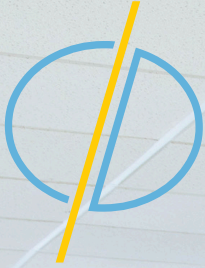




JAMES M. AND CATHLEEN D. STONE
CENTER FOR INEQUALITY DYNAMICS
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



Stone Center Annual Report

2024-
2025

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The work of the Stone Center for Inequality Dynamics and its scholars is more important than ever. In the last year, the climate for social science research, and specifically the study of social inequality, has become more challenging and contentious. Our mission and values remain unchanged. We strive to produce cutting-edge research on social inequality, especially wealth inequality; to train the next generation of inequality scholars; and to build data infrastructure and increase data accessibility. We further aim to foster and support an interdisciplinary group of social scientists, working in a collaborative and supportive space.

In these turbulent and uncertain times, I am especially grateful to the faculty, staff, postdocs, and students who continue to make the Stone Center a dynamic and thriving community. Over the past academic year, we launched new initiatives (p. 8), welcomed new members to our community (p. 7), and continued to grow our partnerships and affiliations across the university. The research of the Center's scholars was published in academic outlets and informed public conversations on economic inequality (pp. 18-19).

I hope you'll enjoy reading about all this and more in the pages ahead. And if you're a member of the University of Michigan community interested in studying economic inequality, I hope you'll join us - our doors are always open.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sasha". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Sasha Killewald, Director
Stone Center for Inequality Dynamics**

Get to Know the Stone Center



Mission Statement

The Stone Center for Inequality Dynamics (CID) at the University of Michigan Institute for Social Research (ISR) aims to:

- produce cutting-edge research on social inequality, especially wealth inequality;
- train the next generation of inequality scholars;
- build data infrastructure and increase data accessibility.

Get to know the Stone Center



Earlier this year, we said goodbye (for now) to several CID folks, including:

- Inaugural Junior Professional Researcher **Chiara Affatigato**, who accepted a new researcher position at Brown University.
- Student Associate **Chalem Bolton**, a new postdoctoral fellow at the University of Florida.
- Student Associate **Davis Daumler**, who began a postdoctoral fellowship at the Stone Program in Wealth Distribution, Inequality, and Social Policy at Harvard University.
- Student Affiliate **Jane Furey**, a new postdoctoral fellow at the University of Texas-Austin.
- Postdoctoral Fellow **Jake Hays**, who joined the Pew Research Center as a research associate.
- Student Associate **Zsigmond Pálvölgyi**, who joined the Institute of Economics at Corvinus University of Budapest as Assistant Professor of Economics.

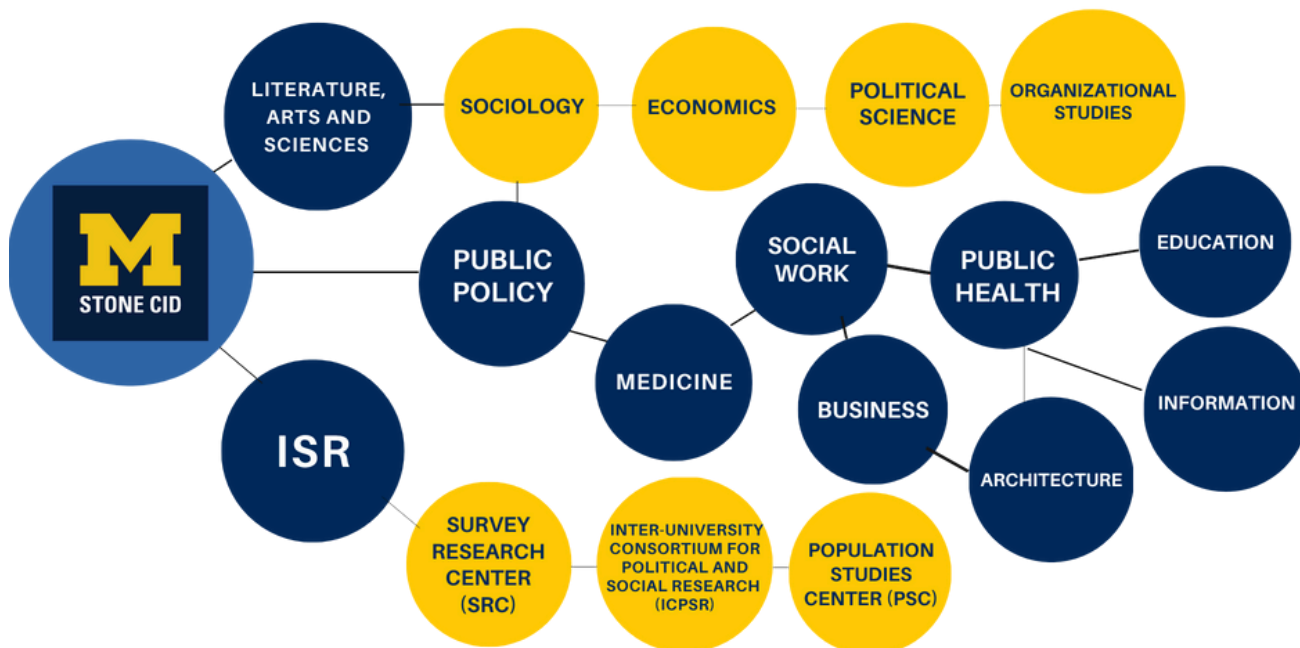
While it's bittersweet to lose these scholars who have been such important members of our community, we're proud of all they've accomplished and excited to see them flourish in the next steps of their careers.

This fall, we are delighted to welcome new associates and affiliates to our center. Learn more about our newest team members and associates on page 7.



Who We Are

ASSOCIATES AND AFFILIATES OF THE STONE CENTER



CID by the Numbers

120+ members
 45 events
 10 scholarly visitors
 18 media mentions
 \$900K+ grant funding

Affiliates

28 faculty
 2 postdocs
 43 students

Core Team

11 faculty
 2 postdocs
 11 students
 2 research staff
 3 program staff

GET TO KNOW THE STONE CENTER



Sasha Killewald
Director



Nicole Bonomini
Engagement Manager



Melissa Bora
Program Manager



W. Carson Byrd
Associate Research Scientist
Center for the Study of
Higher & Postsecondary
Education



Noura Insolera
Assistant Research Scientist
Panel Study of Income
Dynamics



Carrie Jankowski
Data Scientist



Sun Kyoung Lee
Research Assistant
Professor



Joe LaBriola
Research Assistant
Professor



Jeremy Levine
Associate Professor
Organizational Studies



Robert Manduca
Assistant Professor
Sociology



Pablo Mitnik
Assistant Research Scientist



Davon Norris
Assistant Professor
Organizational Studies



Sae Hyun (Grace) Oh
Postdoctoral Fellow



Emily Weisenstein
Administrative Assistant

WELCOME TO THE TEAM!



Alexander Adames
Assistant Professor
Sociology

Alexander Adames is an assistant professor of sociology at the College of Literature, Science and the Arts (LSA). He is a sociologist and social demographer who primarily examines the drivers and consequences of economic stratification within the United States. Broadly speaking, his research agenda focuses on examining factors associated with variation in wealth, income, and labor market outcomes over the life course and across familial generations. In a separate line of research, Adames investigates the factors associated with romantic desirability in the context of online dating.



Eunice Adjapong
Research Associate

Eunice Adjapong joined the Stone Center with the third cohort of Junior Professional Researchers at the Institute for Social Research in July 2025. She works as a research associate to the core faculty on projects related to racial, wealth, and housing inequality. Eunice graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park with a B.S. in Economics and a minor in Statistics. She is passionate about addressing socio-economic challenges facing developing communities around the world.



Sarah Farr
Postdoctoral Fellow

Sarah Farr is a postdoctoral research fellow for Project SPLICE at the School of Public Health. Sarah's research is broadly concerned with the mechanisms driving social differentiation and inequalities in resources, opportunities, and power across social groups and places. One stream of research examines housing and property ownership as a driver of group and place differentiation. Sarah's historical/ethnographic projects in this area focus on property rights in Mexico City and special assessment districts in Milwaukee, among others. Sarah employs a variety of methods in her research, including historical methods, interviews & ethnographic methods, and quantitative spatial analysis.



Fabiana Silva
Assistant Professor
Public Policy

Fabiana Silva is an assistant professor of public policy at the Ford School of Public Policy. She studies the mechanisms that perpetuate (or mitigate) group-based inequality in the labor market, with a focus on social networks and employer discrimination. Through her current projects, she examines how employers reward the referrals of Black and White job applicants, the relationship between employers' racial attitudes and their hiring behavior, and the determinants of "observed race"—that is, how people are racially classified by others. She is also working on a series of studies investigating how different ways of framing immigration affect attitudes towards immigration policy.

The Launch of the Stone Working Group on Inequality and Political Economy (SWIPE)

The Stone Working Group on Inequality and Political Economy (SWIPE) launched in Fall 2024 under the leadership of CID Faculty **Jeremy Levine**, Associate Professor of Organizational Studies, and Co-Organizer CID Faculty **Davon Norris**, Assistant Professor of Organizational Studies. The working group decides on a semester theme related to political or institutional dynamics of inequality and selects a guest speaker to present on a panel with group members.

The group aims to thoughtfully engage on peer-selected topics through a non-traditional event that occurs once a semester.

Engaging deliberately and deeply on peer-selected topics

“In SWIPE, we strive to create a space where we can ask dumb questions in a brave,



supportive environment,” Jeremy explained. “SWIPE dives deeply into a particular topic each semester, discusses readings ahead of time, and then engages in a more conversational roundtable event with an outside scholar and internal scholar working around these issues.”

“I find SWIPE useful because it is so intensely focused on bridging the core of CID

quantitative research on inequality with history and political economic insights,” Davon explained. “This brings together researchers of different methodological and disciplinary backgrounds to have conversations about inequality that are deep and, as a result, enable us to understand inequality in a more integrated and textured way.”

For the inaugural event, SWIPE hosted Regina Baker, Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Professor Baker and panelist Faculty Affiliate Reed DeAngelis discussed the rise in research on the long-run effects of structural racism, primarily in the United States. The conversation was moderated by Student Affiliate Jasmine Simington.

In spring 2025, SWIPE hosted Jamila Michener, Associate Professor of Government and Public Policy at Cornell University, inaugural director of the Center for Racial Justice and Equitable Futures, and Senior Associate Dean for Public Engagement at the Brooks School of Public Policy.

Professor Michener presented, “Where Liberation is Actually Going to Happen: Legal Justice, Tenant Organizing, and Transformative Politics.” After her talk, Stone Center Affiliate Mo Torres, Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Sociology, and Rob Mickey, Associate Professor of Political Science, moderated a Q&A and discussion with the audience.

For the 2025-2026 academic year, SWIPE will host Jake Grumbach to discuss the effect of campaign finance on democratic governance and a conference on structural racism on April 10, 2026. The conference will tackle theoretical and methodological dilemmas in the field—namely, what makes racism “structural,”

and how can we measure it?

This conference will serve as a continuation of last year’s SWIPE theme and bolster CID’s data and research efforts at studying racial wealth inequality. Outside speakers will engage in dialogue with U-M faculty and researchers in the day-long event.

More information on speakers, panel themes, and registration details will be released soon.

Learn more about SWIPE:



The Stone Center Welcomes 2025-2026 Visiting Fellow Manuel Schechtl

**Manuel Schechtl, Assistant Professor in the
Department of Public Policy, University of
North Carolina at Chapel Hill**



Manuel will join the Center as he works on his project, “Social Consequences of Exposure to Local Wealth Inequality,” which explores the extent to which the unequal distribution of local wealth explains disparities in social outcomes such as education, health, and upward mobility. He asks, “Can personal or parental wealth help mitigate the downstream consequences of local exposure to rising wealth inequality?”

“I see myself as an interdisciplinary scholar and I believe the Stone Center for Inequality Dynamics is a unique place in that regard,” he said. “Getting to know and engaging with experts from different backgrounds all united in the study of inequality posed an opportunity I did not want to miss.”

Dr. Schechtl received his PhD in Sociology from Humboldt University Berlin. Prior to joining the University of North Carolina, he was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality at the CUNY Graduate Center.



Learn more about Manuel and his work on income, wealth inequality, and poverty at his website.

Manuel will give a talk on his work during the fall semester.

This project has 3 specific aims:

1. Generate descriptive evidence regarding the association between local exposure to wealth inequality and educational attainment, health outcomes, as well as upward income mobility outcomes later in life.
2. Investigate whether personal and/or parental wealth mediates the association between childhood exposure to local wealth inequality and social outcomes later in life.
3. Build a public-use resource to facilitate matching local wealth inequality estimates reflecting the geographies of children in national panel survey data.

“We’re thrilled to welcome Manuel to the Stone Center as the next Visiting Fellow,” said Joe LaBriola, Research Assistant Professor and Fellowship Committee Chair. “Manuel’s project is a perfect fit with our Center’s mission to develop new data sources to further the study of wealth inequality, and the Stone Center is sure to benefit from having Manuel as a Visiting Fellow.”

Eunice Adjapong joins ISR's Junior Professional Researcher Program

The Stone Center is pleased to welcome **Eunice Adjapong** to Team CID. Eunice joins the team as a member of the Institute for Social Research's 2025-2027 Junior Professional Researcher (JPR) Cohort.

"As a JPR, I hope to gain exposure to diverse research areas and grow into a well-rounded researcher," Eunice said. "I'm eager to collaborate with and learn from distinguished faculty and fellow scholars, and to build a strong foundation for conducting research that drives meaningful, evidence-based impact."

Eunice graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Economics and a minor in Statistics from the University of Maryland, College Park. Originally from Ghana, she said she is passionate about addressing socio-economic challenges facing the African continent and communities around the world. Her research interests focus on poverty alleviation through evidence-based programs and policy solutions.

"We are thrilled to welcome Eunice to the Stone Center. Her statistical



training and coding experience make her a perfect fit to collaborate on research projects in CID," said Sasha Killewald, Director of the Stone Center. "We are delighted to continue to partner with the Junior Professional Researcher Program at ISR. Their mission of helping recent college graduates from backgrounds underrepresented in research to launch a career in the social sciences aligns with our own."

Learn more about the Junior Professional Research Program



Satisfying Interdisciplinary Instincts with Economics, Sociology, and Statistics

Inequality Scholar Spotlight: Noura Insolera



Today, **Noura Insolera** is the Assistant Director of the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID), and an assistant research scientist at the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan, but she didn't plan to be a social scientist.

Noura knows that ISR, where she has spent her career studying social inequality, is a place "unlike any other." When she speaks about numbers, the data isn't dry and boring; it's deeply personal and profoundly social.

Noura's research explores how income inequality affects health and educational outcomes across a lifetime.

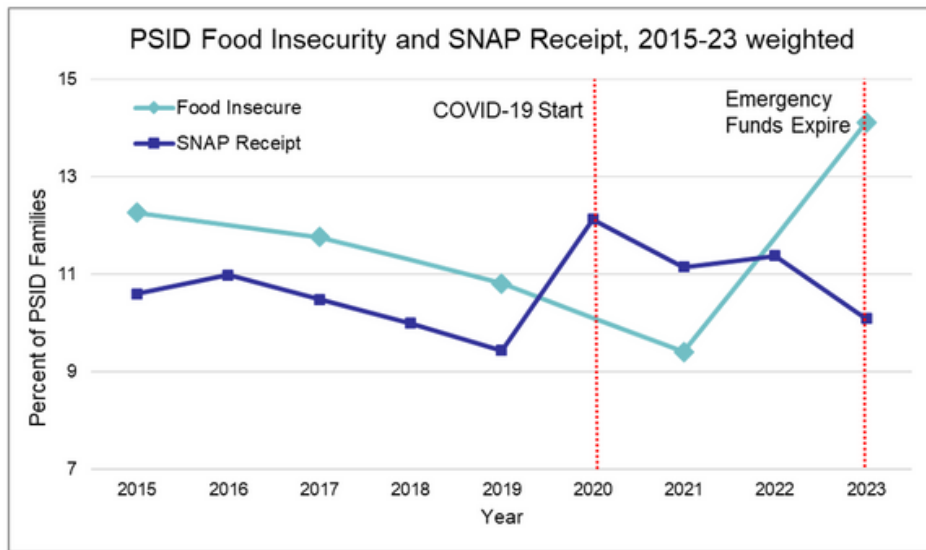
She uses the PSID—the legendary longitudinal study following U.S. families for more than 50 years—as both microscope and telescope: peering into granular details of life while charting broad, generational arcs.

Her interest in obesity among children began with her own observations in children in public and private school. Noura began her education in public school but after middle school, she was awarded a scholarship to Cranbrook Kingswood, a prestigious private school. She transferred there in 9th grade. "I noticed at my public school there were a lot of obese kids, but at private school, there were very few. I knew it was about more than just resources—it made me wonder why," she recalled.

For Noura, the "work is constantly evolving." Recent projects explore how government programs (like SNAP, WIC, or Medicaid) support families—and how gaps in program design and coordination can undermine these efforts. "It was initially so surprising to me, but government programs often don't fit together as you'd expect. You might think eligibility for Medicaid means you'd automatically get food stamps," she explained. "But that's not the case. The systems don't always align, the applications are confusing, and access is difficult—especially for those who most need help."

From childhood obesity, Noura’s research expanded into economic factors, nutrition, extracurricular activities, and the differing weight of opportunity. “PSID’s Child Development Supplement had all this information—on nutrition, activities, income, and more. It really made clear how inequality shapes life from the start.”

Then, the COVID-19 pandemic provided a unique test of the systems.



“Amazingly, U.S. policy expansions during the pandemic actually helped. Food insecurity didn’t rise as everyone feared. But the 2023 data shows what happens when those enhanced benefits are cut: it’s not good.”

For Noura, what happened is a cautionary tale and a call to action. “If we could do it once, we could do it again.” In her research, she continues to study the effects of expiration or reduction of these benefits, emphasizing the importance of data in evaluating both positive outcomes and ongoing needs.

Her hope, Noura said, comes from a focus on incremental progress: “Not everyone will end up perfectly happy or healthy, but I can see through the longevity of the PSID data how families

improve— it demonstrates that even small changes matter.”

Collaborating Across Disciplines

Noura’s own journey reflects the PSID’s journey from an economic study at its founding to a truly interdisciplinary study. “We constantly ask which journals our [PSID] data are being used in—demography, sociology, economics—and make sure our surveys include questions that other

disciplines need. It’s a delicate balance, but it’s what makes PSID invaluable.”

Noura decided to join the Stone Center in Summer 2024. It has already broadened her horizons, she said. “Walking into CID was nerve-wracking at first—so many brilliant, different people. But it’s so energizing: everyone’s focused on the same big

questions, even if our skills and fears are different.”

Collaborative projects—like a new effort to measure housing insecurity more effectively in the PSID—emerge organically from these cross-pollinations. One of Noura’s newer projects focuses on how PSID’s housing questions compare to other national surveys and explores ways to enhance data collection through new linkages and revised survey instruments.

“ISR supports interdisciplinarity, not by talking about it, but by doing it,” she said. “I feel at home here. We’re shaping something fundamental for science and society.”

Learn more about
Noura’s work:



How do government policies shape inequality and influence economic decision-making?

Inequality Scholar Spotlight: Zsigmond Pálvölgyi



New Stone Center alumnus **Zsigmond Pálvölgyi**, who received his PhD in Economics at U-M, explores this question in his job market paper, “Did Decreasing Residential Segregation Reduce Racial Wealth Inequality?”

The paper addresses the impact of the 1968 Fair Housing Act (FHA) and examines whether the FHA contributed to decreasing segregation and increasing housing wealth among Black families.

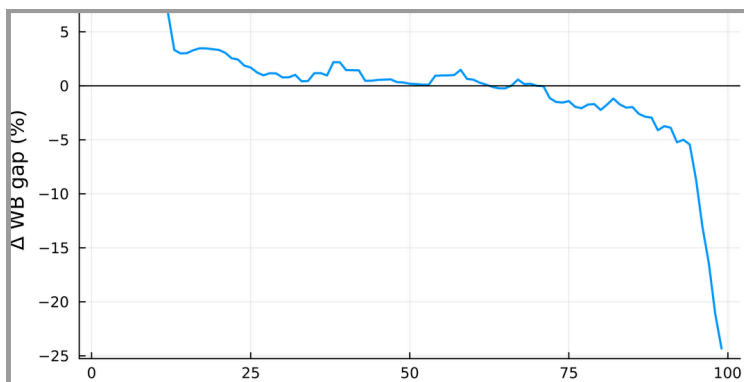
“My research illustrates housing policies’ heterogeneous effect on wealth inequality and shows that, as an unintended consequence, most of these policies’ positive effects could easily be concentrated among already wealthy and non-targeted families,” he explained. “While desegregation policies could have had some negative effects at the middle of the wealth distribution, they still provided broader economic

opportunities for Black families,” he said.

In addition to his primary research, Pálvölgyi is exploring other topics, such as the impact of racial covenants on home prices and neighborhood movements. He is also investigating how climate change might affect wealth inequality by simulating migration scenarios from the southern to the northern United States.

Pálvölgyi’s research focuses on labor and public economics, with a particular interest in how governmental policies affect inequality. “I study how policies shape inequality and how this

influences economic decision-making,” he explained. His work aims to inform discussions and policy decisions that address inequality and promote economic justice.



Learn more about Zsigmond’s work:



The Wealth and Mobility Study Makes Steady Progress, Changes Directorship



Drawing on population tax records from the Internal Revenue Service and other large-scale administrative data, the Wealth and Mobility Study (WAM) is in the process of constructing detailed measures of wealth and income for all U.S. individuals and linking them across generations. Using these data, WAM will produce new estimates of wealth and income levels, inequality, segregation, and mobility—both nationally and across a wide range of subnational geographies.

continued on next page

Learn more about WAM:



continued...

A central focus of the project is the distribution and presentation of these estimates through a dedicated website, which will feature a powerful yet user-friendly data explorer capable of generating a wide variety of graphs and produce rich, meaningful comparisons. Through this tool, along with downloadable and comprehensive data files, WAM will make its estimates readily accessible to a broad audience—including researchers, policymakers at all levels, community organizations, journalists, and the general public.

WAM concluded its fourth year in August 2025. During this period, it completed or nearly completed most of the core data construction tasks and will soon turn to the massive undertaking of producing wealth and income estimates. These estimates will extend from the national level to states, Core-Based Statistical Areas, commuting zones, counties, congressional districts, and Census tracts, each with detailed demographic breakdowns.

In this same period, Pablo Mitnik assumed the role of Director (previously Co-Director), while Fabian Pfeffer became Co-Director (previously Director). The core scientific team also includes Co-Investigators Joe LaBriola and Asher Dvir-Djerassi, Data Scientist Carrie Jankowski, and Graduate Student Research Assistant Niva Ranavat. The project is housed at the Stone Center and supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.



Declining Fertility Rates Key to Narrowing U.S. Gender Pay Gap, Study Finds

A new study revealed that a decline in the number of children among U.S. employees has played a significant role in reducing the gender pay gap.

Stone Center for Inequality Dynamics Director **Sasha Killewald** and Harvard University alumnus **Nino José Cricco** published their findings in *Social Forces* in November 2024.

“Having children leads to wage losses for women but wage gains for men,” Sasha explained, also Professor of Sociology in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and Robert F. Schoeni Research Professor at the Institute for Social Research. “As a result, parenthood tends to widen gender pay gaps. But research on the narrowing gender pay gap has mostly focused on women’s gains in education and work experience, overlooking the impact of changing fertility rates.”

Sasha and Nino’s study uses data from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics to analyze how the overall decrease in family size over nearly four decades has influenced the pay gap between men and women.

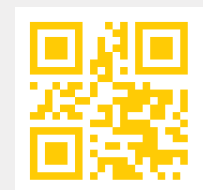
“This 8% is even a conservative estimate,” Nino said. “When we consider that motherhood shapes women’s wages in part by limiting their work experience and job tenure, the effect is larger.”

Key findings include:

- Even after controlling for variables such as education and job characteristics, reduced fertility explained 8% of the reduction in the gender pay gap 1980-2018—half as much as educational improvements and a quarter as much as increased full-time work experience and job tenure combined.
- The fastest decline in fertility rates occurred during the 1980s, with the pace slowing in subsequent decades. This slowdown, combined with ongoing differences in how parenthood affects women and men’s wages, partially explains why progress toward pay equality has stagnated in recent years.

“This research underscores that, without reducing the negative consequences of motherhood for women’s pay, parenthood is likely to put a brake on future progress toward pay parity,” Sasha said. “Policies aimed at promoting gender pay parity must consider how to support parents in combining work and caregiving. This might include family-focused policies, like subsidizing child care. Or it might include labor policies and caps on work hours. If fewer men engaged in long work hours, it might be more feasible for two parents to be employed full time.”

For more information,
see the full study:



2024-2025 Publication Highlights



Papers from Robert Manduca Explore the Economic Geography of Inequality, Impact of Social Transfer Programs, and Impact of Government Spending on Health

Did you know Medicaid contributes about as much to Detroit's economy as car manufacturing? Faculty **Robert Manduca** has a working paper that highlights the impact of social transfer programs on local economies. Read the paper, available online from the Washington Center for Equitable Growth, published in June 2025.



Robert also published "Local government expenditure centralization and spatial variation in working-age mortality," in *SSM - Population Health*. Co-authored with Rourke O'Brien, CID's 2025-26 Visiting Fellow Manuel Schechtel, and Atheendar Venkataramani, findings suggest that local government spending may reduce mortality, especially for people with lower incomes.

Robert published "Beyond Local and Traded: Evidence for a Third Industry Market Area Type and Implications for Regional Economic Development" in the July 2024 issue of *Economic Development Quarterly* with Teresa M. Lynch.



Paper from Pablo Mitnik Explores Inequality of Opportunity, Income Mobility



CID Faculty **Pablo Mitnik** published "Inequality of Opportunity, Income Mobility, and the Interpretation of Intergenerational Elasticities, Correlations, and Rank-Rank Slopes" in *Sociological Methods and Research*.

Papers from Davon Norris on Racialized Reactivity on Uneven Tax of Credit Scores, and Shareholder Exploitation in Europe



CID Faculty **Davon Norris** published "A Racialized Engine of Anxiety? Race, Reactivity, and the Uneven Tax of Credit Scores" in the May 2025 issue of *Administrative Science Quarterly*. "I draw on theorizing by Du Bois and Fanon to provide insight into how reactivity to being scored differs across racial groups," he explained.

Davon also published a paper in the February 2025 issue of *Social Forces* titled "The Wages of Investor Power: Shareholder Exploitation in Europe." Davon co-authored the article with Matthew Soener.



Fabiana Silva Published Article on Conundrum of Civil Rights Appeals in Contemporary United States



An article by Faculty **Fabiana Silva** was published in the May 2025 issue of the *American Sociological Review*. "Frame Backfire: The Conundrum of Civil Rights Appeals in the Contemporary United States" was authored by Fabiana, along with Irene Bloemraad and Kim Voss.

Abigail Kappelman Published Findings on Racial Disparities on Low Birth Weight

Student Associate **Abigail Kappelman's** article, "Black/White disparities in low birth weight across maternal trajectories of social mobility in South Carolina," was published in the February 2025 issue of *Social Science and Medicine*. Annie Ro, Lindsay Admon, Belinda L. Needham, and Nancy L. Fleischer co-authored the paper.



Joe LaBriola: "Rising house prices don't just make it harder to become a homeowner – they also widen the racial wealth gap"

In February 2025, *The Conversation* published Faculty **Joe LaBriola's** piece titled, "Rising house prices don't just make it harder to become a homeowner – they also widen the racial wealth gap." The news story was picked up by multiple publications, including *Yahoo! News*, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, *Times Union*, *Finance Commerce*, and more.



Davon Norris: "Cuyahoga County Reappraisal Wrongly Shifts Tax Burden to the Disadvantaged"



Davon Norris contributed a short piece in September 2024 to the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* on Cuyahoga County's recent property reappraisal. He shared that the county's reappraisal significantly increases the value of the lowest value homes in the county relative to the highest value homes. "The likely result of this is that the property tax burden in the county will shift onto owners of lower valued property which are in lower income and disproportionately non-White areas," Davon explained.

Five Stone Faculty Receive Pilot Grants Funding Wealth Inequality Research

- **Carson Byrd: “Socioeconomic and Racial Segregation of College Towns and Educational Metropolises, 1980-2020.”**
 - Abstract: “While universities have expanded exponentially in communities over the last 30 years, limited research provides a clear picture of how universities contribute to place stratification and the intertwined socioeconomic and racial inequalities across the US. The proposed study will clarify these associations between universities and neighborhood socioeconomic and racial inequalities.”
- **Noura Insolera: “Incorporating Housing Insecurity into the Panel Study of Income Dynamics.”**
 - Abstract: “Housing and homeownership are integral pieces of wealth building in the United States. Housing insecurity is an important marker of material hardship and potentially a strong indicator of wealth inequality. This project will work to integrate a standardized measure of housing insecurity into the Panel Study of Income Dynamics.”
- **Jeremy Levine: “When Crime Pays the Victim: How Victim Policy Shaped Inequality and the Carceral State.”**
 - Abstract: “This project analyzes how victim policy contributed to inequality and expanded the carceral state. I focus specifically on victim compensation law, the only public benefit for crime victims. I show how program design choices structurally disadvantaged people of color and gender-based violence victims, making it harder for affected groups to build wealth, and contributing to both racial and racialized gender inequality.”
- **Robert Manduca: “Racial Residential Segregation, Property Taxes, and the Black-White Wealth Gap.”**
 - Abstract: “Residential segregation is a major driver of racial inequality in the United States. This project will examine how racial segregation across municipal boundaries contributes to racial inequality by creating racial disparities in the level of local government services received and the property tax rates paid.”
- **Davon Norris: “The Land of Water Affordability: Examining Trends in Water Costs, 1970 to 2020.”**
 - Abstract: “Research highlights water affordability as a growing problem in the US. Yet, gaps remain in documenting trends across a large number of places and years. This project fills these gaps and begins exploring rising water costs as a case that puts into relief larger gaps in our understanding of debt.”

[Learn more about the program.](#)



Jeremy Levine Receives Planning Grant to Evaluate Changes to New York’s Victim Compensation Program



Did you know that victims of crime can apply for financial compensation to cover medical bills and other related expenses? And did you know that Black victims of crime, particularly Black men, are more likely than other groups to be denied compensation? CID Faculty Jeremy Levine has been conducting research on racial inequality in the implementation of victim compensation law and was recently awarded a planning grant to study the effects of legislative changes in New York.

“A big reason for this racial disparity, my research shows, is a set of eligibility criteria that require victims to report crimes to police and be perceived as cooperative by the police,” Jeremy explained. “I found that Black male victims in particular were more likely to be denied compensation because the police perceived them as uncooperative.” He published his initial findings in a report at the University of Michigan’s Poverty Solutions Center and the Center for Racial Justice, as well as in an article that will appear in the December 2025 issue of *Law & Society Review*.

As Jeremy was conducting his research, the New York State legislature passed the Fair Access to Victim Compensation Act, which removed the police reporting and cooperation requirements. The law goes into effect on December 31st. Arnold Ventures is funding a \$100K, one-year planning grant to support background research and data to analyze the impact of the new legislation. The award is in collaboration with colleagues at the University of Michigan and University of Colorado-Denver.

The team will seek to answer questions such as:

- When restrictions tied to the police are removed, do compensation approvals go up?
- Are victims with fractured relationships with the police—such as communities of color, domestic violence and sexual assault victims—more likely to apply after they no longer have to file a police report to be eligible?
- Does removing police involvement from claim determinations result in crime victims getting paid faster?
- How does this affect the functioning of the criminal justice system? For example, does victim cooperation go down when it is no longer incentivized, or does it go up because victims may be more likely to assist law enforcement when they get their immediate needs met first?

“These are the questions we will ultimately try and answer once the new eligibility rules are put in place,” Jeremy said. “For now, the grant funds us to design a study using causal inference methods combined with program staff interviews to try and see what happens when more victims are eligible to be compensated.”





Pablo Mitnik and Tali Kristal Start New Project on Workplace Income Distribution by Social Class

Stone Center Faculty Pablo Mitnik and University of Haifa Professor of Sociology Tali Kristal have launched a new project, supported by a European Research Council grant, to study income distribution by social class in the U.S. manufacturing sector. The project, “Workplace Income Distribution by Social Class in the United States Manufacturing Sector, 1967–2022,” will begin by tracing how the labor share of income and the compensation gap between production and non-production workers have evolved at the establishment level over the last half-century. It will then assess the extent to which these trends are driven by changes in workers’ organizational power, firms’ market power, managerial practices, labor market institutions, and overall labor market conditions.

To advance these objectives, the project will draw on restricted-access data from the Annual Survey of Manufacturers, the Census of Manufacturers, and the Management and Organizational Practices Survey. It will also incorporate new data generated from National Labor Relations Board and Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service records, along with standard indicators of labor market institutions (e.g., minimum wages) and conditions (e.g., unemployment rates). “We aim to contribute to a growing body of research on workplace-level mechanisms shaping income distribution,” Pablo explained, “and to clarify how these mechanisms interact with broader labor market and economy-wide dynamics.”

The project team has appointed Haowen Zheng, who is completing her PhD at Cornell University, as a postdoctoral fellow. She will join the Stone Center in January 2026.

Learn more about Pablo and his work.



The 2025-2026 Emerging Inequality Scholar Awardees



Janet Wang and
Jiaming Soh
Receive Emerging
Inequality Scholar
Awards



Congratulations to doctoral student in Sociology, Janet Wang, and doctoral student in Economics, Jiaming Soh, the Stone Center Emerging Inequality Scholars for the 2025-2026 academic year.

Jiaming Soh: Government Contracts and Small Business Dynamics in the U.S.

Jiaming's study examines the long-term effects of public procurement on small business dynamics in the United States. Given that government procurement accounts for a substantial share of public expenditure, analyzing its impact on small business development can offer insights into how procurement policy can be designed to redistribute economic opportunities and alleviate the financial and structural constraints commonly faced by small businesses.

"I applied for the award to be part of the scholarly community to further develop my existing work via engagement with scholars from various disciplines and intellectual backgrounds, as well as through the early ideas workshop that CID frequently organized," Jiaming said.

Janet Wang: Overqualification across the life course: patterns and consequences

Janet's research interests lie in work and retirement, aging and the life course, and social stratification. Her research explores economic inequality and health disparities in later life.

"I applied to the award because I was interested in the opportunity to conduct stratification research and engage with a vibrant intellectual community," she said. "My proposed project, examines the dynamics of overqualification, broadly defined as a phenomenon in which a worker's education exceeds their occupation's educational requirements. I hope to broaden our understanding of this emergent form of labor market stratification by examining how overqualification develops across the career trajectory, and for whom it is a more persistent issue. I'm grateful to CID and excited to get to work!"

CID Awards and Accomplishments

CID scholars were recognized this year in multiple publications, fellowships, and awards



Spencer Allen Named Managing Editor of *Social Science Research*

Effective January 1, 2025, Student Affiliate Spencer Allen was named as Managing Editor of *Social Science Research*. *Social Science Research* publishes papers devoted to quantitative social science research and methodology. The journal features articles that illustrate the use of quantitative methods to empirically test social science theory.

Davis Daumler Received an American Sociological Association (ASA) Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant

Davis, a new sociology alumnus, received the grant, which supports theoretically grounded empirical investigations to advance understanding of fundamental social processes. His dissertation project is, "The Temporal Dynamics of Generational Inequality."

Jane Furey Received ASA Graduate Student Paper Awards

Jane, a new sociology alumnus, received graduate student paper awards from ASA's Section on the Sociology of Aging and the Life Course, Section on the Sociology of Race, Gender, and Class, and Section on the Sociology of Population. Jane's dissertation work investigated the social and economic implications of education later in life, revealing that education over the life course has the capacity to both expand or reduce inequality at the population level.

Kelcie Gerson Received 2025 ISR Next Generation Initiative Award

Kelcie Gerson, Student Affiliate in Economics & Public Policy, received the James Morgan Innovation in the Analysis of Economic Behavior Fund Award for her project, "Implications of Student Debt on Home Equity Accumulation."

Pablo Mitnik Receives Honorable Mention for Devah Pager Outstanding Article Award from ASA

Faculty Pablo Mitnik (with collaborators Victoria L. Bryant and David B. Grusky) received Honorable Mention for the Devah Pager Outstanding Article Award from ASA's Section on the Sociology of Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility, for their paper "A Very Uneven Playing Field: Economic Mobility in the United States."

Stone Center Annual Report



2024-
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Join us: ISR 2030, 426 Thompson St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104 • Visit: inequality.umich.edu •
Call: 734.763.8316 • Email: inequalitydynamics@umich.edu