



UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH  
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



C e n t e r o n



# Race & Social Problems



2009  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2010

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## Credits

Published by the Center on Race and Social Problems

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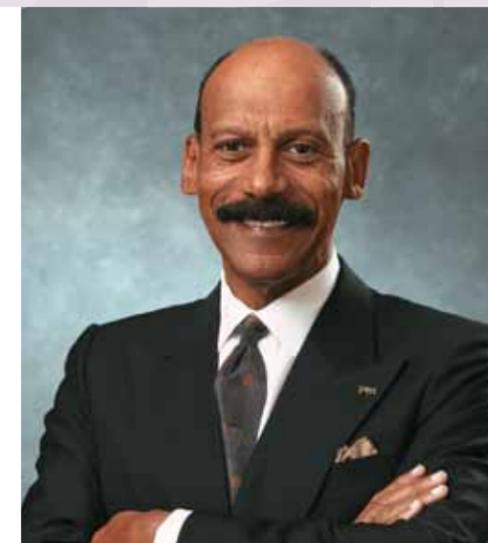
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On the Cover: CRSP speakers (top to bottom) **DJ Ida**, Executive Director, National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association; **Larry Bobo**, W.E.B. Du Bois Professor of the Social Sciences, Harvard University; **Marta Tienda**, Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs, Princeton University; **Al Blumstein**, J. Erik Jonsson University Professor of Urban Systems and Operations Research, Carnegie Mellon University; and **Monica Baskin**, Associate Professor, Division of Preventative Medicine, University of Alabama at Birmingham

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 Published in cooperation with the Department of University Marketing Communications. UMC76541-0311

# From the Director—2010



Although the Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP) has accomplished much in its almost 10 years of existence, I think it's safe to say that 2010 was our most successful and productive year to date! CRSP led a variety of initiatives and activities that reached not only across the University, but across the region, nation, and ocean as well.

Without a doubt, the highlight of this amazing year was the Race in America conference. The conference brought together scholars, practitioners, and policy makers from around the country and provided us an opportunity to have an open and productive dialogue about racial inequities in America. Perhaps even more importantly, the conference provided us with methods and ideas related to how best to resolve these inequities.

I am pleased to say that we are currently compiling seven reports on each of the conference's subject areas—economics; education; criminal justice; race relations; health; mental health; and families, youth, and the elderly—and they soon will all be available online. The first report—*Economics*—will be released this spring.

We did not hold Summer Institutes in 2010 due to the resources and time it took to put on the Race in America conference. However, we had no shortage of learning opportunities available this year. The CRSP Speaker Series continues to attract large audiences that I am happy to report include a significant number of community leaders. Their attendance ensures that the information provided by our speakers is reaching those who have the greatest opportunity to use it.

CRSP's journal, *Race and Social Problems*, is now in its second year, and has proven to be a success thanks to first-rate contributors, editors, and the diligent leadership of our staff. In particular, I would like to thank Gary Koeske, our editor in chief, for a great job of managing the flow and sustaining the high quality of our manuscripts. In addition, I want to thank the associate editor, Ralph Bangs, for assisting greatly in the procurement of manuscripts submitted to the journal. To view the articles from the first two years and the call for papers for the journal's upcoming edition, please visit [www.crsp.pitt.edu](http://www.crsp.pitt.edu).

Certainly, one of the most fascinating and educational events of the year was our trip to Cuba—hosted by the University of Havana—that we offered as part of a graduate course here at the School of Social Work. I was privileged to join CRSP Associate Director Ralph Bangs and 16 graduate students from various schools at Pitt for the unique opportunity to observe Cuba's social policies and practices firsthand. With the help of the Latin American studies program and its director, Kathleen Dewalt, and Jeff Whitehead of the study abroad office, we were able to visit agencies that offered insight into their work with the most vulnerable members of Cuban society. Despite the hardships we witnessed, the people were friendly and open to answering all of our questions. We hope to continue to visit this intriguing country in the years to come.

As always, I want to thank those who have so consistently supported and sustained the center.

Sincerely,

Larry E. Davis  
 Director, Center on Race and Social Problems  
 Dean and Donald M. Henderson Professor, University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work

# Background

*“The problem of the 20th century is the problem of the color line.”*

*W.E.B. DuBois, author, 1903*

## Mission

Although progress has been made since these words were spoken more than 100 years ago, America's race-related problems remain with us in the 21st century. Race and ethnicity matter in virtually all aspects of our society and are likely to increase in importance; currently, persons of color make up 30 percent of the U.S. population, and by 2050, this portion will increase to 50 percent. This shift will have a profound effect on the social, psychological, and economic lives of all members of our society.

The mission of the Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP) is to conduct applied social science research on race, ethnicity, and color and their influence on the quality of life for all Americans. The University of Pittsburgh established CRSP in 2002 to help lead America further along the path to social justice by conducting research, mentoring emerging scholars, and disseminating knowledge. CRSP is multidisciplinary in its approach and multiracial in its focus and was the first race-related research center to be housed in a school of social work.

## Goals

The goals of the center are to:

- Foster high quality, multidisciplinary research on racial issues. CRSP aims to achieve this goal by developing new knowledge and gaining substantial local and national funding for research.
- Mentor scholars who focus on race-related research. CRSP aims to accomplish this goal by providing students, postdoctoral fellows, faculty, and other scholars with guidance and support in project design, proposal development and presentation, data gathering and analysis, and publishing.
- Disseminate race-related knowledge and information. CRSP aims to accomplish this goal by providing forums, conferences, lectures, summer institutes, and courses.



CRSP Speaker Series lecture attendees

## Areas of Focus

The center focuses on race-related social problems in the following six areas:

- Economic Disparities
- Educational Disparities
- Interracial Group Relations
- Mental Health
- Youth, Families, and the Elderly
- Criminal Justice

## Activities and Functions

Aligning itself with the mission of the University of Pittsburgh, the center is engaged in the following activities and functions:

### Research

Executing a high-quality, multidisciplinary applied research program is at the core of the center's mission. Faculty who work with the center are encouraged to focus on developing realistic and achievable solutions to the topics they address.

Faculty members affiliated with the center are organized into groups based on the six problem areas addressed by the center. These groups, called Research Advisory Panels (RAPs), bring together faculty members with similar interests to work individually or in groups to develop new research initiatives.

Addressing race-related problems requires a wide range of expertise. The center establishes and maintains relationships with interested faculty from across the University and provides these social scientists with an identity and a location for research and training on racial topics. The center aids University researchers in developing and obtaining external funding for their projects. Finally, the center strives to become a national resource for race-related social science information for both academics and the general public, and it serves as a collection site for questionnaires, instruments, and relevant research resources.

### Service

With a focus on, but not limited to, the Pittsburgh region, CRSP serves the informational needs of the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. It provides the community with both data and technical assistance, conducts special studies on current issues, and disseminates research findings. Interested citizens can attend the center's seminars, lectures, and conferences to gather information or engage in dialogue on race-related issues. They are also encouraged to go to the CRSP Web site for links to the latest newsletters, papers, and books and information about conferences, summer institutes, and course offerings.

### Education

Anyone interested in race-related issues has a variety of opportunities to get involved with the center's research. The center educates, trains, and mentors scholars from the undergraduate to the postdoctoral level. A position on a research project affords individuals the opportunity to gain not only valuable skills and experience, but also funding for their education. The center also offers graduate courses on race and related social problems.

## Academic Advisory Committee

The center is guided by an Academic Advisory Committee of experts from across disciplines at the University of Pittsburgh and around the country. Members from the University of Pittsburgh are:

- **Kathleen Blee**, Department of Sociology (Chair)
- **Willa Doswell**, School of Nursing
- **Sara Goodkind**, School of Social Work
- **Audrey J. Murrell**, Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business
- **Edmund M. Ricci**, Graduate School of Public Health
- **Janet Schofield**, Department of Psychology and Learning Research and Development Center
- **Richard Schulz**, University Center for Social and Urban Research
- **Stephen B. Thomas**, Graduate School of Public Health

- **John M. Wallace Jr.**, School of Social Work
- **Lu-in Wang**, School of Law
- **Hide Yamatani**, School of Social Work

Members from outside the University of Pittsburgh are:

- **Alfred Blumstein**, Carnegie Mellon University School of Public Policy and Management
- **Joe Feagin**, Texas A&M University Department of Sociology
- **Patricia Gurin**, University of Michigan Program on Intergroup Relations
- **James Jackson**, University of Michigan Institute for Social Research
- **Ruth G. McRoy**, Boston College Graduate School of Social Work
- **Michael Sherraden**, Washington University in St. Louis George Warren Brown School of Social Work
- **Robert Taylor**, University of Michigan School of Social Work



Kathleen Blee

*Note: All faculty members listed in this section are from the University of Pittsburgh unless otherwise noted.*

## Research Advisory Panels

The center provides social scientists with both an identity and a location for research and training on racial topics. It also aids researchers in developing and obtaining external funding for their projects. Faculty associated with the center conduct basic and applied studies, quantitative and qualitative data collection, and primary and secondary data analysis.

Faculty members affiliated with the center are organized into groups based on the center's six areas of focus. These Research Advisory Panels (RAPs) bring together faculty members with similar interests to work individually or in groups to develop new research initiatives. They also provide a place and opportunity for members to present findings on their existing studies as well as to receive feedback on the progress of their work to date.

### The chairs of the RAP groups in 2009–10 were:

- Criminal Justice: Sara Goodkind, School of Social Work
- Economic Disparities: Ralph Bangs, CRSP
- Educational Disparities: Ralph Bangs, CRSP
- Families, Youth, and Elderly: Rachel Fusco, School of Social Work

- Interracial Group Relations: Lu-in Wang, School of Law
- Mental Health: Carol Anderson, Department of Psychiatry

## Externally Funded Projects

### *Evaluation of the Pittsburgh Initiative to Reduce Crime (PIRC)*

#### John M. Wallace Jr., Ralph Bangs, and Erin Dalton

This project examines the process, outcomes, and impact of the Pittsburgh Initiative to Reduce Crime (PIRC) on gun-related violence and homicide in the City of Pittsburgh.

Although Pittsburgh is recognized as one of the safest major cities in the nation, the problem of gun violence—particularly in specific neighborhoods and among particular populations—remains an important one. More specifically, more than half (55 percent) of Pittsburgh's homicides in 2006 occurred in just 10 of the city's 90 neighborhoods, and although African Americans comprised only 27 percent of Pittsburgh's population in 2006, they accounted for nearly 90 percent of the city's homicide victims (Dalton, 2007). Further, the 2006 homicide rate among African Americans was more than 18 times the rate among Whites (52.9 per 100,000 vs. 2.9 per 100,000).

In response to this problem, Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, Councilman Ricky Burgess, and other Pittsburgh leaders are working with Professor David Kennedy from the City University of New York John Jay College of Criminal Justice to adapt Kennedy's

nationally recognized Boston Gun Project model to Pittsburgh, resulting in the creation of PIRC. In an effort to assess the effectiveness of the PIRC strategy, Bangs, Wallace, and Dalton are collaborating with the governing board of PIRC, Pittsburgh law enforcement, social service providers, clergy, community members, and other key stakeholders to accomplish the following specific aims:

*2009–10 RAP chairs (left to right): Ralph Bangs, Sara Goodkind, Rachel Fusco, Carol Anderson, and Lu-in Wang*



*Richard Schultz*

1. To document the design and implementation process of PIRC
2. To evaluate the impact of PIRC on homicide in the city of Pittsburgh
3. To make recommendations to the city on ways to address the problem of violence based on lessons learned from the implementation of PIRC

The first evaluation report is expected in early 2011.

### *A National Study of Minority and Women Business Contracting*

#### Ralph Bangs and Audrey Murrell

June 2006–May 2011

Funded by: The National Dream Fund—The Ford Foundation, Marguerite Casey Foundation, Carnegie Corporation of New York, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Open Society Institute, and the Falk Foundation

The purpose of this project is to help local governments increase prime contracts with minority and women business enterprises (MBEs and WBEs) in Boston, Mass., and Chicago, Ill. Three local governments in both cities are being studied: the central city, housing authority, and water and sewer authority in Boston and

the city, county, and school district in Chicago. For each local government, Bangs and Murrell have determined from archived public data the share of total prime contracts in a recent year that went to MBEs and WBEs. Generally, local governments award very small shares of total prime contract spending to these firms. In addition, Bangs and Murrell are in the process of interviewing 20 strong MBEs and 20 strong WBEs in each of the cities to find out what barriers within local government prevent these firms from obtaining prime contracts. The barriers often include large contract sizes, giving late notice or no notice about contract opportunities, and allowing large change orders and contract amendments for majority firms. Another part of the project is to build partnerships between the researchers and local organizations in order to increase understanding of discriminatory barriers and encourage local government adoption of affirmative action programs. The partners will develop political and legal strategies to get reluctant local governments to change policies and practices.

### *Forecasts for Alternative Designs for the Pittsburgh Promise*

#### Ralph Bangs, Larry E. Davis, William Elliott, and Erik Ness (Edison Schools)

June 1, 2008–November 30, 2010

Funded by: The Falk Foundation

College is critical for attaining a middle-class life, but rising college costs and stagnant family incomes have made college less affordable. During the past 20 years, many states and local areas have started college scholarship programs for high school graduates in order to increase college access. Pittsburgh Public Schools started its program, called the Pittsburgh Promise, in 2008.

In this study, researchers summarized research literature on the effects of two common types of programs: (1) merit aid, including the Pittsburgh Promise, which requires students to have a minimum GPA and/or test score to qualify and (2) universal programs, which allow nearly all high school graduates to qualify. The purpose was to determine which programs best achieve the following four common goals for local college aid programs:

- Improving outcomes related to K–12 student achievement, such as higher levels of effort, attendance, grades, test scores, and high school graduation rates
- Improving school district outcomes, such as greater student enrollment



- Improving college student outcomes, such as greater enrollment, attending higher quality colleges, increased retention, increased completion, and lower debt
- Improving community conditions, such as reducing poverty and increasing the population

### **Monitoring the Future: Drug Use and Lifestyles of American Youth**

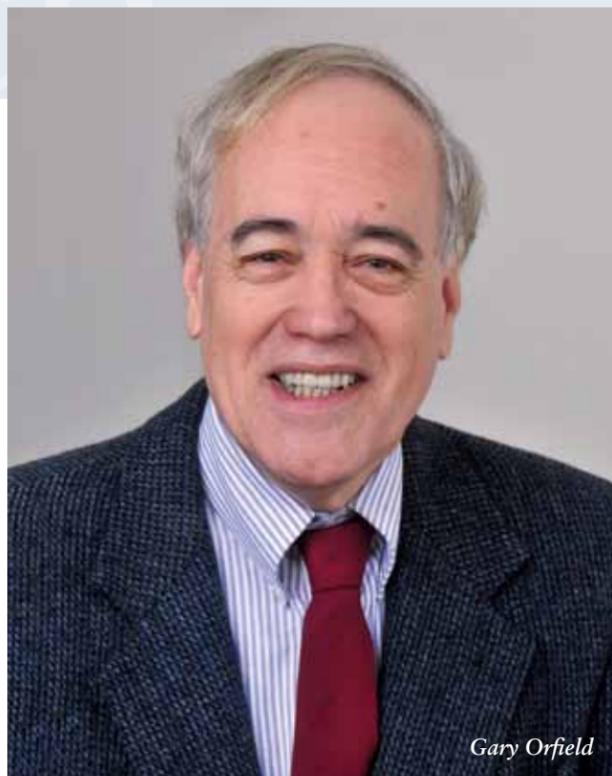
**John M. Wallace Jr. (coinvestigator), Lloyd Johnston, Jerald Bachman, Patrick O'Malley, and John Schulenberg (University of Michigan)**

Funded by: National Institute on Drug Abuse

Monitoring the Future is an ongoing epidemiological research and reporting project that began in 1975 and has become one of the nation's principal sources of reliable information on trends in drug use among adolescents and young adults. This research study has three broad and complementary aims: (1) to monitor drug use and potential explanatory factors among American secondary school students, college students, other young adults, and selected age groups beyond young adulthood; (2) to distinguish which of three fundamentally different kinds of change—maturational, historical, and/or cohort—are occurring for various types of drug use, including the use of tobacco and alcohol; and (3) to study the causes, consequences, and maturational patterns associated with these different types of change in drug use. Papers completed/in progress this year focus on the relationship between race/ethnicity and social class differences in adolescent alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana use and on the epidemiology and etiology of substance use and violence in American schools.

### **Internally Funded Projects**

Each year, the center makes a University-wide announcement requesting proposals for pilot research projects. When evaluating the proposed projects, emphasis is placed on the overall value of the project to the center's goals, the scientific merit of the research, the likelihood that the work will lead to scholarly publication, and the potential for substantial external funding of subsequent studies.



Gary Orfield

### **Ongoing Pilot Studies**

#### **New in 2010**

#### **Chronic Disease and Mental Health Comorbidity among Latino and Asian Americans**

**Chyongchiou Jeng Lin and Amy Ai**

Funding: \$10,000

Using the National Latino and Asian Americans Study data, researchers submitted the following abstracts to the Association of Public Health Administration (APHA) for the annual APHA conference in Colorado in November 2010: The Effects of Discrimination and Acculturation to Service-seeking Satisfaction for Latina and Asian American Women: Implications for Mental Health Professions and Health Disparities among Asian American Women: Findings from the National Latino and Asian American Study. Manuscripts are in progress based on these abstracts.

#### **Funded in 2009**

#### **Race and Search Warrant Trustworthiness in the City of Pittsburgh and Environs**

**David Harris, Andrew Taslitz (Howard University), and Jeannine Bell (University of Indiana-Bloomington)**

Funding: \$10,000

Data collected to date are suggestive on a few points, raising the possibility of future research projects. Systemic flaws were found that will make avoiding even unintended racial bias and other distortions in policing impossible to track or correct in the future without reform. Modern computer technology has been used throughout the country to improve policing practices, including search and seizure practices. To a lesser extent, such technology has been used to track judicial biases and errors. Still, too rarely is attention turned to the combination of potential policing and judicial biases in the specific context of search warrants, though the technology to do so is available. Several experiments are under way, with federal funding, for prosecutors to identify, track, and correct biases in their own offices in other areas. These experiments could provide a model for similar efforts by the police (indeed, the police are included in these prosecutor grants) and the judiciary and the interaction of the prosecutors', officers', and judges' offices.

An article is forthcoming summarizing the suggestions from the data collected and the obstacles faced as a prelude to recommending practical reform methods generally, and perhaps in Pittsburgh specifically. The article will discuss: (1) the need for technology, social scientist involvement, data gathering, and internal and external review and deliberation to promote transparency, accountability, and coordination among the three most relevant actors (judges, prosecutors, and police) to improve the effectiveness and fairness of search warrant practices; (2) what the little prior research on such practices suggests about the need for action; and (3) the psychological, social, and material obstacles to action and how to overcome them.

#### **Hazardous Waste Cleanup, Neighborhood Gentrification, and Environmental Justice: Evidence from Restricted Access Census Block Data**

**Shanti Gamper-Rabindran and Chris Timmins**

Funding: \$10,000

Residential sorting and changes in neighborhood characteristics were tested in response to the cleanup of hazardous waste sites using restricted access fine-geographical-resolution block data. Changes between 1990 and 2000 were examined in blocks within 5 kilometers of sites that were proposed to the National Priority List that fall in a narrow interval of Hazardous Ranking Scores, comparing blocks near sites that were cleaned with those near sites that were not. Cleanup leads to increases in population density, housing unit density, mean household income, shares of college-educated, and shares of minorities.

### **Funded in 2008**

#### **Service Pathways among African American and Caucasian Families in Allegheny County Following Contact with Child Welfare Services**

**Mary Beth Rauktis, Julie S. McCrae, Helen Cahalane, and Cynthia Bradley-King**

Funding: \$5,960

This study documented the early service paths of African American, biracial, and White children following referral to Allegheny County child welfare services, as well as identifying local decision-making points, case characteristics, organization, and community factors that might contribute to service disparities. The study questions were:

- What is the extent of racial disproportionality at referral, investigation, and service provision?

Mary Beth Rauktis



- Other things being equal, is a child's race related to his/her likelihood of being investigated and accepted for services?
- What do child welfare professionals identify as the causes for disproportionality?

Findings:

- African American children are referred to the Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth, and Families (CYF) at three times the rate of White children, with little evidence to suggest that their level of risk or need for services is substantially different than that of White children. The only significant characteristics of African American families according to these data are more frequent contact with CYF, referrals involving more children, and slightly higher rates of children having received public assistance.
- Biracial children are referred at four times the rate compared with White children and were significantly different in their level of risk according to caseworkers at the time of referral, particularly regarding diminished caregiver capacity (physical, emotional, or intellectual) and parenting skills and knowledge.
- Multivariate analyses found that the child's race significantly predicted case investigation, with African American children being less likely to be investigated than White children. Biracial children were twice as likely to be the subject of an investigation compared with White children.
- There was no evidence in these data of a funneling effect for African American or Biracial children, where disproportionality increases at each decision point (Vandergrift, 2006).
- All of the interviewees felt that being poor and African American were so intertwined that it was impossible to unravel them in order to determine which one caused African American families to be disproportionately involved with child welfare.
- While the individuals interviewed for this study acknowledged that African Americans are disproportionately involved in child protective services, they identified system bias as a major cause and felt that their decisions were based on safety and not race.

*Race in America panel members (second row, left to right) Benjamin Jealous, Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, Alex Castellanos, Dean Larry E. Davis, (first row) Tony Norman, and Abigail Thernstrom*

## *Funded in 2007 and Before*

### **Community Opinions Contributing to Use of Mental Health Services for African Americans**

**Carol Anderson, Evangeline Holmes (Family Services of Western Pennsylvania), Kathleen Hunt (Family Services of Western Pennsylvania), and Sheryl Strothers (Family Services of Western Pennsylvania)**

Funding: \$8,650

This pilot study, conducted in collaboration with Family Services of Western Pennsylvania (FSWP), sought to determine the reasons low-income African Americans often do not seek mental health services despite reported high rates of mental disorders and frequent high exposure to the stresses of community violence, financial problems, unemployment, and relationship difficulties. One hundred consenting African Americans were recruited from three sites in Pittsburgh's East End: a barber shop (41.4 percent), day care center (13.1 percent), and a large African American church (45.5 percent). Questionnaires, in-depth interviews, and focus groups were used to explore perceived mental health needs and views of available community services.

All direct recruitment and interviewing were conducted by six experienced African American professionals familiar with the community. Participants were 61 percent female, were a mean age of 44.62 years, and had an educational level that ranged from less than high school (7.3 percent) to high school diploma or GED (22.9 percent), to some college or a college degree (69 percent).

Questionnaire data were analyzed using SPSS 15.0. Responses to most questions did not differ by gender, education level, or site of recruitment, with the exception of the response to four questions. Those with higher educational levels were more likely to report that people with emotional problems could solve them with professional help ( $p < .05$ ). Those with less education were more likely to believe that those who were in counseling were less likely to be taken seriously ( $p < .05$ ), and those recruited from the barber shop were significantly more likely than those recruited from the church to say a person should work out his or her own problems ( $p < .05$ ). Participants recruited from the barber shop also were more likely than those from the church ( $p < .01$ ) or those from the day care ( $p < .05$ ) to believe that getting counseling for personal or emotional problems is a sign of weakness.

Qualitative data were collected from 28 in-depth interviews and verified by discussing the themes in two focus groups, as well as a debriefing group held for the interviewers. The interviews and groups were transcribed, coded, and analyzed for themes. Qualitative measures produced a number of stories and examples that revealed important attitudes that could deter the use of mental health services.

Four primary factors appear to be barriers to the use of mental health services: (1) disorders and symptoms often were seen as the result of external factors, including prejudice and environmental stresses; (2) a high value was placed on family privacy (i.e., "What goes on in this house, stays in this house"); (3) possessing the ability to manage problems on your own (with the exception of the problems of children) was important; and (4) there was a lack of awareness of resources in the community. Those who had previous experience with mental health services reported mixed experiences. Negative reactions included perceived disrespect, cultural insensitivity, and the excessive number of steps to go through before actually receiving help.

### ***The Transition to Adulthood among Child-Welfare Involved Youth: A Qualitative Examination of Race, Gender, and Service Use***

**Sara Goodkind and Jeffrey Shook**

Funding: \$10,000

Youth "aging out" of the child welfare system are experiencing two simultaneous transitions—one from the care, protection, and supervision of the child welfare system to a position of autonomy and responsibility, and the second from childhood to adulthood. The latter transition has become increasingly complex in the last 50 years, as the period of transition to adulthood in the U.S. has extended and traditional markers of a successful transition have shifted (Furstenberg et al., 2004). In fact, most Americans do not expect their children to complete the transition to adulthood until they are at least 23 (Shirk & Strangler, 2004). Consequently, many youth are receiving increased financial and social support during this period, especially from their parents. Youth aging out of the child welfare system, however, cannot rely on such support. Further, these youth often face additional challenges related to the abuse and neglect they have experienced, their resulting mental health and educational problems, and the poverty in which many were raised.



This pilot study sought to extend the knowledge base related to young people who age out of the child welfare system through qualitative interviews focused on the experiences of child-welfare involved youth after they turn 18. Interviews and small focus groups were conducted with 45 youth who had aged out or were in the process of aging out of the system. Six service providers were interviewed, which enabled researchers to compare young people's constructions of their needs with those of service providers. In the past year, research findings were presented at the Society for Social Work and Research annual conference and a report was prepared for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. There is an academic article currently under review and an additional conference presentation scheduled.

***Multilevel Characteristics of Incarcerated Youth and the Role of Race***

**Michael Vaughn (St. Louis University), Jeffrey Shook, and Sara Goodkind**

Funding: \$10,000

Although rates of crime and violence have fallen over the past decade, there has been a significant rise in the number of Americans who are incarcerated, including juveniles. Policy and practice disputes continue unabated with respect to the disposition of youthful offenders. These disputes, however, persist with little empirical information about the characteristics and social circumstances that surround incarcerated youth. Given racial disparities in incarceration, policy decisions need to confront the role that race plays in this phenomenon. Thus, the present study begins the process of addressing the chasm between juvenile justice policy and practice on the one hand and the scientific realities of incarcerated youth on the other.

*(Left to right) Arnetha Ball, Marta Tienda, and Dean Larry E. Davis*



Specific aims of the investigation were to:

- Describe the patterns of demographic, individual, behavioral (e.g., prior offending, substance use, possession, and distribution of drugs), situational (e.g., differential access to private places), and sociocultural contextual influences (e.g., perceptions of neighborhood disorder) among a sample of incarcerated youth (ages 13–17).
- Compare racial groups across a range of measures and assess the properties of instruments with regard to their reliability and appropriateness.
- Identify distinct characteristics and variables that will facilitate the testing of key hypotheses and inform the direction of future studies.

A total of 253 young men and women were interviewed at Pennsylvania juvenile justice facilities. Data currently are being analyzed and prepared for publication.

***Race and Perceptions of Sportsmanship***

**Raymond Jones**

Funding: \$6,500

Previously, Herbert D. Simons argued in the *International Review for the Sociology of Sport* (2003) that the sportsmanship code contains inherent racial biases that place African American

athletes at a disadvantage relative to Whites. Often penalties for actions or behaviors that are considered unsportsmanlike are inconsistently applied across racial groups. Both verbal as well as nonverbal behaviors in a sports context are interpreted within the prevailing social context. Actions labeled as taunting, trash talking, excessive celebration, dunking, and inciting spectators are external to the focus of competition within the specific sport (e.g., basketball, football), and judgments of these behaviors are quite subjective. This project tested Simons' assertion that the sportsmanship code is racially biased. This phenomenon not only impacts the effectiveness of an individual athlete's performance during a game, but also the evaluation of that player as a "leader," "role model," or "team player." These types of biased judgments can impact drafting position and especially revenue generated from product endorsement.

This pilot study on judgments by referees was a preliminary study that researchers used to assess the salience of race in decision-making situations in the competitive context of sports and have used this focus in informing/addressing additional work in related areas.

***Seeing is Believing: Perceptions of Support and Career Outcomes Among African American Employees***

**Audrey Murrell and David Porter (University of California, Los Angeles)**

Funding: \$10,000

This pilot project involved a Web-based survey to explore the nature of perceptions of organizational support among a sample of African American employees. The focus of the pilot project was to begin to understand the nature of perceived support within a demographic group that has typically been ignored within this area of research. A Web-based survey of previous participants in the African American Leadership Institute held by the Anderson School at UCLA served as the primary sample for this pilot study. The Web survey included measures of perceived support, felt obligation, reciprocity wariness, and experience with discrimination. It also included several outcomes measures (organizational commitment, organizational citizenship, job satisfaction, work alienation).

The pilot project collected a total of 153 responses to date from managers across the country. It received an adequate response from our leadership institute alumni; however concerns expressed by the two organizations prevented wider distribution as planned. Nonetheless, the sample size is sufficient for analysis based on this pilot project and to test the proposed model.

Currently, data analysis of the responses is almost complete. The two papers are planned for publication based on the results of this analysis. The first paper focuses on predictors and outcomes of perceived organizational support within this sample of African American managers. The second paper will explore experience with discrimination and other career issues that help to explain the outcomes for African Americans in organizations.

**Completed Pilot Study  
*Funded in 2006***

***Depression Stigma, Race, and Treatment-Seeking Behavior and Attitudes***

**Charlotte Brown, Valire Carr Copeland, Nancy K. Grote (University of Washington), and Kyaien Conner (School of Medicine)**

Funding: \$7,500

Additional funding: University Center on Social and Urban Research and the Office of the Vice Provost for Research

This study examined the relationship between stigma and treatment-related behaviors and attitudes in adults with depression. Three manuscripts have been published from this project. The first concluded that internalized stigma mediated the relationship between public stigma and attitudes toward mental health treatment for Whites only. Among African Americans, internalized stigma was directly related to attitudes toward mental health treatment. The second found that depressed older adults endorsed a high level of public stigma and were not likely to be currently engaged in, nor did they intend to seek, mental health treatment. The third identified a number of experiences of those living in the Black community that impacted their treatment-seeking attitudes and behaviors, which led to their use of more culturally endorsed coping strategies to deal with their depression.

These results laid the foundation for a mentored patient-focused career development award that was successfully funded by the National Institute of Mental Health (K23MH090151-01) for Kyaien Conner, assistant professor in the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry. This project, entitled Enhancing Mental Health Treatment Engagement Among Older Adults with Depression, will examine the feasibility and acceptability of a novel, dual-component, treatment engagement intervention focused on reducing stigma and other barriers to service utilization for older adults.

## Articles

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## Journal

### *Race and Social Problems*

The center's journal, *Race and Social Problems*, is now in its second year. Articles from the first two issues are available online at [www.springerlink.com/content/1867-1748](http://www.springerlink.com/content/1867-1748).

The journal provides a multidisciplinary and international forum for the publication of articles and discussion of issues germane to race and its enduring relationship to psychological, socioeconomic, political, and cultural problems. It publishes original empirical articles that use a variety of methodologies, including qualitative and quantitative (descriptive, relationship testing, and intervention studies), and papers utilizing secondary data sources. It also publishes nonempirical articles, including reviews of past research, theoretical studies, policy proposals, critical analyses, historical reviews and analyses, and solution-based papers on critical contemporary issues.

To view the journal's call for papers, go to [www.crsp.pitt.edu/publications/CallForPapers.pdf](http://www.crsp.pitt.edu/publications/CallForPapers.pdf). For additional information about the journal, contact Editor-in-Chief Gary Koeske at [gkoeske@pitt.edu](mailto:gkoeske@pitt.edu).

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Current Issue

Volume 2: Numbers 3–4 (December 2010)

**Homeownership across the American Life Course: Estimating the Racial Divide**  
Thomas A. Hirschl and Mark R. Rank

**Chinese Children among the Poor: Comparing U.S. Natives with Immigrants from Taiwan, Mainland China, and Hong Kong**  
Zhenchao Qian, Daniel T. Lichter, and Martha Crowley

**Racial Prejudice and Spending on Drug Rehabilitation: The Role of Attitudes toward Blacks and Latinos**  
Amie L. Nielsen, Scott Bonn, and George Wilson

**Race to College: The ‘Reverse Gap’**  
William Mangino

**Inconsistent Latino Self-Identification in Adolescence and Academic Performance**  
Lindsey Wilkinson

## Speaker Series

The center hosts a monthly series of lunchtime lectures during the academic year. These lectures provide an opportunity for faculty, students, and community members to engage in race-related discussions of mutual interest.

CRSP is pleased to have the support of two major Pittsburgh law firms, Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC and Reed Smith LLC. These firms have generously sponsored the speaker series continuously since September 2004.

The center thanks its sponsors for recognizing the importance of race in our society, the necessity of developing solutions to our country's race-related social problems, and the value of sharing knowledge and engaging in dialogue with interested students, scholars, community leaders, and policy makers.

The fall series is sponsored by Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC. The fall 2009 speakers were:

- **Gary L. St.C. Oates**, Associate Professor, Bowling Green State University  
"Examining Five Prominent Explanations for the Black/White School Achievement Gap"



Amanda Lewis



Kathy Humphrey

- **Irving A. Spergel**, Professor Emeritus, University of Chicago  
"The Youth Gang Problem: A Comprehensive Community-Wide Approach"
- **Amanda E. Lewis**, Associate Professor, Emory University  
"Despite the Best Intentions: Why Racial Inequality Persists in Good Schools"
- **Kathy W. Humphrey**, Vice Provost and Dean of Students, University of Pittsburgh  
"Race, Ethnicity, and College Student Development: From Theory to Practice"

The spring series was sponsored by Reed Smith LLC. The spring 2010 speakers were:

- **Marta Tienda**, Professor, Princeton University  
"Diversity and its Discontents: Lessons from Higher Education"
- **Vincent Hutchings**, Professor, University of Michigan  
"Wedge Politics: The Structure and Function of Racial Group Cues in American Politics"
- **Abby L. Ferber**, Professor, University of Colorado  
" 'There is more to me than White': Moving from Whiteness Studies to Privilege Studies"
- **Jonathan M. Hurwitz**, Professor, University of Pittsburgh  
"Justice in America: The Separate Realities of Blacks and Whites"

## Race in America: Restructuring Inequality A National Conference

June 3–6, 2010, at the University of Pittsburgh

Despite significant progress in America's stride toward racial equality, there remains much to be done. Some problems are worse today than they were during the turbulent times of the 1960s. Indeed, racial disparities across a number of areas are blatant—family formation, unemployment among men of color, community violence, incarceration rates, educational disparities, and health and mental health outcomes.

As part of an attempt to redress these race-related problems, CRSP and the School of Social Work played host to a national conference, Race in America: Restructuring Inequality, June 3–6, 2010, on the University of Pittsburgh campus. This conference had as its goal bringing about greater racial equality for all Americans. As our entire society has struggled to recover from a major economic crisis, we believed it was an ideal time to restructure many of our existing systems rather than merely rebuild them as they once were. Our present crisis afforded us the opportunity to start anew to produce a society that promotes greater equality of life outcomes for all of our citizens.

The conference had two parts—daytime sessions and public evening events. The 20 daytime conference sessions held on June 4 and 5, had seven areas of focus: economics, education, criminal justice, race relations, health, mental health, and families/youth/elderly. For each area of focus, the objectives were to:

- Identify the most important and pervasive instances of racial inequities
- Identify the major national, state and local factors that contribute to the maintenance of these racial inequalities
- Identify actionable steps that can be taken at the federal, state, and local levels to restructure these racial disparities toward greater equity

Speakers at the conference presented existing knowledge on the three objectives relative to their topics, a moderator kept the audience's questions and comments focused on the three objectives, and the center is now preparing reports on the areas of focus in order to summarize the information provided at the conference.

Objectives for the evening sessions were to educate the public about civil rights history and racial conditions, promote dialogue on current racial issues, and inspire action. Julian Bond gave the keynote address on June 3 to kick off the conference. Julianne Malveaux was the keynote speaker on June 4. The evening of



Julian Bond



*Julianne Malveaux*

The conference is expected to help community leaders to improve racial conditions in the next few years. Conference presentations and discussions generated many ideas for solutions to racial problems. The reports on the conference will capture important ideas and enable the center to disseminate the information more widely than just to conference attendees. Conference reports, PowerPoint presentations, and videos will be posted at [www.crsp.pitt.edu](http://www.crsp.pitt.edu).

## Homewood Children's Village

The Comm-Univer-City of Pittsburgh is an integrated program of research, teaching, and service designed to investigate and ameliorate social problems that disproportionately impact economically disadvantaged children, families, and communities. Through the Comm-Univer-City of Pittsburgh initiative, an interdisciplinary team of faculty and students will work with Homewood residents, faith- and community-based organizations, the Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Pittsburgh Public Schools, United Way of Allegheny County, and other individuals and organizations to initiate the Homewood Children's Village project. The Homewood Children's Village is an adaptation of Geoffrey Canada's internationally acclaimed Harlem Children's Zone, a New York, N.Y.-based comprehensive community initiative.

The research portion of the project engages faculty, students, and community members in community-based participatory research projects designed to produce actionable knowledge needed to address pressing social problems that impact the lives of children and families in the Homewood-Brushton section of Pittsburgh. The first research project will engage Pitt students in the identification and assessment of the initial blocks that will comprise the Homewood Children's Village.

The educational portion of the project involves creating an immersion experience for students by relocating the classroom from the campus to the community through John M. Wallace Jr.'s course, SW 2047: Community-Based Participatory Research. The course is taught in Homewood-Brushton and, in addition to traditional classroom lectures and discussions, offers students hands-on training in community-based research methods and community organizing.

The service portion of the project implements a field-placement model that places master's-level social work interns in selected Homewood social service agencies and organizations. Interns

and faculty members will help to increase the capacities of community organizations and equip residents by involving them in community-based research projects and providing classroom instruction.

## Youth Crime Prevention

As directed by the United Way Youth Crime Prevention Council, the purpose of Environmental Scan of Programs that Address Youth Violence in Selected Pittsburgh and Allegheny County Neighborhoods is to conduct an environmental scan of the presence, content, and capacity of programs that address youth violence in two City of Pittsburgh and two Allegheny County neighborhoods. These four neighborhoods—Homewood and the Northside in the city and Wilkinsburg and Braddock (North Braddock, Braddock, and Rankin) in the county—have been identified as high-risk for youth violence but also are well positioned to initiate a community-mobilization strategy to address youth violence.



*John M. Wallace Jr.*

The first objective of the environmental scan is to identify youth-violence-related programs that operate within the four target neighborhoods. Program descriptions will be acquired to identify the programs' basic goals; hours of operation; populations served; program inputs, activities, and outputs; and, where available, evaluation outcomes. Information associated with program elements will be obtained from published documents as well as interviews with program and/or organizational administrators. Maps that detail the location of identified programs with data on risk factors associated with youth violence will be developed in order to geographically assess program availability, potential neighborhood needs, and directions for future program enhancement.

The second objective of the environmental scan is to compare and contrast the programs that exist in the four target communities to best practice evidence-based programs that are recommended by past research and by key national research centers and organizations (e.g., the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and others). Information related to evidence-based models for youth violence prevention will be obtained from a variety of scientific/academic, administrative, and federal report resources. The information gathered will be summarized according to ecological level (e.g., individual, family, school, community) in order to facilitate the matching process with unique organizations identified through the first objective.

The final objective is to integrate the information from objectives one and two in order to identify service gaps in youth violence-related programs in the four project neighborhoods. In addition to assessing the application of evidence-based practices to prevent youth violence with local programs, this effort will help to identify underserved populations (e.g., by age, level of risk for youth violence such as adjudicated youth/reentry, underserved geographic areas within the neighborhoods) and underserved ecological domains (e.g., individual, family, peer, school, and community). Organizing and addressing youth violence from an ecological perspective is based on an abundance of existing youth-violence-prevention literature.

June 5 featured a panel discussion on whether the United States is or should be a postracial society. Alex Castellanos served as moderator, and the panelists were Abigail Thernstrom, Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, Ben Jealous, and Tony Norman.

Many people stated that this was the best conference of any type they had ever attended. Strengths of the conference were:

- The keynote speakers and panelists who presented at the evening events
- The evening events, which were well attended (750–1,300 people at each event)
- The speakers at the daytime sessions, 40 of the nation's best experts on race
- The extensive amount of time, three hours, for presentations and in-depth discussion at each session
- The large turnouts (about 650 attendees) at the daytime sessions

## Study Abroad in Cuba

Cuban Social Policy Issues, a one-credit study-abroad course offered during the spring 2010 term, included a trip to Cuba in March. The course focused on economics, housing, education, public health, gender concerns, social security, and social work. The purpose of the course was to enhance students' understanding of the ways in which Cuba formulates and implements policies aimed at contemporary social issues and to provide them with an opportunity to observe firsthand the Cuban system. Sixteen students from various graduate schools at Pitt traveled to Cuba as part of the School of Social Work's international education program. Prior to the trip, the class met regularly in Pittsburgh to discuss readings and hear presentations by Cuban experts.

Course work included reading *A Nation for All: Race, Inequality, and Politics in Twentieth-Century Cuba*, by Alejandro de la Fuente, associate professor of history at Pitt, and attending lectures by de la Fuente and Larry Glasco, also associate professor of history at Pitt.

While in Cuba, students conducted research on social issues and policies and wrote papers on topics of their choice. The trip consisted of eight days of lectures and site visits (see below) and the opportunity to attend meetings with key officials and social service providers. The University of Havana served as the host university and scheduled the lectures and site visits.

Lecturers and their topics at the University of Havana were:

- Alberto Prieto: Cuban history, present life, and the education system
- Alexander Segui: public health
- Mauricio Blanco: civil and constitutional rights
- Miguel Collula: city development
- Silvio Calvez: education

The class also visited Havana's historic center; health, mental health, elderly, and community centers; the Cuban Women's Federation Center; and Pinar del Rio, a nature reserve.

This course was so successful that the school anticipates making future trips to Cuba.

## Course: Race and Social Problems

Each year, the center sponsors a graduate-level course through the School of Social Work. Special Topics: Race and Social Problems, taught by CRSP Associate Director Ralph Bangs, features readings, documentaries, guest speakers, and class discussions that address race in relation to all six of the center's areas of focus (economic and education disparities; intergroup relations; mental health; youth, families, and the elderly; and criminal justice).

The goals of the course are to: (1) make students aware of past and current racism and discrimination, racial disparities, and the sources and consequences of those disparities and (2) identify individual, community, and governmental actions that could be taken to address racial disparities in the nation.

## Course: Secondary Data Analysis on Race and Social Problems

This doctoral course on the use of existing survey data is taught by John Wallace Jr., includes such topics as review of past findings, framing testable questions, fundamentals of survey data analysis, and writing for publication.

## Living Learning Community: The Research Experience

In partnership with the Office of Residence Life, CRSP cosponsors one of the University's Living Learning Communities (LLC). LLCs are special floors in undergraduate residence halls where small groups of students with similar interests live together and work on projects beyond the classroom.

The CRSP-sponsored LLC is called The Research Experience. In 2009–10, four undergraduate students were paired with CRSP faculty associates to work on social science research projects, thus gaining experience and knowledge in the design and execution of research; grant writing; and writing, presenting, and publishing research findings.

The projects, faculty mentors, and students were:

- Homewood Property Assessments Around Westinghouse High School—John M. Wallace Jr. and Meghan Gallagher
- Homeownership—William Elliott and Alisha Lineswala



Terri Friedline

- From Research to Policy Project—William Elliott and Cameron Gilkes
- Service Learning in University Living-Learning Communities: Educational and Community Implications—Helen Petracchi and Marian Klanica

## Student Paper Award

Each year, the center solicits students to submit papers that address contemporary race-related social issues. The University-wide competition is open to both undergraduate and graduate students. A \$500 honorarium is awarded to the student with the best paper. As part of the process, students are encouraged to work with a faculty sponsor to submit their papers to the appropriate journals for publication.

Terri Friedline is the recipient of the 2009–10 award for her work, titled "Predicting Savings from Adolescence to Young Adulthood: Different Pathways for Blacks and Whites?" We would like to thank all the faculty members who served as reviewers in this year's student paper award: Ralph Bangs, Kathleen Blee, Cynthia Bradley-Pugh, William Elliott, Rafael Engel, Laurence Glasco, Sara Goodkind, David Harris, David Herring, Jonathan Hurwitz, Kevin Kim, Gary Koeske, Irene Lietz, Judith Toure, John M. Wallace Jr., Lu-in Wang, Hide Yamatani, and Michael Yonas.



Cuban Social Policy Issues students and faculty in Cuba

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# Race & Social Problems

2009  
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2010