

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Spring 2, 2021 Newsletter



Things go better with love and understanding

As we speed towards the end of another academic year, I want to acknowledge the challenges that all our staff and faculty but, especially our students, have faced and overcome. No prior group of students have ever had to live through what our students have -- so much time working remotely while also grappling with fallout from the pandemics of Covid-19 and racial injustice. And we are all emotionally drained from witnessing the steady drumbeat of police shootings of Black people and violence directed at Asian Americans and other people of color. And as we look outside the US, we see the tragic and horrifying images of Afghan girls brutally murdered just because they went to school, and millions in India and Brazil who are overwhelmed by the tidal wave of Covid-19.

And so congrats to our graduates and to every member of the SBS community for what you have accomplished this academic year, under the most difficult of circumstances. All of the challenges in our world remind us of the desperate need in our society of the values of equity, justice and compassion that we hold dear. Let the darkness of our times inspire us to continue to light candles with renewed strength. Light has never been more desperately needed than now.

And as we do this work, let's resist the "cancel culture" of our time. Let us pioneer new ways to effectively engage with others who see life differently than we do. As we raise awareness of social inequities and build new coalitions to address them, let us not forget that we all have blind-spots. Let's acknowledge that we all have many lessons to learn and many, many to unlearn. Let's be more tolerant with each other. Let us create spaces where each voice is valued even when that individual's knowledge and understanding is pitifully limited. And let's create innovative new opportunities for each of us to learn and grow. I remember a 1970s song from the Soul group, Chairmen of the Board. It stated that "The world has problems, let's all solve them" but it reminded us that, "It's gonna be alright, with a little more understanding ... 'Cause things go better, with love and understanding." I believe that it is still true in 2021 that things go better with love and understanding. Let's model it in all of our social interactions and carry it into all of our work of creating positive change and opportunities for individuals and communities to build a healthier world.

David R. Williams

Alumni Corner

Kasley Killam MPH '20, is a SBS graduate interested in how social relationships influence health and well-being. As the founder of Social Health Labs, she collaborates with cross-sector partners on local, state, and national initiatives to alleviate social isolation and loneliness. In an update, she advises students to take advantage of the opportunity to connect with peers and faculty at HSPH and the other Harvard graduate schools.

In December, you launched a monthly microgrant program to strengthen communities across the country. What inspired you to create this program?

It all began with an intergenerational gathering I hosted in San Francisco a few years ago. The intent was to facilitate a few enjoyable hours of conversation across ages—but it ended up having ripple effects far beyond that. I realized how simple yet impactful local community connection can be.



Fast forward to a lecture I attended at Chan where we learned about the Social Ecological Model, which is a helpful way to think about the different levels through which you can improve people's health (e.g., policy, workplaces, schools, etc.). My work since graduating has focused on applying this model to the public health issue of loneliness, which can be as **harmful** as smoking.

Read the full interview.

Career Updates

Lauren Chapman joined the SBS department March 2021 as a Faculty and Financial Coordinator. She joins the Department as a recent graduate of William & Mary, where she earned her Bachelor's degree in Sociology with a concentration in Social Problems, Policy & Justice. She comes to the job with experience in administrative support roles from helping to run a small Virginia-based nonprofit as well as interning for the Boston City Department of Neighborhood Development. The combination of her past roles as well as her studies has given her an interest in social equity and welfare, which makes her excited to be a part of



the SBS department that works towards the improvement of social policy and interventions and promoting social equity.

In February, **Candice Carpenter** was named the **Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Harvard Public Health Review**. She brings passion, entrepreneurial energy, and vision for publishing in public health and advancing the HPHR mission for health equity and social justice.



Kelsey Hunt joined the SBS department May 2021 as the Program and Research Coordinator at the Lee Kum Sheung Center for Health and Happiness. Before earning her master's degree, she worked as an instructor at a wilderness therapy program in North Carolina, which led her to the field of public health. Kelsey holds a Master of Public Health in Social and Behavioral Sciences from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and a B.A. in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations from Harvard College.

Claudia Trudel-Fitzgerald has been selected as one of the 2021-2022 Michigan Integrative Well-Being and Inequality Scholars, who will participate in a NIH-sponsored state-of-the-art, interdisciplinary methods training program on the intersection of mental and physical health, with an emphasis on how this intersection relates to health disparities

Awards and Honors

The Massachusetts Teachers Association has named **Alan Geller** as a **2021 Recipient of the President's Award**.

Erica Kenney is a **2021 Recipient of the Everett Mendelsohn Excellence in Mentoring Award** through the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

The American Journal of Epidemiology and the Society for Epidemiological Research has selected Cancer Stage at Diagnosis, Historical Redlining, and Current Neighborhood Characteristics: Breast, Cervical, Lung, And Colorectal Cancer, Massachusetts, 2001-2015 by Nancy Krieger and her colleagues as one of the top 10 articles of 2020.

Media Feature Spotlight

In an interview with CBS's 60 Minutes, **David R. Williams** speaks about how racism is negatively impacting Black Americans' health and people of color's health around the word.

"We've done studies in South Africa. There're colleagues doing studies in Australia, studies in the U.K., studies across the world," he says. "And we find in all of these contexts, empirically, statistically that experiences of discrimination are directly impacting health."



Read more about the CBS's 60 Minutes' feature on racism and health.

Presentations

Krieger N. "COVID-19, structural racism, embodied histories, and the two-edged sword of data: structural problems require structural solutions." Dornsife 2021 Population Health Symposium, Philadelphia, PA (Invited keynote Presentation): Online, April 7, 2021.

Krieger N. "Dismantling Racism and Accelerating Equity." AMA Future Shock Series, Chicago, IL (Invited Panelist): Online, March 24, 2021.

Krieger N. "Epidemiology, structural racism, & the two-edged sword of data: structural problems require structural solutions." 5th Cutter Symposium: Epidemiology and Racism, sponsored by the HSPH Department of Epidemiology, Boston, MA (Invited Presentation): Online, May 14, 2021.

Liu J, Vazquez-Otero C, Stevens, E. "Youth Appeal of 2019 & 2020 Vaping Ads: A Content Analysis." 2021 American Academy of Health Behavior Annual Scientific Meeting (Poster Presentation: Substance Use): Online, March 23, 2021.

Liu J, Chen S, Davine J, Lee R, Geller A, Rees V. "Perceptions, Use and Access to Ecigarettes and Other Cessation Resources among Smokers in Low-Income Housing." Society of Behavioral Medicine's 2021 Annual Meeting and Scientific Sessions (Research Spotlight): Online, April 12, 2021.

Liu J, Wright C, Elizarova O, Dahne J, Bian Y, Tan A. "Emotions and Perceived Relative Risk Mediate the Effects of E-cigarette Misinformation on Intentions to Purchase E-cigarettes." 2021 D.C. Health Communication Conference (Poster

Presentation): Online, April 23, 2021.

Gomez VB, Garthe RC, **Mendez SR**, Johnson C. "H.E.A.L.T.H.: Designing for Safety and Equity." Environmental Design Research Association EDRA52 Conference: Online, May 21, 2021.

Smith, CL. "Migrant Women's health programs during the time of the pandemic." University of Texas Medical Branch 4th Annual Conference on Migration and Health (Invited Presentation: Health Care Access, Quality, and Efficiency): Online, March 22, 2021.

Smith, CL. "Liberation Medicine and Abolition Health." Boston University School of Theology and Duke Divinity School Health and Liberation Theologies Symposium 2021: Addressing the Roots of Social Violence (Invited Presentation): Online, April 10th, 2021.

Trudel-Fitzgerald, C. "Psychological functioning and chronic diseases: Is it more than coping?" Université de Montréal & Institut Universitaire en Santé Mentale de Montréal, Montréal, Canada (Invited Lecture): Online, March 15, 2021.

Trudel-Fitzgerald, C. "Coping with cancer during a pandemic: Fostering resilience." Annual Conference of Coalition Priorité Cancer au Québec, Québec, Canada (Invited Lecture): Online, March 25, 2021.

Trudel-Fitzgerald, C. "Thinking about modifiable determinants of health: Psychosocial predictors of disease risk and longevity." University of Massachusetts Amherst School of Public Health and Health Sciences (Invited Lecture: Epidemiology Seminar Series): Online, April 16, 2021.

Williams DR. "Covid-19: A Tutorial on Racism." 5th Cutter Symposium: Epidemiology and Racism, sponsored by the HSPH Department of Epidemiology, Boston, MA (Invited Presentation): Online, May 14, 2021.

Publications

Carpenter CD. The Threat of Black Box Algorithms –and How Business Leaders Can Survive Them. Oxford Business Review. February 21, 2021. https://oxfordbusinessreview.org/the-threat-of-black-box-algorithms-and-how-business-leaders-can-survive-them/.

Carpenter CD. Structural Colorism: Illuminating the Shadow of Structural Racism and Its Malcontents. Harvard Public Health Review. Vol. 29 (Social Justice Edition), April, 2021. https://harvardpublichealthreview.org/structural-colorism/.

Carpenter CD. The Business of Diversity: Oxford University as a Case Study. Oxford Business Review. April 19, 2021. https://oxfordbusinessreview.org/the-business-of-inclusive-diversity-oxford-university-as-a-case-study/.

Torode J, Kithaka B, Chowdhury R, Simelela N, **Cruz JL**, Tsu VD. **National Action Towards A World Free of Cervical Cancer for All Women**. *Prev Med*. Vol. 144, 106313, March 4, 2021. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ypmed.2020.106313.

Guimond AJ, Kubzansky LD, Boehm JK, Kivimaki M, Trudel-Fitzgerald C. Does life satisfaction reduce risk of incident hypertension and stroke? Evidence from the Whitehall II cohort. *J Psychosom Res.* Vol. 144, 110414, May, 2021. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpsychores.2021.110414.

Kramer K, Veile A, **Ivey Henry P**. "Conceiving Reproduction in Biological Anthropology" in Sallie Han and Cecilia Tomori, eds. **The Routledge Handbook of Anthropology and Reproduction**. *Routledge*. In press.

Ivey Henry P, Morelli G. "Niche Construction in Hunter-Gatherer Infancy: Growth and

Health Tradeoffs Inform Social Agency" in Sybil Hart and David Bjorklund, eds. **Evolutionary Perspectives on Infancy**. *Springer Nature*. In press.

Stark B, Nagle SA, Hunter A, Charlton BM, **Katz-Wise SL**. Family building desires among transgender and gender expansive adolescents: A longitudinal family-level analysis. *Int J Transgender Health*. March 18, 2021. Epub ahead of print. https://doi.org/10.1080/26895269.2021.1896410.

Woulfe JM, Mereish EH, **Katz-Wise SL**. Social support as a mediator of anti-bisexual prejudice and posttraumatic stress disorder symptoms. *J Trauma Dissociation*. In press.

Katz-Wise SL, **Boskey ER**, **Godwin EG**, Thomson K, Post J, Gordon AR. "We're moving in the right direction. Still a long way to go": Experiences and perceptions of the climate for LGBTQ+ employees at a pediatric hospital. *J Homosex*. In press.

Sumner JA, Koenen KC, Kubzansky LD. The long arm of mental health: new urgency with the COVID-19 pandemic. *Am J Health Promot*. Vol. 35(2), 311-312, February 8, 2021. https://doi.org/10.1177/0890117120983982c.

Krieger N. Counting for accountability in a time of catastrophe: COVID-19 and other deaths, cohorts, color lines and dollar signs. *Am J Public Health*. In press.

Krieger N. Structural racism, health inequities, and the two-edged sword of data: structural problems require structural solutions. *Front Public Health*. 9:655447, April 15, 2021. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2021.655447.

Lovejoy M, Kelly EL, **Kubzansky LD**, **Berkman LF**. Workplace Redesign for the 21st Century: Promising Strategies for Enhancing Worker Well-Being. *Am J Public Health*. In press.

Lee HE, Kawachi I. Association Between Unpredictable Work Schedules and Depressive Symptoms in Korea, Safety and Health at Work. Saf Health Work. In press. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.shaw.2021.01.008.

Lee HE, Kim NH, Jang TW, Kawachi I. Impact of Long Working Hours and Shift Work on Perceived Unmet Dental Need: A Panel Study. Int J Environ Res Public Health. Vol. 18(6), 2939, March 13, 2021. https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18062939.

Lee HE, Kim MH, Choi M, Kim HR, Kawachi I. Variability in daily or weekly working hours and self-reported mental health problems in Korea, Korean working condition survey, 2017. *Arch Public Health*. Vol. 79(1), 25, February 27, 2021. http://doi.org/10.1186/s13690-021-00545-z.

Liu J, Halpern-Felsher B, Harris S. **Does Tobacco Screening in Youth Primary Care Identify Youth Vaping?** *J Adolesc Health*. February 18, 2021. Epub ahead of print. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2021.01.017.

Liu J, Ramamurthi D, Halpern-Felsher B. Inside the adolescent voice: A qualitative analysis of the appeal of different tobacco products. *Tob Induc Dis.* Vol. 19, 15, February 26, 2021. https://doi.org/10.18332/tid/132856.

Simon MA, O'Brian CA, Tom L, Wafford QE, Mack S, **Mendez SR**, Nava M, Dahdouh R, Paul-Brutus R, Carpenter KH, Kern B, Holmes KL. **Development of a web tool to increase research literacy in underserved populations through public library partnerships**. *PLoS One*. Vol. 16(2), e0246098, February 3, 2021. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0246098.

Murchison GR, Rosenbach SB, Poteat VP, Yoshikawa H, Calzo JP. Gender-sexuality alliance membership and activities: Associations with students' comfort, confidence and awareness regarding substance use resources. Health Educ Res. February 5, 2021. https://doi.org/10.1093/her/cyab007.

Pinnamaneni R, Seshasayee SM. "All players must guard against messaging that erodes covid vaccine trust." The Indian Express. February 22, 2021.

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Rushovich T, Boulicault M, Chen JT, Danielsen AC, Tarrant A, Richardson S, Shattuck-Heidorn H. Sex Disparities in COVID-19 Mortality Vary Across US Racial Groups. *J Gen Intern Med.* Vol. April 5, 2021. Online ahead of print. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11606-021-06699-4.

Shiba K, **Kubzansky LD**, **Williams DR**, VanderWeele TJ, **Kim ES**. Associations Between Purpose in Life and Mortality by SES. *Am J Prev Med*. In press.

Shonkoff JP, Slopen N, Williams DR. Early Childhood Adversity, Toxic Stress, and the Impacts of Racism on the Foundations of Health. *Annu Rev Public Health*. Vol. 42, 115-134, April, 2021. https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-publhealth-090419-101940.

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Stelson EA. COVID and Camus: Reflections on The Plague, collective experience, and qualitative inquiry during a pandemic. Qual Soc. Work. Vol. 20(1–2), 41–47, January-March, 2021. https://doi.org/10.1177/1473325020973345.

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Mateo CM, Williams DR. Racism: A fundamental driver of racial disparities in health care quality. *Nat Rev Dis Primers*. Vol. 7(1), 20, March 11, 2021. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41572-021-00258-1.

Williams DR, Etkins OS. Racism and Mental Health. World Psychiatry. In press.

Upcoming Events & Seminars

Center for Health and Happiness | When Twin Public Health Crises Meet: Trends in III-Being and Deaths of Despair during the COVID Pandemic

Speaker: Dr. Carol Graham

Wed, May 19, 1-1:50pm ET, Via Zoom

RSVP

WGH Summer Planning Meeting

Tue, Jun 15, 12-2pm ET, Via Zoom
Email wgh@hsph.harvard.edu to RSVP

Past Events & Seminars Recordings

SBS Racism and Health Seminar Series

- Impact of Unresolved Trauma on American Indian Health Equity | Dr. Donald Warne (Apr 12)
- A Program of Research on the Role of Race in Adolescent Academic and Social Life Online | Dr. Brendesha Tynes (May 10)

Center for Health and Happiness

- Social Resilience, Hope, and Recognition in the New Gilded Age | Dr. Michèle Lamont (Mar 24)
- Applying the Health Capability Profile (To Be Published) | Dr. Jennifer Prah Ruger (Apr 28)

MCH Center of Excellence

 Midwifery: An Evidence-Based Solution for Disrespect, Racism and Other Challenges in Maternity Care | Ebony Marcelle, Dr. Holly Powell Kennedy, Dr. Eugene R. Declerq (Apr 29)

STRIPED

- Stress, Disordered Eating and Mental Health Symposium | Dr. S. Bryn Austin, Johanna Kandel, Monika Ostroff, Dr. Lesley Williams (Mar 17)
- Disordered Eating, Body Image & Community Mental Health in Malaysia | Dr. Sook Ning Chua (Apr 7)

Dept of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health
677 Huntington Avenue | Kresge Building
Boston, MA 02115

phone: 617.432.1135 | fax: 617.432.3123

email: sbs@hsph.harvard.edu

website: hsph.harvard.edu/social-and-

behavioral-sciences/

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