



SAMPLER

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH

Fall 2010 Vol. 9, No. 1

Building for the Future



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ISR and the U.S. Census



Photo by Jennifer Puckett, ISR

From left, Yesenia Harrison, Sam Morykwas, and Joe Sandman, representing the College Democrats, display a certificate they received from ISR Director James S. Jackson at an award ceremony for the Census Video Contest this past spring. The trio also received a check for \$1,000 for winning first place in an online popular vote. Contestants submitted videos that sought to boost student participation in the 2010 census.

To see all the prize-winning videos, go to:
<http://www.census.umich.edu>

U.S. Census Bureau Director Robert Groves briefed a standing-room-only crowd at U-M in July on the status of the 2010 Census.



Photo by Scott Soderberg, U-M Photo Services

THIS HAS BEEN A BANNER YEAR FOR ISR. The steady growth in new and existing research projects—plus a healthy surge in temporary stimulus funding—boosted the Institute’s research awards for the fiscal year by almost 57 percent over 2009. The 2010 research volume of more than \$133 million ranks ISR among the University of Michigan’s top research operations, and further fortifies its position as the world’s largest academic survey and social research organization.

Of course, growth can be challenging. Finding space for new researchers, staff, and projects has long bedeviled ISR, and looking forward, this promised to be a bigger headache than ever. But our space planners and project coordinators can heave a sigh of relief. Earlier this year, we had the great pleasure of announcing the award of a \$14.8 million grant from the NIH to expand our Thompson Street building. Bolstered by support from the university and internal funding, the expansion, described in more detail in this issue’s cover story, promises not only to let us respond to immediate space needs, but to embrace future developments.

State of the I

In response to thoughtful and sometimes passionate input from within ISR, the architects have come up with a magnificent plan, and the possibilities opened up by the expansion are—simply put—phenomenally exciting. The additions will include new kinds of space—space that will let us expand our work with biological specimens, increase opportunities for chance meetings across disciplines, host collegial gatherings, and communicate more effectively with our national and international partners. ISR has been an extraordinarily interdisciplinary place even with its sometimes maze-like corridors and program-defined spaces. Just imagine what we can do with a physical environment that encourages the kinds of collaborations and creative thinking we’re already known for.

The new space also will help in our unflagging determination to train, nurture, and hire the young scholars that ISR needs to stay at the top of its game. You may have noticed some of the important efforts already underway to cultivate this next generation of researchers. For example, the summer internship programs of the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research and the Survey Research Center train undergraduate and graduate students in social science methods and involve them directly in data management and research programs.

In addition, the Survey Research Center’s new Faculty Research Fellows Program brings in topnotch early career social scientists for three-year appointments and prepares them for Research Professor tenure-track careers at ISR. In fact, we recently learned that we will be able to extend a limited version of the SRC program to other Centers in ISR. And we are expanding our already considerable efforts to give financial aid to students and young researchers. Just this year, we handed out the first awards for the Robert Kahn Fellowship and the Elizabeth Douvan Junior Scholar Fund in Life Course Development, bringing to twenty the number of ISR-sponsored funds and fellowships. Three recent recipients of such awards are profiled in this issue.

These are not the only ways we’re preparing for the future. The Society 2030 Consortium, launched in May, is forging new links with industry to help both ISR researchers and outside corporations bring a more informed understanding to the upcoming challenges of our aging society. Quarterly consortium meetings beginning this fall will address issues such as how demographic changes are affecting social attitudes and mores, and how those changes may affect consumer tastes and needs. Ultimately, the collaboration should help industry members develop better products and services, and ISR researchers should gain a deeper perspective into issues affecting social and economic activity among this burgeoning older population.

Staying responsive, forward-looking, and ready for change is critical to the Institute’s future, and we want our leaders to reflect that. I’ve signed on for a second five-year term as ISR Director, and I’m grateful for the chance to continue collaborating with the unrivalled researchers and staff who make ISR such a remarkable place. With the reappointment of Nancy Burns as Director of the Center for Political Studies and the appointment of Pamela Smock as the new Director of the Population Studies Center, ISR’s leadership increasingly reflects the diversity of the world around us.

We have had an amazing 60-year history. Now the exciting opportunities afforded by last year’s developments should give the staff and faculty reason to expect an even more productive role in shaping and contributing to social science research in the public interest.




James S. Jackson

Building for the Future

IN 1965, AFTER YEARS OF WANDERING FROM ONE temporary location to another, the Institute for Social Research (ISR) opened the doors of its new building on Thompson Street with celebration and a collective sigh of relief. Three years later, the Institute had outgrown the space. Thus began a series of leases, expansions, and even the purchase of a nearby former school building to accommodate ISR's steady growth.

Now, a \$14.8 million grant from the National Center for Research Resources, part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), has—at least temporarily—halted the Institute's chronic search for accommodations. It has also made possible a new kind of space for ISR that will satisfy developing research needs, improve communications, and encourage an even greater degree of collaboration among researchers and staff. "The fact that we received a grant from NIH for a building is really a phenomenal occurrence," says ISR Director James Jackson. "We are ecstatic."

Expanding the building had been a top priority since Jackson became director in 2005. There weren't enough offices for researchers or staff, entire programs were located offsite, new research directions demanded new technological capabilities, and the Institute was still growing. "It was clear within the first few months that we had a looming problem," he says. But when Anna Schork, ISR assistant director, spotted the NIH's request for proposals in early 2009 and encouraged Jackson to pursue it, the likelihood of ISR getting the award seemed slim. First, the University of Michigan had to choose ISR's project as one of three proposals it could put forward. Second, ISR could find no prior examples of NIH giving an infrastructure grant to a non-biomedical science organization.



ISR cleared the first hurdle in March 2009. Over the next three months, a five-member team at ISR

tackled the grant. As they settled in, Jackson says, a strong case emerged for NIH support. ISR's almost 20-year-old Health and Retirement Study, the world's largest study on aging and health, was the biggest single NIH grant at the university, and it would benefit directly from added space. But most important was the scientific argument ISR could make.

Jackson and his team also made a strong argument that ISR's existing space and technology didn't sufficiently encourage the kind of collaborations that lie at the heart of its interdisciplinary work.

More and more, ISR's traditional social science research had expanded to include environmental factors and biometric and biological data, including genetic material such as blood draws and saliva. But to continue to excel in this biobehavioral research, a field of growing importance to NIH, the Institute needed better facilities, more staff, and the ability to train new researchers.

Jackson and his team also made a strong argument that ISR's existing space and technology didn't sufficiently encourage the kind of collaborations that lie at the heart of its interdisciplinary work. "Mazes are not good for interactions," says Maggie Levenstein, a research scientist and member of the grant writing team, referring to the sometimes labyrinthine structure of the existing building. "An important part of our pitch to NIH was that by redesigning the physical layout of the building, we would increase interactions."

Finally, the NIH award would be funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), intended to stimulate jobs and investment, and Michigan was one of the states most in need of federal help. According to

by Susan Rosegrant

ISR's estimates, the building expansion would bring as many as 200 short-term and long-term jobs to the state. Armed with these and other arguments, the team crafted a 222-page proposal. "James's vision was huge," says Arthur "Skip" Lupia, a research professor and another member of the team. "He pushed all the buttons to make this grant happen."



What initially struck some as a long shot paid off. In February 2010, NIH awarded the infrastructure grant to ISR. "It's really a chance for us to leverage our competitive advantage and bring a lot of benefits in a new area," Lupia says. After thorough vetting with ISR's five center directors, the Institute submitted its building plans to NIH for review in June. The proposed addition—consisting of a basement and three floors—will add close to 45,000 gross square feet of space to the Division Street side of the building. According to Doug Koepsell, university architect and project manager, the diverse use of space over the four floors and the siting of high tech capabilities near community areas should create "a very rich interaction."

For the first time, the basement addition will give ISR adequate space to process biological materials as they come in from the field and to store them in long-term freezers. "What we're hoping is that this facility will allow people to be creative in their research and take advantage of new possibilities," Maggie Levenstein says. The basement will also house an improved secure data enclave, including a break area with internet access for researchers who previously had to go upstairs to get online because of restrictions in the secure enclave.

The proposed first floor emphasizes public and collaborative space. A large open room will serve as a 220-seat auditorium, or break into smaller rooms for meetings. Three "collaboratories"—rooms outfitted with advanced computers and videoconferencing technology—will allow easy communication and collaboration with peers at remote

locations. And a café opens out to a three-story enclosed atrium.

"This atrium space will play a critical role in bringing about greater interactions among people from all the centers," says Robert Marans, a research professor who also worked on the grant. Offices, breakout spaces, and conference rooms complete the second and third floors of the addition. And in line with the university's sustainability initiatives, the entire expansion will exceed by 30 percent a widely recognized energy efficiency standard, and will achieve LEED Silver certification—a standard that considers items such as water efficiency and use of sustainable materials in construction.

Because the federal government wants ARRA funds applied quickly, the project is on a fast track. Construction is expected to start in the fall of 2011 with an estimated completion date of spring 2013. The expansion will cost an estimated \$23 million, with contributions from the university and ISR supplementing the award.

Meanwhile, even as the addition moves forward, Jackson is hard at work envisioning ISR's next phase of growth. Aided by researchers and staff, he is developing a long-range capital plan focusing on the next 50 years at the Institute.

"This notion of building for the future is an interesting play on words," Jackson says. "This is one step in that direction, but only one step. I have bigger plans."





Photo by U-M Photo Services

SOCIOLOGIST PAMELA J. SMOCK has been appointed Director of the Population Studies Center at ISR for a three-year term that began July 1, 2010.

"Pam is definitely the right choice to lead the Center," says ISR Director James Jackson. "I look forward to her valuable contributions both in providing effective leadership at the Center level and in contributing to the preeminent position of ISR in the social and behavioral sciences."

A professor of sociology and women's studies at U-M and a research professor at ISR, Smock is a family demographer. Her scholarship focuses on the causes and consequences of family patterns and change, examining their intersections with social class, racial/ethnic, and gender inequalities. She has published on issues including cohabitation, the economic consequences of divorce and marriage, nonresident fatherhood, child support, remarriage, and the motherhood wage penalty.

She is widely cited in scholarly literature and frequently quoted

Pamela Smock named Director, ISR Population Studies Center

on gender and family issues in the mainstream media. At U-M, Smock has worked on numerous departmental, ISR, LS&A, and University-level committees.

"I am delighted, and honored, to be the next director of the Population Studies Center," says Smock. "The Center is

home to cutting-edge research by leaders in the field on core issues in population studies, including health, aging, inequality and poverty, reproductive health, family formation, and the role of attitudes and values on population processes. The work undertaken at the center also spans the globe, from Nepal to South Africa to China.

"As the next steward of the Population Studies Center, my goal is to facilitate and support the first-rate population research being undertaken at the Center. This research both advances scientific knowledge and is integral to understanding societies, social change, and enhancing human welfare. I also look forward to working more closely with the superb Center and ISR staff, and with my colleagues, a group of truly outstanding researchers."

Smock received her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and served as assistant professor of sociology at Louisiana State University for two years

before joining U-M. She has served as Associate Director of the ISR Population Studies Center, and then as Associate Director of the Institute from 2002 to 2005. Smock has served as Chair and member of the Population Sciences Subcommittee of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. She was also

a member of the National Science Foundation's Sociology Advisory Panel; elected Chair of the American Sociological Association's Section on Family; member of numerous committees of the Population Association of America; and serves on the Editorial Board of Demography.

A prolific author and researcher, Smock has been the Principal Investigator on several major federal grants, including "Integrating U.S. Fertility Surveys," funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. The goal of this project, currently underway, is to produce a harmonized dataset of U.S. family and fertility surveys spanning nearly 50 years, starting with the 1955 Growth of American Families survey. This early survey was conducted by the late demographer Ronald Freedman, who founded the Population Studies Center in 1961.

Read a profile of Smock at:

<http://www.isr.umich.edu/home/anniversary/profiles/smock.html>

Honors & Awards

Honors & Awards



George Alter, acting ICPSR director, was elected vice president of the Social Science History Association.



Sarah Burgard received the 2010 Distinguished Sociology of Population Paper Award from the

Population Section of the American Sociological Association for her paper, co-authored with Shige Song, "Does Son Preference Influence Children's Growth in Height? A comparative Study of Chinese and Filipino Children."



Jean Campbell, founder of the U-M Center for the Education of Women and widow of ISR founder Angus

Campbell, received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree at U-M Spring 2010 Commencement.



David Harding won a 2010 Henry Russel Award, one of the highest honors the U-M bestows on junior faculty.



L. Rowell Huesmann, director of the ISR Research Center for Group Dynamics, was appointed a member of the Forum

on Global Violence Prevention by the Institute of Medicine in collaboration with the National Academies.

Ronald Inglehart, ISR political scientist and director of the World Values Surveys, received an honorary doctorate from the Free University of Brussels.



James Jackson, ISR director, Robert M. Groves, director of the U.S. Census Bureau and former ISR Survey Research Center director, and U-M statistician Roderick Little were named to the prestigious American



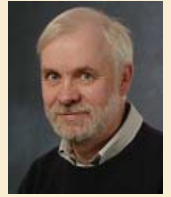
Shinobu Kitayama was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for distinguished achievement in the past and exceptional promise for future accomplishments. Kitayama is a social psychologist who directs the U-M Culture and Cognition Program and the newly formed ISR Center for Culture, Mind, and the Brain.



Valerie Lee, ISR faculty associate and U-M professor of education, was elected to the National Academy of Education (NAEd). Members are elected based on outstanding scholarship or contributions to education.



Roderick Little began a three-year assignment with the U.S. Census Bureau as associate director for statistical methodology and standards. He continues to devote time to research and teaching at U-M, where he is an ISR research professor and a professor of statistics and biostatistics.



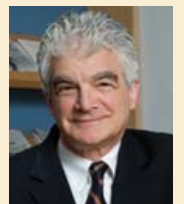
Norbert Schwarz won the 2010 American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) Book Award for *Thinking About Answers: The Application of Cognitive Processes to Survey Methodology*, co-authored with Seymour Sudman and Norman Bradburn.



The Arab Barometer, directed by ISR political scientist Mark Tessler and Amaney Jamal, won the Lijphart/Przeworski/Verba Data Set Award given by the American Political Science Association Comparative Politics Section.



Michael Traugott, ISR research professor and U-M professor of communications studies, won the 2010 AAPOR Award for exceptionally distinguished lifetime achievement.



In Memoriam

Economist **F. Thomas Juster**, a former ISR director and the founding director of the landmark U-M Health & Retirement Study, died in Ann Arbor, Mich. on July 21. He was 83. A memorial service is planned for Oct. 2 in Ann Arbor.

"Tom Juster was much more than an eminent research scientist who made important contributions to the fields of economics and survey research," says ISR Director James S. Jackson. "He was also an honest man who believed deeply in the value of survey research, and who had a gift for conducting research that was not only relevant to public policy but that also illuminated the realities of everyday life. He fought hard for what he believed in, and brought honor to his profession, his colleagues, his friends, and his family. He will be greatly missed."

Over his long and distinguished career, Juster made major contributions to the assessment of household savings and wealth, and to the measurement of time use in American families.

"Tom Juster was the founding director of perhaps the most important social science study of the last 25 years – the Health & Retirement Study (HRS), which will continue as a living tribute to him," says Richard Suzman, Director, Division of Social and Behavioral Research, National Institute on Aging. "Innovative and internationally recognized, the HRS is the premier study on retirement, pensions, and the interrelationships between health and economic status in the older population. Many of the study's innovations came from Tom's mind. These include breaking the length barrier for surveys and improving the measurement of wealth."

"When Tom began his work, it was widely accepted that you couldn't really measure wealth accurately with surveys," says U-M economist Robert Willis, who succeeded Juster as director of the HRS. "When you ask how much people have in their savings or IRA accounts, or what their homes are worth, too many people say they don't know or refuse to answer."

"But instead of accepting these answers, Tom went on to ask people, well, do you have more or less than \$1,000, and if they said more, then they would be asked, do you have more or less than \$5,000, and so on. This provided an answer within a relatively narrow range, and it's an approach that is widely used now around the world in all kinds of surveys."

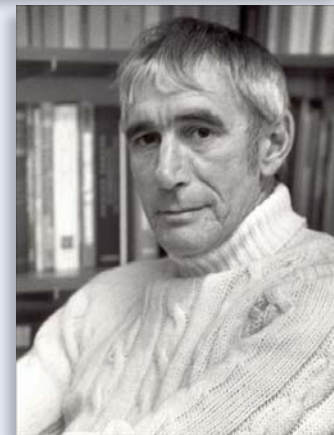
His contribution to the measurement of time use in U.S. households resulted in the still widely cited 1985 book co-edited with U-M economist Frank Stafford, *Time, Goods, and Well-Being*. The survey the book was based on was the first national work to use scientifically valid methods to collect time use data with time diaries. "These methods, which established accurate measures of time spent on non-market, household behaviors like doing house work and watching television, are still regarded as the gold standard of American time use surveys," says Stafford. "Tom was also one of the first to show how time use relates to affect and well-being."

Juster, who was born in Hollis, Long Island, New York, on August 17, 1926, received a B.S. degree in Education from Rutgers University in 1949. He went on to earn a Ph.D. in Economics from Columbia University in 1956. He was an assistant professor at Amherst College from 1953-1959, and served on the research staff of the National

Bureau of Economic Research from 1959-1973. In that year, he joined the faculty of the University of Michigan as a research scientist and professor of economics, and served as director of the Institute for Social Research from 1976-1986.

During his tenure as ISR director, he led a successful effort to safeguard social science funding, threatened at the start of the Reagan Administration. Along with other leading social scientists, he testified at congressional hearings and prepared numerous position papers on the value of continuous, large-scale, long-term social science surveys and their relevance to public policy.

The author of numerous books and peer-reviewed articles on consumer expectations, the distribution of economic well-being, and time use, Juster became increasingly interested in the economics of aging. He served as the founding director of the interdisciplinary HRS, which became the model for a growing number of similar studies around



the world. Commissioned and funded by the National Institute on Aging, the study of more than 22,000 participants over age 50 sheds light on issues such as precursors and consequences of retirement, life course patterns of wealth accumulation and consumption, incidence of work disability, and the relationship of health, income, and wealth over time.

"Tom accomplished the rare feat of getting scholars from different disciplines with different ideas to work effectively with each other because he was able to listen, was widely respected and everyone liked him," says the NIA's Suzman. "His sense of people and how to run a survey helped manage the melding of ideas from disparate and often warring disciplines, such as economics, epidemiology, demography and psychology, well before interdisciplinarity became the rage."

Juster also served on the editorial boards of several journals and served as editor of *Economic Outlook USA*. He was a fellow of the American Statistical Association and the National Association of Business Economists, and chaired many national committees and professional associations. In 1993, he received the U-M's Senior Research Scientist Lectureship Award in recognition of his "distinguished contributions to the intellectual environment of the University of Michigan and excellence in research."

He is survived by his wife Marie of Ann Arbor; children Thomas (Sarah Kruse) Juster of St. Petersburg, Florida; Susan Juster of Ann Arbor; Arnold (Netta Berlin) Juster of Ann Arbor; and Maria (Eric Anderson) Juster of Wellfleet, Massachusetts; grandchildren Rachel Garrison, Jane Juster Mayfield, Matthew Juster Mayfield, Mario Juster Kruse, Sofia Juster Kruse, and Charlie Juster Anderson. He is also survived by sisters June Juster Kulp and Rosalie Juster.

The memorial service will take place on the U-M campus in the Hussey Room at the Michigan League on Saturday, October 2, 10 am to noon. A reception will follow. For more information, contact Patrick Shields, peshield@umich.edu

Tom accomplished the rare feat of getting scholars from different disciplines with different ideas to work effectively with each other because he was able to listen, was widely respected and everyone liked him.

Society 2030

A group of business leaders gathered at U-M last spring for the first in a series of "Society 2030" events designed to extend the interdisciplinary expertise on aging of top U-M researchers beyond the academy. Quarterly consortium meetings start Sept. 27 on campus.

"We are very excited to be directly working with corporate leaders, and exchanging perspectives on what our society's needs will be in the next 10-20 years," said ISR Director of Corporate & Foundation Relations Wayne McCullough, who helped organize the consortium.

Among the presenters at the first day-long session were ISR research scientists Toni Antonucci, Jacqui Smith, and Matthew Shapiro. U-M Vice President for Research Stephen R. Forrest and ISR Director James Jackson welcomed the group to the event.

Topics included financial ramifications of an aging society, multidisciplinary design for an aging population, and health, morbidity and medical developments of aging.



From left, Shawna Martin with Masco Corporation, Melanie Redman and Sudhakar Lahade with Steelcase, and Leven Hamdemir with Amway, talk with Toni Antonucci and Wayne McCullough.

For more information on the consortium, contact: society2030@umich.edu

Two ISR studies named to NSF "Sensational 60" list

Two long-term ISR studies have been included in a National Science Foundation list of 60 scientific discoveries or advances that have had a major impact on American life.

The studies, both of which began at ISR, are the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID) and the American National Election Studies (ANES), which is now conducted in collaboration with Stanford University.

"It is clear that both these studies have made remarkable contributions to our knowledge in a broad array of important scientific and policy areas," says ISR Director James S. Jackson. "It is truly an honor for ISR to have two of its long-term studies included in such a prestigious list."

The "Sensational 60" list is part of the National Science Foundation's celebration of its 60th anniversary.

"It is a great honor to be recognized by NSF," says economist Frank Stafford, who directed the PSID from



1994 to 2009. "We look forward to enhancing the PSID in the future so it can help scientists understand the always-changing socioeconomic lives of Americans."

Adds ANES co-director Vincent Hutchings, "My colleagues at Stanford and I are honored to be included in the NSF 'Sensational 60' list, and are looking forward to studying voter participation in the 2012 U.S. presidential election and in the period leading up to this election in 2010 and 2011."

For more information:
National Science Foundation Sensational 60 Report:
<http://www.nsf.gov/about/history/sensational60.pdf>

Panel Study of Income Dynamics:
<http://psidonline.isr.umich.edu/>

American National Election Studies:
<http://www.electionstudies.org/>

Faculty Research

Gauging the gravitational pull of Mom



iStockphoto

Most Americans live within 25 miles of their mothers, according to a report issued by the Michigan Retirement Research Center (MRRRC) at ISR. "Adult children with college degrees are much less likely to live with or near their mothers," says **Robert Pollak**,

who co-authored an MRRRC working paper titled "Proximity and Coresidence of Adult Children and their Parents: Description and Correlates," with **Janice Compton**.

For example, among couples who both have college degrees, about 50 percent live more than 30 miles from both their mothers and only 18 percent live within 30 miles of both mothers. Among couples who have no college degree, the situation is reversed: about 19 percent live more than 30 miles from both their mothers and 50 percent live within 30 miles of both their mothers.

"If you go to college, you're more likely to work away from the place you grew up," says Compton. "Plus, you're more likely to marry someone who's not from your hometown and or even from your state. And since your mothers don't live in the same area, you are less likely to move to be close to one mother but not the other."

Unmarried adults tend to live closer to their mothers – about 15 miles compared to about 25 to 30 miles for married adults.

The analysis is based on a nationally representative sample of married and single adults age 25 and over from the National Survey of Family Health and on data from the U.S. Census.

Pollak is an economist at Washington University in St. Louis, and Compton is an economist at the University of Manitoba.

For more information, see the working paper:

<http://www.mrrc.isr.umich.edu/publications/papers/pdf/wp215.pdf>

Watch a video interview with researcher Janice Compton:

<http://www.ns.umich.edu/podcast/video2.php?id=1240>



Wash away your doubts when you wash your hands

Washing your hands "wipes the slate clean," removing doubts about recent choices. That's the key finding of a U-M study by **Spike W. S. Lee** and **Norbert Schwarz** published in the May 7 issue of *Science*.

The study expands on past research by showing that hand-washing does more than remove the guilt of past misdeeds. "It's not just that washing your hands contributes to moral cleanliness as well as physical cleanliness, as seen in earlier research" says Lee, a Ph.D. candidate in social psychology. "Our studies show that washing also reduces the influence of past behaviors and decisions that have no moral implications whatsoever."

According to the authors, the results show that much as washing can cleanse us from traces of past immoral behavior, it can also cleanse us from traces of past decisions, reducing the need to justify them. This "clean slate" effect may be relevant to many choices in life. Does washing away the urge to justify one's choice of one car over another, or even one partner over another, result in less rosy evaluations of them in the long run? If so, does this increase buyer's remorse because buyers are less likely to convince themselves that they made the best choice possible?

Read more about this study:

<http://www.ns.umich.edu/htdocs/releases/story.php?id=7686>



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Perspective on 2010 midterm elections



ISR research scientist **Michael Traugott** provides perspective on the 2010 midterms in this video, and offers predictions based on historical patterns of voter behavior. Other ISR experts offer insights as well.

Watch the video at:

<http://www.isr.umich.edu/home/news/midterm-elections-2010.html>



Young U-M researcher studies “grey tide” in China

Deborah Lowry has always liked old people. “They tend to be more comfortable with themselves than younger people are,” she says, “and I’ve always enjoyed hearing about history from someone who’s lived through it.”

A postdoctoral fellow at the ISR Population Studies Center, Lowry’s other long-time interest is China, where a ‘grey tide’ is now sweeping the land. More than 100 million Chinese people are 65 and older, and the proportion is expected to increase rapidly, reaching 20 percent of the population by 2025 and over 30 percent by 2050.

In the future, experts predict, one Chinese child may have to care for two parents and four grandparents.

For her doctoral dissertation, Lowry examined the experience of growing old in a rural village, where most Chinese elders still live. “It’s important to have the elders’ subjective perspectives of their needs and expectations,” says Lowry, “as well as objective information about economic development and dependency ratios.”

As a sociologist, Lowry is keenly aware of concerns that China’s traditional Confucian system of xiao (filial piety) is falling victim to the demands of industrialization and massive rural to urban migration. She also worries that demographic changes resulting from China’s rapid fertility decline are placing China’s elders in a potentially precarious position.

But using a mix of focus group interviews and quantitative survey data, Lowry has found that most elders remain confident that their families would be willing and able to care for them in old age. “Tradition and social change aren’t necessarily opposed to one another,” Lowry says.

An analysis Lowry conducted of 2005 data on more than 1 million mainland China adults in 31 provinces, with ISR sociologist Yu Xie, suggests that socioeconomic status has a growing impact on health differences as age increases.

This past spring, Lowry headed back to China, this time to Jiangsu Province and Zhejiang Province, near Shanghai, in the southeast. With support from the ISR Population Studies



Center, she conducted a feasibility study for upcoming research on how family, household, and community factors affect how elders cope with late-life chronic illnesses. This feasibility study will lay the groundwork for a pilot project later this fall.

She hopes that insights from the pilot study will improve the content of long-term mixed-methods research that she’ll eventually conduct in the area. “Of course I want to contribute to general knowledge of aging and health,” says Lowry, “but I also want to do something that can be helpful in developing interventions of practical value to Chinese families.”

Watch a video on this research:

<http://www.ns.umich.edu/podcast/video2.php?id=1217>



Diversity of grief

New U-M research reveals racial and ethnic differences in the emotional attitudes of caregivers of Alzheimer’s disease patients. **James McNally** of ISR’s Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research found significant variations in the emotional reactions of Blacks, whites, and Hispanics to both caring for and grieving for Alzheimer’s patients. McNally presented his research at the 2010 meeting of the Alzheimer’s Association’s International Conference in Honolulu.

“These results bring into sharper focus some distinct social and cultural responses to the bereavement process, and help increase our understanding of the emotional costs of Alzheimer’s,” McNally says. “This understanding can help to inform and improve culturally competent resources to help caregivers not only throughout all stages of their loved one’s illness, but also in finding a healthy resolution to grieving.”

Whites and Hispanics, for example, are three to five times more likely than Blacks to report a sense of emotional relief at the death of the Alzheimer’s sufferer, according to McNally. That fits with existing research showing Blacks have more stressors in their lives than other racial groups. Whereas white and Hispanics tend to find some sense of relief after care giving duties end, Blacks have no such respite. “Blacks are not getting a break,” he said.



ThinkStock Images

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Faculty Research

Other findings of the study show that whites are twice as likely to report emotional acceptance at the death as Blacks and Hispanics. Also, Hispanic caregivers are only half as likely as Blacks to report feelings of anger toward the deceased. But white caregivers were considerably more likely to report anger than the other two groups.

– By Dan Meisler

Read more about this study:

<http://www.ns.umich.edu/htdocs/releases/story.php?id=7875>

Listen to a podcast interview about the research:

<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/files/ICPSR/org/publications/mcnally.mp3>



Former Bush voters could determine outcome in 2012 presidential elections



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President Obama's campaign brought millions of new voters to polls during the 2008 elections, but the decisions of former Bush voters had a substantial effect on the outcome.

Several million formerly Republican voters chose not to support party nominee John McCain, either staying home during the elections or opting for Barack Obama, according to a U-M analysis. If new Obama voters are less likely to go to the polls in 2012, a critical swing vote could be voters who chose Bush in 2004.

"Future presidential hopefuls' attempts to draw lessons from the 2008 campaign should focus not only on how the Obama campaign got so many new people to the polls," said ISR political scientist **Arthur Lupia**, "but also on why so many people who voted for a Republican presidential candidate in 2004 chose to do something different in 2008."

Read more about this study:

<http://www.ns.umich.edu/htdocs/releases/story.php?id=7713>

Predicting divorce: U-M study shows how fight styles affect marriage

It's common knowledge that newlyweds who yell or call each other names have a higher chance of getting divorced. But a new University of Michigan study shows that other conflict patterns also predict divorce.

A particularly toxic pattern is when one spouse deals with conflict constructively, by calmly discussing the situation, listening to their partner's point of view, or trying hard to find out what their partner is feeling, for example – and the other spouse withdraws.



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"This pattern seems to have a damaging effect on the longevity of marriage," says U-M researcher **Kira Birditt**, first author of a study on marital conflict behaviors and implications for divorce published in the *Journal of Marriage and Family*. Spouses who deal with conflicts constructively may view their partner's habit of withdrawing as a lack of investment in the relationship rather than an attempt to cool down."

Couples in which both spouses used constructive strategies, Birditt found, had lower divorce rates.

The data are from the Early Years of Marriage Study, supported by funding from the National Institute of Aging and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. It is one of the largest and longest looks at patterns of marital conflict to date, with 373 couples interviewed four times over a 16-year period, starting the first year of their marriages.

Astonishingly, the researchers found that 29 percent of husbands and 21 percent of wives reported having no conflicts at all in the first year of their marriage – 1986. Nonetheless, 46 percent of the couples had divorced by Year 16 of the study – 2002. Interestingly, whether or not couples reported any conflict during the first year of marriage did not affect whether they had divorced by the last year studied.

Test your marital fight style and compare it to study participants:

http://umichisr.qualtrics.com/SE?SID=SV_ah3lpxSDshmVGk



Supporting the Next Generation

The generous donors who contribute to ISR's twenty funds and fellowships provide critical support for the research and training activities of graduate students, post-doctoral candidates, young researchers, and junior

faculty in a range of disciplines. Following are three profiles, written by Susan Rosegrant, that capture some of the innovative work being undertaken by 2010 award winners.

Igor Grossmann

Daniel Katz Dissertation Fellowship in Psychology

As a 13-year-old Russian-Ukrainian who had just immigrated to Germany, Igor Grossmann used to wonder at cultural dynamics. For example, why did Germans seem so uninterested in meeting a foreign newcomer, when his peers back in Ukraine would have jumped at the opportunity? And when at first he spoke to his new classmates in clumsy and heavily accented German, how much of what he hoped to convey was actually understood? The intensity of the cross-cultural experience sharpened Grossmann's already considerable interest in how people see and interpret the world. When he became an immigrant a second time, moving to the United States as an exchange student in 2005 and staying to pursue a Ph.D. in social psychology at the University of Michigan, Grossmann put his fascination with different styles of cognitive reasoning to work.

Using six characteristics of wisdom—including recognizing other points of view in a conflict, acknowledging uncertainty and a limit to one's own knowledge, and searching for compromise—Grossmann and his colleagues developed a system for measuring wisdom-related thinking. They then used the system to explore whether the elderly are measurably wiser than younger people when analyzing social conflicts. The answer, the study concluded, was yes.

For his thesis, Grossmann, 27, wants to take those discoveries further. "Now that we have the paradigm to measure

wisdom, there's so much potential to address questions that have never been addressed in the past." Grossmann chose two questions he found particularly intriguing: Is a person who is psychologically distanced from a situation more likely to reason wisely?

And do social roles affect how wisely a person acts? Grossmann devised a series of experimental studies to answer those questions. To examine psychological distance, a random sample of seniors at Michigan will think about their future job prospects in the current depressed economy either from an "immersed" and personal perspective, or from a more distanced perspective, as though seeing themselves in the third person or through a video. Grossmann expects that those with psychological distance will respond more wisely.

To explore the importance of social roles, a random selection of UM graduate students will read an article about a social dilemma, and then discuss the likely outcomes with a partner over the phone whom they believe to be either a freshman research assistant or a university professor. Grossmann theorizes that grad students who believe



they are talking to freshmen—and who see themselves in a mentor-like role—will be more likely to react wisely to the dilemma. If the studies show that either psychological distancing or social roles increase wise behavior, Grossmann says, psychologists could create training programs involving

role play or other strategies to help cultivate wisdom in the face of conflict.

Meanwhile, Grossmann is wise enough, himself, to engage in pursuits "beyond the academic self." He has resumed ballroom dancing, a hobby he began at age 11, but that he has periodically had to abandon due to moves and struggles with rheumatoid arthritis. Grossmann and his girlfriend, Julia Espinosa, recently won the United States National Latin Dancing competition in their division.

More information on Grossmann:

<http://sitemaker.umich.edu/igor.grossmann/home>

Read more about his research:

<http://www.ns.umich.edu/htdocs/releases/story.php?id=7877>

Watch a video of Grossmann:

<http://www.isr.umich.edu/home/news/profiles/grossmann.html>



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Supporting the Next Generation

Ashley Bowers

Charles Cannell Fund in Survey Methodology

Ashley Bowers is hard wired for enthusiasm. Even when describing the job she does full time while pursuing a Ph.D. at ISR's Survey Methodology Program, her eyes squint above a near constant smile. Perhaps it helps that her work and research overlap. Bowers, 35, is manager of the Statistics and Methods Unit at ISR's Survey Research Operations, overseeing more than a dozen statisticians and researchers involved in survey design and methodology. Her thesis will explore how job satisfaction, organizational commitment, and other attitudes towards work affect how well survey phone interviewers do their jobs, and whether they decide to stay or quit.

“Anecdotally, we have ideas about what we can do to affect turnover and what we can do to have interviewers collect higher quality data, but we’ve never really studied it empirically.”



Bowers has thought a lot about these issues. Her father was city manager for several Southern cities, and she was inspired by her family's dinner conversations about the balancing acts he faced on the job. After earning a master's in survey methodology from the University of Maryland in 1998, Bowers went on to run a small survey research operation at the University of North Carolina. Managing the center also involved balancing acts—such as pleasing the client while doing good science. But what specially struck Bowers were difficulties surrounding the center's interviewers.

It was, Bowers says, grueling work. A typical interviewer worked part time, sometimes in addition to a full-time job; underwent constant monitoring; was paid very little; routinely faced rejection on the phone; and usually received limited positive feedback. “Call centers have been called the electronic sweatshops of the 21st century,” Bowers says. “You’d have these really great people, and they’d leave after a few months.”

Bowers came to believe that more should be done to satisfy and retain interviewers, for their sake and that of survey research operations everywhere. For example, a dissatisfied interviewer may not read questions as worded, or may not try hard to get respondents to participate, potentially leading to measurement and nonresponse error. And the regular turnover of interviewers—forcing operations to recruit, hire, and train new staff—drives up survey research budgets.

As part of her thesis research, Bowers will test her theories about the connection between job attitudes and performance by doing one-on-one interviews with 21 phone interviewers and 6 supervisors; that data will inform the quantitative study, for which she'll survey about 460 interviewers in three facilities. “Anecdotally, we have ideas about what we can do to affect turnover and what we can do to have interviewers collect higher quality data, but we’ve never really studied it empirically,” she says. “This is a chance to do that.”

Her research, while still theoretical, could have immediate application. Among her ideas for improving the lot and performance of interviewers: increase positive feedback; broaden the job, for example, by getting interviewer feedback on questionnaires; and share survey results, so that interviewers understand the importance of the data they're collecting. “We need to be exploring these issues, because we know very little about the effect of management practices on survey errors and costs,” she says. “For me, it's making a difference in people's lives through my research that's important.”

For more information about Ashley Bowers:
<http://www.isr.umich.edu/gradprogram/people/students.html>

For more information on the Charles Cannell Fund in Survey Methodology:
<http://www.isr.umich.edu/home/education/cannell.html>

Adam Cobb

Robert Kahn Fellowship for the Scientific Study of Social Issues

There's still a bit of Texas in Adam Cobb, 33, as he folds his 6'5" frame into a chair and describes the dissertation work that won him the first Robert Kahn Fellowship award. The new fellowship is meant to support empirical research that will shed light on a major social problem. In Cobb's case, that problem is how the switch from company- to employee-financed retirement plans has impacted the employment relationship and possibly contributed to employee turnover.

Cobb got the kernel of his dissertation idea when his father picked him up at the Dallas/Fort Worth airport in 2006 after Cobb's first year in the Ph.D. program in Management & Organizations at Michigan's Ross School of Business. A casual conversation about how his farm-raised father became an engineer—in part to win better job security—left Cobb mulling over the promise of lifetime employment that was established following World War II, and how that promise disappeared.

“Several studies have been able to show that with a 401(k) system, people end up working longer, and there's a lot more volatility and variance in their retirement wealth.”

In particular, Cobb became intrigued with how and why employers first began offering corporate-sponsored retirement benefits, and why they began to abandon them for employee-financed 401(k) plans.

Answering these and other questions is the goal of his dissertation, whose research falls into three parts. First, Cobb will dig into the United Auto Workers (UAW) archives at Wayne State University to explore the Treaty of Detroit, the historic 1950 agreement between the UAW and General Motors that, among other things, helped establish corporate-sponsored retirement plans as an expectation and norm. (“I could have done the dissertation without the Treaty of Detroit,” says Cobb, who admits to being a big history buff, “but I wanted to do it while I was here because the archive is right down the road.”)



Cobb's second study will examine what factors led firms to institute 401(k) plans in place of traditional defined benefit pensions, and his third study will look at the impact of retirement plan options on employee turnover.

Cobb and his advisors think the research will contribute to the coming retirement debate. “Several studies have been able to show that with a 401(k) system, people end up working longer, and there's a lot more volatility and variance in their retirement wealth,” Cobb says. A case in point: the recent economic downturn, which caused the average 401(k) balance to drop 31 percent from 2007 to the end of 2009.

As the baby boomers retire, Cobb expects policymakers to push for government-run or more highly regulated retirement plans, in part to guard against another such collapse. “It's a really poorly conceived idea to begin with to have employers responsible for our health care and retirement,” Cobb says. “I would hope my research would help in understanding these issues.”

For more information on the Robert Kahn Fellowship for the Scientific Study of Social Problems and other opportunities to support the next generation:

<http://www.isr.umich.edu/home/invest/>



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2010 Michigan Survey Methodology Graduates

Eight students from the Michigan Program in Survey Methodology received their degrees this year.

Pictured are, from left, back row, Program Director James Lepkowski, Hanyu Sun, Yuchieh Lin, Courtney Kennedy, and Matt Jans; front row, Jiaojiao Li, Amy Faucher, and Debanjana Datta. Not pictured, Brian Madden.



Kennedy, who won the Seymour Sudman Student Paper Award at the May 2010 conference of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR), began work at Abt SRBI this month as Senior Methodologist after defending her dissertation in January.

Jans, who also earned a Ph.D. degree, started a job this spring in the Statistical Research Division at the US Census Bureau in Suitland, MD.

Master's degree recipients Lin and Madden will work at SRO and ICPSR, respectively. Datta will rejoin the Indian Statistical Service as a deputy director. Li is working as a sampling analyst at Market Strategy International. Sun is enrolled in the Ph.D. program at the Joint Program in Survey Methodology, and Faucher is currently exploring job possibilities.

For more information, visit the Program website:
<http://www.isr.umich.edu/gradprogram/>