



CID 2022 Annual Report

■ We engage in foundational research on social inequality, train the next generation of inequality scholars, create new data, and help envision a more just world.

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A Message From Fabian Pfeffer

■ The Stone Center for Inequality Dynamics continues to change and grow at a rapid pace. This summer, I stepped down as founding director of the center and passed the mantle to fellow sociologist and wealth inequality scholar Alexandra (Sasha) Killewald.

She is the ideal next leader of CID: her pathbreaking work on social inequality and wealth as well as her great commitment to mentoring junior scholars align perfectly with CID's mission. **I have no doubt that under her leadership, CID will continue to flourish and serve as one of the nation's leading organizations for basic research on social inequality and the training of the next generation of inequality scholars.**

Sasha has also been appointed as Professor of Sociology at the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts (LSA) and serves as the inaugural holder of the Robert F. Schoeni Research Professorship at the Institute of Social Research (ISR). The latter is a particularly appropriate honor as Sasha lives up to the shining example set by Bob Schoeni, as an outstanding scholar, leader, and person of honor and integrity. The fit could not be better.

As some of you may already know, I will return to Germany this fall and take on a professorship of sociology at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU Munich).

I will maintain a partial appointment at the Survey Research Center at ISR to continue to lead the Wealth and Mobility (WAM) Study. In other words, I will maintain a strong and lasting Michigan connection. I hope to remain a great partner to CID and help strengthen the transatlantic exchange of scholars and ideas.

CID TEAM AT A GLANCE

5 FACULTY

3 STAFF

35 FACULTY AFFILIATES

20 GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWS

3 POSTDOCTORAL AFFILIATES

www.inequalitydynamics.umich.edu

In the pages ahead, catch up on some of the biggest news and accomplishments of the center over the past year, including the latest progress on WAM, skill building, new awarded projects, and more.

As Sasha takes the lead at CID, she and the rest of the team are well-positioned to continue to address some of the biggest scientific questions on inequality and, in particular, wealth inequality.

I can't wait to see what's ahead.

Go Blue & Go CID,

Fabian Pfeffer, Ph.D.
Director,
Stone Center for Inequality Dynamics
July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2023



Introducing Sasha Killewald

- Alexandra (Sasha) Killewald became the next Director of the Stone Center for Inequality Dynamics (CID) at the University of Michigan on July 1, 2023.

Killewald is also Professor of Sociology at the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and the inaugural Robert F. Schoeni Professor at the Institute for Social Research.

She was previously Professor of Sociology at Harvard University.

“I am honored to be named the next director of the Stone Center for Inequality Dynamics. Wealth inequality in the United States is extreme, but it’s rare to have a research center focused on its study,” Killewald said. “CID brings wealth inequality scholars together in a critical mass to learn from each other and advance research in ways that are only possible in collaboration. Under Fabian’s leadership, CID has established a strong commitment to mentorship and intellectual community. I share these values and look forward to continuing to grow and develop the CID community.”

Her appointments were approved by the Board of Regents at their July 20 meeting.

Sasha studies intersecting issues of social inequality in the U.S. In one line of research, she investigates the relationships among work, family, and money, such as how marriage and parenthood affect men’s and women’s wages, and how couples’ work patterns shape their housework time and risk of divorce. In a second line of research, Sasha analyzes how wealth inequality persists across generations and the racial wealth gap.

Sasha received her Ph.D. in Public Policy and Sociology from the University of Michigan in 2011. Prior to her appointment at Harvard, she was a researcher at Mathematica.



Sasha’s research has been published in journals including *American Sociological Review*, *Demography*, *Social Forces*, and *Journal of Marriage and Family*. She is the recipient of the William Julius Wilson Early Career Award from the American Sociological Association (ASA) Section on Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility and has received article awards from the ASA Section on Family and the ASA Section on Sociology of Population. She has also received awards for her undergraduate teaching and her mentorship of graduate students.

For more information, please visit the center [website](#).

Meet our Faculty



Joe LaBriola, Ph.D.
Research Assistant Professor



Sun Kyoung Lee, Ph.D.
Research Assistant Professor



Pablo Mitnik, Ph.D.
Assistant Research Scientist



Robert Manduca, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Sociology



Jake Hays, Ph.D.
Postdoctoral Fellow



Davon Norris, Ph.D.
Postdoctoral Fellow
Collegiate Fellow, College of
Literature, Science, and the Arts



Meet our Staff



Nicole Bonomini
Engagement Manager



Carrie Jankowski
Research Data Analyst



Melissa Bora
Program Manager



History of CID: Timeline



2010

Fabian Pfeffer arrives at U-M as a Faculty Research Fellow in the Survey Research Center and is promoted to Research Assistant Professor in 2013.

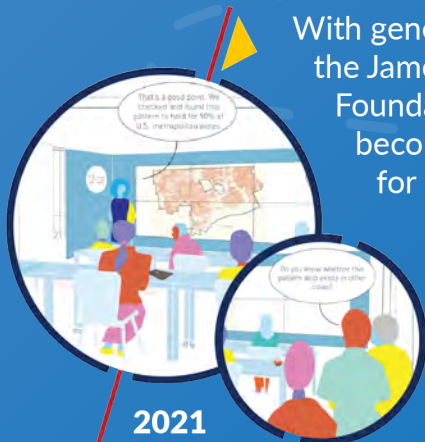
2016
As Assistant Professor of Sociology, Fabian starts mentoring graduate students and asks them “what if we started a lab?”

2018
The Inequality Lab hosts Sasha Killewald for a brown bag lunch.



2019

Participatory workshops to design the new CID space at the Institute for Social Research.



2021

With generous funding from the James and Cathleen Stone Foundation, the center becomes the Stone Center for Inequality Dynamics.

2021-2022
The center grows by hiring three new faculty members: Pablo Mitnik, Joe LaBriola, and Sun Kyoung Lee.



Lab meetings with graduate students and scholars at rotating locations. A website for the Inequality Lab is put online.



2017

2017

"The point of lab meetings is to provide a space for a different kind of presentation, one that is not focused on the polished presentation of a scientific finding but based on unfinished work and focused on questions and problems that can be collectively addressed and discussed." - Fabian Pfeffer

2018

Launch of a discussion paper series.

2019

With funding from the Survey Research Center, the Institute for Social Research, the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and the U-M provost, Fabian founds the Center for Inequality Dynamics (CID).

Leadership transition to Sasha Killewald as the new Director of the Stone Center for Inequality Dynamics.



2023



CID Looks Beyond Current Policies at its Fall Retreat

■ Academics are trained to push beyond the bounds of what is already known about the world. But when it comes to offering solutions, scholars often tend to operate within the bounds of existing policy options. “Oftentimes, our minds retreat to what has already been tried or what is being tried,” explained Fabian Pfeffer, Ph.D., former Director of the Stone Center for Inequality Dynamics. “But the boundaries to our thinking created by the status quo can be insidiously limiting.”

But how do we break out of well-trodden lines of thought? How do we imagine and design something different? To encourage creative thinking, CID sought out a fresh environment, hosting a fall retreat in the woods of northern Michigan at Camp Michigania, which is available year-round for the University of Michigan community.



While at Camp Michigania, CID hosted several working sessions to brainstorm new solutions to address social inequality, covering topics such as:

- Wealth Inequality
- Housing
- Institutional Racism
- Education
- Family and the Life Course

“The fall retreat enabled us to leave behind the confines of the university, not only spatially but also intellectually, and to step beyond some of the hierarchies between faculty and students in the conversations,” said Nils Neumann, first-year Ph.D. student and new CID student affiliate. “The theme of the sessions freed us of some of the intellectual barriers we usually impose on ourselves to come up with radically new ideas.”

■ In thinking through these complex issues, CID encouraged thinking outside the box by envisioning “real utopias,” – an idea originated by Erik Olin Wright in his book “Envisioning Real Utopias.”

“As the first step in proposing new solutions to the inequality crisis, the idea is not to let concerns of feasibility or even practicality immediately constrain the options we consider,” Fabian explained. “Only once we have allowed ourselves the freedom to do that, we begin to bring a critical, empirical, social-scientific lens to assessing the promise of these imagined solutions.”

There are, in fact, several recent examples of early “real utopian” proposals that have eventually entered the policy debate – such as unconditional basic income, reparations to the descendants of enslaved people, and the cancellation of student debt. “All of these began as an ambitious vision that, at the time, was entirely outside of the realm of policy debates. They were followed by hard-nosed analyses of their promise and limits and eventually became part of actual policy deliberation,” Fabian said.

Nils said the work sessions at the retreat provided a good starting point. “There is some

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

30+ EVENTS

350+ ATTENDEES

8+ VISITING SCHOLARS

www.inequalitydynamics.umich.edu

practical work that needs to be done now to actually come up with real utopias. The next step could be to combine our theoretical and empirical insights with practical insights of different societal actors. Perhaps one way forward could be to form working groups on a specific issue to continue the conversation.”

“For instance, some of us discussed contemporary issues in housing in one of the small groups at the retreat,” he explained. “Maybe we could initiate a project that addresses the increasing housing prices in Ann Arbor and build connections with the community to find solutions to the problem of increasing housing inequity in Ann Arbor.”



Investigating the Function and Consequence of Credit Ratings

- How do we as a society decide what is valuable or worthwhile? Economic sociologist Davon Norris, Ph.D., is working to understand how society's tools for determining what is of value and worthwhile are steeped in patterns of inequality, especially racial inequality. In his work, Davon focuses on how this inequality empirically manifests in credit, debt, and finance – particularly when it comes to government credit ratings and consumer credit scores.



“These findings highlight a mechanism producing inequality between cities and demonstrate how generating meritocratic and unbiased evaluations requires more than the existence and transparency of rating criteria.”

From Accounting to Sociology

Davon nurtured a lifelong educational interest in math and accounting. After his uncle entered college as an accounting major, Davon solidified his high school interest in accounting and finance.

Davon moved from accounting and finance to sociology. Davon says, “For me it made perfect sense as far as career transitions go. I went from being a valuation analyst at Ernst and Young to studying valuation as a process.”

Political “Double-Standard” in Credit Ratings

As he moved into sociology, Davon observed how models and formal criteria were often thought of as a way to reduce the influence of biases, but in his work in finance he saw that this was not always the case.

This drove Davon to leverage his accounting background and build an original dataset that approximated the evaluative criteria

used in rating the credit worthiness of city governments. Davon tested whether a rating agency's scoring criteria were applied evenly across cities. He found evidence of a political double-standard where liberal-leaning cities were evaluated according to a more strict application of rating criteria requiring, these cities to have higher performance for similar ratings compared to their conservative counterparts.

Davon explains how such cultural ideas of what it means to be a liberal-leaning or conservative city have important implications for how those cities are evaluated and ultimately how those cities access financing to build infrastructure, invest in public safety, or provide key social supports. As a result, Davon argued, “These findings highlight a mechanism producing inequality between cities and demonstrate how generating meritocratic and unbiased evaluations requires more than the existence and transparency of rating criteria.”

■ Impact for Residents

The impact of credit ratings is more far-reaching than many realize, Davon said. “Obtaining a good credit rating is an important financial goal for governments because good credit yields lower interest rates and shows fiscal responsibility,” Davon said. “The tension – and sometimes the problem for residents – is that although good credit gives governments access to cheaper borrowing, working to obtain good credit may lead governments to act in ways which, ultimately, are unfavorable to residents.”

Davon and co-author Elizabeth C. Martin used state government credit ratings from 1996 to 2012 to demonstrate that state credit rating increases were associated with high economic insecurity for their residents. “We argue that these findings illustrate how good credit can often become detrimental, once we consider the potential tradeoffs.” You can read more in their December 2021 paper in the *Sociological Forum*.

Credit Ratings and Race

In his work, Davon saw how biases were not always needed to perpetuate inequality in credit ratings or scores. This is especially the case in how racism and racial inequality show up in contemporary financial markets – often in insidious ways that many don’t realize or consider.

For example, Davon noted that “racial inequality in household income has remained the same from the 1970s to today (as CID faculty Robert Manduca’s work shows us).” If such a, what he terms, “racialized input” is used in creating a score or rating then, “we’re not using race, [but] we are embedding the legacy of racism into the score,” Davon said. You can read more in his paper published in *Social Problems*.

All Data Becomes Credit Data

Davon points out that many companies are seeing all manner of data as relevant data to

Davon Norris

Davon Norris’ research has been published in outlets such as *Social Forces*, *Socio-Economic Review*, *Social Problems*, and *Sociological Forum*, and has received awards from the Future of Privacy Forum and American Sociological Association. His work has been funded by the American Sociological Association. Visit his [website](#) to learn more.

be used in credit scores. Credit scores are typically concerned with “how much do you have in debt, have you missed any debts/payments? What kind of debt? How long have you had it?” Davon notes, “Increasingly, companies are adding more questions and inputs, like what are you spending money on? What is the activity in your checking/savings account? What is your job title? What did you major in college?”

Davon’s dissertation works to understand how we came to this point by analyzing the history of consumer credit scores. He asks how expanding the data used in credit scores could instead be understood to generate racial inclusion as his prior work and that of others discusses how fundamentally problematic scores and ratings are because of the racialized inputs that go into them.

Future

Davon said the community of experts here at U-M have helped to put him in the best place to answer his next research questions. “There’s probably no better university that exists that would be a better fit for me than the University of Michigan.”

Read the full story on the [CID website](#).

The Regulation and Politics of “Home-Based Moneymaking”

- People often think of home and work as two separate aspects of their lives, but the line continues to blur for many working Americans, particularly since the pandemic. With inflation and rising costs, more and more people are turning to side gigs and second sources of income – often from their own homes.



“We can’t really understand the modern economy without considering ways that the home has been restructured in relation to it...”

Sociology doctoral candidate and CID Student Fellow Luis Flores has dedicated his career to studying these practices, termed “home-based moneymaking,” through a historical framework. Luis studies how labor markets, wealth, and social inequality are shaped by changes to the political and regulatory boundary between home and market in the United States.

The practice of earning income from home may be commonplace and well-accepted today, but that wasn’t always the case.

“Today, it’s common to treat every home as a potential business or a speculative asset, every person an entrepreneur, and every relationship a potential economic opportunity,” Luis explained. “But for much of the 20th century, the mixing of domestic and market life, by turning homes into sites of production, exchange, or speculation, was seen as a threat to both family life and to union-won economic security.”

Luis analyzes archives and historical records to understand how this change came about. “While home-based moneymaking was initially confined to groups at the margins of the most stable labor markets – the domain of ‘displaced homemakers,’ workers of color, immigrants, and the ‘home rich but cash poor’ elderly – the appeal spread as labor market restructuring broadened experiences of uncertainty. These practices quickly conflicted with regulatory boundaries, in land-use zoning, tax codes, labor law, and mortgage law that enforced the postwar separation between home and market. Their contested incorporation remade gendered divisions between home and market, and racialized constructions of economic informality.”

Luis’ research reveals something that has been happening for decades. “We can’t really understand the modern economy without considering ways that the home has been restructured in relation to it,” he said.



LAWRENCE K. HO / Los Angeles Times

Inspection of illegal “garage conversion” in South Gate, while tenant children sleep, 1989, Los Angeles Times.

- “That started in the 1970s and 80s. So, in some ways, I’m telling a pre-history of the sharing economy. It’s a very non-technological story. By the time AirBnB came around, there were 40 years of fighting over zoning codes that determine whether or not accessory units and garage rentals were allowed.”

Luis’ dissertation, “The Regulatory Politics of Home-Based Moneymaking After the Family Wage,” analyzes four main areas of home-based moneymaking to understand how policy and regulations impact Americans’ efforts to earn a living.

Before renting out rooms or garages to tenants in single-family homes became moralized for white and middle-class households, it was a highly stigmatized resilience strategy for immigrant households at the margins of labor and housing markets. These “illegal conversions” challenged strict land-use restrictions and elicited “zoning blitzes” in the 1970s and 80s aimed to curb unlawful rentals first concentrated in

immigrant neighborhoods. By the late 1990s, policy efforts to legitimate these as “granny flats” portrayed Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) as an extension of the single-family home, rather than an encroachment of the market into the home.

When Luis leaves Ann Arbor this summer, he will head to Harvard University to become a Postdoctoral Stone Program Fellow before heading to University of California, Berkeley as an Assistant Professor of Sociology in 2025. Read the full story on the [CID website](#).

Luis Flores

Luis is a historical sociologist engaged in economic, urban/regional, and stratification research. He studies how labor markets, wealth, and social inequality are shaped by changes to the political and regulatory boundary between home and market in the United States. Visit his [website](#) for more information about his research.

Congratulations to our CID Affiliate 2022 ISR Next Generation Awardees

- The ISR Next Generation Awards are donor-funded awards that provide financial support to propel recipients forward in their careers and catalyze impactful research projects. Congratulations to our nine CID student affiliates who received Next Generation Awards.



Catalina Anampa Castro

Doctoral Candidate, Public Policy and Sociology

The Legacy of Advantage: The Racial Geography of Multigenerational Home Wealth Transmission

CID Emerging
Inequality Scholar

Catalina’s research uses data from the 1940 U.S. Census and Panel Study of Income Dynamics “to explore the intersection between the consequences of historical residential segregation policies and the reproduction of socioeconomic attainment from one generation to another through housing, i.e., wealth mobility.” She explained: “First, I center historical place-conscious policies and mechanisms that contributed to creating the racial geography of the United States in the study of the intergenerational transmission of wealth. Finally, I will update multigenerational models of social mobility by extending previous analyses starting in 1968 twenty-five years back in time to the post New Deal period.”



Zsigmond Pálvölgyi

Doctoral Candidate, Economics

The Long-Standing Effect of Racial Segregation on Wealth Inequality in the United States

CID Emerging
Inequality Scholar

Zsigmond studies how policies shape long-term inequality and intergenerational mobility, including how past racial residential segregation affects the racial wealth gap through wealth accumulation in the housing market. “More precisely, I would like to quantify how large the Black-White wealth gap would be today without residential segregation in the past,” he explained. “Due to my interest in the research of wealth inequality, I was very excited to learn about the CID scholarly community and the CID Emerging Inequality Scholar Award.”

Robert Kahn Fellowship for the Scientific Study of Social Issues



Elizabeth Burland

Doctoral Candidate, Public Policy

Consequences of Rural-Urban Inequality: The Role of Geographic Variation in Educational Inequality

“The crisis of rural educational attainment was brought to the forefront during the 2016 elections as a key explanation for political polarization, one of the great social problems of recent years. However, what does the rural-urban education gap actually look like, and what drives it? How might this pattern differ in the state of Michigan from what we see in other rural communities in the U.S.? Michigan is a key political swing state and site of geographically relevant political polarization, which also has a distinctly racialized geography and unique state- and institution-level policy dynamics that may lead to different consequences of rural-urban inequality. Using novel longitudinal data linkages, this project will empirically describe rural-urban inequality in college attainment, using decomposition methods to understand the factors that drive this inequality.”

Thomas Juster Economic Behavior Research Fund



Davis Daumler

Doctoral Candidate, Sociology

The Demography of Wealth Accumulation: Household Finances and the Returns to Family Dynamics

“There have been considerable advances in the study of wealth over the past three

decades, with many studies showing that wealth is a stronger predictor of certain socioeconomic phenomena than income (Keister and Moller 2000), with stark inequalities for the intergenerational persistence of status across families (Pfeffer and Killewald 2019; Tomes 1981). Yet, more research is needed to understand the precarity of family wealth. There is an urgency for social scientists to deepen our collective understanding of the process by which families accumulate wealth. I develop an empirical approach for studying changes to different components of the wealth accumulation process, which I apply to the context of wealth returns to families following the birth of a new child.”

Sarri Family Fellowship for Research on Educational Attainment of Children in Low Income Families



Briana Starks

Doctoral Candidate, Social Work & Sociology

Diapers, Debt, & Degrees: The Practical and Theoretical Implications of Maternal Postnatal Educational Attainment

“Over 22% of all college students in the U.S. are caring for children. Yet their graduation rates are suboptimal and their experiences are largely unknown. This project investigates the subjugated narratives of low-income student mothers at one elite four-year university to understand how policies promote or hinder their degree attainment and the subsequent degree attainment of their children.”

Marshall Weinberg Endowments



Catalina Anampa Castro

Doctoral Candidate, Sociology & Public Policy

“Nothing and Nobody can Kick Them Out.” Incorporating the Experiences of Formerly Undocumented Older Adults into Aging and Health Research for the Latino/a Population

“Legal status may be thought of as a fundamental cause of health, producing a health disparity whereby undocumented immigrants are disadvantaged relative to documented immigrants. However, our understanding of immigrant illegality and health is limited to treating legal status as static rather than dynamic and changing across the life course. In this study, I seek to conduct in-depth interviews with formerly undocumented Latino/a older adults to analyze the frames they pull from to make sense of health decisions and retirement plans as they transition statuses.”



Analidis Ochoa

Doctoral Candidate, Sociology & Social Work

Blood Veins for Hire: Plasma Donation in an age of Inequality, Instability, and Precarious Work



Giovanni Román-Torres

Doctoral Candidate, Sociology

Study on the Belonging of Latina/o Immigrants in the South and Their Socioeconomic Well-Being

“As early as the 1990s, scholarship found that recently arrived immigrants started settling in non-gateway states, such as Tennessee. While there is ample evidence that spatial context is consequential for the socio-economic well-being of immigrants, most evidence

comes from traditional immigrant-receiving destinations. Less is known about how Latina/o immigrants make sense, transform, and establish a sense of belonging in new places and the relationship this has to their socioeconomic well-being. This research will investigate how Latina/o immigrants establish a sense of belonging in new places (e.g., new destinations) and how their socioeconomic well-being is influenced by their environment. Using 60 semi-structured interviews with Latina/o immigrants in Tennessee, this study will address this research gap by answering the following questions: (1) How do Latina/o immigrants establish a sense of belonging in new places that have historically been Black and White? and (2) How might their socioeconomic well-being in new places mark a change from historically immigrant receiving states? The data gathered in this study will address how Latina/o immigrants think about place and what is important for them to establish a sense of belonging. This offers important insights into how they are integrated (or excluded) in new places that are not only distinct from gateway places (e.g., Los Angeles) but also politically and geographically distinct from each other. The results of this study will have implications for state and local governments working on incorporating new populations.”



Janet Wang

Doctoral Candidate, Sociology

Stratification of Later Life Earnings

Janet’s project, which uses data from the Health and Retirement Study, examines the association between educational attainment, later life employment trajectories, and wages/salary of older Americans. This project will disentangle the long term effects of educational attainment on employment transitions and subsequent economic disparities.

CID Awards & Accomplishments



■ Congratulations to 2022-2023 Awardees

During this past year, CID faculty and graduate students have been recognized in multiple ways. Awardees include:

- Research Assistant Professor **Sun Kyoung Lee** received the Distinguished Affiliate Award from RIE-CESifo (Review of International Economics Center of Economic Studies Institute for Economic Research) for her paper, “When Cities Grow: Urban Planning and Segregation in the Prewar U.S.,” and became an affiliate member of the CESifo Research Network.
- CID Student Fellow **Luis Flores** won awards from several sections of the American Sociological Association for his paper, “Zoning as a Labor Market Regulation.” Luis won the 2023 Reinhard Bendix Student Paper Award from the ASA Section on Comparative-Historical Sociology and the Student Paper Award from the ASA Section on Labor and Labor Movements. He also received honorable mention for the Student Paper Award in the Community and Urban Sociology Section.
- CID Student Fellow **Davis Daumler** won the Robert D. Mare Graduate Student Paper Award from the ASA Section on Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility for his paper, “The Cumulative Dimension of Timing: Early-childhood Poverty and the Persistence of Intergenerational Inequality.”
- CID Student Fellow **Jane Furey** received the National Academy of Education (NAEd) Spencer Dissertation Fellowship to complete her dissertation and attend professional development retreats.
- CID Student Fellow **Giovanni Román-Torres** was awarded a 2023 American Sociological Association Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (ASA DDRIG).
- CID Student Fellow **Chalem Bolton** was the 2023 co-winner of the U-M Outstanding GSI Award for Sociology for his “demonstrated exceptional dedication to teaching this past year.”
- Two CID Student Fellows named U-M Rackham Predoctoral Social Sciences Fellows
 - **Asher Dvir-Djerassi** was awarded for his dissertation, “The Wealth of Pensions: The Stratifying Role of America’s Most Innocuous Asset.”
 - **Giovanni Román-Torres** was recognized for his dissertation, “Placing the American Dream: Latina/o Geographic Dispersion, Socioeconomic Well-Being, and Belonging Across the American Landscape.”

Research Updates: Wealth and Mobility (WAM) Study

■ The Wealth and Mobility study (WAM), a large-scale data project led by Fabian Pfeffer (PI) and Pablo Mitnik (Co-PI), continues to make progress towards building a new data infrastructure for the study of wealth and income across the United States. It draws on full-population, individual-level tax records from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as well as other large administrative data sources.



The project team, which also includes CID Research Assistant Professors Sun Kyung Lee and Joe LaBriola, CID graduate student fellow Asher Dvir-Djerassi, CID Research Data Analyst Carrie Jankowski, and CID faculty affiliate Robert Manduca, is working on building two new datasets:

- A **cross-sectional dataset** that will provide estimates of levels, inequality and segregation in income and wealth at various geographic levels (from country to Census tracts and block groups) for the pre-pandemic year 2019
- A **longitudinal dataset** that will provide estimates of intergenerational mobility of income and wealth

WAM also works with an external data visualization company that has completed the beta deployment of the interactive, online

WAM PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS

CID TEAM MEMBERS:

Fabian Pfeffer (PI)
 Pablo Mitnik (Co-PI)
 Joe LaBriola
 Robert Manduca
 Sun Kyung Lee
 Carrie Jankowski
 Asher Dvir-Djerassi

EXTERNAL COLLABORATORS:

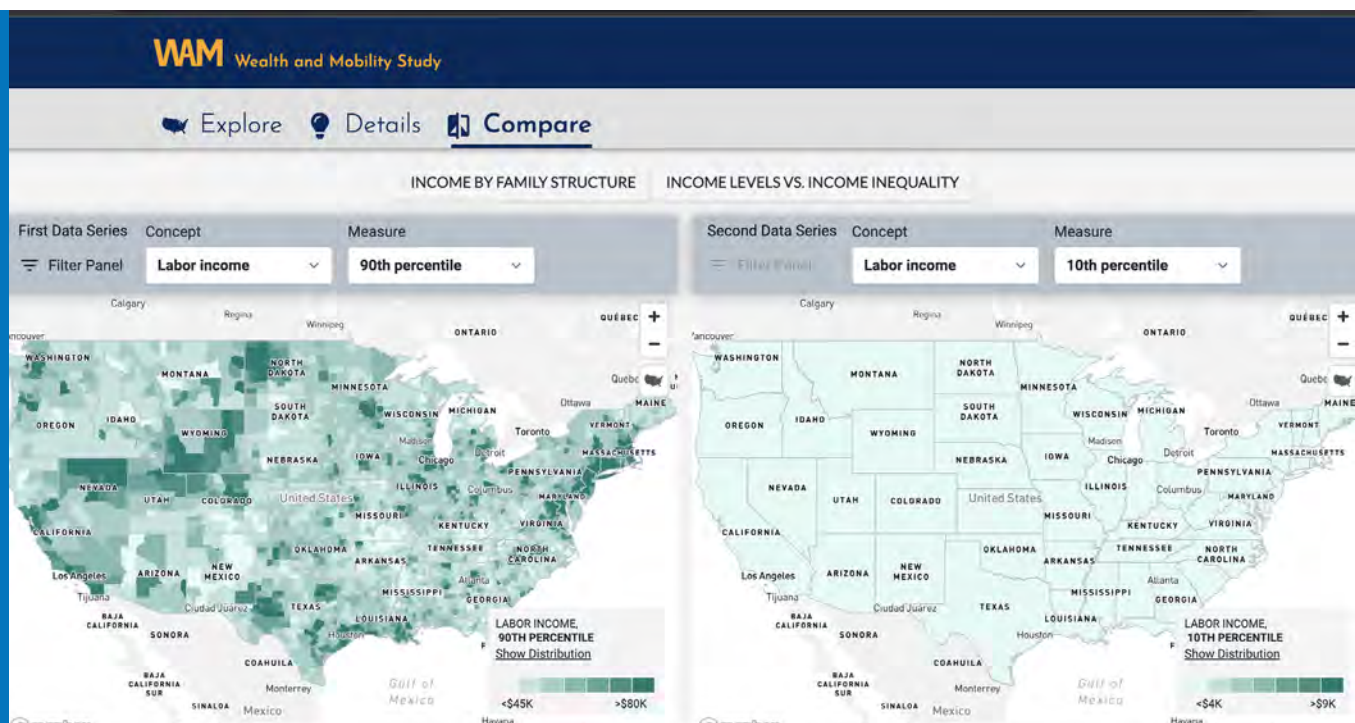
Victoria Bryant (IRS)
 Tom Hertz (IRS)
 Alissa Graff (IRS)

platform that will make the data broadly available to researchers and the public after additional quality assurance and testing.

A related new project, Measuring Racial Inequality with Tax and Other Administrative Data (see page 21), funded with a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (which also funds WAM), will allow WAM to estimate racial and ethnic disparities in wealth. Given the lack of direct racial and ethnic identifiers in tax data, applying cutting-edge methods to indirectly estimate racial and ethnic inequality is a significant undertaking. But, as Dr. Mitnik notes, “given the very large racial and ethnic gaps in wealth in the United States, it will be crucial to expand WAM’s capacity to measure these gaps and provide a detailed view of how racial and ethnic differences in wealth levels, inequality, and mobility vary across the country.”

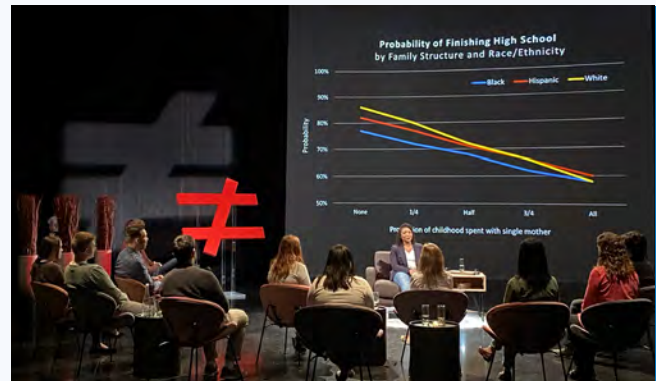
The publicly-accessible WAM dataset will eventually contain wealth and income information for various U.S. locations (cities, counties, etc.), including measures of

1. LEVELS
2. INEQUALITY
3. SEGREGATION
4. INTERGENERATIONAL MOBILITY



CID Films Inequality Studio Sessions

- Social inequality shapes the lived experiences of all members of a society. Scholars possess powerful tools to document and explain inequality and its consequences. Scholars' insights, however, are often revealed mostly in academic publications and written in language that speaks to other scholars rather than the public at large.**



To bring the latest foundational insights on inequality to a broader public, CID created a new video series. Each video features an acclaimed inequality scholar presenting a singular new insight in an accessible format.

“The Inequality Studio Sessions video series aims to help break down barriers to understanding today’s most pressing issues of social inequality by providing broad public access to a novel and foundational insight on social inequality” said CID Faculty Fabian Pfeffer, who proposed and created the new series.

In May 2023, seven inequality scholars gathered in Ann Arbor to film the sessions. Each scholar presented a unique, fundamental new insight on inequality dynamics drawn from their own research findings. Using a sentence, quote, table, or graph as a compelling visual aid, each speaker shared one new point and explained their findings in a three- to five-minute presentation.

Filed in front of a live audience of CID affiliates and peers, invited researchers shared work on the following topics:

- Student debt and racial inequality (Fenaba Addo)
- The relationship between family structure and educational success (Christina Cross)
- International trends in downward social mobility (Robert Manduca)
- An international comparison of wealth inequality (Fabian Pfeffer)
- The efficiency of progressive spending on education (Emily Rauscher)
- The determinants of earnings inequality (Jessi Streib)
- The Black/White mortality gap and pandemics (Elizabeth Wrigley-Field)

CID plans on beginning to release the series later this year. Details and links to the series will be available at inequalitydynamics.umich.edu.

CID Racial Wealth Inequality Research Expands with New Funding, Faculty Expertise

- This year, CID has continued to expand its focus on racial wealth inequality. CID Director Sasha Killewald brought to the center studies on homeownership and racial wealth inequality, how racial/ethnic wealth disparities grow with age, and on race and the intergenerational transmission of wealth. CID also received new grants to expand racial wealth inequality data infrastructure.

Measuring Racial Inequality with Tax & Other Administrative Data

One major challenge faced by researchers working with tax and other administrative data is that these data lack self-reported information on race and ethnicity. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation awarded CID Faculty **Pablo Mitnik** more than \$850,000 in May 2023 to validate and extend a method that allows researchers to estimate racial and ethnic disparities in economic outcomes with data lacking information on race/ethnicity. In addition, this project will:

- support the estimation of racial and ethnic wealth disparities by the Wealth and Mobility Study (see page 18),
- organize a workshop on the quantitative measurement of structural racism,
- organize a meeting on the estimation of racial and ethnic disparities with tax and other administrative data, and
- develop a Stata package implementing the method.

A Postdoctoral Fellow, Sae Hyun Oh (see page 25), will join CID on September 1, 2023, to work on Dr. Mitnik's project.

“This project will take advantage of a unique opportunity to access restricted data through a new collaboration with researchers from the U.S. Census Bureau,” Dr Mitnik said. “Through an internal Census project, we will be able to produce gold-standard validation studies of the method’s ability to estimate racial and ethnic disparities at various geographic levels with tax and other data lacking race and ethnicity information.”

“A thorough analysis of wealth inequality in America must attend to vast and persistent racial and ethnic disparities,” CID Director Sasha Killewald explained. “Scholars at CID are engaged in the important work of documenting these disparities and the processes that create and sustain them.”

■ The Mortgage Interest Deduction and the White-Black Wealth Gap, 1984-2021

CID Faculty Joe LaBriola and Chinyere Agbai (Assistant Professor of Sociology at Ohio State University) received a Social, Political, and Economic Inequality grant from the Russell Sage Foundation in June 2023 to study the effects of the home mortgage interest deduction (MID) on the Black-White wealth gap.

The MID allows homeowners to deduct the interest paid on the first \$750,000 of up to two home mortgages from their taxes and annually costs the U.S. Treasury more than \$26 billion. MID benefits are greater for households with higher incomes and larger mortgages, which disproportionately benefit White households over Black households. In this study, Joe and Chinyere will analyze the tax burdens of households in the Panel Study of Income Dynamics from 1984-2021 using the National Bureau of Economic Research's TAXSIM program.

“The grant will pay for some of our time working on this project and will also allow us to hire a graduate student affiliated with CID, Nils Neumann, to assist with the time-intensive process of creating programs to estimate what the tax burden of PSID households would be with and without the mortgage interest deduction,” Joe said.



Sun Kyoung Lee Joins New Firearm-Related Violence and Injury Prevention Study

- CID Faculty and Urban Economist Sun Kyoung Lee is teaming up with an interdisciplinary group of researchers from the University of Michigan for a new study set to commence this fall.



This study will delve into the potential correlations between housing factors—such as condition, value, sales, and foreclosures—and the prediction of violence, including gun violence, in cities across Michigan.

The pilot study has been funded through grants from the School of Public Health IDEAS program and the U-M Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention.

The study will focus on the Detroit area in its pilot. The team has researchers from the University of Michigan School of Public Health, Institute of Firearm Injury Prevention, and Institute for Social Research. Data sources include the American Community Survey, Zillow's ZTrax microdata on transactions, the Eviction Machine and the Wayne County Treasurer, the Gun Violence Archive and the FBI Uniform Crime Report.

“Further research is required to gain a deeper understanding of how different housing factors such as foreclosures might affect violent crime, especially gun violence. Residential stability plays a pivotal role in creating safe neighborhoods,” explained Sun, who will analyze housing-related data for the project. “A growing body of literature delving into the associations between crime and housing stability has begun to lend evidence suggesting that neighborhood housing stability could indeed influence crime rates.”

What's Next at the Stone Center for Inequality Dynamics

- Almost two months into my leadership role at CID, one thing that has stood out to me is CID's vibrancy: CID is very much a center in motion. I have seen the community and collaboration in our shared workspace, even in the quiet days of summer. As we move into fall, we will be ramping up our activities and resuming our academic-year programming.

CID will continue to build upon the incredible foundation built under Fabian's leadership, and this year we are introducing a new initiative and several new team members.

Launching the Wealth Innovator Award

While CID scholars study multiple forms of inequality, we have a special focus on the study of wealth inequality. CID aims to foster a community of wealth inequality scholars and to support the next generation of inequality researchers. To further these goals, CID is launching the Wealth Innovator Award. The award will provide sabbatical support to a tenure-track scholar, allowing them dedicated time to focus on scholarship related to wealth inequality and connecting them to the existing scholarly community at CID. The award offers interested scholars an intellectual community with a culture of

ample interaction and feedback. Stay tuned for more details this fall, and please spread the word to those who may be interested in applying!

Chiara Affatigato Joins CID in Inaugural JPR Cohort

This year, the Institute for Social Research welcomes its inaugural cohort of Junior Professional Researchers (JPR). JPR is a two-year program designed to prepare recent college graduates for jobs in the social sciences through a combination of collaborative research with ISR faculty members and structured professional development. It aims to be a welcoming intellectual environment and to help new scholars build both their research skills and their connections to the research community.

CID is thrilled to host Chiara Affatigato as a Junior Professional Researcher. Chiara joined us in mid-August from Macalester College where she received her Bachelor of Science in Economics and Educational Studies. A data science minor, Chiara will have the opportunity to hone her research skills, working closely with CID faculty on housing and wealth projects.

Welcome to the team, Chiara!

"I chose CID because I want to work in research that has meaningful impacts and makes me think critically about the society we live in. Now that I'm here, I'm even more excited to be mentored by intelligent and passionate researchers." - Chiara Affatigato



Sae Hyun (Grace) Oh Joins CID as Postdoctoral Research Fellow

CID continues to grow with the addition of a new postdoc joining the team on September 1. Sae Hyun, who goes by Grace, will be working closely with Pablo Mitnik and Carrie Jankowski on their new project, “Measuring Racial Inequality in Tax Data.”

Grace received her Ph.D. in Human Developmental Economics from Tufts University. Her dissertation was entitled, “Individual Discount Rates and Neighborhood Contexts in High School Dropout Decisions.” She obtained her Master of Science in Economics from Tufts University in 2017 and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of California, San Diego.

We’re excited for you to join us, Grace!

Camp Michigania Hosts CID in October

At the end of October, CID’s staff, faculty affiliates, and student fellows will head to Camp Michigania for our annual fall retreat. Located on Walloon Lake in northern

Michigan, Camp Michigania provides year-round programming and activities for the University of Michigan community.

The group spends a weekend connecting over skill-building, small group networking opportunities, and several working sessions. During this year’s sessions, I hope to hear more from the CID community about their goals and visions for the future of CID.

This is just a taste of the year ahead at CID, with much more to come. If you want to make sure you don’t miss our latest news and learning opportunities, I encourage you to connect with us on [social media](#) and in our newsletter (<https://myumi.ch/AWXdb>). I look forward to continuing to get to know members of the CID community based here in Ann Arbor and our extended family around the globe.

Stay tuned,
Sasha

Sasha Killewald, Ph.D.
Director,
Stone Center for Inequality Dynamics
As of July 1, 2023





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