

WINTER NEWSLETTER  
March 2014

## Headline News

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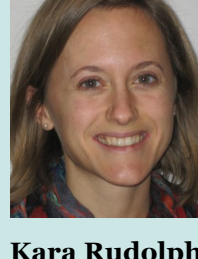
We are pleased to announce our incoming  
Cohort 12 Scholars!

Joan Casey

**Joan Casey** is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Environmental Health Sciences at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, whose research focuses on using electronic medical records to study the effects of environmental exposures on population health. Her dissertation work suggests that living near industrial agriculture may put residents at risk for antibiotic-resistant infections. This research has been published in *JAMA Internal Medicine* and *Environmental Health Perspectives*. Joan's area of interest also extends to investigating the impact of unconventional natural gas development on community and individual health. As a Health and Society Scholar, Joan hopes to build on her body of research by utilizing electronic medical records to study the built and social environments' interaction with environmental exposures. This includes investigating changes in the microbiome due to widespread antibiotic exposures from industrial agriculture operations. Joan received a BS in Biological and Environmental Engineering from Cornell University and a MA in Applied Physiology from Teachers College at Columbia University. In her spare time, Joan enjoys coaching track and field, listening to audiobooks, and traveling, which she hopes to one day reconcile with her concerns about global sustainability.



**Kara Rudolph** is a social epidemiologist who applies causal inference methods to study social and contextual influences of mental health and substance use in disadvantaged, urban areas. She received a PhD in Epidemiology and MHS in Biostatistics from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (2014). Her dissertation examined effect heterogeneity in the association between living in a disadvantaged neighborhood and adolescent anxiety and depression. Currently, Kara is a postdoctoral fellow at Johns Hopkins working on sensitivity analyses addressing measurement error in propensity score models and analyzing gun policy. As a Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholar, Kara will focus on applying causal inference approaches to evaluating policy/program interventions designed to improve urban health. Kara received an MPH from Johns Hopkins University and BS in Biochemistry from the University of Michigan. When she's not analyzing data, Kara is probably making ice cream, gardening, or finding beautiful places to hike with her husband, William.



Kara Rudolph



Jacqueline Torres

**Jacqueline Torres** is completing her PhD in Community Health Sciences at the University of California, Los Angeles. Jacqueline's research brings theoretical contributions from the life-course perspective and transnationalism to the field of immigrant health. Her published work examines whether or not pre-migration context and continued cross-border social ties matter for the health of immigrants and their families after arrival in the US. Her dissertation addresses the health impacts of family member migration to the US for older Mexican adults, and is funded by the NIH/National Institute on Aging. As a RWJ scholar, Jacqueline plans to further examine the psychological mechanisms linking cross-border social ties to health outcomes. Her research will also address the potential for cross-border family separation to adversely influence health outcomes for immigrants and their families in an effort to understand the health impacts of US immigration policy. Jacqueline received her MPH in Community Health Sciences and MA in Latin American Studies from UCLA and her BA from UC Berkeley. During her free time Jacqueline can be found on outdoor adventures with her daughter and husband.

**THANK YOU** to all affiliate faculty and scholars for your participation in this year's interview process!

## Scholars

Keely Muscatell was one of six postdocs selected to present their scholarship and research at Department of Psychiatry Grand Rounds. The series is designed to highlight the work of advanced trainees and help launch their academic careers. Keely was also selected to participate in the American Psychosomatic Society Young Investigators Colloquium.

Matt Killingsworth was recently interviewed on NPR about his Track Your Happiness project.

[Listen to interview](#)

## Featured Publications

Article by **David Chae, Amani Nuru-Jeter, Nancy Adler, Elissa Epel**, et al from the *American Journal of Preventative Medicine*

**"Discrimination, Racial Bias, and Telomere Length in African-American Men"**

[Read more](#)

Article by **Paula Braveman** and **Laura Gottlieb** from *Public Health Report*

**"The social determinants of health: it's time to consider the causes of the causes"**

[Read more](#)

Article by Parissa Ballard from *Journal of Adolescent Research*

**"What motivates youth civic involvement?"**

[Read more](#)

## RWJF H&amp;SSP Faculty

**Wendy Mendes'** study, **"Stress Contagion: Physiological Covariation Between Mothers and Infants,"** was recently highlighted in an Association for Psychological Science press release.

[For Infants, Stress May be Caught, Not Taught](#)

## Alumni Corner

Congratulations to **Wizdom Powell-Hammond** on being selected as a 2014-2016 Kaiser Permanente Burch Minority Leadership Development Program awardee.

[Read more](#)

Congratulations to **June Tester** on her recent NIH K Award, "The impact of concurrent food insecurity and obesity in children."

## Upcoming Events

## RWJ H&amp;SS Core Seminar Schedule

## March 13

*Epigenetic Effects of Early Childhood Adversity and Psychosocial Stress*

**Tom Boyce, MD**

Professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry, UCSF

UCSF Laurel Heights campus, Conference Room 474~Campus [map](#)

## March 20

**Lee Riley, MD**

Professor of Public Health, UCB

UCSF Laurel Heights campus, Conference Room 474 ~ Campus [map](#)

## April 3

*How does Social Behavior change the Brain?*

**Russell Fernald, PhD**

Professor of Biology, Stanford University

UCB campus, Room 714C ~ Campus [map](#)

## April 10 &amp; 17

## Scholar Presentations

UCB campus, Room 590L ~ Campus [map](#)

## April 24

*Survival of the Kindest: A Darwinian Tale of Compassion*

**Dacher Keltner, PhD**

Associate Professor of Psychology, UCB

UCB campus, Room 714C ~ Campus [map](#)

## May 1

*The Importance of Executive Functioning for Child Adaptation and Resilience*

**Jelena Obradovic, PhD**

School of Education, Stanford University

UCB campus, Room 590L ~ Campus [map](#)

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