cupc highlights

recently published papers

Fabulous news! The consensus study by the **National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine** (NASEM) has just been released, and our very own **Ryan Masters** is a member of the committee, made up of an amazing group of scholars who are behind this comprehensive report entitled "High and Rising Mortality Rates among Working-Age Adults." The research identifies the key drivers of the increasing mid-life mortality rate, with its widening social differentials, such as risk factors that might alleviate poor health in mid-life. We hope you were able to catch the webinar held earlier this week, but if not, here is an archived recording. ~ *way to go Ryan!*

"Snitch", "rat", "narc", "tattletale": all terms used to describe those who share inside and potentially incriminating information with authorities -- and what better place to study "snitching" but in our prison systems. **David Pyrooz** and coauthors explore this behavior (or rather the "sacred prison norm" of ANTI-snitching) in their new article "Look who's talking: The snitching paradox in a representative sample of prisoners," recently published in the *British Journal of Criminology*.

CUPC Denver-Anschutz affiliate **Kate Coleman-Minahan** just had her research paper "Pregnancy Options Counseling and Abortion Referral Practices Among Colorado Nurse Practitioners, Nurse-Midwives, and Physician Assistants," published in the *Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health*. Her data shows that half of Colorado advanced practice clinicians are willing and able to counsel on abortion, 53% refer for abortion, and 31% refer to crisis pregnancy centers. Lack of knowledge is the main rationale for clinicians' unwillingness and inability to counsel on abortion, suggesting this is a modifiable gap in which changes to graduate curricula and continuing education may improve evidence-based practice.

media coverage

Can you only see up to a third of the stars that actually exist in the night sky from where you live? If so, you might be living with too much artificial brightness coming from sources like streetlamps and buildings, which can lead to health issues, *particularly for pregnant women*. "We discovered that increased light pollution is linked to some pretty severe health challenges," explains CUPC Denver affiliate **Laura Argys,** who was recently interviewed by *CU Denver News* about her newly published article, "Light pollution, sleep deprivation, and infant health at birth," in *Southern Economic Journal.* This is the **first study** to examine the fetal health impact of light pollution based on a direct measure of skyglow. ~ *well done Laura!*

invited presentations

Anschutz's Department of Emergency Medicine tapped into our CUPC expertise for their 2-week online course on "Climate Medicine," offered to 4th-year medical students, held this past February. **Colleen Reid** provided a lecture on "Air Pollution and Wildfire" and **Lori Hunter** provided one on "Migration, Climate and Health." ~ *high-fives to the ladies!*

TODAY, Mon, March 5, 4-5:30 pm: CUPC speaker series is excited to announce the 2nd **Richard Jessor Distinguished Lecture on Health and Society.** Cancelled last year due to COVID, Del Elliott will finally be able to present his talk on "Assessing the Effectiveness of Juvenile Justice System Interventions", sponsored by the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence. **REGISTER HERE**!

welcome aboard to a new surge of CUPC talent!

- *new seat on the CUPC Executive Committee:*

CUPC is incredibly fortunate to have **Karen Lutfey Spencer** fill the open seat on the CUPC Executive Committee! A Health and Behavioral Science Professor from UC Denver, Karen's research is on medical decision making, health disparities, and the ways individuals interact with healthcare systems over the life course. She has examined these issues across various medical and psychiatric conditions using various qualitative and quantitative methods. Karen's current work is focused on the social context of end-of-life decision making, including ways in which healthcare systems, payers, providers, and social networks influence individuals' engagement with hospice and other healthcare services. Karen has also collaborated on graduate advising with CUPC faculty.

- *new CUPC affiliate:*

CUPC is thrilled to introduce our newest affiliate **Morteza Karimzadeh,** Assistant Professor of GEOG at CU Boulder. As a geospatial data scientist, Morteza brings tremendous methodological expertise to our community. His research spans various social/environmental domains, while contributing expertise in geovisualization, visual analytics, and spatial statistics, such as sea ice mapping, human mobility analysis, crisis infomatics, and precision agriculture, just to name a few. He's also been recently engaged with questions relating to disparities with the pandemic, specifically on predictive modeling of COVID-19 cases at the county-level in the U.S. using spatiotemporal machine learning.

fun fact: Morteza is an amateur bodybuilder, lifting weights since 2004. He finds the human anatomy and science of nutrition fascinating. "During the pandemic, I have been surprised by how much I can do with a pull-up bar, resistance bands, and a pair of dumbbells at home. Thinking about it, the topic makes for a great CUPC workshop (not!)."

- *new CUPC GRAs for Fall 2021:*

Emma Rieves is a M.A. student in GEOG at CU Boulder with an emphasis in environment-society interactions. Her research focuses on the health and environmental justice implications of climate mitigation and adaptation strategies and policies. Prior to graduate school, she worked in energy and climate consulting, policy, and regulation. Emma will be working under the guidance of **Colleen Reid** and **Morteza Karimzadeh**. With Dr. Reid, Emma will be investigating how perceptions of green space compare to objective measures related to mental health outcomes, such as stress, depression, and anxiety, and how these populations manage during the different phases of the COVID-19 pandemic. With Dr. Karimzadeth, Emma will quantitatively compare different approaches for capturing spatial lags in non-linear machine learning models for prediction of weekly COVID-19 cases and unemployment rates.

Lauren Schechter is an ECON PhD student at CU Boulder who is approaching her final year (2021-2022) in the program. Her research focuses on labor economics, specifically enforcement of wage and hourly violations, labor market discrimination, transitional job programs for disaffected workers, and the effect of global shocks and local-level policies on domestic violence. Lauren will continue to collaborate with **Brian Cadena** and **Tania Barham** on two different impact evaluations of anti-poverty programs administered by the CO Dept. of Human Services. Lauren is a co-author on one project and has been working as an RA on the other, contributing her expertise with survey data used in the evaluations.

- *new CUPC Postdocs:*

Substantially adding to **Amanda Stevenson's** team of fertility researchers are two newly-hired Postdocs: 1) Earning her PhD in Demography from UC Berkeley, **Leslie Root** brings expertise in fertility, abortion, population discourse, and demographic methods to the team's NICHD project "Access to Reproductive Healthcare, Fertility, and Associated Outcomes", 2) As a health policy economist, **Liyang Xie** comes from the U. of Pittsburgh Medicaid Research Center,

where she evaluated Pennsylvania's policies on opioid use disorder, the SNAP program, and changes to contraceptive care using claims data. Liyang will be working with the team on their Hewlett Foundation project "Assessing the life course impacts of expanded access to LARCs in Colorado."

non-CUPC proposal submissions

ATTENTION: CUPC is interested in knowing about CUPC-affiliated researchers **participating in proposals of OTHER institutes, departments, or programs too!** We want to celebrate all successes and make sure affiliates are familiar with each other's projects and expertise -- there may just be an untapped, fabulous collaborative opportunity! Please send your proposal information to Anni Magyary.

look familiar in your home?

*Um, my name is **Marlowe** and as you can see, I am resting on chairs that I shouldn't be on. **(read: BUSTED!)** I've been pushing my luck with **Master Jason** during this pandemic, bending the **Boardman** house rules, and DOG-GONE-IT if I didn't win! ZZZzzzz......*

*~ you **GO** Marlowe!*

Be sure to follow us on Twitter @CUPopCenter and https://cupc.colorado.edu/news/