

broom center for demography

University of California, Santa Barbara

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Mission Statement

The Leonard and Gretchan Broom Center for Demography facilitates and engages in research and training in social demography and population studies, with a particular emphasis on social and economic inequalities and health disparities. Key issues explored by Center Associates include inequalities across social groups defined by gender, sexuality, race/ethnicity, and immigration status; population-environment interactions; the determinants of population health; migration flows; spatial demography; and the allocation of resources within and among families, workplaces, schools, and other social institutions.

Departmental Affiliations

- Anthropology
- Black Studies
- Economics
- Environmental Science and Management
- Geography
- Global Studies
- History
- Marine Science
- Psychological and Brain Sciences
- Social, Behavioral and Economic Research (ISBER)
- Sociology

**Number of Faculty
Affiliates:** 31

Key Areas of Research

- **Family demography**
- **Biodemography and evolution**
- **Environment, population, and health dynamics**
- **Sex and gender**
- **Education and health**
- **Immigration, race and ethnicity**

Domestic Research Projects

- The effect of charitable giving on workers' performance
- Gender segregation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics
- Decision-environment effects on intertemporal financial choices
- Gender gaps in the effects of childhood family environment
- Non-cognitive skills as human capital
- Effects of blame on anti-fat prejudice
- Understanding LGB mental and physical health disparities
- Effects of gendered occupational roles on workplace authority
- Gender and beauty biases among entrepreneurs
- Gender segregation of US doctorates by field and institutional prestige
- Increasing the representation of Black college graduates in Engineering and Computer Science majors

International Research Projects

- Trends in internal and international Mexican migration
- Cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes in evolutionary perspective
- Migration, sexual networks, and HIV in Ghana
- Gender, societal affluence and eighth graders' aspirations for STEM
- Children and climate change
- Subjective socioeconomic status and cortisol among inhabitants of the island of Utila, Honduras
- Cognitive performance across the life course among Bolivian forager-farmers
- Understanding variation in human fertility
- Context and purportedly harmful cultural practices
- Climate change and population pressures on the world's biodiversity priorities
- State care of the elderly and the labor supply of adult children
- Sexual equality and humanitarian foreign policy
- Climate-related child undernutrition in the Lake Victoria Basin
- Ethnic dimensions of Guatemala's stalled transition
- Fertility and urban context in Ghana

Regional Research Projects

- Optimizing green space locations to reduce urban heat island effects in Phoenix, Arizona
- Regional perspectives on public health
- The consequences of the criminal justice pipeline on Black and Latino masculinity
- Who's encouraging Latino students and White students to enroll in honors and AP courses?
- Spatial analytics for enhancing street light coverage of public spaces
- Health and healthcare for migrants and migrant families

In the News

- *Scientific American*, December 5, 2017: "Ignoring a Western child-rearing practice does not seem to matter for the Tsimané of Bolivia," on Michael Gurven's Tsimane Health and Life History Project.
- *Science Magazine*, March 18, 2017: "How the tyranny of prestige disadvantages women," on Sarah Thébaud's research on gender segregation of PhD programs by prestige.
- *Washington Post*, March 17, 2017: "These people eat monkeys and piranhas. They also have the lowest rates of heart disease ever measured," on Michael Gurven's Tsimane Health and Life History Project.
- *New York Times*, July 20, 2017: "How Fear of Falling Explains the Love of Trump," on Shelly Lundberg's analysis of the intergenerational reproduction of socioeconomic disadvantage among Americans without college degrees.
- *The Atlantic*, April 2016: "Math for Girls, Math for Boys," on Maria Charles' research on cross-national differences in the gendering of STEM aspirations.

Research to Policy

- Erika Arenas advises on inclusion of the Black population in Mexico's 2020 Census, and on the Fourth Wave of the Mexican Family Life Survey
- Maria Charles is an outside advisor on the Pew Research Center's project related to STEM education and workforce issues
- Michael Gurven is a health consultant for the Tsimane Government in Bolivia
- David López-Carr consults with USAID and with the Guatemala Planning Ministry on Population, Health and Environment
- Aashish Mehta consults with Asian Development Bank on "Social Safety Nets"
- Victor Rios is a Racial Democracy, Crime and Justice Network Member, Ohio State University/National Science Foundation
- John Weeks is Senior Fellow, California Council on Science and Technology

Funding Sources

- Chinese National Natural Science Foundation
- Mexican National Council of Science and Technology
- National Institutes of Health
- National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
- National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
- National Institute on Aging
- National Science Foundation
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- United States Department of Defense
- United States Geological Service
- USAID
- University of California Global Health Institute
- UC MEXUS
- William T. Grant Foundation
- W.K. Kellogg Foundation