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Advancing Knowledge for the Greater Good
Nearly 90 percent of SPEA's doctoral graduates go on to obtain a tenure track position. Students graduating from the program in recent years are no exception and have secured appointments at top universities around the world. While most graduates of the doctoral program become university faculty, our program also prepares students to pursue a career in think tanks, private firms, consulting, and other research settings.

**NaLette Brodnax, Ph.D in Public Policy**  
**Dissertation:** The Impacts of a Novel Advising Intervention on the Gender Gap in Technology Education: A Randomized Controlled Experiment  
**Placement:** Harvard University, The Institute for Quantitative Social Science, Postdoctoral Fellow

**Mehmet Demircioglu, Ph.D in Public Affairs**  
**Dissertation:** Three Essays on Public Sector Innovation  
**Placement:** National University of Singapore, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Assistant Professor

**Sun Young Kim, Ph.D in Public Affairs**  
**Dissertation:** Public Sector Whistle-Blowing: The Roles of Structure, Representation, and Management  
**Placement:** University of Georgia, School of Public International Affairs, Department of Public Administration and Policy, Assistant Professor

**Ursula Kreitmair, Ph.D in Public Policy**  
**Dissertation:** Observing Others: The Effect of Behavioral Information on Collective Action in Social Dilemmas  
**Placement:** University of Nebraska, Political Science, Assistant Professor

**Dae Woo Lee, Ph.D in Public Policy**  
**Dissertation:** Three Essays on For-profit Colleges  
**Placement:** Columbus State University, Political Science, Assistant Professor

**David Lee, Ph.D in Public Affairs**  
**Dissertation:** Understanding Intergovernmental Mechanisms in U.S. Homelessness Policy Implementation  
**Placement:** Assistant Professor, Public Administration Program, University of Hawaii

**Zachary Wendling, Ph.D in Public Affairs**  
**Dissertation:** Three Essays on Decision-Making in Energy Policy  
**Placement:** Principal Investigator, 2018 Environmental Performance Index, Postdoctoral Associate, Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy

**Lang “Kate” Yang, Ph.D in Public Affairs**  
**Dissertation:** Fiscal Federalism and Distressed Local Governments: An Empirical Analysis of State Intervention and Municipal Bankruptcy Authorization Laws  
**Placement:** George Washington University, Trachtenberg School,
Researchers document changes in teenage parenthood

The U.S. birth rate hasn’t changed for two generations of teenage girls, but other aspects of young parenthood are shifting, especially regarding young fathers, according to new SPEA research.

The researchers analyzed parenthood, education and income statistics over a long time span from two groups of about 10,000 people – those born in 1962-64 and those born in 1980-82. These are the key findings:

• Teen fathers and mothers came increasingly from single-mother families with disadvantaged backgrounds.

• The proportion of teen mothers or fathers living with their partners didn’t change, but far fewer were married.

• The birth rates to teenage girls across the two groups didn’t change, but the reported rate of teenage fatherhood increased, a seemingly contradictory conclusion. For example, 1.7 percent of the men in the older group were fathers by the time they were 17, while in the younger group, nearly double that number were dads. About 8 percent of the 17-year-old females in both groups were mothers.

The researchers offer several theories for the reported growth in the number of teenage fathers.

“In what might be called the ‘cougar effect,’ we may be seeing more young males partnering with older females,” said SPEA Professor Maureen Pirog. This phenomenon has been popularized in the media by television shows such as “Cougar Town” and “Extreme Cougar Wives” and on dating websites like CougarLife.com.

Pirog said that other factors could explain the reported increase in teenage paternity. State child support enforcement offices are aggressively working to establish paternity, made easier by the simplicity and lower cost of genetic paternity tests and the now-commonplace practice of establishing paternity in the hospital.

It is also possible that teenage girls are selecting male partners who are closer to their own age. Reporting for teenage males may have improved because the stigma associated with nonmarital parenting decreased between the two generations.

Whatever the reason, it is a worrisome trend because teen fathers
are less likely than older men to provide financial support and a stable home environment to their children.

But there are encouraging data points in the findings, the researchers said. Teen parents are staying in school longer, and there has been an uptick in their income level.

“What hasn’t changed over time is the need for well-funded Head Start programs and pre-K programs so that teen mothers can continue their work or study,” Pirog said. “High schools need to foster programs targeted at those at the greatest risk of unintended pregnancy and unprepared parenting.”

Pirog’s co-researchers included Haeil Jung of Korea University and Daewoo Lee of Columbus State University in Georgia. Their article, “The Changing Face of Teenage Parenthood in the United States: Evidence from NLSY79 and NLSY97,” was published in the peer-reviewed journal Child Youth Care Forum.

Study: Extreme weather has limited effect on attitudes toward climate policies

People who recently experienced severe weather events such as floods, storms, and drought are more likely to support policies to adapt to the effects of climate change, according to a new study co-authored by a SPEA researcher.

But the relationship between exposure to extreme weather and support for climate policies is small, the study finds. And it fades quickly; a month after an extreme weather event, there was no effect.

“People respond to recent weather, whether it’s temperature spikes, severe storms, or other events,” said David Konisky, an associate professor at SPEA and an author of the study. “But the effects are small. Extreme weather is much less significant than other factors when it comes to attitudes about climate.”

A warming climate is increasing the frequency and severity of extreme weather events, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. It seems to follow that experiencing extreme weather would make people more supportive of policies to adapt to climate change. The study suggests that may happen, but only for the short term and not to the extent that may have been expected.

Konisky said the effect of experiencing extreme weather pales next to other factors that influence attitudes toward climate policies, such as one’s political beliefs and party affiliation.

“People are pretty certain of where they stand on climate change, and extreme weather does not really move the needle much,” he said.

The researchers examined survey responses from the Cooperative Congressional Election Study and correlated them with data from the National Weather Service’s Storm Events Database. They focused on three policies for climate adaptation: restrictions on coastal development, limits on outdoor residential water use, and regulation of stormwater runoff from residential property.

All three policies enjoyed considerable support, but respondents who had experienced recent extreme weather expressed only modestly stronger support than other respondents.

The researchers also looked for correlations between extreme weather events and support for policies to adapt to those particular events – for example, coastal flooding and restrictions on coastal development. There too, they found only modest correlations.

The study included a wide variety of severe weather events, Konisky said, and its findings may not entirely apply to headline-grabbing events like the Texas flooding caused by Hurricane Harvey or the threat to Florida by Hurricane Irma. But it suggests that even catastrophic weather may not change attitudes as much as many people expect. The study, “Extreme weather exposure and support for climate change adaptation,” is in the journal Global Environmental Change. Additional authors are Aaron Ray of American University, Llewelyn Hughes of Australian National University and Charles Kaylor of Temple University.
SPEA economist contributes to IU Grand Challenge on addiction

Indiana University President Michael A. McRobbie has announced IU’s commitment to invest $50 million to collaborate with community partners to prevent and reduce addictions in Indiana. SPEA health economist Kosali Simon is on the steering committee for the project.

Announced alongside Indiana Gov. Eric J. Holcomb and IU Health President and CEO Dennis Murphy, the initiative – Responding to the Addictions Crisis – is part of IU’s bicentennial Grand Challenges Program.

Utilizing IU’s seven campuses across the state, and in partnership with state officials, IU Health, Eskenazi Health, and others, this statewide initiative is one of the nation’s largest and most comprehensive state-based responses to the opioid addiction crisis – and the largest led by a university.

The Responding to the Addictions Crisis initiative will engage a broad array of IU’s world-class faculty, as well as IU’s business, nonprofit and government partners. Working together, the initiative aims to implement a comprehensive plan to reduce deaths from addiction, ease the burden of drug addiction on Hoosier communities, and improve health and economic outcomes. The interdisciplinary team of IU researchers participating in this multifaceted effort will be led by IU School of Nursing Dean Robin Newhouse.

“Governor Holcomb has identified addressing the urgent substance abuse crisis, which is taking an increasingly severe toll on the health of far too many Hoosiers, as a key priority for the state, and aligning the resources of the state, including its universities, as a critical step in achieving that priority,” McRobbie said.

“Through this vitally important initiative, Indiana University will bring to bear its formidable and extensive clinical and research capabilities, large statewide footprint in medicine and health care, and powerful community and industry partnerships to achieve maximum impact toward the goal of more effectively treating patients and implementing preventative substance abuse programs.”

Holcomb has made tackling the opioid crisis one of his highest priorities and established within his office the position of executive director for drug prevention, treatment and enforcement to coordinate the state’s efforts. The governor has called on all Hoosiers to collaborate to reduce the drug scourge.

This newest Grand Challenge initiative is IU’s response to this charge, affirming the university’s mission as a partner to Hoosier communities. The IU initiative will focus on five areas: ground-level data collection and analysis, training and education, policy analysis and development, addictions science, and community and workforce development.

“It will take all of us working together to fight this epidemic and help those struggling with addiction to get on the road to recovery,” Holcomb said. “I commend IU for their leadership and commitment to reversing the addictions crisis. IU’s investment and strong partnership will help our state provide expanded resources and support for Hoosiers and communities that need it most.”

Indiana is one of four states where the fatal drug overdose rate has more than quadrupled since 1999. Hoosiers are now more likely to die from a drug overdose than a car accident. According to the IU Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health at IUPUI, the total cost of drug overdoses in Indiana tops $1 billion annually, measured in medical expenses and lifetime earnings losses. Indiana is not alone in this crisis. In 2016, more people died from drug overdoses in the U.S. than the total number of Americans killed in the Vietnam War.

Responding to the Addictions Crisis will provide working and aspiring health care professionals from all disciplines with the training, educational resources and certification programs necessary to address the significant shortage of addictions professionals in the Hoosier state. Robust continuing education programs will help those already working in communities across the state to broaden their skills to help more Hoosiers. And working with local public health officials, IU researchers will build county-specific databases to help community officials better understand the scope of this epidemic. They will also research the genetic, socioeconomic and biological forces that drive addiction in order to better understand how to prevent and treat it.

The $50 million IU is investing in the initiative comes from reprioritizing existing funds.

“By making more strategic use of resources, focusing on critical issues facing the state and working closely with key partners, we hope to achieve a greater impact in Indiana and around the world,” said Fred H. Cate, IU vice president for research and Distinguished Professor.

Last year, Indiana University announced its first Grand Challenges project, the Precision Health Initiative. The initiative has the bold goal of curing at least one cancer and one childhood disease, as well as finding ways to prevent one chronic illness and one neurodegenerative disease, all by 2020.

The second initiative – Prepared for Environmental Change – was announced in May 2017. It brings
Profile: Kosali Simon

Kosali Simon decided as a child that education and hard work would help her achieve what she wanted. She was right: Years later, Simon is enjoying life as an economist at SPEA, a nationally known expert on health policy – and a mother of six.

And she is still working hard, getting more done than colleagues can imagine is possible.

“We often joke that there must be three of her,” said Alex Hollingsworth, a SPEA assistant professor who has collaborated with Simon on research. “She’s so productive.”

Also a dedicated teacher and a supportive mentor of newer faculty members, Simon was recognized by IU last year when she became only the third person to be named a Class of 1948 Herman B Wells Professor. She plays down the idea that she’s deserving of recognition, or all that productive.

“I don’t think I do enough work. The list of things I didn’t manage to do today is like this and is continually growing,” she said, extending her arms during an interview at her SPEA office.

Simon is from Sri Lanka, and she spent what she refers to as a difficult childhood there and in Zambia. But a window of opportunity opened when she began to attend an English-language international school where her mother worked. There, her teachers and counselor told her about American higher education and the financial aid available to motivated students.

She applied to several colleges and chose Hamilton College, a small liberal arts school in upstate New York, where she majored in economics and German and discovered research.

“I loved the college experience. I started working with whichever professors were looking for research assistants,” she said.

Simon credits a postgraduate research fellowship from the Thomas Watson Foundation with helping her develop self-reliance and initiative. She spent a year interviewing factory managers in Eastern Europe soon after the collapse of the Soviet Bloc, then returned to the U.S. for graduate school and earned a Ph.D.

Affordable Care Act's implementation, according to SPEA research.

The research, published in a research letter by JAMA Oncology, also found significant gains in those covered for treatments of various cancers, among various demographic groups and stages of diagnosis.

The uninsured rate among cancer patients was flat in states without Medicaid expansion before and after 2014, but it declined in 2014 in states with Medicaid expansion, according to the research.

“These findings suggest that the general increase in coverage seen in national ACA analyses extends to this high-risk population,” said Aparna Soni, a doctoral candidate in business economics and public policy at Indiana University and the letter’s corresponding author.

“Treatment is often unaffordable for uninsured patients, and some studies suggest that expanding insurance coverage could improve cancer-related outcomes,” she and her co-authors wrote. “Policy changes that reduce Medicaid funding or weaken protections for individuals with preexisting conditions could be particularly harmful for patients with cancer.”

Cancer remains the leading cause of death among Americans ages 19 and 64, the group studied.

Number of newly diagnosed cancer patients without insurance drops in first year of ACA

The number of newly diagnosed cancer patients who were uninsured fell by one-third in the first year of the Affordable Care Act's implementation, according to SPEA research.

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in economics from the University of Maryland in 1999.

She met her husband, SPEA associate professor and strategic management researcher Daniel Simon, in graduate school. They navigated a dual career path before coming to IU Bloomington together in 2010.

Simon may seem to work all the time, but colleagues know it’s not all she has on her plate. The Simons have six children, ranging in age from 14 to 2. They’re stopping at six.

“My husband and I say, ‘The minivan is full,’” she said.

In addition to conducting research and teaching graduate students and undergraduates, Simon serves on the governing body of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, helped lead the American Economic Association’s Committee on the Status of Women in Economics in its national mentoring program for female assistant professors, and serves in editorial roles at several journals.

But it’s her research in the timely and contested field of health policy that gets the most attention. She and her collaborators have published dozens of articles in respected academic journals, many of them examining the successes and failures of the Affordable Care Act.

Among the findings: The law increased access to preventive care. It dramatically boosted the number of young adults on parents’ insurance plans. It didn’t cause a shift from full-time to part-time employment. And its Medicaid expansion could reduce other government spending.

But the Affordable Care Act is so politically toxic that Simon has grown frustrated about the limited impact that research has on policy discussions. Supporters of the law don’t feel the time is right for studies into potential flaws, and opponents refuse to admit the law has done any good.

She also finds it odd that the public debate has focused on the federal insurance marketplace and not on the law’s Medicaid expansion, which extended coverage to many more people. The main way the Medicaid expansion did not reach full potential she said, is that while all states provide health insurance subsidies to eligible families over the poverty level, many states rejected the Medicaid expansion, which was intended for their poorest citizens.

“It’s surprising to me more people were not upset about this discrepancy,” she said. “It means that in 18 states, childless adults living on as little as $5 a day are not getting any help, while counterparts who earn quite a bit more may qualify for marketplace subsidies.”

If she’s frustrated with the limits of Affordable Care Act studies, Simon is passionate about a new area of research: the nation’s opioid drug crisis. She has spent the past six months diving into the literature and coming up with new questions about medication and drug misuse and how it can be affected by policy decisions.

“Researchers ask themselves, where can their work have an impact,” she said. “With the rampant rise in opioid misuse, I feel like we’re at the early stages and still catching up in terms of economic and policy research.”

Simon and Hollingsworth recently had a paper on opioid use and economic trends accepted by the Journal of Health Economics. Given her past record, it’s a safe guess that more articles will be coming soon – and that scholars will be following her work on this new topic for years to come.

Other co-authors of “Changes in Insurance Coverage Among Cancer Patients Under the Affordable Care Act” were SPEA’s Kosali Simon, the Class of 1948 Herman B Wells Endowed Professor at IU; Lindsay Sabik, associate professor in health policy and management at the University of Pittsburgh; and Benjamin Sommers, associate professor of health policy and economics at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. JAMA Oncology is one of the journals of the American Medical Association.

In their study, researchers looked at the percentage of adults who were uninsured at first-time cancer diagnosis. They analyzed changes in 2014, when the ACA health insurance exchanges and Medicaid expansion went into effect, compared with pre-ACA from 2010 through 2013.

The researchers found that before 2014, 5.7 percent were uninsured, compared with 3.8 percent in 2014 – a 1.9 percentage point decrease, or a 33.5 percent relative decline.

“This paper highlights the need for next looking at health consequences from additional insurance coverage,” Simon said. “This analysis is only the first step in examining a long chain of events researchers care about as consequences from fewer insured.”

Large declines in the uninsured rate among Hispanics were consistent with findings of other ACA studies and were the greatest among race and ethnic groups studied in the sample – a decline of 37.9 percent in the number of uninsured cancer patients. The drop in uninsured improved by 46.2 percent among those listed as “other.” However, among African-Americans, the decline was just 17.2 percent.

Significant declines in the uninsured rate were seen across all stages and sites of cancer the researchers assessed. The largest absolute declines were among those with distant metastasis stages of
cancer (–33.3 percent) and those with lung and bronchial cancer (–32.7 percent). But significant uninsured declines also were seen among those suffering from breast, colorectal, prostate, and thyroid cancers.

“Other research indicates that uninsured patients are less likely to be diagnosed with cancer and more likely to be diagnosed at late stages,” the authors wrote. “Our finding that uninsurance was greater among those with distant disease in the pre-ACA and post-ACA periods is in line with research suggesting that uninsured patients may not seek care until their cancer has progressed.”

Data for 858,193 adults with new cancer diagnoses came from the National Cancer Institute’s Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results program. Limitations of the study include data from 13 states and one year of data post-ACA.

**SPEA research finds efforts to revive coal industry unlikely to work, may slow job growth**

Current federal efforts to revive the coal industry by relaxing environmental regulations will likely do more harm than good to fragile communities in Appalachia transitioning from coal as a major source of employment to new avenues for economic growth, according to a study conducted by SPEA researchers.

Based on research involving focus groups and interviews in Appalachia, the research team reached these key conclusions about an industry that has seen employment drop by 71 percent since 1985:

- Rolling back environmental regulations will not lead to a significant resurgence of the coal industry since those regulations played only a minor role relative to slowing demand for electricity and a surge in cheaper, cleaner sources of energy.
- Promising coal communities a return of their jobs has the potential to fill them with false hope, which can threaten the very progress that has been made to date in launching job training programs and other transition steps.
- Government programs should focus on helping communities find and harness new economic and human development opportunities with a focus on health and education, professional growth, and public services.

Quotes from two participants in focus groups underscore the study’s findings:

In reference to the decline of the coal industry, one former coal miner said, “I can tell you what my grand-daddy always said, no matter how many times you beat and kick that dead horse, it’s not getting up to plow again.”

“I’m beginning to see some real enthusiasm, particularly among young people in small communities in West Virginia, to begin looking for something beyond, something beyond coal.”

One of the biggest challenges confronting coal communities, besides the need to develop new economic opportunities, is overcoming the deeply rooted culture of coal that has defined the lives of residents and full communities for generations.

“We found substantial evidence that Appalachian coal communities are working to shed the culture of coal, and develop new opportunities and an evolving conception of identity based on these opportunities,” said SPEA researcher and co-author of the study Sanya Carley.

The researchers believe their findings have application outside of coal country. Many communities in other parts of the country are also grappling with a transition from fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy.

“The energy transition will have uneven impacts for individuals and communities, and it is critical that we develop strategies to assist those most negatively affected,” said SPEA researcher David Konisky, co-author of the study.

The researchers conducted interviews with former coal miners, religious leaders, economic development experts, and many...
others in Virginia, Kentucky, and West Virginia. The focus group discussions were held in Williamson and Ghent, West Virginia, and included miners who had been laid off, their families, part-time retail workers, and others.

Carley, Konisky and Tom Evans of the geography department in IU’s College of Arts and Sciences published their findings, “Adaptation, culture, and the energy transition in American coal country,” in the peer-reviewed journal *Energy Research and Social Science*.

**SPEA scientist receives Duke Energy grant to convert emissions into fertilizer**

A $50,000 grant from Duke Energy will help make Indiana University Bloomington one of the first universities in the U.S. to convert emissions from its heating plant into fertilizer to feed campus vegetation.

To make this happen, a group composed of specialists from across the campus – including a faculty biologist, facility engineers and landscapers, and marketing and sustainability students – have designed a system known as a photobioreactor. Made of PVC pipes, the structure will be housed on the roof of IU Bloomington’s Central Heating Plant and will convert emissions from the smokestacks into fertilizer via photosynthesis.

Water vapor generated from the heating plant’s smokestacks will be condensed and pumped into the bioreactor tubes, which will house algae. Then, emissions from the heating plant containing carbon and nitrogen will bubble into the tubes to feed and suspend the algae. The transparent tubes allow sunlight to catalyze the photosynthesis process of the algae, creating a usable, sustainable, nutrient-rich fertilizer.

To start, the fertilizer will be used in the more than 200 flower beds across campus.

“With all of its measureable and novel contributions, this project has the potential to be an iconic symbol of IU’s commitment to sustainability and education,” said Stephen “Chip” Glaholt, a SPEA adjunct faculty member and researcher, and a co-leader on the project.

Also co-leading the project is Mark Menefee, the assistant director for utility services at IU Bloomington’s Central Heating Plant, who has been experimenting with similar projects for several years. SPEA students Darah Meister, Tucker Jaroll, and Anna Groover also worked on different aspects of the project, including design and research. Students Maddie Corgiat, Nikhil Prasad, Bailey Kaplon and the late Megan Yoder of Net Impact, a sustainable business club in IU’s Kelley School of Business, coordinated marketing and fundraising efforts and were heavily involved in the process to apply for the Duke Energy Grant.

The IU Bloomington project will be modeled after the photobioreactor system located at Duke Energy’s East Bend Coal Power Plant and designed by the University of Kentucky’s Center for Applied Energy Research group.

“We’re dedicated to addressing the environmental needs of the communities where our customers live and work,” said Bruce Calloway, Duke Energy’s Bloomington community relations manager.

“We’ve lowered our company’s carbon output by approximately 30 percent since 2005, and technology is key to solving these environmental challenges. This project betters the campus community while creating a living laboratory for IU students.”

Other campus collaborators include university landscape architect Mia Williams and IU Bloomington manager of landscape services Mike Girvin.

The project leaders will utilize the Office of Sustainability’s Energy and Built Environmental Working Group and Education and Research Working Group as their advisory boards as they move forward with the project.

“Planning for the photobioreactor system has already brought our students, faculty, and staff together to make a tangible impact on our campus,” said Vice President for Capital Planning and
Facilities Thomas A. Morrison. “With the assistance of Duke Energy, we now can continue to grow the physical beauty of our campus while studying and utilizing new processes that benefit our environment and reduce costs.”

In its first year of implementation, the system is expected to return 200 pounds of carbon back to the earth, as well as save the university nearly $4,000 in fertilizing costs.

The grant funding from Duke Energy will be used to build the system on campus. Once built, nearly no costs will be associated with production of the fertilizer, aside from annual maintenance.

In addition to making campus more green, the project will serve as an educational opportunity for students. Several courses in SPEA and the College of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Biology will integrate studies of the photobioreactor and biofertilizer into their curriculum. Using the system as a living laboratory, students will research and monitor its function, collect data, and expand its capabilities.

IU will be collaborating with the University of Kentucky’s Center for Applied Energy Research group on the design of this project, as they already have a similar system constructed at Duke Energy’s East Bend Coal Power Plant.

Construction on the photobioreactor system is expected to begin in February, with completion slated for spring 2018.

SPEA’S Brad Fulton: Congregations take on the challenge of helping people with mental illness

The opportunity to be healed – healed of a battered soul or a broken heart – has always been a cornerstone of religious belief. Our research shows congregations are increasingly a source of a different kind of healing – healing of the head.

We recently published the results of the first survey conducted with a nationally representative sample of U.S. congregations that specifically asked if they provide mental health programming. What the 1,300 congregations reported is somewhat surprising and suggests an opportunity for improved recovery outcomes for people with mental illness.

Nearly one in four congregations provide some type of program to support people with mental illness. That’s much higher than previous estimates. And approximately one third of all worshipers are in a congregation where they could receive mental health support. Here’s what those congregations often have in common:

- Their members are young and more affluent. That’s possibly

Brenda Fulton
due to those groups attaching less stigma to mental illness.

- They are larger than average. That often means they have the staff for social services and already provide health education.
- They’re engaged with their surrounding communities. The more connected they are with their neighbors, the more likely they’ll be aware of mental health needs.

We also found that congregations located in predominately African-American neighborhoods are more likely to sponsor a mental health program. It’s possible that these congregations are responding to an unmet mental health need, given that African-Americans are among the least likely to go to a doctor and most likely to seek care from a congregation.

For example, the Healing Center Full Gospel Baptist Church is one of ten black churches in the Memphis area that partners with state agencies and providers to host an “Emotional Fitness Center.” At these centers, faith leaders provide screenings for signs of mental illness, offer group sessions on topics such as depression and anger management, and, if needed, refer people to professional counselors.

While we now have a window into how congregations respond to mental health needs, it is far from a complete view. We currently lack more fine-grained data that would indicate whether the programming addresses clinical disorders such as depression or less defined conditions such as marital problems. Also, little is still known about the type of programming congregations offer, which could range from providing spiritual support through prayer to more education-based support or counseling.

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We know from other research that nearly one in five Americans is affected by mental illness in any given year. We also know that more than 60 percent of Americans with a mental illness do not obtain professional treatment, and over half of the adults who go to congregations for help with a mental disorder do so at the exclusion of other providers.

Given that congregations are often the first and only point of contact for people seeking help, they can play an important role in providing support and making connections to professional treatment. More integrated and holistic care could result from greater coordination between mental health providers, congregations, and spiritual leaders. Together, they can offer a bridge to healing for those struggling with mental illness.

About the author: Brad Fulton is an assistant professor at SPEA. With Eunice Wong and Kathryn Derose of the RAND Corporation, Fulton published an article about the research, “Prevalence and Predictors of Mental Health Programming among US Religious Congregations,” in the peer-reviewed journal Psychiatric Services. Fulton earned his Ph.D. in sociology from Duke University.

About the survey: The findings about congregation-based mental health programming are drawn from the 2012 National Congregations Study, a nationally representative survey of 1,327 congregations.

SPEA’s Sameeksha Desai joins Kauffman Foundation as director of knowledge creation and research

Saying she’s done bold research in entrepreneurship, the Kauffman Foundation announced the appointment of SPEA faculty member Sameeksha Desai as director of knowledge creation and research.

After assuming the full-time position in January 2018, Desai will be on leave from the faculty post she has held at SPEA since 2010.

The Kauffman Foundation, based in Kansas City, Mo., supports grants, initiatives, and programs that support education and entrepreneurship. Desai will lead research strategy aimed at determining why entrepreneurship has declined in the U.S. and what would work best to empower entrepreneurs and reverse the decline.

“SPEA’s mission is to advance knowledge for the greater good and I’m looking forward to applying
that mindset to my work at the foundation,” Desai said. “We can shape economic empowerment in a way that develops businesses, provides jobs, and strengthens communities.”

Victor Hwang, vice president of entrepreneurship, said Desai will take charge of the development and implementation of the foundation’s research strategy: “She has done bold, cutting-edged research in political economy, in particular how entrepreneurship can renew and revitalize societies that have suffered from conflict, instability, and entrenched poverty. She cares passionately about the practical impact of scholarship on real-world applications, and on harnessing research to empower entrepreneurs, policymakers, and many other stakeholders.”

Desai teaches courses in entrepreneurship and economic development policy. She has been the academic director of SPEA’s Rwanda study abroad program and associate director of IU’s Institute for Development Strategies and is affiliated with the Swedish Entrepreneurship Forum. Desai is the author of numerous articles in peer-reviewed journals, reports and a recent book.

Sean Nicholson-Crotty named fellow of National Academy of Public Administration

Sean Nicholson-Crotty, SPEA professor and director of the Ph.D. in Public Affairs and Joint Ph.D. in Public Policy Programs, has been elected as a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration.

Nicholson-Crotty is one of 50 leaders in the field of public administration to be inducted as fellows at the academy’s annual meeting in November in Arlington, Virginia. Selection of academy fellows follows a rigorous review of the individuals’ contributions to the field of public administration and policy. Nicholson-Crotty was nominated for the honor by SPEA professors Robert Kravchuk, Michael McGuire, and David Rosenbloom (American University). All are NAPA fellows.

Nicholson-Crotty specializes in public management and federalism with a focus on intergovernmental relations and the diffusion of public policies among subnational governments. He has published more than four dozen articles on these subjects in top public affairs and political science journals.

Chartered by Congress to provide non-partisan expert advice, the National Academy of Public Administration is an independent, nonprofit, and nonpartisan organization established in 1967 to assist government leaders in building more effective, efficient, accountable, and transparent organizations.
SPEA program near the top in World University Rankings

IU’s program in public administration is among the best in the world, according to the 2017 Academic Ranking of World Universities.

The rankings, produced by a Shanghai educational consulting organization, follow an objective methodology based largely on faculty awards and publications. The rankings are regarded as among the most influential and widely observed measures of university academic quality.

“These results are testament to the outstanding work performed by Indiana University faculty and the excellence of the university’s programs,” IU President Michael A. McRobbie said. “Rankings are only one measure of success, but reports such as the Academic Ranking of World Universities provide important evidence that Indiana University is truly a global university where research of the highest quality is changing lives for the better.”

At IU Bloomington, the rankings place library and information science at No. 2, public administration at No. 5 and communications at No. 7. Business programs are ranked 16th in business administration, 19th in finance and 34th in management. Sociology is ranked 16th.

The rankings refer to academic disciplines, not to specific schools or departments. IU Bloomington’s library and information science program is in the School of Informatics, Computing and Engineering. Public administration is in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Communications programs are largely in The Media School. Business programs are in the Kelley School of Business. Sociology is in the College of Arts and Sciences.

The annual Academic Ranking of World Universities was first published in June 2003 by the Center for World-Class Universities at Shanghai Jiao Tong University in China. Since 2009, the rankings have been published and copyrighted by ShanghaiRanking Consultancy, an independent ranking organization.

The methodology ranks universities and their programs on five indicators: alumni and staff winning Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals; highly cited researchers identified by Thomson Reuters; articles published in journals of Nature and Science; articles indexed in Science Citation Index-Expanded and Social Sciences Citation Index; and per-capita performance. More than 1,200 universities are ranked every year, and the top 500 are published.

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<th>World Rank/Institution</th>
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<td>1 Erasmus University</td>
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<td>3 The University of Georgia</td>
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<td>8 The Australian National University</td>
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<td>9 Harvard University</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 University of Birmingham</td>
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Source: 2017 Ranking of World Universities
The Routledge Companion to the Makers of Modern Entrepreneurship
David B. Audretsch and Erik E. Lehmann (Eds.)
Routledge (2016)
**Briefly:** Offers a comprehensive guide to entrepreneurship, providing an authoritative exploration of the key people and their ideas and tells the stories of the scholars who have set the standard and tone for thinking and analyzing entrepreneurship, including theories, such as social psychology; concepts, such as neuroeconomics; and types, such as political entrepreneurship.

University Evolution, Entrepreneurial Activity and Regional Competitiveness
David Audretsch, E. Lehmann, M. Meoli, and S. Vismara (Eds.)
Springer (2016)
**Briefly:** Aims to bring together different contributions highlighting how the recent changes that modify universities’ activities, such as the necessity to internationalize and crucially rely on third party funding, and the new entrepreneurial trajectories stemming from the recent economic-financial crisis, contribute to emphasize the existing differences between successful and lagging regions, as occurred at a country level (e.g., Southern Europe).

Essays in Public Sector Entrepreneurship
David B. Audretsch and Albert N. Link (Eds.)
Springer (2016)
**Briefly:** Explores public sector entrepreneurship from an international perspective, featuring essays from eminent scholars in the field addressing entrepreneurial public policies from different countries. Public sector entrepreneurship is at the cusp of becoming a watchword in international policy circles. This book is a pioneer volume in this emerging field and provides topics and policies that are broadly applicable across different economies.

Entrepreneurship Education at Universities: Learning from Twenty European Cases
Christine Volkmann and David B. Audretsch (Eds.)
Springer (2017)
**Briefly:** Discusses entrepreneurship education in Europe based on in-depth case studies of related activities at 20 institutions of higher education. The book offers insightful entrepreneurship teaching practices and a discussion of potential organizational drivers and barriers.
Allies or Adversaries: NGOs and the State in Africa
Jennifer N. Brass
Cambridge University Press (2016)

Briefly: Governments throughout the developing world have witnessed a proliferation of non-governmental, non-profit organizations (NGOs) providing services like education, healthcare and piped drinking water in their territory. Brass explains how these NGOs have changed the nature of service provision, governance, and state development in the early 21st century.

Corruption, Entrepreneurship, and Social Welfare: A Global Perspective
Farzana Chowdhury, Sameeksha Desai, and David B. Audretsch
Springer (2017)

Briefly: Explores the complex relationships between entrepreneurship and corruption in developed and developing countries; examines the role of corruption on various types of entrepreneurship and social welfare; and features policy implications, case studies, and practical consequences of corruption and entrepreneurship.

A Shared Future: Faith-based Organizing for Racial Equity and Ethical Democracy
By Richard L. Wood and Brad R. Fulton

Briefly: Faith-based community organizers have spent decades working for greater equality in American society, and more recently have become significant players in shaping health care, finance, and immigration reform at the highest levels of government. The authors draw on a new national study of community organizing coalitions and in-depth interviews of key leaders in this field to show how faith-based organizing is creatively navigating the competing aspirations of America’s universalist and multiculturalist democratic ideals, even as it confronts three demons bedeviling American politics: economic inequality, federal policy paralysis, and racial inequity.

Obama on the Home Front: Domestic Policy Triumphs and Setbacks
John D. Graham
IU Press (2016)

Briefly: The record of any American President attracts attention, but Barack Obama, the first African-American president in the nation’s 240-year history, is of special interest. Obama came into office as the economy was careening into the worst downturn since the Great Depression. In this comprehensive assessment of domestic policymaking, Graham considers what we may learn from the Obama presidency about how presidents can best implement their agendas when Congress is evenly divided.

Experiencing Chick Corea: A Listener’s Companion
Monika Herzig
Rowman & Littlefield (2017)

Briefly: Looks at the span of legendary jazz figure Chick Corea’s career, decade by decade, touching upon his vast array of musical styles and introduces this American Icon to audiences beyond jazz fans already familiar with his work. Herzig places Corea’s creations in their historical and social contexts so any music lover can gain a fuller understanding of his incredible range of work.
Failed Promises: Evaluating the Federal Government’s Response to Environmental Justice

David M. Konisky (Ed.)
The MIT Press (2015)

Briefly: In the 1970s and 1980s, the U.S. Congress passed a series of laws that were milestones in environmental protection, including the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act. But by the 1990s, it was clear that environmental benefits were not evenly distributed and that poor and minority communities bore disproportionate environmental burdens. The Clinton administration put these concerns on the environmental policy agenda, most notably with a 1994 executive order that called on federal agencies to consider environmental justice issues whenever appropriate. This volume offers the first systematic, empirically based evaluation of the effectiveness of the federal government’s environmental justice policies.

When Ideas Mattered: A Nathan Glazer Reader

Joseph Dorman and Leslie Lenkowsky (Eds.)
Routledge (2016)

Briefly: Sociologist Nathan Glazer’s remarkably long and productive career as a New York intellectual spans seven decades from the Great Depression era to the late twentieth century. Includes autobiographical essays Glazer has written over the years to explain the evolution of his own thought. Because Glazer’s work has influenced succeeding generations of thinkers and scholars in a number of fields, the editors have included appraisals and assessments by several of these writers written especially for this volume.

The Politics of African American Education: Representation, Partisanship and Educational Equity

Kenneth J. Meier and Amanda Rutherford
Cambridge University Press (2016)

Briefly: Based on the 1,800 largest school districts in the United States over a decade this book documents the status of African-American education and the major role that partisanship plays, bringing together the most comprehensive database on minority education to date that centers around discussions on partisanship, African-American representation, and political structures.

Comparative Public Management: Why National, Environmental, and Organizational Context Matters

Kenneth J. Meier, Amanda Rutherford, and Claudia N. Avellaneda (Eds.)
Georgetown University Press (2017)

Briefly: While the field of public management has become increasingly international, research and policy recommendations that work for one country often do not work for another. The authors argue that scholars must find a better way to account for political, environmental, and organizational contexts to build a more general model of public management. Intended for students and scholars of public administration and public policy, this book will be the first to provide a comprehensive comparative assessment of management’s impact on organizational performance.
The work of many current and former faculty members and former students is spotlighted on a list of 70 notable public administration articles. Of the 70, at least 15 were authored by scholars with SPEA connections. The articles are among both the 100 most frequently cited public administration articles and the 100 articles with the highest average yearly citations since year of publication. The list, culled from a collection of more than 11,000 articles, was compiled by three Georgia Tech researchers for an article in the journal Review of Public Personnel Administration: “An Investigation into the Characteristics of Papers with High Scholarly Citations in Public Administration: The Relativity of Theory and Method.” The SPEA authors, in alphabetical order, include Bob Agranoff, Lisa Amsler, Trevor Brown, Rob Christensen, Alfred Ho, Mark Imperial, Thomas Koontz, Michael McGuire, Yuseok Moon, Tina Nabatchi, Rosemary O’Leary, Elinor Ostrom, Jim Perry, Matt Potoski, Aseem Prakash, Ann Marie Thomson, and Lois Wise. The researchers made specific note of a special issue of PAR in 2006 co-edited by Amsler and O’Leary that included seven of the 70 high impact articles, calling it “a remarkable result.”

SPEA graduates Sarah Widney, Alyce Kanabrocki, and Jeff Ehman published an article in Wetlands Ecology and Management. “The Value of Wetlands for Water Quality Improvement: An Example from the St. Johns River Watershed, Florida” combines empirical data, GIS modeling and economic analysis to calculate the removal and value of nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P), two pollutants, by wetlands in the catchment. SPEA’s Chris Craft and Courtney Hackney (University of North Florida) also contributed to the article.

Kim Novick co-authored an article, “Capturing species-level drought responses in a temperate deciduous forest using ratios of photochemical reflectance indices between sunlit and shaded canopies,” in Remote Sensing of the Environment. Novick and IU co-authors Tahee Hwang, Hamed Gholizadeh, Daniel Sims, Edward Brzostek, Richard Phillips, Daniel Roman, Scott Robeson, and Abdullah Rahman tested whether vegetation indices like those that can be derived from satellites can be linked to tree drought response in a deciduous forest in Indiana.

Matthew Baggetta and Brad Fulton received a $144,000 federal research grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). Baggetta and Fulton’s project will use an innovative data collection technique – systematic social observation – to analyze the internal dynamics of civil society organizations.

Nikos Zirogiannis co-authored an article published in Statistical Methods and Applications: “Dynamic factor analysis for short panels: estimating performance trajectories for water utilities.” With co-author Yorghos Tripodis (Boston U.), Zirogiannis developed a novel estimation algorithm for a dynamic factor model (DFM) applied to panel data with a short time dimension and a large cross sectional dimension.

SPEA doctoral program graduate Luke Spreen received the Michael Curro Award for best graduate student paper by the Association for Budgeting and Financial Management (ABFAM). His paper, “Bad Medicine? The Effect of the Illinois Income Tax Increase on Municipal Borrowing Costs,” shows that additional income tax revenue is partially offset by higher borrowing costs when governments do not provide a tax exemption for their debt.

Amanda Rutherford co-authored an article published in Public Administration Review. For “Top Management Turnover: The Role of Governing Board Structures,” Rutherford and co-author Jon Lozano (a doctoral student in the IU School of Education) analyzed data from 123 public research universities over 20 years in the U.S. Their key conclusion: executive turnover in public and nonprofit organizations may be partially explained by governing board structures and politics.

Tom Rabovsky and doctoral student Hongseok Lee published an article in Public Administration Review. For “Exploring the Antecedents of the Gender Pay Gap in U.S. Higher Education,” the authors analyzed data from 254 public and private nonprofit research universities. Their key conclusions: despite recent efforts to eliminate discrimination, gender-based inequity, including unequal salaries and pay, persists; representation of women in positions of seniority and power is an important mechanism for reducing disparities but the effects of representation are more pronounced in private nonprofit research universities, where women make up a majority of managerial staff and senior faculty, and; greater reliance on public sources of revenue is associated with lower pay gaps between men and women, while reliance on funding tied to competitive research funding is associated with larger pay gaps.

and Chao Guo (University of Pennsylvania and formerly of SPEA) found many of the existing studies fail to capture the complexity of collaboration.

Joanna Woronkowicz published an article in the Journal of Arts Management, Law, and Society. In “Community Engagement and Cultural Building Projects,” Woronkowicz analyzes data from 13 building projects coupled with data on 444 arts organizations to determine if their community engagement efforts are effective mechanisms for generating support from other organizations. She looks at the degree to which context such as the competitive environment affects managers’ perceptions of community engagement strategies.

Julio César Zambrano-Gutiérrez, Amanda Rutherford, and Sean Nicholson-Crotty published an article in Public Administration: “Types of coproduction and differential effects on organizational performance: Evidence from the New York City school system.” The authors used 2007 and 2009 data from New York City schools to test three types of coproduction to determine if they had different effects on student proficiency in Mathematics and English Language Arts.

Jennifer Brass contributed a chapter to the Handbook on Theories of Governance (Elgar Press, 2016). The book, edited by Christopher Ansell and Jacob Torfing, advances a deeper theoretical understanding of governance processes while illuminating the interdisciplinary foundations of the field. Brass authored a chapter on Development Theory.

Maureen Pirog, Lindsey Bullinger and SPEA Ph.D. graduate Edwin Gerrish (U. of South Dakota) published a report by The Pew Charitable Trusts: “TANF and SNAP Asset Limits and the Financial Behavior of Low-Income Households.” Supporters of state limits on the value of assets a recipient of TANF and SNAP funds may hold argue the assets amount to wealth that disqualifies the recipient from public assistance. Opponents argue the limits discourage low-income families from saving and impede self-sufficiency.
Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs Kirsten Grønbjerg, IU VP David Zaret, and Mexico City Secretary of Health José Armando Ahued (left) sign agreement for data sharing and academic collaboration.

Executive Associate Dean Michael McGuire joins in a graduate student celebration of the school’s #1 ranked MPA.

Beth Gazley embraces IU Provost Lauren Robel after receiving the university’s Distinguished Service Award.

High-ranking officials from Vietnam’s government visit SPEA for public administration coursework and tours of local and state agencies.

Faculty, staff and students collect a truckload of supplies for hurricane victims in an effort coordinated by Sameeksha Desai.

Brian DeLong, SPEA professor and coach of Indiana Debate, and his wife Hena Shah welcome baby boy Haroon Shah-DeLong.
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