Who We Are

University Center for Social and Urban Research

The University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR) was established in 1972 to serve as a resource for researchers and educators interested in the basic and applied social and behavioral sciences. As a hub for interdisciplinary research and collaboration, UCSUR promotes a research agenda focused on the social, economic, and health issues most relevant to our society. UCSUR maintains a permanent research infrastructure available to faculty and the community with the capacity to: (1) conduct all types of survey research and data analysis; (2) carry out regional econometric modeling; (3) analyze qualitative data using state-of-the-art computer methods, including Web-based studies; (4) obtain, format, and analyze spatial data; (5) acquire, manage, and analyze large secondary and administrative data sets including census data; and (6) design and carry out descriptive, evaluation, and intervention studies. UCSUR plays a critical role in the development of new research projects through consultation with faculty investigators.

The long-term goals of UCSUR fall into three broad domains: (1) provide state-of-the-art research and support services for investigators interested in interdisciplinary research in the behavioral and social sciences; (2) develop nationally recognized research programs within the Center in a few selected areas; and (3) support the teaching mission of the University through graduate student, post-doctoral, and junior faculty mentoring, teaching courses on research methods in the social sciences, and providing research internships to undergraduate and graduate students. Achieving these goals requires that we continually upgrade and improve the research infrastructure of the Center, and that we recruit, develop, and maintain a core staff of investigators capable of being leaders in their fields.
I am pleased to share with you an update of activities and accomplishments of the Center for the academic year 2008-2009. The Center continues to aggressively pursue opportunities to enhance its research infrastructure, broaden the range of support services available to faculty and the community, expand the participation of faculty and graduate students in Center research programs, and strengthen University-community collaborations. The Center serves as the interdisciplinary crossroads for schools throughout the University and has become a major resource in mentoring and supporting the research careers of junior faculty and post-doctoral students. Some highlights for the current year:

- More than 50 research projects involving most of the schools of the University were carried out, and several dozen undergraduates, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and junior faculty were mentored by Center staff.

- The Center had an impressive record of academic achievement this year, including 60 peer-reviewed journal publications, and 16 invited book chapters. This is a doubling of our usual output.

- The Pittsburgh Neighborhood and Community Information System (PNCIS), a unique geographic information system, was launched. The system provides visual neighborhood level data about housing vacancies, building conditions, crimes, foreclosures, housing prices, tax delinquency, land use, demographics, fires, election results, and much more. To learn what’s happening in your Pittsburgh neighborhood, Google PNCIS.

The Center remains committed to continued self-assessment and improvement, and we look to your input and guidance for shaping the future development of the Center.
What We Do: Center Resources

Survey Research Services and Capabilities

UCSUR provides survey research services through the Survey Research Program (SRP). SRP maintains a highly experienced staff of survey professionals, trained interviewers, and data management specialists. SRP services are available to faculty, staff, and students throughout the University and to local, state, and federal agencies and others working in the public interest.

SRP is able to carry out any or all phases of a survey research project, including sample design, questionnaire design, data collection, data processing, statistical analysis, and reporting. SRP staff have the training and experience to design scientifically valid studies customized to client research needs. SRP can help clarify study objectives, and provide advice on how to obtain the highest quality data within available resource constraints. More specifically, SRP provides assistance in the following areas:

Sample Design
SRP staff provide advice on sampling methodology and sample size to meet study objectives and budget. Services include in-house development of specialized sample frames or consultation with commercial sampling firms to obtain an appropriate sample. Examples of the types of samples provided include:

- Random digit dialing (RDD) samples: particularly suited for telephone surveys of the general population, computer-generated telephone numbers are used to target specific geographic areas, including both listed and unlisted phone numbers. RDD sampling for any region of the United States is available.
- Targeted/listed samples: samples to reach specific subgroups or rare populations. These are useful for telephone recruitment of participants for larger studies. They are also used for supplementing RDD samples with oversamples of rare populations.

Data Collection Methodology
SRP staff can provide:

- Advice on the most productive and cost-effective method of data collection (mail, telephone, in-person, or internet/Web-based).
- Specification of procedures for maximizing response rates within the framework of available resources. For example, recommended number of attempts to contact respondents, securing initial cooperation, following up incomplete interviews, converting refusals into acceptances, and use of mixed-mode designs.

Interviewing and Data Collection
SRP conducts local, regional, and national telephone and mail surveys with both general and special populations, as well as in-person surveys in the Southwestern Pennsylvania region. SRP also conducts internet/Web-based surveys.

SRP relies on a pool of experienced interviewers for telephone and in-person surveys. These include both undergraduate and graduate students, as well as non-students under the management of senior field work supervisors.

Interviewer training and quality control: Interviewers are trained in general and project-specific interviewing techniques, such as maintaining objectivity, reading questions as written, and securing respondent cooperation. Training involves a combination of lecture, written handouts, video instruction, and role-playing. Interviewers are continuously monitored during data collection for quality assurance, and periodic retraining sessions occur as necessary.

Computer-assisted telephone interviewing: A 32-line phone bank at UCSUR is dedicated to a computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) system. Interviewers read questions as they appear on the screen and enter the respondents’ answers directly into the computer. CATI allows complex question contingencies, sample management, and call scheduling to be handled automatically.

Web-based data collection: SRP has the capability to conduct Web-based surveys and other online data collection and...
management. UCSUR operates secure servers that host such activities.

Additional data collection services: Telephone surveys using paper/pencil methodology, mail surveys, and in-person surveys in the Southwestern Pennsylvania region, are also available.

**Data Management**
Using a variety of computer programs, languages, database management software, and operating systems, SRP staff are available to perform a number of data management functions, including database development, editing, coding, and survey data processing.

SRP staff also have the capability to integrate survey respondent data with GIS-based spatial data, and with other secondary data sources.

**Statistical Analysis of Survey Data**
SRP staff can perform statistical analyses of survey data, ranging from simple tabulations to relatively complex statistical modeling using a variety of statistical packages. Analytic capabilities include:

- Descriptive statistical analyses of survey responses, including calculations of sampling error, and statistical adjustments for unequal selection probabilities and nonresponse.
- Cross-classification analyses with demographic or other predictive factors.
- Multivariate analyses, including ANOVA, factor analysis, linear and nonlinear regression, logistic regression, categorical methods, and structural equation modeling.
- Longitudinal analyses.

**Report Preparation and Presentation**
SRP staff have experience in the production of a variety of reports, including:

- Simple tabulations
- Executive summaries
- In-depth narrative report
- Oral presentation of results to interested parties

**Qualitative Data Analysis**
From biomedical, public health, and educational research, to the behavioral, computational, and social sciences and beyond, effective qualitative data collection and analysis plays a critical role. The goal of the Qualitative Data Analysis Program (QDAP) at UCSUR is to provide a resource to the University community in all aspects of qualitative data collection and analysis.

Established in 2005, QDAP has historically offered a rigorous approach to qualitative data coding and analysis. While maintaining and enhancing this capability, QDAP is currently expanding and strengthening its capabilities in qualitative data collection and project management. QDAP can carry out or assist with all phases of a qualitative research project including study design, project management, data collection, transcription, coding and analysis of data, and reporting.

**Value-Added Coding**
Accurate and reliable coding using computers is central to the qualitative analysis process. For new and experienced researchers, learning advanced project management skills or even software basics adds hours of struggle in trial-and-error sessions. QDAP offers a rigorous approach to analyzing text and managing projects. Our experienced coders can deliver the data you need in a timely and expert manner, without the struggle.

QDAP can code text from a wide variety of sources. Original material for analysis might include in-depth interviews, open-ended survey answers, field notes, transcripts from focus groups or Web logs (blogs), e-mails, Web site content, results from database searches (such as LexisNexis™), congressional testimony or other historical texts, and a host of other unstructured but digitized text data sets. We work with your research team to craft a plan with a tailored methodology designed to code the text for key concepts and relationships. This allows you to focus on the larger analytical questions while we quickly and reliably extract the data that you tell us you need to reach valid inferences.

QDAP employs University of Pittsburgh students and UCSUR professional staff trained in using qualitative analysis software. We maintain a 5-station audio transcription lab and a 10-station coding lab which utilizes ATLAS.ti, a PC-based workbench that supports project management, enables multiple coders to collaborate on a single project, and generates output that facilitates the analysis process. On the QDAP Web site, we support the Coding Analysis Toolkit (CAT), a Web-based suite of tools which facilitates efficient and effective post-coding analysis of qualitative data. In addition, we offer ATLAS.ti and CAT training seminars and one-on-one training sessions for faculty, staff, and students.

**Services Provided**
- Study design, management, and coordination
- Interviewer training and management
- Participant recruitment
- Data collection including focus group facilitation and in-depth interviewing
- Audio transcription
- Data preparation, cleaning, and management
- Codebook development and testing
- Coding and online coding adjudication
- Rater reliability and validity reporting
- Results analysis and expression
- Software training for qualitative data analysis software (ATLAS.ti; Coding Analysis Toolkit)
What We Do: Center Resources, continued

Geographical Information Systems and Visual Analytics Program

Geographic Information System
A Geographic Information System (GIS) is an information system designed to work with data referenced by spatial or geographic coordinates. GIS technology has proven to be invaluable in many areas of application, including municipal and federal government operations, health care, business management, and the social and natural sciences. It is a complex technology with many subtle nuances that requires considerable training, tools, and experience to fully exploit.

Visual Analytics
Visual Analytics (VA) is the use of graphical, image, and other pictographic techniques to display and navigate large sets of data for the purpose of discovering relationships among the data. Analysts are quickly overwhelmed by large listings or tables of data. Through visualization techniques, millions of data points can be summarized in displays such as dashboards, maps, and diagrams. Color, size, position, orientation, and other features are used to represent characteristics of the data. Specialized tools have been developed to highlight relationships and changes in relationships. Anomalies are easily detectable. Real time and varying data can be shown by animation.

Services Provided
- GIS needs analysis
- GIS system design and implementation
- Custom GIS programming
- Digital spatial database design, development, and maintenance
- Network analysis
- Global positioning systems
- Web-based systems
- Spatial and simulation modeling
- Integration of artificial intelligence techniques
- Consulting
- Training
- Education
- Satellite and aerial imagery
- System integration
- Real time GIS

Experience
UCSUR has decades of experience in applying GIS technology to many situations. Our efforts have consistently withstood the test of time and post-project scrutiny. Refer to Web site for specific examples: www.ucsur.pitt.edu

Regional Economic Analysis
UCSUR studies major economic and demographic trends in the Pittsburgh region in the national context. The policy consequences of these shifts, especially the strategies for economic development and job creation, are analyzed. In addition to the performance of the regional economy, specific strategic economic sectors are analyzed through in-depth studies. The results of such studies are disseminated widely to the region’s policymakers and relevant organizations. The program also fosters the development of new methods of data collection and analysis as well as scholarly publications by participating faculty, research staff, and graduate students.

Analysis has been an important element of UCSUR’s commitment to providing regional economic policy analysis capabilities to policymakers and the academic community.

The Pittsburgh Regional Economic Model
The Pittsburgh Regional Economic model is a large-scale regional economic model developed by Regional Economic Models Inc. (REMI) and supported by UCSUR in partnership with the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission. The REMI model provides a powerful framework for economic analysis related to structural change in the Pittsburgh region and complements a variety of activities undertaken by the Center. The Center continues to maintain this model and provide support to local agencies as needed as part of the need for quality regional economic forecasting and impact analysis in the region.

The Pittsburgh REMI model is calibrated by UCSUR staff based on local conditions and our 11 years of experience with applying the model to the Pittsburgh region. This capability to forecast future regional economic conditions and conduct detailed impact analysis of potential changes in the regional economy is unique in the region.

The model includes the seven-county Metropolitan Statistical Area (Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington, and Westmoreland) plus Greene and Indiana counties. This model enables us to analyze economic and demographic impacts across the Southwestern Pennsylvania (SWPA) region. Recently, the REMI model was used for projects for the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, Allegheny Places–The Allegheny County Comprehensive Plan, and the Taxpayer Return on Investment in Pennsylvania Public Libraries Study.
Support of the Southwestern Planning Commission (SPC)

UCSUR continues to support the Southwestern Planning Commission (SPC) in developing its forecast of regional population and employment for the region. This is a primary function of the REMI model, which is essential to this project because of its extensive demographic modeling capability. UCSUR staff provide both technical and research consulting to SPC to aid its use of the REMI model and in producing as accurate a forecast as is possible for the region. The SPC needs these baseline forecasts and the REMI model in order to evaluate a range of transportation projects for the region and decide on funding priorities. The SPC is also required by federal mandate to provide 30-year projections of population and employment to the Department of Transportation as part of its planning process.

Pittsburgh Neighborhood and Community Information System (PNCIS)

The PNCIS is a property-based geographic information system that serves the Pittsburgh community through the collection, maintenance, and analysis of quality neighborhood-based data. PNCIS promotes and assists in neighborhood development and revitalization with the City of Pittsburgh through a data-sharing agreement and with surrounding communities. PNCIS supports efforts to reduce blight, promote neighborhood investment, and improve communities. UCSUR operates PNCIS in agreement with the Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development (PPND), a leader in community development in the City of Pittsburgh. PPND was instrumental in securing the financial support to build the PNCIS and expand and develop it over the years. In 2008, PNCIS joined the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership, a consortium of neighborhood indicator systems across the USA, based at the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C.

Pittsburgh Economic Quarterly

UCSUR continues to publish the Pittsburgh Economic Quarterly (PEQ) to support organizations and staff involved with economic development throughout the region. The goal of the PEQ has been to highlight the important economic trends that impact the regional economy and the competitiveness of local industries. PEQ is an extension of the continuing work done at UCSUR. Each issue includes the latest data on regional employment and economic conditions. Feature articles cover a variety of issues relating to the regional economy and how it is changing, along with analyses of other economic and social factors that directly impact the future of the region. Significant positive response to the PEQ has resulted and has filled a major need in the region for ongoing study of current economic trends. Recent issues of PEQ addressed these key topics:

- REMI forecast for the Pittsburgh region
- Internal migration within Southwestern Pennsylvania
- Recessions in the Pittsburgh region
- Disaster modeling for emergency planning
- New scenarios for senior workers
- Profile of Pittsburgh’s population not in the labor force
- Pennsylvania’s population growth crescent
- Fiscal health of municipalities in the Pittsburgh region
- Trends in foreign trade and the Pittsburgh region
- Foreclosures in Allegheny County
- Comprehensive planning and affordable housing
- Movers to the Pittsburgh region by occupation
- Racial demographic differences and disparities
- Pittsburgh’s nuclear industry

UCSUR also conducts demographic, economic, and policy research and analysis and reports on secondary data and data trends relevant to the Pittsburgh region, both alone and in combination with various primary data sources. This research is reported through a number of venues, including research reports and newsletters, such as the Pittsburgh Economic Quarterly.
Acquisition and Management of Secondary Data

UCSUR provides assistance for secondary data acquisition and management to the academic community and to the Pittsburgh region as a whole. As an affiliate of the Pennsylvania State Data Center, the official source of demographic and economic data for the state, UCSUR is a repository for electronic and printed census information, including Census 2000 data. UCSUR also acquires and maintains a variety of government statistics, economic and labor market data, and other types of secondary information on a regular basis. This information is available to the academic community and to the general public.

The data acquisition and management services UCSUR provides include:

- Assistance in acquiring secondary data stored at UCSUR to interested individuals and organizations
- Assistance in locating and acquiring a variety of other types of secondary information
- Expertise and consultation in the appropriate use and understanding of various secondary data sources
- Evaluation and interpretation of policy relevant secondary information data for government, business, labor, media, and other organizations

UCSUR also conducts demographic, economic, and policy research and analysis and reports on secondary data and data trends relevant to the Pittsburgh region, both alone and in combination with various primary data sources. This research is reported through a number of venues, including research reports and newsletters, such as the Pittsburgh Economic Quarterly.

Program Evaluation Services

UCSUR can assist faculty at the University of Pittsburgh and community agencies with their program evaluation needs. We provide assistance in developing and designing evaluation plans, collecting and analyzing data, and writing evaluation reports. Depending on the focus of the project, these services can be provided by the Survey Research Program, Qualitative Data Analysis Program, Urban and Regional Analysis Program, or Gerontology Program.

UCSUR’s interdisciplinary staff have evaluation experience in a wide range of content areas, including social service programs, behavioral and mental health services, public health programs, and educational services. UCSUR has conducted evaluations on family support, home visiting, after school and youth development, conflict resolution, developmental disabilities, maternal and child health, fatherhood, and parent education programs, among many others.

In addition, UCSUR has expertise in developing and implementing management information systems and needs assessments. UCSUR provides training and technical assistance to increase the capacity of staff to carry out evaluations, either independently or in collaboration with program evaluation specialists.

Specific evaluation services offered include:

- Development of evaluation designs, including process and outcome evaluations
- Assistance with program design, focusing on connecting program activities to expected outcomes (program logic models)
- Needs assessments
- Selection of appropriate outcomes and measurement methods
- Identification of assessment instruments
- Development of surveys for program evaluation
- Data analysis consultation and research design
- Referral to evaluation consultants with expertise in specific content areas
Programs

In response to faculty interests and current domestic policy issues, UCSUR develops interdisciplinary research programs that address regional and national policy issues. The resources described in the previous section are provided by one or more of these programs. As new policy issues emerge, UCSUR is prepared to facilitate and coordinate the development of additional programs identified by interested faculty. Existing research programs include:

Geographical Information Systems and Visual Analytics Program

**Program Director**
Ken Sochats

Provides analytical services relating to mapping and visual display. Program staff has expertise in creating sophisticated maps and the analysis and mining of extremely large databases. The staff has expertise in applying these techniques to a wide variety of disciplines including education, medicine and health, crime, and emergency management.

Qualitative Data Analysis Program (QDAP)

**Program Director**
Donald Musa

Offers a rigorous approach to qualitative data collection and analysis including focus groups and interviews; audio transcriptions; data preparation, cleaning, and management; codebook development and testing; online coding adjudication; rater reliability and validity reporting; and results analysis and expression.

Survey Research Program (SRP)

**Program Director**
Scott Beach

Maintains a highly experienced staff of survey professionals, trained interviewers, and data management specialists. SRP services are available to faculty, staff, and students throughout the University and to local, state, and federal agencies and others working in the public interest. SRP offers the capability to execute any or all phases of a survey research project, including sample design, questionnaire construction, data collection, data processing, statistical analysis, and reporting.

Urban and Regional Analysis (URA)

**Co-Program Director**
Ralph L. Bangs

**Co-Program Director**
Sabina Deitrick

Promotes scholarly analysis of urban and regional problems. Its multidisciplinary research, which is local, national, and international in character, touches on issues that further our understanding of the causes and consequences of economic and social change, enhances the analytic basis for public policy decisions, and aids in the evaluation of policy alternatives.

Projects conducted in all these areas illustrate the Center’s commitment to enhancing scientific understanding of social phenomena while generating information for improved policymaking in both the public and private sectors.
Faculty Development Awards

In memory of Steven D. Manners, who began working at the Center in 1974 and served as its assistant director from 1989 until his death in September 2000, UCSUR initiated a Faculty Development Awards program in recognition of Mr. Manners’ contributions to the Center and the University community.

UCSUR offers annually two awards of up to $10,000 each. Faculty may apply for awards in two categories: (1) Research Development Grants to support pilot research in the social, behavioral and policy sciences; and (2) Infrastructure Development Awards aimed at enhancing faculty capabilities to carry out interdisciplinary research in the social, behavioral, and policy sciences.


2008 awardees: Peter J. Gianaros and J. Richard Jennings, Department of Psychiatry; Keith Morgenlander, Department of Medicine.

2007 awardees: Patricia Isabel Documet, Behavioral and Community Health Sciences; Jeffrey Shook and Michael Vaughn, School of Social Work.

2006 awardees: Shanti Gamper-Rabindran and Aaron Swoboda, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs; Larissa Myaskovsky, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System.

2005 awardees: Charlotte Brown, Center on Race and Social Problems; Bruce S. Ling, Institute for Doctor-Patient Communication; Eva Marie Shivers, School of Education.

2004 awardees: Ellen Olshansky, School of Nursing; Seung-Hyun Yoo, Graduate School of Public Health; Susan Zickmund, Department of Medicine.

Due to the large number of 2003 applications, UCSUR funded six awards: Pamela Peele, Health Economics; William Klein, Psychology; Daniel Rosen, School of Social Work; Lisa Brush, Sociology; Audrey Murrell, Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business; Jeannette Trauth, Graduate School of Public Health.


2001 awardees: Miriam Hertz, Health Information Management; Paul E. Griffiths, History and Philosophy.

Board of Visitors

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Pittsburgh, Pa.
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**Co-Program Director**
Sabina Deitrick**

**Regional Economist**
Christopher Briem

**Research Specialist**
Robert M. Gradek

Qualitative Data Analysis

**Program Director**
Donald Musa

**Program Assistant Director**
Laurel Person Mecca

**Research Specialists**
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Kevan Schultz

Gerontology

**Program Director**
Richard Schulz

**Associate Program Director**
Lynn Martire**

**Associate Program Director, Geriatric Education Center**
John Hennon

**Project Coordinators/Assistants**
Sarah Aerni
Elaine Aivaliotis
Amber Barton
Jennifer Bissell
Angela Dodds
April Kane
Julie Klinger
Summer Lohler

Survey Research

**Program Director**
Scott R. Beach

**Research Associate**
Donald Musa

**Senior Research Specialists**
Janet Schlarb
Stephen Strotmeyer

**Senior Fieldwork Supervisor**
Lynda Connelly

**Fieldwork Supervisors**
Dana Killmeyer
Olivia Kirsch
Olivia Wilson

**Survey Research Specialist**
Christine Byerly

**Research Specialists**
Amber Barton
Carrie A. Rodzwicz

**Web Development/Data Analyst**
Robert M. Keene

Systems Analyst/Statistician
Thomas Cook

Interviewer/Interventionist
Sally Hostein

Generations Together

**Journal Editor/Emeritus Director**
Sally Newman

Geographical Information Systems and Visual Analytics Program

**Program Director**
Ken Sochats**

**Indicates participating faculty, not UCSUR staff**
Faculty Associates

The following individuals serve as faculty associates, representing numerous schools, departments, institutes, and centers.

Charles David Boucek
Anesthesiology

Elise R. Broussard
Graduate School of Public Health

Susan Hansen
Political Science

John Hurwitz
Political Science

Patricia Beeson
Provoce Office

Boris Birmaher
Psychiatry

David Brent
Psychiatry

Charlotte Brown
Psychiatry

Tammy Chung
Psychiatry

Duncan Clark
Psychiatry

Ronald Dahl
Psychiatry

Mary Amanda Dew
Psychiatry

Linda J. Ewing
Psychiatry

Amy Herschell
Psychiatry

Robert S. Marin
Psychiatry

Lynn Martire
Psychiatry

Kären E. Matthews
Psychiatry

Timothy Monk
Psychiatry

Lisa A. Morrow
Psychiatry

Jennifer Morse
Psychiatry

Rick Morzy
Psychiatry

Benjamin H. Maisant
Psychiatry

Edward P. Mulvey
Psychiatry

Herbert L. Needleman
Psychiatry

Vishwajit Nimgaonkar
Psychiatry

Paul Pikonis
Psychiatry

Bruce Pollock
Psychiatry

Charles F. Reynolds III
Psychiatry

Neal Ryan
Psychiatry

Ihsan M. Salloum
Psychiatry

Magda Slauhammer-Loeber
Psychiatry

Kenneth S. Thompson
Psychiatry

Martin Greenberg
Psychology

Christina Groark
Psychology

Thomas Kamarch
Psychology

William Klein
Psychology

John Levine
Psychology

David Marsh
Psychology-Greensburg

Robert McCall
Psychology

Daniel Shaw
Psychology

Steven E. Stern
Psychology-Johnstown

Mary Goldberg
Rehabilitation Science and Technology

Nancy Condée
Slavic Languages and Literatures

Vladimir Padunov
Slavic Languages and Literatures

Ralph Bangs
Social Work

Larry E. Davis
Social Work

Rafael J. Engel
Social Work

Edward W. Sites
Social Work

Tracy M. Soska
Social Work

Hide Yamatani
Social Work

Kathleen M. Blee
Sociology

Lisa D. Bright
Sociology

Patrick Doreian
Sociology

Akihiko Hashimoto
Sociology

James D. Luketic
Surgery

Ron Shapiro
Surgery

Attilio Favorini
Theatre Arts

Ronald B. Herberman
University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute

Carolyn J. Carson
Urban Studies Program

Michelle Robinson
Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic
Projects*

Churning in Employment Programs
Principal
Investigator: Ralph Bangs, URA, UCSUR
Funder: Educational Data Systems Inc.
Period: 01/08-04/09
Report on churning was completed in February 2009. The study was based on data collected from administrative records at a local welfare-to-work agency. The study found that welfare churning—return of participants to welfare after a prior exit—varied by program type.

A New Measure of Adaptive Strategies and its Relation to Late-Life Depression
Principal
Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Jennifer Morse, Psychiatry
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 06/07-05/09
Conduct telephone interviews with a national sample (n=500) of persons with and without physical difficulties, aged 40 and older, to evaluate a new scale for assessing personal health goals and its relation to depression.

Assessing Instructional Content and Interaction at Scale
Principal
Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Richard P. Correnti, LRDC
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 06/08-05/10
Assist in the development and administration of Web-based data collection tools for 120 K-12 teachers to assess instructional activities and the nature of interaction with students.

Cognitive Impairment Related to Anastrozole Use in Women
Principal
Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Catherine Bender, School of Nursing
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 05/05-03/09
Assist in the recruitment of healthy women between the ages of 40 and 75 suitable for follow-up in a study of the effects of Anastrozole on cognitive function.

Core Curriculum Mental Health Training Program
Principal
Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Michelle Robinson, Western Psychiatric Institute & Clinic
Funder: Staunton Farm Foundation
Period: 06/08-05/09
Development of Web-based training materials for use by community-based agencies providing mental health services.

Ethnicity and Culture in Unrelated Stem Cell Donation
Principal
Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Galen Switzer, School of Medicine
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 04/06-03/10
Conduct telephone surveys of stem cell donors to determine the role of ethnic and cultural factors on donor-related outcomes.

Frequent Hemodialysis Network Quality of Life Core
Principal
Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Mark Unruh, School of Medicine
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 09/04-8/10
Conduct quality of life interviews as part of a multi-site, randomized clinical trial comparing different methods of delivery of hemodialysis to end stage renal disease patients.

Healthy Futures
Principal
Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Lydia O’Donnell, Education Development Center
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 05/08-01/10
Conduct baseline telephone interviews with adult study participants enrolled in a parent-education program being offered at eight New York City (Brooklyn and Queens) public schools.

Hormone and Ovarian Cancer Prediction
Principal
Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Roberta Ness, Epidemiology
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 05/03-03/09
Recruitment of community control females ages 45-75 for a study of ovarian cancer.

Impact of Nocturnal Hemodialysis on Sleep Apnea, Sleep Quality, and Daytime Symptoms
Principal
Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Mark Unruh, School of Medicine
Funder: National Institute of Health
Period: 07/07-05/12
Conduct telephone interviews assessing sleep quality of patients receiving nocturnal hemodialysis. Patients also provide daily diary data (four times/day for one week) via IVR (interactive voice response) technology.

*In alphabetical order by UCSUR principal investigator
Interpersonal Functioning and Emotion in Borderline Personality

Principal

Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Paul Pilkonis, Psychiatry

Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 07/07-06/12

Recruitment of community subjects across the range of Borderline Personality Disorder for a study of interpersonal functioning and emotion in borderline personality.

Marriage in America: Carnegie Mellon University Deliberative Poll

Principal

Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Robert Cavalier, Carnegie Mellon University

Funder: Carnegie Mellon University
Period: 08/08-10/08

Telephone recruitment of 300 registered voters in Pennsylvania to participate in deliberative polls at four Pennsylvania universities on the issue of the definition of marriage in America.

Neuro-development Maturation and Alcohol Use in Adolescents

Principal

Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Duncan Clark, Psychiatry

Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 09/07-12/09

Recruitment of community families (a parent and adolescent) to study characteristics that can predict alcohol problems in adolescents.

Nursing School Alumni Survey

Principal

Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob, School of Nursing

Funder: School of Nursing
Period: 03/08-08/08

Conduct telephone and Web-based surveys with School of Nursing alumni to determine professional career path outcomes.

Patient/Provider Attitudes Towards Hepatitis Study

Principal

Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Susan Zickmund, Pittsburgh VA Healthcare System

Funder: Pittsburgh VA Healthcare System
Period: 09/06-11/08

Telephone interviews with 700 hepatitis C virus patients from the VA healthcare system to determine attitudes towards treatment and perceptions of communication with health providers.

Peripheral Blood Stem Cells vs. Marrow Donor Quality of Life Surveys

Principal

Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Galen Switzer, Medicine
Mary Amanda Dew, Psychiatry

Funder: National Marrow Donor Program
Period: 01/04-12/09

A series of telephone follow-up surveys focusing on quality of life issues as part of a randomized clinical trial comparing peripheral blood stem cell vs. bone marrow donation.

Phase Shift Tolerance in the Elderly

Principal

Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Timothy Monk, Psychiatry

Funder: National Institute on Aging
Period: 04/07-03/11

Telephone interviews with 1600 Allegheny County residents age 65 and older over four years to study the impact of former shift work on long-term sleep quality and health outcomes.

Psychological Stress Exposure: Real-time and Structured Interview Technologies

Principal

Investigators: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Thomas Kamarck, Psychology

Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 08/07-04/11

Assist in computerization of the LEAP stress exposure structured interview instrument; assist in the conduct of a study to explore a new measure of psychosocial stress in real-time settings using interactive voice response (IVR) technology.

Testing Survey Methods for Collecting Data on Elder Mistreatment Prevalence

Principal

Investigator: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR

Funder: National Institute on Aging
Period: 09/06-08/08

Telephone and face-to-face interviews with 900 Allegheny County residents age 60 and older to test new survey technologies—interactive voice response (IVR) and audio-computer-assisted self—interviewing (A-CASI)—for obtaining self-reports about elder abuse.
Undergraduate Student Satisfaction and Retention Study

**Principal**

**Investigators:** Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR  
Donald Musa, SRP, UCSUR  
Patricia Beeson, Office of the Provost

**Funder:** University of Pittsburgh Office of the Provost

**Period:** 09/05-06/10

Conduct telephone and Web-based surveys of University of Pittsburgh undergraduate students and withdrawing students to determine factors related to student satisfaction and retention.

Western Pennsylvania Manufacturing Industry Study

**Principal**

**Investigators:** Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR  
Christine Kush, Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business

**Funder:** University of Pittsburgh Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence

**Period:** ongoing

Assist with the conduct and statistical analysis of a Web-based survey of local manufacturing firms focusing on their performance and business practices.

Secure CITI: Secure Critical Information Technology Infrastructure for Disaster Management

**Principal**

**Investigators:** Louise Comfort, EDS, UCSUR  
Rami Melhem, Computer Science  
Daniel Mosse, Computer Science

**Funder:** National Science Foundation

**Period:** 09/03-09/08

Collaborative effort with Carnegie Mellon University, George Washington University, and the University of California–Berkeley to support research to develop a program to address interorganizational coordination in extreme events.

Pittsburgh Regional Indicators Project

**Principal**

**Investigator:** John Craig, SWPA Regional Indicators Consortium

**Funders:** multiple regional foundations

**Period:** ongoing

Developing a comprehensive set of regional indicators and benchmarking them against other places.

Allegheny County Comprehensive Plan

**Principal**

**Investigator:** Sabina Deitrick, URA, UCSUR

**Funder:** McCormick Taylor (from Allegheny County Department of Economic Development)

**Period:** 04/05-12/08

Preparing demographic, housing, and economic baseline studies and forecasts for the Allegheny County Comprehensive Plan.

Impacts of the Programs of the Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence

**Principal**

**Investigator:** Sabina Deitrick, URA, UCSUR

**Funder:** Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence

**Period:** 09/08-03/09

Estimate the employment impact and other economic effects of the programs under the Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence at the Katz Graduate School of Business, University of Pittsburgh.

Impacts of Vanpooling in Pennsylvania and SWPA and Future Opportunities

**Principal**

**Investigator:** Sabina Deitrick, URA, UCSUR

**Funder:** Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

**Period:** 06/09-10/10

The objective of this work is to analyze the current conditions for vanpooling in Pennsylvania with an emphasis on SWPA, review the current programs of SWPA Commission and other vanpooling operations, and develop a model for an expansion of vanpooling programs. In addition, we will assess the vanpooling options today and what new options can be developed under different funding and agency scenarios.

PA CleanWays

**Principal**

**Investigator:** Sabina Deitrick, URA, UCSUR

**Funder:** PA CleanWays

**Period:** ongoing

Provide "as-needed" GIS mapping services for the PA CleanWays sites.

Pittsburgh Neighborhood and Community Information System

**Principal**

**Investigator:** Sabina Deitrick, URA, UCSUR

**Funder:** Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development  
multiple regional funders

**Period:** 07/03-12/12

Enhance and expand access to data and information to help Pittsburgh and Allegheny County residents, organizations, and governments improve their communities.
Projects, continued

**Barriers to Quitting Smoking During Pregnancy**

**Principal**

**Investigators:** Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR  
David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR  
Donald Musa, QDAP, UCSUR  
Laura Miller, Family Medicine

**Funder:** University of Pittsburgh  
Department of Family Medicine

**Period:** 05/09-08/09

Code semi-structured interviews with pregnant smokers to explore the barriers to quitting smoking in pregnancy.

**Daily Kos Diaries: Distributed Gatekeeping and the Potential of Blogs as News Media**

**Principal**

**Investigators:** Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR  
David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR  
Donald Musa, QDAP, UCSUR  
Adam Schiffer, Texas Christian University

**Funder:** Texas Christian University

**Period:** 06/09-09/09

Code diaries from the Daily Kos online community to examine gatekeeping choices made by community members.

**Gateway Health Plan Member Satisfaction Study**

**Principal**

**Investigators:** Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR  
Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR  
Donald Musa, QDAP, UCSUR  
Marnie Schilken, Gateway Health Plan

**Funder:** Gateway Health Plan

**Period:** 01/09-01/10

Facilitate focus groups with Medicaid members of Gateway Health Plan and code results to assess the effectiveness and customer-appeal of health education materials, campaigns and initiatives.

**Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Program Evaluation**

**Principal**

**Investigators:** Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR  
Mary Goldberg, Rehabilitation Science and Technology

**Funder:** National Science Foundation

**Period:** 06/09-05/10

Conduct a series of semi-structured interviews with REU student interns and mentors and code results to gauge satisfaction with the program and to assess students’ domain knowledge and research skills.

**The Impact of the Nonprofit Sector on the Pittsburgh Regional Economy**

**Principal**

**Investigator:** Sabina Deitrick, URA, UCSUR  
William Lafe, Independent Consultant

**Funder:** The Forbes Fund

**Period:** 06/08-01/09

Estimate the economic impact of the nonprofit sector in Southwestern Pennsylvania using the REMI model and additional information obtained by survey of Greater Pittsburgh Nonprofit Partnership members.

**Daily Assessment in Arthritis Study**

**Principal**

**Investigator:** Lynn Martire, Gerontology, UCSUR

**Funder:** National Institute on Aging

**Period:** 09/07-08/12

This study will investigate the extent to which daily patient-spouse concordance (agreement) regarding osteoarthritis (OA) patient symptom severity, arthritis self-efficacy, and symptom catastrophizing is associated with positive spousal support (empathic and autonomy-supportive responses) and problematic spousal support (insensitive and solicitous responses).

**Small Colleges and Universities and Their Economic and Community Impacts**

**Principal**

**Investigators:** Sabina Deitrick, URA, UCSUR  
William Lafe, Independent Consultant

**Funder:** McCune Foundation

**Period:** 10/09-10/10

The proposed study will assess the economic and community impact of small private liberal arts colleges located in Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia on the towns in which they are located. The study will be divided into two phases: a pilot study conducted from 11/09-01/10 will focus on two prototype colleges in order to test the proposed methodology and determine what factors play a key role in determining the colleges’ economic and community impact.

**Pittsburgh Regional Alliance**

**Principal**

**Investigator:** Sabina Deitrick, URA, UCSUR

**Funder:** Pittsburgh Regional Alliance

**Period:** ongoing

Period/annual economic impact analysis of key projects for the year.
Understanding Practitioner Perspectives and Preferences Regarding Training

Principal
Investigators: Laurel Person Mecca, QDAP, UCSUR
            Amy Herschell, Psychiatry
Funder: National Institute of Mental Health
Period: 01/09-01/10

Conduct focus groups and semi-structured interviews with community-based practitioners to develop a training protocol that will meet practitioners’ needs while incorporating evidence-based practices.

Analysis of U.S. News & World Report Law School Rankings

Principal
Investigators: Donald Musa, QDAP, UCSUR
            Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR
            Mary Crossley, School of Law
Funder: University of Pittsburgh School of Law
Period: 04/08-09/08

Analyzed the U.S. News & World Report annual ranking of law schools for the University of Pittsburgh Law School in order to better understand the most important factors that contribute to the rankings and to develop insight into the effects of potential Law School modifications.

Optical Character Recognition Annotator

Principal
Investigators: Donald Musa, QDAP, UCSUR
            David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR
            Stuart Shulman, University of Massachusetts–Amherst
Funder: Matrixware
Period: 10/08-06/09

Investigate the accuracy of funder’s Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology using specially designed in-house software to annotate OCR errors and make corrections.

Research Center of Excellence in Minority Health Disparities at the University of Pittsburgh

Principal
Investigators: Donald Musa, QDAP, UCSUR
            Stephen Thomas, Graduate School of Public Health
Funder: National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities
Period: 04/09-04/10

Conduct analyses and provide consultation contributing to project goal of translating evidence-based research into community-based interventions designed to prevent disease and promote health in Pittsburgh’s African American community.

Partnerships in the U.K. Children’s Voluntary Sector

Principal
Investigators: Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR
            Donald Musa, QDAP, UCSUR
            Thorsten Roser, London School of Economics
Funder: The London Research and Consulting Group
Period: 06/08-11/09

Code interviews with CEOs and staff of various U.K. children’s charities to investigate perceptions of project-based partnerships in the U.K. children’s voluntary sector.

Cancer and Aging Center

Principal
Investigators: Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR
            Ronald B. Herberman, University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 09/03-08/08

Focus on the psychosocial impact of cancer on patients and families as well as psychobiological processes that mediate response to the stresses of cancer.

Data Management and Statistical Resources Core: Pittsburgh Mind Body Center II

Principal
Investigators: Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR
            Karen Matthews, Psychiatry
Funder: National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute
Period: 09/04-06/10

Provide a data management infrastructure and statistical support to Pittsburgh Mind Body Center investigators.

Geriatric Education Center of Pennsylvania (GEC/PA)

Principal
Investigator: Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR
Funder: Health Resources and Services Administration
Period: 09/07-06/10

The GEC/PA is a consortium of The University of Pittsburgh, Penn State University, and Temple University. The mission of the GEC/PA is to provide various educational programs to healthcare professionals in the areas of elder care issues.

Intervention to Facilitate Family Caregiver Adaptation to Nursing Home Transition

Principal
Investigator: Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR
Funder: National Institute of Nursing Research
Period: 07/07-05/12

Assess the effects of an intervention designed to enhance health and quality of life of caregivers and their placed relatives by focusing on caregivers who recently placed their relative in a long-term care facility.
Projects, continued

Measuring Suffering in Persons with Alzheimer's Disease
Principal Investigator: Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR
Funder: Alzheimer's Association
Period: 09/07-08/10
The purpose of this study is to show that patient suffering is a measurable and unique feature of the Alzheimer's Disease patient experience and that it independently contributes to caregiver health and wellbeing.

Quality of Life Technology Engineering Research Center
Principal Investigators: Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR
Takeo Kanade, Carnegie Mellon University
Funder: National Science Foundation
Period: 06/06-05/11
The mission of the QoLT ERC is to transform the lives of people with reduced functional capabilities due to aging or disability. A unique partnership between Carnegie Mellon and Pitt will bring together a cross-disciplinary team of technologists, clinicians, industry partners, end users, and other stakeholders to create revolutionary technologies that improve and sustain the quality of life for all people. By integrating information technologies and biomedical innovations, the resulting systems will allow people to independently perform valued and necessary activities of daily living so that they can more fully participate in society.

The Advanced Center for Intervention and Services Research, Research Methods Core
Principal Investigators: Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR
Lynn Martire, Gerontology, UCSUR
Charles F. Reynolds III, Psychiatry
Funder: National Institute of Mental Health
Period: 08/05-05/10
Focus on the social, psychological, and behavioral factors relevant to understanding the interactive nature of physical illness and depression in late life.

Language Processing Technology for Electronic Rulemaking
Principal Investigator: Stuart W. Shulman, QDAP, UCSUR
Funder: National Science Foundation
Period: 11/04-10/08
Focus on the impact and development of new language technologies tailored to the electronic rulemaking tasks of the federal government.

Competiveness Research
Principal Investigator: Vijai Singh, Office of the Chancellor
Funders: Heinz Endowments
Consolidated Natural Gas
Period: ongoing
Projects include analysis of factors which promote regional competitiveness of the biotech industry in Pittsburgh. Partner in a research network with Transatlantic Comparison of Continental Innovation Models. Project Director: Professor Ulrich Hilpert, University of Jena, Germany. Workshop hosted at the University of Pittsburgh in June 2009.

Comprehension Impairment
Principal Investigator: Connie Tompkins, Gerontology, UCSUR
Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 09/99-11/07
This project is designed to contrast "suppression deficit" and "coarse coding deficit" hypotheses as factors in poor comprehension performance of adults who have strokes that affect the right side of the brain and assess the relationship of these deficits to particular regions of damage in the right hemisphere.
Publications 2008–09

Journals


Publications 2008–09, continued


**Books/Book Chapters/Other Publications**


Publications 2008–09, continued


Technical Reports


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