

# cupc highlights

may 7, 2021

## honors



When President Biden announced more of his key administration last month, our very own **Lori Peek** was nominated to serve as a member on the Board of Directors of the [National Institute of Building Sciences](#) (NIBS)! Of the 21-member board, fifteen are elected and six are appointed by the President, subject to the approval by the U.S. Senate. A very impressive background on Lori is highlighted on the webpage of the [White House Press Briefing Room](#). She is recognized for her outstanding studies in marginalized populations in disaster and her leadership in countless networks centered around natural hazards mitigation. Lori also helped to develop FEMA's publication "[Safer, Stronger, Smarter: A Guide to Improving School Natural Hazard Safety](#)". ~ *Congratulations Lori!*

We are thrilled to announce that **Jason Boardman** and colleague Justin Denney's (WSU) research paper "[Hearing Impairment, Household Composition, Marital Status, and Mortality Among U.S. Adults](#)," was selected as a winner of an [IPUMS](#) award competition, falling under their research category "Health Surveys"! These IPUMS awards honor the best-published research from 2020 that use IPUMS census and survey data to advance the understanding of social and demographic processes. ~ *Bravo Jason!*

## media coverage



In 2009, Colorado launched an ambitious initiative that enabled federally-funded Title X clinics to provide a broad array of birth control options for free or at a low cost. A new study, conducted by an all-star fertility research team **Amanda Stevenson, Jane Menken, Stefanie Mollborn, Katie Genadek,** and CU Denver affiliate **Sara Yeatman,** shows the program significantly boosted graduation rates in the state, enabling 3,800 more women to get a diploma. Check out *CU Boulder Today's* article "[Greater access to birth control boosts high school graduation rates](#)" showcasing their findings, based on their [new publication in Science Advances](#). With funding help from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Society of Family Planning Research, and NIH-NICHD, Amanda's team is now looking to

see whether increased access to birth control may influence women's futures in other, more "human capital" ways. Amanda explains, "*When these arguments are based solely on the effect of contraception on fertility, it implies that poor women shouldn't have children. Our findings suggest that better access to contraception improves women's lives.*" Watch [Amanda on "Denver-7 News"](#)!

"[Racist terrorists are obsessed with demographics. Let's not give them talking points.](#)" is the title of an interesting viewpoint featured in a *Washington Post* Op-Ed, written by our new Postdoc **Leslie Root**, who is on **Amanda Stevenson's** fertility research team. "...the truth is that if we want to avoid giving scientific cover to murderous racists, we need to rethink how we talk about fertility rates and the changing racial and ethnic compositions of populations," Leslie says. Read more on how she feels about fueling the fire of the "survival-of-the-fittest" mentality.

## recently published papers

Air pollution and traffic noise from nearby roads and highways can certainly increase residents' risk of chronic health conditions. However, living in areas with more local infrastructure, such as light rails and subway systems, can provide residents with easier access to health care, healthy food, and even increase their physical activity. Tapping into this silver-lining between public health and our built communities can be found in **Lori Hunter's** outreach story "[The Health Costs and Benefits of Living Near Roads, Highways, and Light Rail](#)", recently published by the *Population Reference Bureau*.

Cheers to **Kate Coleman-Minahan** whose paper "[Contraindications to Hormonal Contraception Among Postpartum Women in Texas](#)" was recently published in *Obstetrics & Gynecology*.

## invited talks and presentations

**Lori Hunter** gave an invited lecture to the [Migration Lab](#) at Princeton University this week. Her talk was based on a paper coauthored with SOCY PhD student **Dan Simon**, entitled "[Time to Mainstream the Environment into Migration Theory?](#)"

Lori also gave an invited keynote address for the [1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Migrations](#): Migration research at a crossroads, organized by the French Collaborative Institute on Migration ([CIMigration](#)). She opened the session on Migration, Environment and Climate Change with her talk entitled "Migration-Environment Research: Remaining Puzzles and Promising Approaches". ~ such lucky audiences to have Lori as their guest speaker!

## newly funded grants



Let's give a round of applause to **David Pyrooz**, [Pam Buckley](#), and their team, who were awarded a \$1.2 million grant from [Arnold Ventures](#), spanning a 4-year period, to conduct a randomized controlled trial to evaluate Functional Family Therapy - Gangs (FFT-G) in Denver. FFT-G is an intervention to impact youth that are gang-involved or at risk for gang involvement. The intervention focuses on the family and directly addresses criminogenic risk factors that are often more salient in a gang population than in a more general delinquent population.

Another **CUPC Rapid Response Grant** was awarded this week to **Fernando Riosmena**, whose project "The Implications of Black and Indigenous Population Growth on Portraits of Socioeconomic Disadvantage in Mexico" is quite timely because of recent important changes in the measurement of race/ethnicity in this country, where indigenous self-identification has been measured using different types of questions since around 2000, and black self-identification, which only began to be measured in 2015. Riosmena and his collaborators, [Christina Sue](#) (SOCY/UCB) and [Eddie Telles](#) (UC - Irvine) plan to collect novel survey data by randomly assigning different types of questions on race-ethnic self-identification to respondents. Fernando's project will likely become a strong competitive external proposal.

## CUPC transition in leadership



**Jason Boardman** and [Patrick Krueger](#) (UCDenver) have agreed to step up to the plate and take on CUPC's "Development Core" as co-Directors! We owe [Rick Rogers](#) a **HUGE** depth of gratitude for his service over the past several years – he has been central in moving CUPC forward and in our success in the renewal of our infrastructure funding this last round. The transition will take place July 1. The Development Core is home to seed grants, the grant workshop, and other activities to further our population research.

~ thank you Rick for your valuable input, wisdom, and enlightenment!

## CUPC proposal submissions

~ fingers crossed!

**CUPC PI:** Jason Boardman

**Collaborator/lead:** Chapman University

**Project Title:** "Beating the Odds: A Lifespan Approach to Identifying Cardiovascular Disease Risk"

**Funding Agency:** NIH/NIA (R01)

**CUPC Amount Requested:** \$203,079



**Wed, May 19 at 7pm (MT):** CU Boulder Retired Faculty Association presents the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Distinguished Professors Faculty Series. Tune in to a [virtual lecture by our own Distinguished Professor Jane Menken](#), discussing "Population and Health around the World: A Demographer's Journey." You don't want to miss it, so [register HERE!](#)



**fun fact:** "I'll take Movers 'n Shakers for 200 please."

*This statistical Research Associate and trivia-loving nerd from the University of Colorado, Boulder organized an online petition to elect actor [LeVar Burton](#) as the next quiz show host on "Jeopardy".*

*"Um, hmmm, let's see.....WHO IS [JOSHUA SANDERS](#)??!?"*

**CORRECT!!!**

Let's give our colleague Josh a big SHOUT OUT for making a celebrity's dream come true, described in this **Washington Post** story "[LeVar Burton wanted to host 'Jeopardy!' for years. Thanks to an online movement, he's getting his chance.](#)" LeVar will make Alex Trebek proud! The episodes are set to air July 26 - July 30.



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