

cupc highlights

september 30, 2022
the “comeback” edition!

media coverage



“This is a perfect storm...you have a group of young people who think there is little risk in a risky behavior, and they are receiving very little information about birth control,” says [Katie Massey Combs](#), referring to adolescents under the Colorado child welfare services, during a recent interview with *CU Boulder Today*: [“Youth in child welfare system lack access to birth control”](#). Katie and her team’s recently published paper [“Sexual and reproductive health protective factors among adolescents with child welfare involvement”](#) in the journal *Children and Youth Services*

Review, is certainly drawing attention from local media outlets! *The Colorado Sun* reported its story [“Most young teens in Colorado’s foster care system don’t know about birth control”](#), and radio station KGNU reached out as well: listen to the [on-air interview here!](#) Since reporting their project’s findings and the media blitz, **action** is surfacing as the Colorado Director of Child Welfare Services met with Katie’s team to exchange ideas and resources!

~ makin’ waves Katie! Congratulations!



As we watch the news with its dire warning on Colorado’s western drought, it makes us wonder what our future holds, since water is the very heart of our existence. Of course this isn’t the first time civilization has been threatened by extreme drought. “The drought caused pretty serious social strife, and the society basically blew up over it,” explains [Scott Ortman](#), about the ancient Pueblo population that once existed at the archeological site of Mesa Verde, mentioned in *Discover Magazine’s* article [“5 Ancient Societies that Collapsed When the Water Ran Dry”](#).

honors

What better way to celebrate “National Postdoc Appreciation” week then to give a big shout-out to ENVs Asst. Professor [Karen Bailey](#), who was awarded the [“Outstanding Postdoc Mentor of the Year Award”](#) which recognizes exceptional faculty mentors who embody “what it means to be an equitable and inclusive scholar...deeply committed to practicing JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) principles,” according to climate change social scientist Sarah Walker.

We should also note that Karen’s continuing interest in human-environmental interactions as an ecologist was one reason **Governor Jared Polis** appointed Karen to a 4-year term on the [Colorado Parks & Wildlife Commission](#) in 2021!

~ Bravo Karen! An amazing testament to the importance of your work!

recently published papers

Cheers to SOCY Chair and political sociologist [David Cook-Martin](#) and coauthor Katie Jensen, whose recent article [“Migration Myopias and Insights from the Global South”](#) was published in *Perspectives*, a newsletter of the American Sociological Association (ASA). David’s dynamic work focuses on understanding migration, race, ethnicity, law, and citizenship in an international field of power.

Take note! The [U.S. COVID-19 Forecast Hub Consortium](#), which is an up-to-date record for forecasts of COVID-19 cases, deaths and hospitalizations in the US, created by dozens of leading infectious disease modeling teams from around the

globe, has our CUPC affiliate and spatial data scientist “extraordinaire” [Morteza Karimzadeh](#) and team as one of the contributors to “[the United States COVID-19 Forecast Hub dataset](#)”, recently published in the journal *Scientific Data*! This dataset is prepared in partnership with the CDC and has HUGE potential for developing forecasting models, visualizations, or analyses related to the COVID-19 pandemic. And let’s give a big shout-out to our new CUPC Graduate Research Assistant **Behzad Vahedi** who is also a contributor to this dataset! ~ *applause to the both of you!*

panel/conference participation, invited talks/presentations

Scott Ortman (IBS [CSAA](#) Director) and partner **Jeff Altschul** (CfAS President) both recently participated in a forum at the [European Association of Archaeologists](#) annual meeting held in Budapest. The roundtable topic was “Archaeology Matters. The Need to Re-define the Relevance of Archaeology.” Scott wrote up their comments and posted them to the IBS [Coalition for Archaeological Synthesis \(CfAS\)](#) website here: [Pathways to Contemporary Relevance](#). ~ *Scott, such exceptional talent you have for bridging archaeological research with the contemporary world!*



The awareness of the “[Dana Declaration 2002](#)” is truly important, since it’s the first international legal norm recognizing mobile Indigenous peoples and their significant contribution to biodiversity conservation and eco-preservation. The **Daca+20 workshop**, held this month in Jordan, brought delegates from all the major global regions to work together to exchange knowledge and explore ways to respond to the rapid changes in their environment. **Terry McCabe**, who was a participant on the steering committee, has been involved with the Dana Declaration from its start as part of one of the groups’ original signings. This year’s assembly

updated the declaration to reflect their new and current concerns while keeping in mind eco-preservation of their territories, which they have managed and conserved as custodians. This Dana “Manifesto”, as Terry described it, will be distributed to local and national governments, the United Nations, many organizations, and pertinent conferences to get it on their radar and into the spotlight. Take a look at the story behind the Daca+a20 workshop: “[Mobile Indigenous Peoples as Custodians for Conservation and Eco-Preservation of their Territories](#)”.

David Cook-Martin participated on a panel earlier this month for Harvard’s [Weatherhead Center for International Affairs](#) conference entitled “Temporary People and Middle Class Nation Building in Australia, Canada, and the US”.

Lori Hunter participated in an invited, remote panel on slow-onset environmental challenges and migration, organized by Technische Universität Berlin for their 25th International Metropolis Conference. She reported on her collaborative work with [Fernando Riosmena](#), which examines migration and environmental change in rural Mexico. Details [here!](#)

newly funded grants



High-Five to [Karen Bailey](#) and her team, led by PI **Kirsten Rowell** (ENVS Research Assoc.) along with their collaborators at the Smithsonian who have been awarded a whopping **\$2,992,828 (!!!)** from NSF’s RaMP-UP program, which is a very cool mentoring and training initiative formed through a partnership between the [Global Sustainability Scholars Program \(GSS\)](#) and the [Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute \(STRI\)](#). The program aims to support young scholars with a passion for sustaining a biodiverse planet and connects them to cutting-edge research opportunities focused on the response of tropical biodiversity to global change. [Learn more here!](#)

~ *Congratulations Karen for spearheading such an important initiative that builds a proactive effort to support talented individuals from traditionally underrepresented groups in support of biodiversity research and conservation!*

welcome aboard to a new surge of CUPC talent!

▪ new Faculty



CUPC is thrilled to introduce our newest IBS faculty member [Dr. Jessica Finlay](#)! Dr. Finlay will be joining CU as an Assistant Professor of the Geography Dept. in August 2023, after working as a Postdoc Research Investigator at the Univ. of Michigan. We're so fortunate to have her join CUPC as an affiliate! Jessica will also be a wonderful asset for the Health and Society Program. Her research centers around identifying avenues for creating more engaging and healthful lifelong communities through understanding the social and environmental contexts of certain health issues and how the locations of where people live impacts health and wellbeing. Through this work, she is developing a new area of applied *clinical geography* to incorporate geographic insights into healthcare and policy.

Jessica and her partner Matt, along with their two young boys Quinn and Clemente ('Kip') are all very excited to move to Boulder soon. Besides being an avid runner, Jessica also enjoys skiing and biking. Her outdoor energy level must come in handy at home as she shares, *"When not at my desk, I'm most often chasing after my toddler tornado and fast-crawling baby!"* She adds, *I'm thrilled to join CU and move back to the mountains - I grew up on the other side of the Rockies in Vancouver, Canada!*

▪ four new CUPC GRAs for Fall 2022 – just LOOK at this talent!

[Emma Galofré García](#) is an ENVS PhD student who is working on a project with her faculty advisor **Karen Bailey**, titled "Understanding Sense of Place to Support Resilience to Compound Hazards in the Intermountain West". The project aims at understanding how perceptions and feelings towards environments and the process by which individuals and groups derive these feelings influences responses to environmental change and environmental hazards among communities experiencing water scarcity in Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah. Emma has been conducting in-depth interviews with local communities and sharpening her analytical skills, learning more about the research design strategies to yield "actionable" science, especially since she is interested in how natural resource management can best serve marginalized and oppressed communities.



[Behzad Vahedi](#) is a GEOG PhD student whose research focuses on uncertainty-aware spatiotemporal forecasting of COVID-19. Behzad's interests include geographic information science and machine learning for spatiotemporal data. He has co-authored a paper with his advisor **Morteza Karimzadeh** on characterizing the predictive power of spatial features derived from social media and cell phone-mobility datasets for forecasting COVID-19. Building on this work, Behzad is working to devise novel algorithms for predictive modeling of COVID-19 cases/hospitalizations using spatiotemporal graph neural networks with custom loss functions under the guidance of Morteza, who has expertise in spatiotemporal deep learning.



*note: both **Emma and Behzad** are assisting CUPC with all kinds of outreach work too, such as re-awakening our Twitter account with fabulous Tweets, writing for our website, and contributing to this newsletter! We're just "over the moon" having their help!*

[Ryan Erickson](#) is a GEOG M.A. student, proficient in GIS/remote sensing tools, R and Python programming languages, and machine learning and spatial statistics. With his advisor **Guofeng Cao**, they are harnessing data to quantify community resilience to natural hazards and plan to integrate heterogeneous sources of geospatial data for this purpose, including weather observatory and model output (e.g., satellite imagery), socioeconomic data (e.g., survey statistics), and human behavior data (questionnaires, social media, mobility, and healthcare access statistics). For several hurricane and tornado events, they have built a database of the above-mentioned data sources! Ryan and Guofeng will develop



new methods to quantify the community resilience, examine the disparity across different regions, and then develop advanced machine learning methods to predict and explain the disparity.

Samina Islam Mim is an ENVS M.S. student who comes to us from the International Centre for Climate Change and Development in Dhaka, Bangladesh, where she worked as a Research Associate. Samina has extensive experience designing and implementing household surveys and a strong foundation in international climate negotiations, climate governance, and climate migration. Under the guidance of her faculty advisor(s) **Amanda Carrico and Karen Bailey**, Samina seeks to build her technical skills in data management and analysis, and deepen her expertise in the area of climate migration. Samina's project involves harmonizing survey data across two waves of the Bangladesh Environment and Migration Survey (BEMS) for analysis, while gaining more experience using Stata, working with large datasets, and BEMS data. The second scope of work involves conducting a literature review of research and reports documenting the effects of COVID-19 on migrants.



CUPC proposal submissions

~ fingers crossed!

Lead PI: Myron Gutmann; CU Boulder research team: **Lori Hunter, Stefan Leyk, Cyrus Hester**

Collaborators: Lauren Hughes (CU Anschutz), Dylan Connor (ASU)

Project Title: Midlife Mortality in the U.S.: Places, Trends, Models, and Policies

Funding Agency: NIH NIA R01

Amount Requested: \$2,363,038

U.S. Consortium PI: Lori Hunter

Collaborators: Consortium Lead: Univ. of the Witwatersrand (S. Africa); Other Consortium Partners: Univ. of Vienna (Austria), Mexican Center for Environmental Law (CEMDA - Mexico), Utrecht Univ. (Netherlands), Int. Center for Climate Change & Development (Dhaka, Bangladesh)

Project Title: Gender, migration and environmental change: (im)mobility decisions and outcomes (GEMENI)

Funding Agency: Belmont Forum

CUPC Amount Requested: \$450,000

Lead PI: David Cook-Martin

Collaborators: Vanderbilt Univ., Univ. of S. Carolina

Project Title: Bargaining on Immigration Policy: Limits and Possibilities of US Public Opinion

Funding Agency: NSF-SBES

CUPC Amount Requested: \$176,263

Lead PI: Jason Boardman

Collaborators: CU Anschutz

Project Title: Colorado Network on the Social Determinants of Health Equity

Funding Agency: ABNexus

Total Amount Requested: \$50,000



TODAY through **SAT**: the magnificent 13th annual [Integrating Genetics and the Social Sciences \(IGSS\)](#) conference, organized by **Jason Boardman**, who will truly be in his element, which is a good enough reason to go and witness! Check out this [incredible schedule](#) of speakers and [list of participants](#)! This two-day hybrid event showcases behavioral and molecular genetic studies that enhance demographic and social scientific inquiry, integrating genetics with the social sciences.

In fond memory of [Zeke Little](#)...who leaves behind wife (our colleague) Jani (RMRDC) and daughter Kate (CSPV).



Memorial service @ Lyons Community Church this Saturday, **Oct 1 @ 1pm.**

Outdoor reception @ family home, Blue Mt. Ranch, Lyons @ **~3pm.**

All are invited.



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