



Spring 1, 2021 Newsletter

Looking to the Future with Optimism

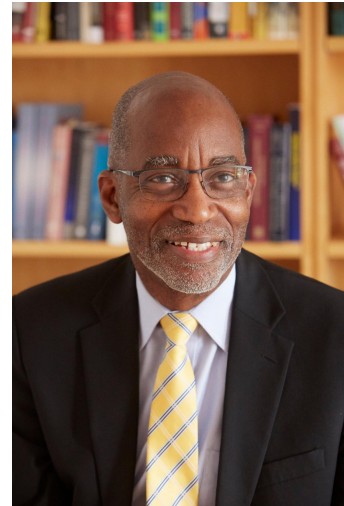
Welcome to the start of a new semester at the Harvard Chan School. For SBS students, staff and faculty, last year was memorable for the many new obstacles that we had to navigate. We now look to the future with optimism, even as we acknowledge the enormity of the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic and the almost daily reminders of the persistence of centuries old structural conditions that create disparate health, economic, social and criminal justice outcomes for black, brown and economically exploited communities in our world.

Despite the unprecedented and strategic mobilization of underrepresented communities that led to historic voter turnout in the November election in the U.S., we are also keenly aware of how much progress we have yet to make to build the political will to achieve liberty and justice for all.

The work that we are doing and that we are being trained to do is more desperately needed and important than ever. As we witness the many crises of our time, we must reaffirm our commitment and redouble our efforts to work for equity and justice. The eloquent and moving words of Amanda Gorman has reminded us that "There is always light. Only if we are brave enough to see it. There is always light. Only if we are brave enough to be it"

And although we are well into the month of February, I believe that it is not too late to wish each of you a happy, healthy, and safe New Year, as we continue to work to improve population health and advance health equity in this nation and the world.

David R. Williams



Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Natalie Slopen joined the SBS Department in January 2021 as an Assistant Professor. Previously a faculty member at the University of Maryland School of Public Health, she received her ScD in Social Epidemiology at Harvard Chan and her postdoctoral fellowship training at the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University. Dr. Slopen's research primarily focuses on the early life origins of health and health disparities, and her studies aim to identify modifiable risk and protective factors that can be targeted by interventions.

"I first got involved in research during my undergraduate training in psychology. From this introduction, I learned that I loved research and slowly found my way to public health. During my doctoral training I focused on psychiatric epidemiology, and as I became increasingly aware of the

strong connections between mental and physical health my research interests broadened.

My research spans two general areas. The first domain focuses on how early life experiences and environments become embedded to influence physical and mental health over the life course. My second research area focuses on social and contextual influences on common chronic disease and psychiatric health outcomes among adults, such as affective disorders and cardiovascular disease risk factors and outcomes, including sleep."

[Learn more about Dr. Natalie Slopen.](#)



Alumni Corner

***Michelle Lugalía-Hollon, SM' 10** advises students to seek mentorship and advice from leaders in the field that are doing the work you would like to do. In an update, she shares her recent experience as the Director of Policy for the Mayor of San Antonio.*



"I started working for the Mayor of San Antonio as his Director of Policy in July. 4 months into the pandemic, the city was upended. Our responsive strategies had to prioritize the immediate needs of our residents -- testing, rental assistance, the digital divide -- while addressing the long-standing inequities that the pandemic exacerbated.

One of my first tasks was to facilitate the development of a workforce program that would spur economic mobility and end generational poverty. San Antonio has been known for its low-wage jobs, a service industry and tourism dependent economy and too many adults with less than a college or high school degree. This has led to high poverty, economic segregation and racial disparities. Many of our recently unemployed and low-income residents had incomplete or no college degrees and worked in unstable, low-paying jobs.

So together with key stakeholders, we drafted a policy to avail free training in certificates/degrees that prepare residents for in-demand and high wage jobs, including funds to address barriers that prohibit program completion. In November, we put the initiative on the ballot asking voters to allocate \$154M in sales taxes to support the 4-year effort. They resoundingly chose to invest in themselves and their neighbors."

Career Updates

Destiny Davis joined the SBS department November 2020 as Program Coordinator at the Maternal and Child Health Center of Excellence. She joins the Center as an experienced administrative professional with extensive public health knowledge and an interest in health equity. Destiny holds a Master of Public Health in Health Policy from the Milken Institute School of Public Health at The George Washington University and a Bachelor of Science in Global Community Health from George Mason University.



Natalie Slopen joined the SBS Department in January 2020 as an Assistant Professor.

Since January, **SV Subramanian** joined the National Institution for Transforming India

(NITI) Aayog, Government of India as an Honorary Senior Fellow. He also recently joined the Center for Geographic Analysis at Harvard University as chair of the Faculty Advisory Group, the Lancet Commission on Reimagining Healthcare in India as commissioner, and Institute of Competitiveness in India as a member of the Technical Advisory Committee.

Awards and Honors

A manuscript published in 2020 by **Stephanie Child** and her colleagues, titled "**Socioeconomic Differences in Access to Neighborhood and Network Social Capital and Associations with Body Mass Index among Black Americans**" has been selected as an **Editors' Picks Papers of the Year for 2020** in the American Journal of Health Promotion.

Ichiro Kawachi, Karestan Koenen, SV Subramanian, and David Williams have been recognized as one of the **Highly Cited Researchers in 2020** according to the Web of Science.

Nancy Krieger has been named the **2020 recipient of the American College of Epidemiology's Outstanding Contributions to Epidemiology Award**. The award recognizes an active epidemiologist for outstanding contributions to the field in one of three areas: 1) methods development; 2) etiologic research; or 3) applied epidemiology, and she was given the award "in recognition of her exemplary work in the field." Krieger received the award on December 1, 2020 and will deliver a platform talk at the College's 2021 annual meeting.

Nancy Krieger's Measures of Racism, Sexism, Heterosexism, and Gender Binarism for Health Equity Research: From Structural Injustice to Embodied Harm—An Ecosocial Analysis is a **top 10 downloaded article from the 2020 volumes** published by Annual Reviews.

Michael Marmot and Nancy Krieger are ranked, respectively, as the top two experts in social justice worldwide **according to Expertscape**.

Aviva Musicus has been selected as a **Forbes 30 Under 30 honoree in the Healthcare category for 2021**.

Racism and Health: Evidence and Needed Research by **David Williams, Jourdyn Lawrence, and Brigitte Davis** is a **top 10 downloaded article published in 2020** by Annual Reviews.

Presentations

Liu J, Halpern-Felsher B, Harris S. "Does Tobacco Screening in Youth Primary Care Identify Youth Vaping?" 2021 Annual Meeting of the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine (Platform Research IV: Salient topics in Adolescent Health): Online, March 12, 2021.

Liu J, Wright C, Williams P, Elizarova O, Dahne J, Bian J, Zhao Y, Tan A. "Smokers' Likelihood to Engage with Misinformation of E-cigarette Relative Harms on Twitter: Results from a Randomized Controlled Experiment." 2021 Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco (SRNT) Annual Meeting (Virtual E-Poster On Demand Video Presentation): Online, February 24-27, 2021.

Chen S, Liu J, Davine J, Lee R, Geller A, Rees, V. "Future Intentions to Quit and Access to Cessation Resources among Smokers in Low-Income Housing." 2021 Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco (SRNT) Annual Meeting (Virtual E-Poster On Demand Video Presentation): Online, February 24-27, 2021.

Liu J, Chen S, Davine J, Lee R, Geller A, Rees V. "Perceptions and Use of E-

Publications

Bekalu MA, Dhawan D, McCloud RF, **Pinnamanen R**, **Viswanath K**. **Adherence to COVID-19 Mitigation Measures among American Adults: The Need for Consistent and Unified Messaging**. *Health Educ Res*. January 26, 2021. Online ahead of print. <https://doi.org/10.1093/her/cyab002>.

Bekalu MA, McCloud RF, Minsky S, **Viswanath K**. **Association of social participation, perception of neighborhood social cohesion, and social media use with happiness: Evidence of trade-off**. *J Community Psychol*. November 10, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jcop.22469>.

Ojikutu BO, Stephenson KE, Mayer KH, **Emmons KM**. **Building Trust in COVID-19 Vaccines and Beyond Through Authentic Community Investment**. *Am J Public Health*. December 10, 2020. Online ahead of print. <https://doi.org/10.2105/ajph.2020.306087>.

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Krieger N, Nethery RC, **Chen JT**, **Waterman PD**, **Wright E**, **Rushovich T**, Coull BA. **Impact of differential privacy and census tract data source (Decennial Census versus American Community Survey) for monitoring health inequities**. *Am J Public Health*. Vol. 111(2), pp. 265-268, February, 2021. <https://doi.org/10.2105/ajph.2020.305989>.

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Lee HH, Okuzono SS, **Kim ES**, De Vivo I, Raffield LM, Glover L, Sims M, Grodstein F, **Kubzansky LD**. **Optimism and Telomere Length among African American Adults in the Jackson Heart Study**. *Psychoneuroendocrinology*. In press.

Liu J, Gaiha SM, Halpern-Felsher B. **A Breath of Knowledge: Overview of Current Adolescent E-cigarette Prevention and Cessation Programs**. *Curr Addict Rep*. Vol. 7, pp. 520-532, November 12, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40429-020-00345-5>.

McCormick MC. **Early Intervention and Mental Health**. *Pediatr Med*. In press.

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Kim R, Liou L, Xu Y, Kumar R, Leckie G, Kapoor M, Venkataramanan R, Kumar A, Joe W, **Subramanian S V**. **Precision-weighted estimates of neonatal, postneonatal and child mortality for 640 districts in India, National Family Health Survey 2016**. *J of Glob Health.* Vol. 10(2), 020405, December, 2020. <http://doi.org/10.7189/jogh.10.020405>.

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Vázquez-Otero C, Daley EM, Vamos C, Romero-Daza N, Beckstead J, Martinez Tyson D. **The Intersection of Problems, Policy, and Politics: the adoption of an HPV vaccine school-entry requirement in Puerto Rico.** *Qual. Health Res.* In press.

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<https://doi.org/10.1080/10410236.2020.1837445>.

Upcoming Events & Seminars

Book Launch | Critical Epidemiology and The People's Health by Jaime Breilh and Series (Small Books Big Ideas in Population Health) Edited by Nancy Krieger
Thur, Jan 21, 6-7pm ET, Via Zoom
[Recording](#) (Access Code: %e^WJ94F)

Women, Gender, and Health | Black Femmes in the Fight for Food Justice
Speakers: Ali Anderson, Lyric Zhané, Ashley Gripper,
Mon, Feb 22, 6-7pm ET, Via Zoom
[Email wgh@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:wgh@hsph.harvard.edu) to RSVP

Center for Health and Happiness | Happiness at Work
Speaker: George Ward, M.Sc.
Weds, Feb 24, 1-1:50pm ET, Via Zoom
[RSVP](#)

Center for Population and Development Studies Seminar | COVID-19, Structural Racism, Embodied Histories, and the Two-Edged Sword of Data
Speaker: Dr. Nancy Krieger
Thur, Feb 25, 12-1pm ET, Via Zoom
[RSVP](#)

Harvard Chan Qualitative Methods Student Club | Engaging with Community Partners in Qualitative Data Collection and Analysis: Lessons Learned from the Impact of ICE on Immigrant Health Study, Everett, MA
Speaker: Jocelyn Chu
Fri, Feb 26, 1-2pm ET, Via Zoom
[RSVP](#)

2021 Black Health Matters Conference | Taking an Intersectional Approach to Systemic Racism
Keynote Speakers: Harriet A. Washington, Dr. David Williams
Sat-Sun, Feb 27-28, Online
[Register](#)

Women, Gender, and Health Working Group Meeting
Wed, Mar 3, 1-1:50pm ET, Via Zoom
[Email wgh@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:wgh@hsph.harvard.edu) to RSVP

Center for Population and Development Studies Seminar | The Impact of Alternative Types of Elder Care Providers: Stratified IV Analysis with Machine Learning Using Nursing Home Exits

Speaker: Dr. Yanyue Wang

Fri, Mar 5, 12-1pm ET, Via Zoom

[RSVP](#)

International Women's Day in a Time of COVID-19: The Ongoing Fight for Health Justice

Mon, Mar 8, 1-1:50pm ET, Via Zoom

[RSVP](#)

Center for Health and Happiness | March Seminar

Speaker: Dr. Michèle Lamont

Weds, Mar 24, 1-1:50pm ET, Via Zoom

[RSVP](#)

Women, Gender, and Health Working Group Meeting

Wed, Mar 31, 1-1:50pm ET, Via Zoom

[Email wgh@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:wgh@hsph.harvard.edu) to RSVP

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