

# cupc highlights

issue 48 | september 15, 2023



## join us in welcoming Sara Yeatman as the new CUPC Director!

[Sara](#) is now officially the new Director of the CU Population Center (CUPC)! She took over the position this summer and is an affiliate from CU Denver. Additionally, she was just elected to the Population Association of America (PAA) Board of Directors.

Please also join us in welcoming [Katie Genadek](#) to the CUPC board as our external member!

Finally, we are looking for someone to join the board as the Primary Research Area lead for migration. Please let Sara know if you are interested.

## media coverage

On August 10<sup>th</sup>, [Amanda Stevenson](#) was interviewed in the podcast [Racism in health: The roots of the U.S. Black maternal mortality crisis](#)

CU Anschutz affiliate [Courtney Welton-Mitchell](#) was featured in the Education Week article [“How a new training eases teachers’ anxiety about emergency drills”](#)

## newly funded grants

[Katie Massey Combs](#) received an award through the Office of Population Affairs (OPA) to test a sexual health curriculum for youth in foster care (Thrive) in collaboration with UT Austin.

[Jason Boardman](#) received an R03 grant for his research “Rural-urban differences in polygenic associations for health and health behaviors.”

[Lori Hunter](#) was funded with an R03 for her research “Environmental extremes and the health of the rural elderly.”

[Jessica Finlay](#) received funding through an R00 for her project “Aging in place since the COVID-19 pandemic onset: A study of neighborhoods and cognitive health among older Americans.”

[David Pyrooz](#) was funded by CUPC for a workshop: “Toward international population representative statistics on gang involvement: Leveraging the Eurogang program of research.”

Thank  
you!

## a huge thank you to Stefan Leyk!

We are so grateful to Stefan for all of the work that he did over the past 2 years as the interim CUPC director. Words cannot express how thankful we are to you for stepping into this role, especially during the chaos of the COVID-19 pandemic, and guiding us through the last few years.

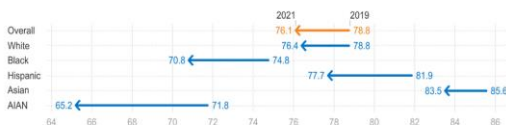
### recent publications

Speaking of [Stefan](#), he's been keeping busy by churning out publications! His paper with coauthor [Johannes Uhl](#) "[HISDAC-ES: Historical settlement data compilation for Spain \(1900–2020\)](#)" will appear in *Earth System Science Data* soon, and it has already made a big splash on social media. In the paper, Stefan and his coauthor scraped, harmonized, and processed over 12 million building footprints including construction years to create a multi-faceted series of gridded surfaces, describing the evolution of human settlements in Spain from 1900 to 2020, at 100 m spatial and 5 years temporal resolution. Additionally, he published "[Place-level urban-rural indices for the United States from 1930 to 2018](#)" with [Lori Hunter](#), [Catherine Talbot](#) and [Myron Gutmann](#) in the August edition of *Landscape and Urban Planning*, and his paper "[Spatially explicit accuracy assessment of deep learning-based, fine-resolution built-up land data in the United States](#)" is in press at the *International Journal of Applied Earth Observation and Geoinformation*.



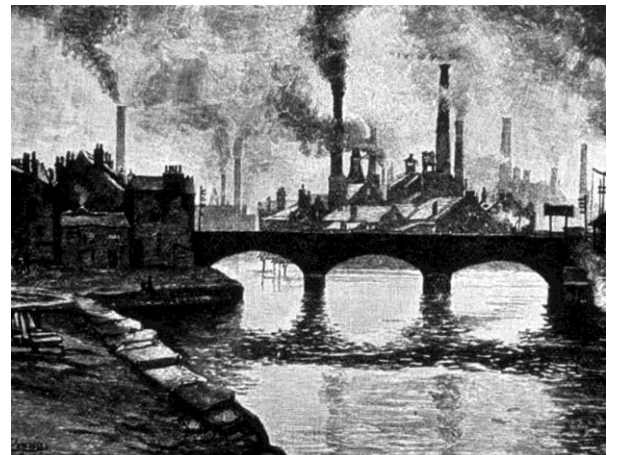
In his recent paper "[Life expectancy changes during the COVID-19 pandemic, 2019–2021: Highly racialized deaths in young and middle adulthood distinguish the United States among high-income countries](#)" published in the *American Journal of Epidemiology*, [Ryan Masters](#) finds that U.S. life expectancy decreases in 2020 and 2021 exceeded mean changes in 20 peer countries and disproportionately involved COVID-19 deaths in midlife, especially among Native, Hispanic, Black, and Asian American populations. The mortality consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic deepened a U.S. disadvantage in longevity that has been growing for decades and exacerbated long-standing racial inequities in U.S. mortality.

### Life Expectancy in Years by Race/Ethnicity, 2019–2021



**KFF** NOTE: Estimates based on provisional data for 2021 and final data for 2019 life expectancy at birth. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race but are categorized as Hispanic for this analysis; other groups are non-Hispanic. SOURCE: KFF, U.S. Census Bureau, CDC, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, National Center for Health Statistics, August 2022. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.36099/kff.2021.VitalStatistics.RacialRelease.no.24.Hyattsville.MD>

[Sharon DeWitte](#) co-authored a publication with two of her former PhD students titled "[Survivorship and the second epidemiological transition in industrial-era London](#)" that appeared in the *American Journal of Biological Anthropology*. They examined demographic trends in Industrial-era London using skeletal data in an effort to look at the context of the second epidemiological transition and found evidence of significantly lower adult survivorship prior to industrialization (c. 1569–1669 and 1670–1739 CE) compared to the industrial period (c. 1740–1853 CE). These findings support the use of skeletal demographic data to examine the context of the second epidemiological transition in past populations as the results are



consistent with historical evidence that, in London, survivorship was improving in the later 18th century, prior to the recognized beginning of the second epidemiological transition.

## mark your calendar!

This year's [\*Richard Jessor Distinguished Lecture in Health & Society\*](#) will be presented by **Dr. Kathleen Cagney**, Director of the Institute for Social Research (ISR) at the University of Michigan, on **Thursday, September 21, 5-6:30pm** in IBS 155A and on [Zoom](#) (email [ibs-contact@colorado.edu](mailto:ibs-contact@colorado.edu) for the password). Her talk is entitled "***The social context of health***" and focuses on why interdisciplinary approaches to this broad topic are essential and how the approach that IBS takes – an approach informed by Richard (Dick) Jessor's approach throughout his career – has been and will continue to be the model for work in this area. A reception will follow immediately with catered hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and beverages.

[RSVP here!](#)

## panel participation and invited talks

[Amanda Stevenson](#) gave two presentations at the American Sociological Association's Annual Meeting in August: "**What the fight over abortion can teach us about the coming fight over contraception**" and "**Rethinking fertility measurement: All-sex rates for accuracy and gender justice**" with [Leslie Root](#).

[Scott Ortman](#) and Victoria Harbison presented their paper "**Dynamics of inequality, past and present: Housing in Roman Britain**" at the European Association of Archaeologists Annual Meeting in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

[Jessica Finlay](#) gave an invited talk at the Institute of Behavioral Genetics (IBG) September 8<sup>th</sup> titled "**Cognability: An ecological theory of neighborhoods and cognitive aging.**"

## farewells

[Fernando Riosmena](#) has made amazing contributions to CUPC and IBS for many years, but the time has come for him to move on. He began his new position at UT San Antonio where he is directing the Institute for Health Disparities Research last August but left Boulder this summer. He remains a CUPC affiliate and IBS fellow.

[Krister Andersson](#) has accepted a position at Notre Dame and left CU Boulder August 20th. Krister has contributed much to IBS, including the development of the Center for the Governance of Natural Resources, and serving on the IBS Board of Directors.