L. & Poole, C. (2019, July)) Become a Brain Builder: Understanding the importance of supporting early development.

Presentations

Presented to the Mississippi Association for Career and Technical Education Annual Conference in Jackson, MS.

Long, L. & Poole, C. (2019, October) How to build young children's brains by using Serve and Return Interactions. Presented to the Mississippi Early Childhood Association Annual Conference in Jackson, MS.

Long, L. & Poole, C. (2019, October) Become a Brain Builder: Understanding the importance of supporting early development. Presented to the Mississippi Early Childhood Association Annual Conference in Jackson, MS.

Long, L. & Smith, J. (2019, August) Director's Orientation. Presented to childcare providers as part of Mississippi Department of Health, Office of Childcare Licensure training for childcare center directors and staff in Pascagoula, MS.

Long, L. & Townes, A. (2020, February). Mississippi Thrive! exhibit booth, Jackson Association for Children Under Six Conference in Brandon, MS.

Long, L. & Westbrook, A. (2019, July) Become a Brain Builder: Understanding the importance of supporting early development. Presented to the Early Childhood Conference sponsored by MDE, Office of Early Childhood and Head Start in Natchez, MS.

Long, L. & White, S. (2019, August) Supporting Early Childhood Development. Presented to childcare providers who were part

of HRSA Pilot Study in Gulfport, MS.

Long, L. & White, S. (2020, January) Brain Building Partners: How to engage families in understanding early brain development and supporting their children's early developmental health. Presented at Connected for Success Conference sponsored by the Mississippi Early Childhood Academy and the Mississippi Community College Board in Biloxi, MS.

Long, L. & White, S., Townes, A. Hannah, H., Oliveros, A. (2019, September). Mississippi Thrive! exhibit booth, Help Me Grow "Books, Balls, and Blocks" in Jackson, MS.

Louine, J. L. & Gardner, S. K. (2019, October). Without a Trace: Identifying Police-Involved Death Victims in the United States, 2013-2016. Presented at the Mid-South Sociological Association Conference, Jackson, MS.

Mack, M., Utley, J. W., & Sinclair, H. C., (2020, February). Swipe White: Examining the Links between Implicit and Explicit Biases and Race-Based Dating Preferences. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, New Orleans, LA.

Marinda, P., & Ragsdale, K. (2019, September). Talent is Universal; Opportunity is Not: Why Gender Equity and Youth Inclusion are Vital for Aquaculture and Fisheries Development. Presented at Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Fish, Virtual Platform Meeting, Mississippi State University.

Martin, H. (2020, May). Make Every Moment Matter! Turn Everyday Moments into Brain-Building Moments with Vroom®! Virtually presented at Excel by 5 Mid Mississippi Cohort.

Martin, H. (2020, May). Make Every Moment Matter! Turn Everyday Moments into Brain-Building Moments with Vroom®! Virtually presented at Excel by 5 South Mississippi Cohort.

Martin, H. (2019, August) Vroom® exhibit booth, "Caring for Your Newborn" North Mississippi Medical Center in Tupelo, MS.

Martin, H. (2019, September) Vroom® for Home Visitors. Presented to the Healthy Families Mississippi Annual Conference in Jackson, MS.

Martin, H. (2019, September) Vroom® exhibit booth, Mississippi Literacy Summit in Jackson, MS.
Martin, H. (2019, October) Vroom®: Brain Building. Presented to the Mississippi Early Childhood Association Annual Conference in Jackson, MS.

Martin, H. (2019, October) Vroom®: A Tool to Promote Brain Building at Home. Presented to the Mississippi Department of Education Annual Parent Conference in Jackson, MS.
Martin, H. (2020, February) Vroom® Brain Building Basics™ Presented to the Northeast Mississippi Early Childhood Association Quarterly Conference in New Albany, MS.

Martin, H. (2020, February) Vroom®: A Tool to Promote Brain Building at Home. Presented to Baby University at The Delta Hub in

Presentations

Clarksdale, MS.

Martin, H. (2020, March) Vroom®: A Tool to Promote Brain Building at Home. Presented to the Best Early Education Practices Conference at Meridian Community College in Meridian, MS.

Martin, H. (2020, June) MIECHV Healthy Families Mississippi Training: Be a part of Vroom®. Presented virtually through Zoom platform to Maternal and Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting Program/Healthy Families Mississippi staff.

Martin, H. (2020, June) Vroom® Community Activation. Presented virtually through Zoom platform to Early Childhood Academies staff.

Martin, H.; Poole, C.; & White, S. (2019, August) Supporting Early Childhood Development. Presented to Nugent Child Care Center in Gulfport, MS.

McClelland, E. (2019, August). JUUL Awareness, Trial, and Continued Use Among Undergraduate Students in Mississippi. Presented at the 2019 National Conference on Tobacco OR Health, Minneapolis, MN.

McMillen, R. (2019, August). The Mississippi Experience, 1998 to 2018. Poster presented at the 2019 National Conference on Tobacco OR Health, Minneapolis, MN.

McMillen, R. (2019, August). Facts from the Field: Use of Tobacco and Vape Products Among College Students and Adults. Presented at the University and College Tobacco-Free Campus Collaborative. Hosted

by the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation.

McMillen, R, Valentine, N, McClelland, E, & Gorzkowski, J. (2019, October). Smoke-Free Ordinances and Policies Protect Youth, but Ordinances Appear to Have Little Impact on Non-Combustible Tobacco Use. Poster presented at the 2019 AAP National Conference and Exhibition, Section on Tobacco Control, New Orleans, LA.

McMillen R, Valentine N, & McClelland E. (2019, October). Who uses Pod-Based E-Cigarettes? Adult cigarette smokers or Adolescents? Paper presented at the annual conference of the Mississippi Public Health Association, Jackson, MS.

McMillen R. (2019, October). Vaping: The Knowns Knowns, the Known Unknowns, and the Unknowns Unknowns. Invited presentation at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Mississippi Public Health Association, Jackson, MS.

McMillen, R. (2020, February.) Invited speaker at the 2020 Vaping Summit. Presented at EnrichMS and funded by the Mississippi State Department of Health, Jackson, MS.

Mims, R., Sinclair, H. C., & Utley, J. W., (2020, February). Just friends? Examining the Effects of Norm Violations on Same- and Cross-Sex Friendships among Individuals in Dating Relationships. Poster to be presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference. New Orleans, LA.

Payne, M., Sinclair, H. C., & Utley, J. W. (2020, February). Gender differences in the Social Network

Effect. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference. New Orleans, LA.

Penniman, G., Utley, J. W., & Sinclair, H. C. (2020, February). Partners in Crime: Comparing Dyadic vs. Individual Prosocial and Antisocial Responses to a Cyberball Paradigm. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference. New Orleans, LA.

Poole, C. & Holder, G., (2019, November.) Mississippi Thrive! Child Health & Development Project Table. Exhibit booth presented at the Mississippi Perinatal Quality Collaborative Annual Conference, Jackson, MS.

Ragsdale, K., Pincus, L., Read-Wahidi, M.R., Marinda, P., Torell, E. & Mulilo, T. (2019, July). Fish4Zambia WEFI: Training Workshop for Enumerators: Closing Fish Consumption and Nutrition Gaps in Zambia. Presented for USAID Feed the Future Fish Innovation Lab, Samfya, Zambia.

Ragsdale, K., Marinda, P., & Mulilo, T. (2019, July). Training Workshop: Using Tablets to Collect the Women's Empowerment in Fisheries Index (WEFI). Presented to Zambian Department of Fisheries Field Agents, Samfya, Zambia.

Ragsdale, K. & Read-Wahidi, M., (2020, February). Invited speakers at CDC and Teen Health Mississippi's visit to Clarksdale, MS. Ragsdale, K. & Read-Wahidi, M., (2020, February). Invited speakers at the Feed the Future Soybean Innovation Lab Year 6 Annual Retreat and Board Meeting,

Presentations

Champaign, IL.

Ragsdale, K. & Read-Wahidi, M., (2020, February). Invited speakers at the WorldFish- supported Nutrition-Sensitive Fish Agri-Food Systems Workshop, Zambia.

Robertson, A. A. & Gardner, S. K. (2019, August). What Can We Do About Disproportionate Minority Contact? Presented at the 42nd Juvenile Justice Symposium. Biloxi, MS.

Robertson, A., Xu, X., & Morse, D. (2019, October). Interagency Relationships and Juvenile Justice Referrals to Substance Use Services. Presented at the Addiction Health Services Conference, Park City, UT.

Robertson, M. N., Seitz, H. H., Downey, L. H., Hardman, A., Steen, J., Williams, D., Stone, A., & Buys, D. (2019, November). Increasing Uptake of Prescription Drug Take-Back Boxes: Eliciting Preferences and Applying the Theory of Planned Behavior to Predict Use. Poster presented at the 2019 American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.

Robertson, M. N., Hardman, A., Downey, L., Seitz, H., Stone, A., Williams, D., Steen, J., & Buys, D. (2019, November). Applying the Theory of Planned Behavior to Predict Intention to Talk about Opioids with Family Members. Paper presented at the 2019 National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference, Fort Worth, TX.

Seitz, H., (2020, February). Facilitating Undergraduate Engagement in Research. Invited

speaker at the Mississippi Communication Association Annual Meeting, Jackson, MS.

Seitz, H. H., Robertson, M. N., Steen, J., Downey, L., Hardman, A., Stone, A., & Buys, D. (2019, November). A Formative Research Approach to Developing Prescription Opioid Misuse Prevention Messages. Presentation given at the National Communication Association 105th Annual Convention, Baltimore, MD.

Sherman-Morris, K., Seitz, H. H., Strawderman, L., & Warkentin, M. (2020, January). Perceived Costs Associated with Protective Actions across Multiple Threats. Poster presented at the American Meteorological Society 100th Annual Meeting, Boston, MA.

Stouffer, C., (2020, June). Tobacco Reporting & Progress System training. Virtually presented to Quitline, Optum.

Stouffer, C., (2020, June). Tobacco Reporting & Progress System training. Virtually presented to the Division for Youth Programs.

Stouffer, C., (2020, June). Tobacco Reporting & Progress System training. Virtually presented to Rural Health.

Stubbs-Richardson, M., Barranco, R. E., Brink, J. N., Nelson, S. L., Johnson, T. A., Reid, A. L., Stokes, E., & May, D. C. (2019, September). Not your Typical Social Media Influencer: Exploring the Who, What, and Where of Islamic State Online Propaganda. Presented at the Southern Criminal Justice Association conference, Nashville, TN.

Stubbs-Richardson, M., Gilbreath, S., Smith, D., Reid, A., May, D. (2020). Incidental Findings in Open Source Intelligence Research. Presented at the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, Atlanta, GA.

Valentine, N, McClelland, E, & McMillen, R. (2019, August). Changing Tobacco Trends in Mississippi. Poster presented at the 2019 National Conference on Tobacco OR Health, Minneapolis, MN.

Utle, J. W. & Sinclair, H. C., (2020, February). "...Better to be in the Plastics, hating life, than to not be in at all": Comparing intergroup and intragroup bullying among student cliques. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, New Orleans, LA.

Yigit, Ismail., Brown, D., Walker, B., Pellegrine, S., Baird-Thomas, C., Hanna, H., & Buttross, S. (2020). Perceived Barriers to Developmental Screening among Children Ages 0-5: Results from a Statewide Survey of Health Care Providers in Mississippi. Abstract accepted for virtual presentation at the American Public Health Association annual meeting.

Yigit, Ismail. (2020, June). Discrimination Against Minorities: Minneapolis Vs Gezi Park. Invited virtual speaker on an Instagram influencer's account.

Awards & Recognitions

Dr. Cindy Bethel

- Elected to the Computing Research Association (CRA) Board of Directors. Read more about the position at cra.org/2020-board-election-results-and-new-appointed-board-members/.
- Named an Assistant Vice President Intern with the Mississippi State University Office of Research and Economic Development.
- Named as one of the “World’s 50 Most Renowned Women in Robotics” by Analytics Insight magazine. The recognition comes in the magazine’s June 2020 edition. Read more about Dr. Bethel by following this link, www.bagley.msstate.edu/news/bethel-named-among-worldwide-leaders-in-robotics/.

Dr. Art Cosby

- Co-author of the American Public Health Association 2019 paper of the year. Growth and Persistence of Place-based Mortality in the United States: The Rural Mortality Penalty is authored by Dr. Art Cosby, SSRC director; Dr. M. Maya McDoom-Echebiri, a former post-doctorate research fellow; Dr. Wesley James, a former post-doctorate research fellow; Hasna Khandekar, a former undergraduate research assistant; Willie Brown, a former research associate, and Dr. Heather Hanna, an assistant research professor.
- Appointed by Dr. David Shaw to serve on a Health Task Force to explore how MSU can best fulfill its land-grant mission of teaching, research, and service through a comprehensive transdisciplinary program in the area of health.

Dr. Ronald E. Cossman

- Reviewer for a fast-tracked manuscript “Impact of Local Care Environment and Social Characteristics on Aggregated Hospital-Fatality Rate from COVID-19 in France: Nationwide Observational Study” for The British Medical Journal. BMJ uses a compulsory open peer review process, in which both authors and reviewers are known.

Emile Creel

- Recognized at the 2019 Starkville/MSU Public Relations Association of Mississippi awards ceremony with a PRISM award for the 2019 Annual Report.
- Awarded a Certificate of Merit at the Public Relations Association of Mississippi awards ceremony for the 2019 Annual Report.

Sarah Dulaney

- Accepted into the Promoting Recruitment Opportunities in Medicine with Individual Study Experiences (PROMISE) program at the University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Medicine. Ms. Dulaney, an undergraduate research assistant in the SSRC Message Laboratory, is a sophomore Provost Scholar majoring in Microbiology on a pre-med track with a minor in Sociology.

Dr. John F. Edwards

- Featured in a story on the MSU newsroom for their survey work concerning the COVID-19 pandemic. Read the article at <https://bit.ly/2yGWAHj>.

Dr. Heather Hanna

- Asked by Committee Chairman, Sen. Giles Ward, to chair the Education Subcommittee of the Census 2020 Mississippi Complete Count Committee. As chair, she convenes and informs 25 state education leaders from universities, community colleges, K-12, child care, and non-profits.
- Highlighted in a Conversation article discussing populations most at risk of not being counted in the 2020 census. Find the article at <https://bit.ly/2L2tTOa>.

Malavika Jinka

- Received a First Place Award for her poster presentation at the 2019 MSU Graduate Research Symposium held on October 5th at Mississippi State University. Ms. Jinka is a SSRC GRA and Applied Anthropology Masters student.

Robert Kolbila

- Received a Third Place Award for his oral presentation at the 2019 MSU Graduate Research Symposium held on October 5th at Mississippi State University. Mr. Kolbila is an SSRC GRA and Sociology PhD student.

Dr. Emily Broad Leib

- Named a clinical professor of law at Harvard Law School. Read more about her and her appointment in this Harvard Law Today article, today.law.harvard.edu/emily-broad-leib-named-clinical-professor-of-law/. Dr. Leib is an SSRC research fellow and former delta fellow.

Awards & Recognitions

Dr. Melanie Loehwing

- Awarded the National Communication Association's 2019 Diamond Anniversary Book Award for her recently published book, *Homeless Advocacy and the Rhetorical Construction of the Civic Home* (Penn State University Press, 2018). Given annually, the award honors the most outstanding scholarly book(s) published during the previous two years. <https://www.msstate.edu/newsroom/article/2019/09/msu-faculty-members-research-homelessness-wins-national-book-award>.
- Awarded the 2020 MSU College of Arts & Sciences Research Award in the Humanities.

Dr. Robert McMillen

- Interviewed by WJTV as part of their coverage of a recent Vaping Summit. Read the story at <https://www.wjtv.com/top-stories/vaping-summit-aims-to-educate-mississippians-on-dangers/?fbclid=IwAR030FAXI2w6tgrp6H65jR1PkZ4Xvz8M1CAxPfVeUkqxfWqPei3O6vC6z8g>.
- Featured in a story on the MSU newsroom for their survey work concerning the COVID-19 pandemic. Read the article at <https://bit.ly/2yGWAHj>.

Aubrey Parrish

- Presented her research at the summer MSU Undergraduate Research Symposium. Her project, "Effects of Body-Positive Marketing on Brand Success," won second place in the Social Sciences Division. Dr. Holli Seitz is her faculty mentor. Ms. Parrish was a summer intern for the SSRC Message Laboratory.

Dr. Kathleen Ragsdale

- Work with Fish for Zambia was shared in the USAID's Agrilinks newsletter. https://www.agrilinks.org/post/identifying-barriers-nutrition-zambias-lake-bangweulu-fishing-camps?utm_

Dr. Mary Read-Wahidi

- Work with Fish for Zambia was shared in the USAID's Agrilinks newsletter. https://www.agrilinks.org/post/identifying-barriers-nutrition-zambias-lake-bangweulu-fishing-camps?utm_

Dr. Angela Robertson

- Asked by the MS Department of Public Safety to serve on the Mississippi Human Trafficking Council, Policy & Legislative Subcommittee.

Dr. Holli Seitz

- Received the Distinguished Team Award from the Rho Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi, an organization for Extension professionals as part of the PROMISE Initiative (Preventing Opioid Misuse in the Southeast),
- Received funding from the Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) Event Sponsorship Program to develop a Mississippi Science Communication Summit, to be hosted in Fall 2020.
- Selected as the 2020 recipient of the MSU Alumni Association's Early Career Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Award. More information is available at <https://www.msstate.edu/newsroom/article/2020/05/msu-announces-annual-faculty-staff-academic-award-recipients>.
- Interviewed by Hearst Television for a national segment on viral COVID-19 public service announcements. The segment can be viewed at <https://www.kcra.com/article/coronavirus-psas-the-newest-trend-thats-going-viral/32227037>.
- Appointed by Dr. David Shaw to serve on a Health Task Force to explore how MSU can best fulfill its land-grant mission of teaching, research, and service through a comprehensive transdisciplinary program in the area of health.

Dr. David Swanson

- Featured author for *Population Review* for the month of July along with two co-authors for their paper *Estimating the Underlying Infant Mortality Rates for Small Populations, Including those Reporting Zero Infant Deaths: A Case Study of Counties in California*. Swanson is Professor Emeritus of Sociology, University of California Riverside. He served as a member of the U. S. Census Bureau's Scientific Advisory Committee for six years (2004-10) and chaired the committee for two years (2009-2010). He currently is an affiliated faculty member with the Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology at the University of Washington. Dr. Swanson is an SSRC Research Fellow.

Awards & Recognitions

Dr. Ismail Yigit

- Awarded Outstanding Doctoral Student by the Mississippi State University Department of Sociology. The winners were selected by the Graduate Admissions and Support Committee of the Department of Sociology.

Tobacco Control Unit

- Presented with the 2019 MPHA Community Service Award at the Mississippi Public Health Association's annual conference.

Loftin Awards:

- Adriene Davis: Travel support to attend the North American Society for the Sociology of Sport conference.
- Laura Jean Kerr: Travel support to attend the 2019 Sociologists for Women in Society Annual Winter Conference.
- Erin King: Travel support to attend the annual meeting of the Southern Demographic Association.
- Sarah Rogers received funding to support dissertation data collection and analysis.



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