**Message from the Director**

As I sit to write this, I realize none of us could have imagined the moment we are in. Looking back at my message from last year I spoke of the work of Institute faculty, students and staff engaged in research aimed to inform efforts to prevent and reduce disparities in health, mental health and well-being associated with race, gender, neighborhood, immigration status, sexual orientation, and other stigmatized or marginalized statuses. This Annual Report highlights the many ways that our Faculty Scholars, Health Equity Interns, and graduate students have worked with multiple communities to continue these efforts in a year where the need for such effort has been again sharply called into focus. The COVID-19 pandemic has strained our existing public health systems and the stark racial disparities in coronavirus cases and mortality reflect the persistence of structural racism and our vastly under-developed public health infrastructure. The tragic impact of COVID-19 on older adults has raised many questions about how to best support and care for aging Americans. Globally, we have seen the devastating impact of this pandemic, and we have seen the ways that structural and social determinants pattern the impacts. The unnecessary suffering and loss of life in the United States is difficult to bear. At the same time, we are again grappling at a national level with persistence of racially motivated police brutality and the righteous protests and efforts aimed at continuing to eradicate these behaviors and incidents at both local and systematic levels. This too is a critical public health issue.

As I look back on the past year there is much to be proud of. Despite the many challenges we have faced individually and as a community, research and engagement at the Institute has continued. We have found new ways to work, adjusting to continuing our research virtually; pivoting our data collection strategies to those that promote the safety of our research teams and participants. Many of our teams continued their existing research projects while taking on new challenges as Institute faculty and teams developed research to directly address COVID-19 and continue to promote racial equity and justice. I can not say enough about our students. They are amazing – and their hard work, creativity, and commitments to research that furthers health equity and social justice has fueled me at the moments in these past months where I, like so many, felt exhausted and demoralized. They have shown up, done the work, and allowed our research as well as their own efforts, to continue. This Fall, thanks to the leadership of Suzanne Garverich and support of Atsushi Matsumoto, we are able to support more than 50 undergraduate Health Equity Interns. This couldn’t happen without the hard work and commitments of our Faculty Scholars and Institute Faculty. This semester we have all worked to develop as many ways as possible to support student engagement and connection, to facilitate community in new ways, and to continue to support each other. This Fall, in addition to our now virtual Works-in-Progress series, we have co-sponsored events that support mentoring, racial equity research, and COVID-19 research efforts. Through the efforts of Tiana Yom, our NU-PEL Program Director, with whom we have been working virtually since her arrival in May, we will be hosting a forum on Culturally Responsive Evaluation with the Greater Boston Evaluation Network (GBEN) on Culturally Responsive Evaluation. As we go forward, we will continue to show up, to partner with those engaged in efforts to promote health equity and social justice, to engage in anti-racist research practice, and to continue to find new ways to work with communities, local and beyond, in ways that improve the health and well-being of our communities. This is not easy work, and we strive to continue to work in ways that include taking care of ourselves, our teams, our families and our communities in what will clearly be more difficult days ahead. With research continuing, Northeastern University students back in classrooms in-person and remotely, and new projects and partnerships emerging to dismantle racism, and promote health equity and social justice, we look forward to the change we are making.

Alisa K. Lincoln

Director, Institute for Health Equity and Social Justice Research

Associate Dean of Research, College of Social Sciences and Humanities

Professor, Sociology and Health Sciences
Welcome to the Institute

This year we welcomed new staff and students to the Institute for Health Equity and Social Justice Research to help further IHESJR’s mission of promoting health equity and reducing health disparities.

Gemma McFarland is a doctoral student in Sociology and is working as a Student Graduate Assistant at the Institute. She is working on research that focuses on promoting mental health, under the supervision of Dr. Alisa Lincoln.

Raimy Jaramillo is a doctoral student in Sociology and is working as a Student Graduate Assistant at the Institute. He is working on research that focuses on promoting mental health under the supervision of Dr. Alisa Lincoln.

Ramya Kumar, is an undergraduate student studying Biochemistry in the College of Science. She is also an IHESJR Health Equity Intern. Ramya provided extensive website support to the Institute this year.

Tiana Yom, is the Director of the Northeastern University Public Evaluation Lab (NU-PEL), a collaboration between IHESJR and the Institute on Race and Justice in the College of Social Sciences and Humanities. She brings her experience and knowledge of working on evaluations within government agencies. Tiana is also the professor of the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs’ course, Techniques in Program Evaluation.

Kevin Carvalho, MPH, a former IHESJR Co-op student, who came back to the Institute to work as a Research Assistant for the 2019-2020 academic year. Kevin provided administrative support as well as worked on a suicide prevention grant funded by the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention (AFSP).
Health Equity Internship

The Health Equity Internship is an opportunity for students to learn about public health, health equity and disparities research. Students are matched with faculty who are affiliated with the Institute and work for a minimum of one semester on a research study. Interns are also provided with two trainings a month on various research related topics. All interns are co-supervised by Suzanne Garverich, Program Assistant Director of IHESJR, and Dr. Atsushi Matsumoto, a Doctorate Research Assistant.

During the 2019-2020 academic year the Institute supported 56 Health Equity Interns. Students came from six colleges across the University: Bouvé College of Health Sciences, College of Social Sciences and Humanities, College of Science, College of Arts Media Design, D’Amore-McKim School of Business, and Khoury College of Computer Science.

Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 Interns

Nur Selin Akbulut, Biology & Political Science, 2023
Nita Akoh, Behavioral Neuroscience, 2023
Emily Alves, Health Sciences, 2021
Aidan Baglivo, Health Sciences, 2021
Sumit Barua, MS in Health Informatics, 2021
Desiré, Bennet, Theater, 2020
Nirban, Bhatia, Health Sciences, 2022
Michael Cullen Bober, Health Sciences, 2022
Jenna Bourassa, Behavioral Neuroscience, 2020
Mackenzie Breen, Biology & Political Science, 2023
Claire Buxton, Health Sciences, 2021
Abigail Cahill, Neuroscience, 2021
Julia Dentlinger, Health Sciences, 2022
Marina DiPiazza, Health Sciences, 2023
Zakariyya Hassan, Health Sciences, 2022
Catherine Henning, Health Sciences, 2024
Connor Holmes, Health Sciences, 2021
Quadray Hughes, Nursing, 2020
Meghna Iyer, Health Sciences, 2023
Kenadi Kaewmanaprasert, Health Sciences, 2023
Manjot Kaur, Health Sciences, 2021
Amy Kelleher, Health Sciences, 2020
Nur Selin Akbulut, Biology & Political Science, 2021
Noha Khalil, Behavioral Neuroscience, 2023
Samantha Krazweski, Health Sciences, 2022
Taylor Trail, Business, 2020
Ramya Kumar, Biology & Political Sciences, 2022
Andrew Lee, Biology, 2022
Peiyiing Li, Data Science & Health Sciences, 2022
Winnie Li, Health Sciences, 2021
Jennifer Magaña, Health Sciences & Business, 2021
Matthew Mahlan, Politics, Economics, & Philosophy, 2020
Lauren Mendez, Behavioral Neuroscience, 2022
Anna Moore, Health Sciences, 2020
Shrobhni Nandi, Biochemistry, 2022
Debby Duong Nguyen, Pharmacy, 2025
Gail Nissan, Health Sciences, 2022
Andie Oates, Health Sciences, 2021
Kathleen Owens, Neuroscience, 2020
Magdalena Pankowska, Masters in Public Health, 2020
Michaiah Parker, Health Sciences, 2021
Maya Rabow, Behavioral Neuroscience, 2023
Melissa Ramkarran, Biology, 2023
Katherine Ramos, Biochemistry, 2022
Katherine Regis, Biology, 2023
Marie Senescall, Biology & English, 2023
Shreya Shetty, Health Sciences, 2022
Alissah Sillah, Health Sciences, 2021
Taylor Smith, Health Sciences, 2020
Shadia Tannir, Health Sciences, 2022
Kaitlin Toal, Health Sciences, 2022
Jessica Torres, Behavioral Neuroscience, 2022
Tien Tran, Psychology, 2021
Maddie Wong, Health Sciences, 2022
Clair Yu, Health Sciences, 2021
Alice Yun, Health Sciences, 2022
Research, Innovation and Scholarship Expo (RISE)

RISE brings together Northeastern University students of all levels to present their innovative research across all of the University’s colleges. Judges from a host of industries come together to measure the ingenuity of Northeastern University research for this one day event.

This year RISE was virtual due to COVID-19 where students presented their posters to a team of judges via Zoom. We had a strong presence of Institute associated students presenting at RISE this year from Health Equity Interns, Capstone and Doctoral students.

Supporting Family Efficacy in Physical Activity Using Reminiscence Technologies

Health Equity Interns, Nur Selin Akbulut (above) and Denise Douglas, collaborated on a poster focusing on how physical activity reminiscence unfolds through digital tools in order to supplement care-giver child conversations about physical activity. They were supported by Institute affiliated faculty, Dr. Andrea Parker.

Participatory Design for Senior Healthcare: Service Design to Improve Seniors’ Health Literacy and Autonomy

Health Equity Interns, Marina DiPiazza (above left) and Nirban Bhatia’s (above right) poster examined challenges faced by the elderly population in terms of their ability to access healthcare, transport themselves to appointments, and converse with their providers. Their work was supported by Faculty Scholar Dr. Miso Kim.

Immigrant Health and Wellbeing in Sanctuary Spaces

Health Equity Interns Debby Nguyen (left top) and Emily Alves (left middle) with the support of Ashley Houston (left bottom), a Doctoral Student and Dr. Alisa Lincoln, presented their poster that included data from a qualitative study that examines organizational employee perspectives of major health concerns, barriers, and challenges faced by their immigrant clients in two U.S. cities with sanctuary policies. Their poster won the Illuminating Complex Problems award.

Perception of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Services Capacity for Young Children Involved with Child Welfare: Findings from Massachusetts

Capstone Student Kayla Anderson’s (above left) poster examined three different agencies in Massachusetts identifying their current landscape and capacity for infant and early childhood mental health. She was supported by Doctoral Student Sameera Nayak (above right) and Institute faculty Dr. Beth Molnar.
Historical Google Virtual Audit of Marijuana Retailers in the United States.

Health Equity intern Magdalena Pankowska’s (above left) poster used novel Google virtual audit methods to validate the locations of and also created a historical data set of medical and recreational marijuana retailers from web-sources across 22 metropolitan areas between 2009 and 2018. She was supported by Doctoral Student, Michael Williams (above right) and Faculty Scholar Dr. Danielle Haley.

Predictors of Service Utilization of Families Enrolled in a Community-based Pediatric Mental Health Program

Capstone student Lynn Zamecheck’s (left) poster focused on identifying baseline predictors of mental health service utilization for families enrolled in Linking Actions with Unmet Needs in Children’s Health (LAUNCH). LAUNCH is a program that increases mental health services for young children at risk of socioemotional challenges. She was supported by Doctoral Student Sameera Nayak and Dr. Beth Molnar.

Spanish-Language Barriers And Pharmacy Practice: A Systematic Literature Review

Capstone student, Breana Kennedy, (left)

examined recent research on potential problems of communication that Spanish-speaking patients encounter in US community pharmacy settings and on an array of technologies and programs that are being developed to overcome such barriers. She was supported by Faculty Scholar Dr. Jeanne Madden.

Assistance or Hindrance? An Examination of Prescription-Assistance Programs

Capstone students Alexis Duncan (below left), Karl Frangian, Corinne Frangian, Christine Lee (below right), and Erika Young, examined PAPs, which can relieve cost burden for some patients, but which also have perverse effects: distorting treatment selection, disrupting information flows used to ensure quality of care, and driving up overall health system costs. Their work was supported by Faculty Scholar Dr. Jeanne Madden.

Use of the Neuropsychiatric Inventory Questionnaire (NPI-Q) to Measure Behavioral and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia (BPSD) and Optimize Therapeutic Management in the Community Setting.

Stephanie Suh, a Capstone student presented on an ongoing project at a clinical site in Boston aimed to improve pharmacological treatment for individuals with dementia through better information on and analysis of the factors that can drive over-reliance on antipsychotics for this vulnerable population. The poster focused on the use of the NPI-Q in assessing Dementia in a community setting. She was supported by Faculty Scholar Dr. Jeanne Madden.
**PEAK Experience Awards**

Through the Office of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships, Health Equity Interns and other students supported by IHESJR Faculty and Faculty Scholars, applied for the Project-Based Exploration for the Advancement of Knowledge (PEAK) Awards to receive funding for the research they conduct under faculty mentorship.

The PEAK Experiences Awards are a progressively structured sequence of opportunities designed to support learners as they continue climbing to new heights of achievement in undergraduate research and creative endeavor throughout their Northeastern journeys.

**PEAK Awardees (continued)**

- **Abigail Cahill** (fall 2019), *Characterization of Replies to #MeToo Disclosures of Sexual Assault*, supported by Dr. Andrea Parker, Khoury College

- **Valeria Do Vale**, (summer 2020), *Immigrants’ Healthcare Access Under Shifting Public Policies*, supported by Dr. Tiffany Joseph, CSSH

- **Meghna Iyer** (summer 2020), *The Effect of Guardrails on Motor Vehicle Safety*, supported by Dr. Alisa Lincoln, Bouvé and CSSH

- **Kenadi Kaewmanapersert** (summer 2020), *Health Reform Influence on Immigrant Healthcare Access in the U.S.*, supported by Dr. Tiffany Joseph, CSSH

- **Summer Kelly** (summer 2020), *Understanding Racial/Ethnic Preterm Birth Disparities*, supported by Dr. Andrea Parker, Khoury College

- **Ramya Kumar** (spring 2020), *Mobilizing Teens for Environmental Health Research and Environmental Justice Advocacy*, supported by Dr. Laura Senier, CSSH

- **Andrew Lee** (spring 2020), *JCOIN: Providing Access to Addictions Treatment, Hope, and Support*, supported by Dr. Claudia Santelices, Bouvé

- **Shurobhi Nandi**, (summer 2020), *Perspectives on Building a Statewide Early Childhood System of Care: Findings From the Massachusetts Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Project, Base Camp Award*, supported by Dr. Beth Molnar, Bouvé

- **Michaiah Parker** (summer 2020), *Immigrants’ Healthcare Access Under Shifting Public Policies*, supported by Tiffany Joseph, CSSH

- **Jessica Torres** (summer 2020), *Immigrant Health Research Project*, supported by Dr. Tiffany Joseph, CSSH

- **Madeline Wong** (spring 2020), *Immigrant’s Healthcare Access Under Shifting Public Policies*, supported by Dr. Tiffany Joseph, CSSH

- **Alice Yun**, (spring 2020), *Project LAUNCH*, supported by Dr. Beth Molnar, Bouvé

- **Alan Zhou**, (fall 2019), *Virtual Reality Training Environments to Promote Children’s Resilience*, supported by Danielle Levac, School of Nursing, Bouvé

**PEAK Awardees**

- **Nur Selin Akubult** (fall 2019), *Mobile Health Systems and Physical Activity Trackers*, supported by Dr. Andrea Parker, Khoury College

- **Jeanna Bourassa** (fall 2019), *Northeastern University Public Evaluation Lab*, supported by Dr. Laurie Dopkins, Bouvé and CSSH
Health Equity Faculty Scholars Program

Our Faculty Scholars program provides an opportunity for faculty from colleges across the University engaging in research with shared commitments to health equity and social justice to come together for shared learning opportunities, mentor Health Equity Interns, and to facilitate interdisciplinary research collaborations. Faculty Scholars provide the Institute with their expertise and knowledge and help shape the IHESJR research agenda.

With the support of the Deans of Bouvé College of Health Sciences and College of Arts, Media, and Design, we have been able to provide a third year of funding to support faculty as they develop their research portfolios in advancing the goals of health equity for diverse populations made vulnerable through marginalization and exclusion. The Institute was able to fund a total of 11 pilot awards in the spring of 2020.

Faculty Scholar Summer 2020 Advancing Health Equity Pilot Awardees

**Linda Blum**, PhD, Sociology and Anthropology, College of Social Sciences and Humanities, *BRCA Communities In the Pandemic: Exploring the Role of Online Peer Support* (2020)

**Tiffany Joseph**, PhD, Sociology and Anthropology, College of Social Sciences and Humanities, *Not All In: Race, Ethnicity, Immigration, Exclusion, and Health Care in America’s City on a Hill* (2020)

**Miso Kim**, PhD, Art and Design, College of Arts, Media, and Design, *Designing Services to Assist Isolated Older Adults in Senior Living Centers During COVID-19* (2020)

**Dami Ko**, PhD, RN, School of Nursing, Bouvé College of Health Sciences, *Socioeconomic Inequalities in Health Among Urban Liver Transplant Recipients* (2020)

**Margo Lindauer**, JD, LLM, Health Sciences, Bouvé College of Health Sciences; School of Law, *Domestic Violence Clinic* (2020)


**Amy Lu**, PhD, Communication Studies and the Game Design program, College of Arts, Media and Design; Health Sciences, Bouvé College of Health Sciences, *How Effective are Active Video Games? A Meta-Analysis Across the Lifespan in Clinical and Nonclinical Populations* (2020)

**Collette Ncube**, DrPH, MPH, MS, Health Sciences, Bouvé College of Health Sciences, *Un-Masking the Origins of Maternal Mortality/Morbidity Inequities (UMOMMI)* (2020)

**Kara Pavone**, PhD, RN, School of Nursing, Bouvé College of Health Sciences, *Pain-Related Disparities Among Patients with Substance Use Disorder* (2020)

**Hermine Poghosyan**, PhD, MPH, School of Nursing, Bouvé College of Health Sciences, *Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Lung Cancer Screening Potentially Due to Current Screening Guidelines* (2020)


Faculty Scholars

**Meryl Alper**, PhD, Communication Studies, College of Arts, Media, and Design

**Leo Beletsky**, JD, MPH, Health Sciences, Bouvé College of Health Sciences; School of Law

**Victoria Cain**, PhD, History, College of Social Sciences and Humanities

**Sara Jensen Carr**, PhD, Architecture, College of Arts, Media and Design

**Danielle Haley**, PhD, MPH, Health Sciences, Bouvé College of Health Sciences

**Tad Hirsch**, PhD, Art and Design, College of Arts, Media, and Design

**Rachel Jones**, PhD, RN, FAAN, School of Nursing, Bouvé College of Health Sciences

**Jeanne Madden**, PhD, Sc.M., School of Pharmacy, Bouvé College of Health Sciences

**Shan Mohammed**, MD, PhD, FAAFP, Health Sciences, Bouvé College of Health Sciences

**Rebekah Moore**, PhD, Music, College of Arts, Media, and Design

**Carmel Salhi**, ScD, Health Sciences, Bouvé College of Health Sciences

**Laura Senier**, MPH, PhD, Sociology and Anthropology, College of Social Sciences and Humanities; Health Sciences, Bouvé College of Health Sciences

**Dani Snyder-Young**, PhD, Theater, College of Arts, Media, and Design,

**Liza Weinstein**, PhD, Sociology and Anthropology, College of Social Sciences and Humanities

**Lichuan Ye**, PhD, RN, School of Nursing, Bouvé College of Health Sciences
Works in Progress Series

In its third year, this series gives faculty the opportunity to present on their current research to other faculty, staff, and students. It is a time where attendees can learn more about the work being done at the Institute as well as across colleges. The series also provides the presenting faculty a chance to receive feedback about their research in progress.

Fall 2019 and Spring 2020

Sleep Deficiencies in Urban Black/African American Adults
September 26, 2019
Lichuan Ye, PhD, RN

Artists in Recovery: Theater Participation and Peer Leadership in Substance Addiction Recovery Processes
October 16, 2019
Dani Snyder-Young, PhD

Reel2Real: An Online Social Media Literacy Intervention for Body Image
November 13, 2019
Rachel Rodgers, PhD

Suicide Prevention Forum
December 4, 2019
Alisa Lincoln, PhD, MPH; Matt Miller, ScD; Carmel Salhi, ScD (below, left to right)

Risk Scoring Systems for Preterm Delivery
January 16, 2020
Dr. Collette Ncube, DrPH and Taylor Smith, Health Equity Intern (below, left to right)

(Not) All In: Race, Immigration, and Healthcare Exclusion in America’s City on a Hill
February 13, 2020
Tiffany Joseph, PhD
Co-hosted by The Center for Health Policy and Law Roundtable

Fall 2020 Works in Progress Series (Virtual)

September 24, 2020
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Miso Kim, PhD
Designing for the Autonomy of Older Adults

October 22nd, 2020
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Kara Pavone, PhD, RN

November 19, 2020
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Hermine Poghosyan, PhD, MPH

The Northeastern University Public Evaluation Lab (NU-PEL)

NU-PEL is an interdisciplinary lab starting in 2018 through support from a Tier 1 grant from the Northeastern University Office of Research Development, Bouvé College of Health Sciences, and the College of Social Sciences and Humanities. Faculty from the Institute for Race and Justice and IHESJR created a lab that brings together faculty and students with an interest and commitment to developing community partnered evaluation efforts.

The vision of NU-PEL is to build a community-academic partnership to improve local communities and enhance the well-being of the people living in them through the use of evaluation research. This is accomplished by bringing together expertise and resources to advance the theory, practices, and utilization of evaluation through research, education, and services.

In its third year, NU-PEL has served as a consultant to various community organizations that focus on health and safety.

NU-PEL Community Partners

Boston Public Health Commission, system level evaluative efforts to systematically improve effectiveness in achieving health equity goals within BPHC.
Student involvement: Alex Alden, Sociology Doctoral Student; Andie Oates, Health Equity Intern

**Boston 826**, local evaluation of national youth writing lab that empowers traditionally underserved students ages 6-18 to find their voices, tell their stories, and gain communication skills to succeed in school and in life.

Student involvement: Marie Senescall, Health Equity Intern, Kaleem Ahmad, Research Assistant

**City of Boston**, returning citizens, particularly those incarcerated for extended period of time, cite technology changes and access as a large barrier to re-entering society. Office of Returning Citizens and Dept. of Innovation and Technology created a new program that offers eligible persons a smart phone and technology training.

Student involvement: Student group from Techniques of Program Evaluation Course, PPUA 6509

**Department of Mental Health**, the Massachusetts Adult Suicide Prevention Project (MASPP), led by DMH, utilizes the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention grant to integrate suicide prevention into the healthcare system in Cape Cod and the Islands, which has experienced a high rate of growth of suicides and now has among the highest rates in Massachusetts.

Student involvement: Gemma McFarland, Sociology Doctoral Student, Megan Zelinsky, Population Health Doctoral Student, Zoe Harris, BS/MPH Student, Tien Tran, Health Equity Intern

**Little Brothers, Friends of the Elderly**, local evaluation of a national network of non-profit volunteer-based organizations committed to relieving isolation and loneliness among the elderly.

Student Involvement: Megan Zelinsky, Population Health Doctoral Student, Kevin Carvalho, BS/MPH Student, Jeanna Bourrassa, Health Equity Intern

**Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security**, evaluation to enhance the Commonwealth response to child sex trafficking.

Student Involvement: Candi Wills, Criminal Justice Doctoral Student

**Puerto Rico Testsite for Exploring Contaminated Threats (PROTECT)**, evaluation of a training core that aims to: 1) provide high quality interdisciplinary biomedical and environmental science training, education and mentoring experiences to diverse trainees at the institutions participating in the PROTECT program; 2) extend applicable PROTECT training experiences to the greater SRP community; and 3) serve as the coordination point for training activities with, and trainee participation in, the Community Engagement and Research Translation Cores.

Student involvement: Student group from Techniques of Program Evaluation Course, PPUA 6509

**The Boston Foundation**, conducted a landscape analysis of ESL programs in MA and completed Return on Investment (ROI) analysis.

**VISION**, an evaluation of the network of campus partners focused on providing coordinated response services for survivors of interpersonal violence as well as prevention and education for the Northeastern community.

Student involvement: Monica Vega, Research Assistant

**NU-PEL Student Highlight**

For the Northeastern University Master in Public Health Capstone, Kevin Carvalho worked with the Director of Little Brothers, Friends of the Elderly, Cynthia Wiker to conduct an evaluation of LBFE’s City Sites programming. The evaluation survey was completed by 36 people (25 older participants and 11 younger participants).

Some findings from the evaluation include: Both participant groups have found their LB-FE experiences beneficial as the social connections fostered during the intergenerational programming has a positive impact on their lives. The older and younger participants have built strong intergenerational support through consistent program attendance and helps decrease social isolation and loneliness among the older participants.

NU-PEL is continuing to collaborate with LBFE as an MPH practicum student will be providing evaluative services to the organizations as they have had to move to virtual programming. The evaluation questions that Kevin developed are being adapted to do evaluation of the virtual summer and possibly fall programming of the City Sites program.
Faculty Research

Institute faculty are engaged in many research efforts across the University. Here we highlight their research focusing on health equity and social justice, by showcasing 1) all newly awarded grants from July 1, 2019 to June 30th, 2019; 2) continuing research grants; and 3) COVID-19-related research and activities.

2019-2020 Newly Awarded Grants

#InstaBIpositive: Supporting Positive Body Image on Instagram
Funder: Instagram (ROAR grant)

This grant supports work focused on identifying how social media content may contribute to supporting positive body image.

Rachel Rodgers, PI
Elisa Kodama, Undergraduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University

Center for Design Research Fellowship: Design+Health
Funder: College of Arts, Media, and Design

This research is seeking to understand attitudes in young adults (18-24) regarding climate change and how it affects mental health and health behaviors. We hypothesize that the environmental risk wrought by climate change and the national conversation on sustainability likely leads to a spectrum of beliefs, behaviors, and values regarding personal agency and resilience. The team will pursue two phases of data collection using cross-disciplinary methods (i.e., Probes and online surveys) to explore collective and relational aspects of climate change and health.

Miso Kim, Co-PI, Northeastern University
Sara Carr, Co-PI, Northeastern University
Susan Mello, Co-PI, Northeastern University
Michael Arnaold Mages, Co-PI, Northeastern University

Drug Benefit Design and Adherence Disparities in Older Adults
Funder: NIH/NIA (competing renewal, R56 bridge awarded)

This study aims to take advantage of a comprehensive, longitudinal electronic medical record and apply mixed methods to examine how drug benefit designs aid or hinder health system goals in reducing racial and ethnic disparities among older adults living with major illness burdens.

Alyce Adams, PI, Kaiser Permanente Northern CA Division of Research
Jeanne Madden, Co-investigator/Site PI, Northeastern University
Christine Lu, Co-I, Harvard Medical School/Harvard Health Care
Dennis Ross-Degnan, Co-I, Harvard Medical School/Harvard Health Care
Connie Trinacty, Co-I, Kaiser Permanente Hawaii

Evaluating Pain Assessment and Management in Critical Care Nurses
Funder: Hillman Scholars Program in Nursing Innovation, Advancing Early Research Opportunities (AERO) Alumni Fellowship

This research will assess critical care nurses’ knowledge of pain assessment and pain management in critically ill, older adults.

Kara Pavone, PI, Northeastern University
Mary Bronski, Co-I, Northeastern University

Evaluation of an Experimental Educational Module on Opioid-Related occupational Safety to Minimize Barriers to Overdose Response among Police Officers
Funder: CDC/NYU Subcontract

The goal of this project is to implement and evaluate using a randomized-controlled design an online police training on overdose response in PA to improve police occupational safety and alignment between policing practices and public health measures.

Janie Simmons, PI, NYU
Leo Beletsky, Co-I/Subcontract PI, Northeastern University

Evaluation of Boston FIRST SOC (Family Independence, Resilience, Support, and Treatment
Systems of Care
Funder: SAMHSA
The direct-service goal of FIRST SOC is to improve access to high-quality, culturally competent, evidence-based behavioral health services through an innovative Family Partner/Clinician service model for children ages 0-48 months and their families in Boston who are involved with the child welfare system. Impacts of the intervention on social, emotional and behavioral health of the children and on their caregivers (foster families, birth parents, case workers) will be measured over time, as will the development and improvement of systems for the care of young children with behavioral health needs in Boston, MA.

Beth Molnar, PI, Northeastern University
Farzad Noubary, Statistician, Northeastern University
Arielle Scoglio, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University
Sameera Nayak, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University
Alice Yun, Health Equity Intern, Northeastern University
Amy Kelleher, Health Equity Intern, Northeastern University
Kayla Anderson, Capstone Student, Northeastern University
Shurobhi Nandi, Health Equity Intern, Northeastern University
Tommy Carpenito, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University

Evaluation of the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention Grant
Funder: SAMSHA
Subcontract with MA Department of Mental Health

This grant is being utilized by MA DMH to integrate suicide prevention into the healthcare system of Cape Code and the Islands, which has experienced a high rate of growth of suicides and now has among the highest rates in the state.

Alisa Lincoln, PI, Northeastern University
Claudia Santelices, Lead Evaluator, Northeastern University
Suzanne Garverich, Northeastern University
Gemma McFarland, Graduate Student Assistant, Northeastern University
Raimy Jaramillo, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University
Atsushi Matsumoto, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University

First Episode Psychosis Strategic Plan
Funder: MA Department of Mental Health

Working with DMH, the team is conducting focus groups with youth, caregivers, and providers in order to develop the states’ strategic plan for people experiencing their first episode of Psychosis.

Alisa Lincoln, PI, Northeastern University
Suzanne Garverich, Northeastern University
Raimy Jaramillo, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University
Atsushi Matsumoto, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University

Improving Critical Care Pain Management: Evaluating Nurses Knowledge, Attitudes and Self-Efficacy
Funder: Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, NU Sigma Gamma Epsilon Chapter

This research will explore the association between knowledge, attitudes and self-efficacy in pain management among critical care nurses.

Kara Pavone, PI, Northeastern University
Mary Bronski, Co-I, Northeastern University

Mentored Award: Novel Methods to Quantify the Affective Impact of Virtual Reality for Motor Skill Learning.
Funder: Northeastern University Mentored Tier 1

This Mentored Award will enable Dr.’s Quigley and Feldman, experts in affective neuroscience, and Dr. Ostadabbas, expert in physiological state recognition, to support Dr. Levac in validating innovative self-report and neurophysiological measures of motivation and engagement in virtual environments to explore links between affect and learning.

Danielle Levac, PI, Northeastern University
Karen Quigley, Co-I, Northeastern University
Lisa Barrett, Co-I, Northeastern University
Sarah Ostadabbas, Co-I, Northeastern University

Multi-Generational Research Team Award
Funder: College of Social Sciences and Humanities, Northeastern University

Annual Report
This grant provides support for a fully funded student graduate assistant to work on research focused on examining Boston immigrants’ healthcare access under shifting policies.

Tiffany Joseph, PI, Northeastern University
Kein Ha, Student Graduate Assistant, Northeastern University

(Not) All In: Race, Ethnicity, Exclusion, and Health Care in America’s City on a Hill
Funder: Ford Foundation/National Academy of Sciences

Provides a year leave from teaching and service to support faculty in making significant progress on research examining Boston immigrants’ healthcare access under shifting policies.

Tiffany Joseph, PI, Northeastern University

(Not) All In: Race, Ethnicity, Immigration, Exclusion, and Health Care in America’s City on a Hill
Funder: Health and Humanities Program, College of Social Sciences and Humanities, Northeastern University

This grant provides support for an undergraduate research assistant to work on research focused on examining Boston immigrants’ healthcare access under shifting policies.

Tiffany Joseph, PI, Northeastern University
Michaiah Parker, Health Equity Intern, Undergraduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University
Jaeywoon Lee, Undergraduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University

Taking Virtual Reality ‘On the Road’: A Mobile VR System to Explore Motor learning in Children with Cerebral Palsy
Funder: Cerebral Palsy Alliance Research Foundation, Small Research Equipment Grant

Rehabilitation for children with cerebral palsy (CP), the most common cause of pediatric disability and a significant public health burden, increasingly involves motion-controlled games in virtual reality (VR) environments. The goal of research in the Rehabilitation Games & Virtual Reality Laboratory at Northeastern University is to identify the optimal practice conditions for children’s motor skill learning in these immersive environments. The HTC VivePro head-mounted display is utilized, a gold-standard VR system in which children use full body movements to interact with 3-D virtual objects while receiving audiovisual feedback in motivating and engaging virtual environments of our scientific design. This equipment enables the research team to test motor learning-processes in children with CP and to precisely measure performance outcomes. To meet the goal of moving the research out of the lab and into the community, a mobile VR set-up is required, including a powerful gaming laptop. Bringing this research to hospitals and clinics will enable future collaborations with physicians and therapists, and provide support and training for those interested in integrating VR into clinical care.

Danielle Levac, PI, Northeastern University

The Social Construction of Legal Exclusion in Indian Slums
Funder: NSF

This study employs a mixed-methods, qualitative research strategy and a community-based participatory research (CBPR) approach to explain how legal exclusion is constructed in Kaula Bandar, a non-notified settlement of 12,000 people in Mumbai, India.

Liza Weinstein, PI, Northeastern University
Ramnath Subbaraman, CO-PI, Tufts University School of Medicine
Anita Patil-Deshmukh, Co-PI, Partners for Urban Knowledge, Action, Research (PUKAR), Mumbai India
Saloni Dev, Graduate Student Assistant, Northeastern University

Theater Participation and Arts-Integrated Peer Leadership is Substance Addiction Recovery Processes.
Funder: National Endowment for the Arts

This mixed-methods study examines the ways participation as an actor in a theater-integrated program engaging with substance addiction and recovery support performers with their own recovery processes.

Dani Snyder-Young, PI, Northeastern University
Alisa Lincoln, Northeastern University

Vicarious Trauma Resource Initiative
Funder: Office for Victims of Crime/Dept of Justice Subcontract from International Association of Chiefs of Police
The Vicarious Trauma Response Initiative (VTRI) is funded by the Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime, in collaboration with the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). The mission of the project is to identify and develop skills and practices needed to promote healthy, comprehensive, and sustained collaborative approaches that buffer and mitigate the negative effects of vicarious trauma. Twelve diverse communities will be chosen to receive training and technical assistance across the U.S.

Beth Molnar, Lead Evaluator, Northeastern University
Samantha Meeker, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University

2019-2020 Ongoing Research

Connecting the DOTS: Drug Overdose Trust & Safety (DOTS)
Funder: SAMHSA/University of Missouri
Subcontract

The goal of this project is to deploy and evaluate a community-led training for law enforcement on overdose response in Missouri.

Claire Wood, PI, MOMHI
Leo Beletsky, Subcontract PI, Northeastern University
Jeremiah Goulka, Northeastern University

Developing the Evidence Base for Overdose Policies: A Multilevel Analysis of the National HIV Behavioral Surveillance data
Funded by NIDA
Subcontract

Dr. Haley is collaborating with Dr. Cooper (PI) from Emory University in this study aimed at uncovering whether and how specific drug and health-related laws and place characteristics relate to a variety of overdose related outcomes among people who inject drugs, overall and by race, ethnicity, gender, age, and HIV status.

Hannah Cooper, Principal Investigator, Emory University
Danielle Haley, Co-Investigator, Northeastern University
Leo Beletsky, Co-Investigator, Northeastern University
Michael Williams, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University
Magdalena Pankowska, Graduate Student, Health Equity Intern, Northeastern University
Connor Holmes, Health Equity Intern, Northeastern University
Manjot Kaur, Health Equity Intern, Northeastern University
Matthew Mahlan, Health Equity Intern, Northeastern University
Andie Oates, Health Equity Intern, Northeastern University

Developing Firearm Suicide Prevention Programs, Tailored to Gun Owner Population Subgroups
Funded by American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
Subcontract

Dr. Lincoln is collaborating with Dr. Craig Ross, from Boston University School of Public Health to determine population specific suicide prevention strategies. This study is designed to (a) identify subgroups of gun owners through Latent Class Analysis, who share similar attributes and similar suicide risk profiles and then (b) conduct qualitative research with the subgroups to explore barriers and facilitators to the development of targeted firearm suicide prevention programs that can be adopted by each subgroup.

Craig Ross, Principal Investigator, Boston University
Alisa Lincoln, Principle Investigator, Northeastern University
Suzanne Garverich, Northeastern University
Jaimie Gradus, Boston University
Michael Siegel, Boston University
Kevin Carvalho, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University
Aiden Baglivo, Health Equity Intern, Northeastern University
Julia Denlinger, Health Equity Intern, Northeastern University

Enhancing Transfer of Motor Skill Learning from Virtual to Physical Environments in Children with Cerebral Palsy
Funder: NIH Mentored Research Scientist Career Development (K01) award

Rehabilitation for children with cerebral palsy (CP), the most common cause of pediatric disability and a significant public health burden, often involves motion-controlled games in virtual environments, but this approach suffers from poor transfer of skill improvement to real world situations. The proposed research aims to identify the mechanisms underlying this major treatment drawback by exploring whether virtual environments that promote adaptive variability in movement patterns in children with CP will enhance transfer to a real-life skill. This will provide beneficial insights into
the mechanisms underlying skill improvement and transfer in virtual environments for children with atypical development, which will enhance children’s physical well-being and inform future interventions aiming to prevent and reduce the burden of cerebral palsy using virtual reality-based interventions.

Danielle Levac, PI, Northeastern University
Dagmar Sternad, Mentor, Northeastern University
Gene Tunik, Mentor, Northeastern University
Andy Gordon, Mentor, Columbia University
Minxin Cheng, Doctoral student, Northeastern University

**Evaluation of Early Childhood Mental Health System of Care Expansion Implementation**
Funder: SAMHSA
Subcontract from Boston Public Health Commission

The purpose of the evaluation study is to determine the effectiveness of the SOC project on early child care service systems’ functioning, children’s mental, behavioral, and developmental health outcomes, and the project’s impact on collaboration across the system of care. The evaluators are also measuring policy changes/fiscal reforms associated with preventative infant early childhood mental health in primary care practices during the period of the study.

Beth Molnar, Lead Evaluator, Northeastern University
Farzad Noubary, Northeastern University
Arielle Scoglio, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University
Sameera Nayak, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University
Alice Yun, Health Equity Intern, Northeastern University
Amy Kelleher, Health Equity Intern, Northeastern University
Kayla Anderson, Undergraduate Capstone Student, Northeastern University
Shurobhi Nandi, Health Equity Intern, Northeastern University

**Evaluation of the Massachusetts Early Comprehensive Childhood Systems (MECCS) Impact Project**
Funder: Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau (HRSA)
Subcontract from MA Department of Public Health

MECCS, led by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, has an overall aim to demonstrate a 25% increase in age-appropriate developmental skills amongst three-year-old children in two Massachusetts communities, Chelsea and Springfield. They are also participating in state-level efforts to develop an early childhood data system to track child developmental health indicators. Researchers from the IHESJR at Northeastern University are conducting a process evaluation to track their progress on these two aims and to provide training and technical assistance to the participating community health centers.

Beth Molnar, Lead Evaluator, Northeastern University
Arielle Scoglio, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University
Sameera Nayak, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University
Alice Yun, Health Equity Intern, Northeastern University
Amy Kelleher, Health Equity Intern, Northeastern University
Kayla Anderson, Undergraduate Capstone Student, Northeastern University
Shurobhi Nandi, Health Equity Intern, Northeastern University

**Evaluation Study of Project LAUNCH: Expansion**
Funded by SAMHSA
Subcontract from MA Department of Public Health

The LAUNCH project promotes the emotional, social, and behavioral health of young children, by enhancing early childhood service systems and promoting integration of early childhood mental health into pediatric medical homes. This expansion project, led by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, is being evaluated by researchers at IHESJR under the direction of Dr. Beth Molnar.

Beth Molnar, Lead Evaluator, Northeastern University
Farzad Noubary, Northeastern University
Arielle Scoglio, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University
Sameera Nayak, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University
Alice Yun, Health Equity Intern, Northeastern University
Amy Kelleher, Health Equity Intern, Northeastern University
Kayla Anderson, Undergraduate Capstone Student, Northeastern University
Shurobhi Nandi, Health Equity Intern, Northeastern University
Tommy Carpenito, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University

**Evaluating Technologies to Identify Fentanyl and Adulterants in Street Drug Samples**
Funded by RIZE Foundation Massachusetts
Subcontract

Dr. Santelices is collaborating with Dr. Tojoas Stopka (PI) from Tufts University on this study that coordinates with Care Zone, including Access, Harm Reduction, Overdose Prevention and Education (AHOPE) and the Boston Public Health Commission (BHCHP) staff, to track the number of clients utilizing fentanyl testing services (either using fentanyl strips of the MX908) and analyze changes in
in program reach and client demographics upon launching this service. Using a mixed methods design, the study also assessed implementation and effectiveness of fentanyl testing among people who use opioids (PWUO) through CareZone.

Thomas Stopka, Principle Investigator, Tufts University
Claudia Santelices, Co-Investigator, Northeastern University

**Exploring New Measures of the Affordability of Healthcare for Patients in Medicare**
Funder: NIH/NIA

This study will validate measures of patient-reported cost-related under use of health services and hardship due to costs that are appearing for the first time in the 2017 federal MCBS. It will also fully analyze first year of these data, identifying especially vulnerable populations and differences in results among specific services.

Jeanne Madden, PI, Northeastern University
Becky Briesacher, Co-I, Northeastern University
Alison Galbraith, Co-I, Harvard Med School/Harvard Pilgrim Health Care
Dennis Ross-Degnan, Senior Consultant, Harvard Med School/Harvard Pilgrim Health Care
Steve Soumerai, Senior Consultant, Harvard Med School/Harvard Pilgrim Health Care
Jerry Gwurtz, Senior Consultant, UMass Medical Center
Aayush Sisodia, Graduate Student Analyst, Northeastern University
Farrah Nekui, Graduate Student Analyst, Northeastern University
Prthwish Shetty, Graduate Student Analyst, Northeastern University
Shivangi Vashi, Graduate Student Analyst, Northeastern University
Susmitha Bayapureddy, Graduate Student Analyst, Northeastern University

**Exploring Pathways Among Discrimination and Health Among Somali Young Adults**
Funder: NIMHD

Dr. Lincoln is collaborating with Dr. Ellis (MPI) from Boston Children’s Hospital (BCH), Dr. Abdi, and a team of inter-disciplinary researchers, and leaders from the Somali communities to expand knowledge of the relationships among experiences of discrimination and health outcomes for young Somali adults. Ultimately the study aims to mitigate disparities in mental health and health outcomes experienced by immigrant young adults. This proposal builds upon a unique 17-year Community Based Participator Research (CBPR) program between Dr. Ellis’ research team, including Dr. Lincoln and Dr. Abdi, and Somali communities.

Heidi Ellis, MPI, Boston Children’s Hospital
Alisa Lincoln, MPI Northeastern University
Carmel Salhi, Co-I, Northeastern University
Saida Abdi, Boston Children’s Hospital
Ashley Houston, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University
Arielle Scoglio, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University
Tibrine Da Fonseca, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University

**High-Risk Opioid Prescribers and Overdose in MA: A Mixed Methods Approach**
Funded by Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Dr. Santelices is collaborating with Dr. Stopka (PI) from Tufts University on this study that responds to the urgent need to address the high rates of opioid overdose and overdose deaths in Massachusetts. Since potentially inappropriate opioid prescribing practices (PIP) may contribute to increases in overdoses, this study investigates the spatial distribution of and statistical associations with influential PIP prescribers, and it aims to assess the geospatial landscape and identify hotspot clusters in MA for influential PIP prescribers, and assess associations with subsequent opioid overdose clusters.

Thomas Stopka, Principle Investigator, Tufts University
Claudia Santelices, Co-Investigator, Northeastern University
Alexander Wally, Boston University Medical Center
Mark LaRochelle, Boston University Medical Center
Peter Friedman, Baystate Health
Thomas Land, University of Massachusetts Medical School
Adam Rose, RAND Corporation
Cici Bauer, University of Texas, Houston
Ken Choi, Tufts University
Dana Berson, Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Netrali Dalvi, Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Len Young, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Knock and Talk: Public Health-Public Safety Partnerships for Post-Overdose Outreach and Prevention
Funder: DCD/Boston Medical Center

This project is focused on characterizing, evaluating, and formulating best-practices for collaborative post-overdose response teams in MA.
MassHEAL: Reducing Overdose Deaths by 40%  
Funder: NIDA/Boston Medical Center  
Subcontract

The MassHEAL study implements and evaluates an intervention targeting overdose fatalities in 16 highly-affected MA communities via a cluster-randomizes parallel group design. The primary study outcome is number of overdose fatalities in the last year of a 3-year intervention period.

Quantifying Health Policy Impacts on Substance Use and Treatment among Women with and at Risk for HIV  
Funded by NIDA

This study aims to generate evidence on how health policies impact substance use and drug and alcohol treatment among women with and at risk of HIV in the United States, and explain the pathways through which these policies shape HIV viral suppression among women with HIV.

Sanctuary Cities  
Funded by the Global Resilience Institute at Northeastern University

This project seeks to identify how communities’ efforts to address questions regarding the role and place of sanctuary affects their resilience, and considers ways that cities might become more resilient as they respond to various forms of oppression, human rights violations, and other unjust exercises of power.

Understanding racial and ethnic disparities in preterm birth: a systems science approach  
Funded by National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD)

The goal of this project is to address significant gaps in our understanding of how structural and intermediary determinants of health interact and function interdependently to generate and perpetuate racial/ethnic preterm birth disparities using system dynamics methodology.

The Narrative Effect of Active Video Games on long-Term Moderate to Vigorous Physical Activity  
Funded by NIH

Physical activity (PA) is key to preventing childhood obesity and to reducing an individual’s risk for type 2 diabetes (T2D) and certain types of cancer. While conventional PA interventions face problems of sustained motivation and adherence, active video games (AVGs) offer an innovative alternative for PA promotion due to their motivational properties. Although AVGs may allow players to achieve the recommended levels of PA, children’s motivation to play AVGs often decreases quickly. To address this decrease in motivation this research examines the use of a narrative or storyline in AVGs.
COVID-19 Related Activities

Many of the Institutes Faculty found the import of expanding their research to examine the ways the COVID-19 is impacting people, especially those most vulnerable. Faculty have also contributed in dissemination activities to advance the knowledge to help with the extreme impact of the pandemic.

Courses

COVID-19: How to Be Safe and Resilient
https://www.resilience-ed.org/

Global Health experts around Boston collaborated on a COVID-19 safety course titled “COVID-19: How to be Safe and Resilient” released from Northeastern’s Global Resilience Institute. The course features information presented by scientists, clinicians, and professors from Northeastern, Harvard Medical School, and Beth Israel Medical Center as well as The Institutes’ Director, Alisa Lincoln. and Health Equity Faculty Scholar, Shan Mohammed. The course details ways of protecting yourself and your loved ones from COVID-19, how to stay calm and take care of your mental health during the pandemic, and provides additional resources about the virus.

Grants

Northeastern University COVID-19 Seed Funding

Assessing the impact of changes in therapy service delivery during the COVID-19 shutdown on function, socialization and participation of children with disabilities

This research explores the impact of the COVID-19 non-essential services shutdown on the function, socialization and participation of children with disabilities, with a specific focus on changes in access to and delivery of therapy services, socialization and/or function-related technology use. This research will describe the impact of this shutdown on children’s participation and functioning, as well as identify advantages, challenges, facilitators and barriers regarding the ways in which families have or have not transitioned to technology-based service delivery models and/or therapy tools during this crisis. Findings will inform recommendations for better preparedness and identify ways to minimizing disruption in services and loss of function in case this happens again in the future. They will also provide directions for research to create and evaluate tools and programs to best meet these needs and identify the types of supports that families require in order to effectively implement therapy technologies.

Danielle Levac, Co-PI, Northeastern University
Kristen Allison, Co-PI, Northeastern University

Domestic Violence COVID-19 Rapid Response

The COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing public health lock-down measures upended our justice system. Courts closed as law offices (including law school clinics) pivoted to remote operations and the world changed in what seems now like an instant. Northeastern University School of Law sprang into action on a number of fronts, among them a collaboration among the Domestic Violence Institute (DVI), NU Law Lab, and app developer Quadrant 2 to rapidly activate the DVI Legal Clinic in response to the COVID-19 crisis. The study team is providing (1) remote NUSL law faculty, staff, and student assistance consistent with ordinary clinic operations; (2) a novel, secure means of video-documenting client information and evidence; and (3) digitally-automated court form generation and filing. One year of funding has been secured for the enhanced operations, and intend the digital innovations to continue as the clinic returns to new-normal operations.

Dan Jackson, Innovation-maker, Northeastern University
Jules Sievert, Innovation-maker, Northeastern University
Morgan Wilson, runs DVI Legal, Northeastern University
Margo Lindauer, runs DVI Legal, Northeastern University
Miso Kim, Innovation-maker, Northeastern University
Human Connections, Community Resilience: Digital Theatre & Performance in a Time of Social Distancing

This digital ethnographic study examines the ways humans are forging connection in digital environments via performance, with a particular eye to the ways in which people are using rehearsed and scripted performance forms as we adapt to social distancing measures required to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Dani Snyder-Young, PI, Northeastern University
Desire Bennett, Health Equity Intern, Northeastern University
Anna Birnholz, Northeastern University
Kaitly Fiery, Northeastern University
Hanna Levenson, Northeastern University
Devon Whitney, Northeastern University

Investigating Patterns & Impact of COVID-19 Information-Seeking Amongst Vulnerable Populations: Leveraging Computational Modeling to Drive Digital Health Innovations

The team is conducting an experience sampling method (ESM) study to investigate how vulnerable populations are using technology for information-seeking and psychological coping during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the impact of such information-seeking on psychological wellbeing (e.g., depression and anxiety) and behavior (e.g., adherence to COVID-19 prevention recommendations).

Miso Kim, Co-PI, Northeastern University
Andrea Grimes, Co-PI, Georgia Institute of Technology
Jacqueline Griffin, Co-PI, Northeastern University
Stacy Marsella, Co-PI, Northeastern University

Journal of a Plague Year: Building a COVID-19 Digital Archive

The grant supports the work of collecting and curating items for the COVID-19 Digital Archive, capturing the diverse global experiences of daily life during a pandemic.

Victoria Cain, Northeastern University
Chris Parson, Northeastern University
Sari Altshuler, Northeastern University
Averyt Blankenship, Doctoral Student, Northeastern University

Mental Health Outcomes among US Healthcare Workers Exposed to COVID-19

This work aims to characterized the mental and emotional distress among front-line healthcare workers caring for patients with COVID-19.

Kara Pavone, PI, Northeastern University
Maria Van Pelt, Co-I, Northeastern University

IHESJR Advancing Health Equity Pilot Grants

BRCA Communities In the Pandemic: Exploring the Role of Online Peer Support

This grant will support a pilot for a larger project exploring the experiences of those with the BRCA gene mutations utilizing online peer support during the Covid-19 crisis. These online communities provide a unique lens on the pandemic as healthcare systems are strained, those with underlying conditions are at greater risk, and other medical needs become secondary. The project asks about the relation of online support to advocacy and improved access in the pandemic.

Linda Blum, PI, Northeastern University
Karl Surkan, Postdoctoral Research Consultant, MIT

Designing services to assist isolated older adults in senior living centers during COVID-19

This grant will support design services for senior living centers to alleviate older adults’ isolation and fundamentally improve their capability for social connection. With partnering organizations, the research team will (1) create community services to immediately alleviate older adults’ isolation, such as newsletters with remote group challenges to maintain healthy routine, and (2) create a service for remote education to enhance their technology literacy, including games and phone consulting to fundamentally improve their capability for social connection.

Miso Kim, PI, Northeastern University

Other Grant Mechanisms

Teaching the COVID-19 Digital Archive

Funder: New England Humanities Consortium

Grant for supporting the development of course modules for humanities center to encourage contribution to and use of the COVID-19 Digital Archive.

Victoria Cain, Northeastern University
Natalie Valdez, Wellesley College
Claire Tratnyek, Doctoral student, Northeastern University
Transitions to Adulthood Amid the Pandemic and its Aftermath: A Longitudinal Study

Funder: Northeastern University, CSSH Research Development Initiative

Funding to launch a qualitative, longitudinal study of advanced undergraduates at NU, those near or having just completed their degrees, to explore how they understand the social effect of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on their transitions from college to adulthood. The COVID-19 crisis threatens young adults’ ability to establish the independence at the root of shared cultural ideals of productive citizenship; and it is likely, for those from less privileged family background, to threaten the advantages attendance at a highly ranked university typically confers.

Linda Blum, PI, Northeastern University
Kaitlyn Eri Lee, Undergraduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University

Publications


Surveys

Eating Behaviors and COVID-19

Local data is being collected on the effects of the lock down and homeschooling on eating and feeding patterns in families with children under 5 years old.

Rachel Rodgers, PI, Northeastern University
Emily Zimmerman, [role?] Northeastern University

Eating Disorders and COVID-19

Rachel Rodgers and her team is collecting data on the impact of COVID-19 on eating disorder risk, internationally.

Rachel Rodgers, PI, Northeastern University
Deb Franko, Northeastern University
Laura Fischer, Graduate Research Assistant
Silvia Cerolini, Sapienza University, Rome
Caterina Lombardo, Sapienza University, Rome
Matthew Fuller-Tyszkiewicz, Deakin University, Melbourne
Jake Linardon, Deakin University, Melbourne
Mika Omori, Ochanomizu University Tokyo
Sebastien Guillaume, University of Montpellier

Mental Health and COVID-19

In collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health, Alisa Lincoln and her team have fielded a survey to assess the impacts of COVID-19 on people living with mental illness or receiving mental health services.

Alisa Lincoln, Northeastern University
Suzanne Garverich, Northeastern University
Atsushi Matsumoto, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University
Gemma McFarland, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University
Raimy Jaramillo, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University
THE INSTITUTE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Through research and evaluation, the Institute has long-standing partnerships with community organizations. Along with these academic collaborations, the faculty, staff, and students are dedicated in participating in community service with Boston Area organizations. The IHESJR community has a strong commitment in providing aid and services to organizations that are working on promoting health to the populations being served.

Each Christmas holiday, the Institute holds a toy drive for the children at Entre Familia. Entre Familia is a 6 to 12 month residential substance use treatment program that provides bilingual/bicultural, gender-specific, substance use disorder treatment to pregnant and postpartum women and their children. It is run by the Boston Public Health Commission. This is an annual tradition of the Institute and one we plan on continuing doing for years to come.

This year we also had our inaugural Institute Community Service Opportunity. Faculty, Staff, and Students came together to do community service for a Boston area non-profit. We choose Community Servings, which is located in Jamaica Plain. Community Servings mission is to actively engage the community to provide medically tailored, nutritious, scratch-made meals to chronically and critically ill individuals and their families. They envision a world in which everyone has access to the nutritious food they need for health and wellbeing as a fundamental right. We worked for a half a day preparing medically tailored meals to be delivered to those in need.

At Community Servings: (left to right) Michael Williams (doctoral student), Samantha Meeker (doctoral student), Alisa Lincoln (IHESJR Director), Suzanne Garverich (IHESJR Program Assistant Director), Katie Regis (Health Equity Intern), Kevin Carvalho (master’s student), Karen Li (Health Equity Intern) (missing from photo)
IHESJRS Affiliated Publications and Presentations 2019-2020


Alper, M. (2020, March). Disability, voice, and the social implications of communication technologies. Invited Talk at the University of Delaware Grand Challenges Program, Designing Inclusive Futures Project, University of Delaware, Newark, DE.


Danthinne, E. S., Giorgianni, F. E., & Rodgers, R. F. (2020). Labels to prevent the detrimental effects of media on body
IHESJR Affiliated Publications and Presentations 2019-2020 (continued)


IHESJR Affiliated Publications and Presentations 2019-2020 (continued)


concerns among 7 and 8 year-old boys and girls: cross-sectional and prospective relations. *International Journal of Eating Disorders*, in press.


Suh, S.*, Madden, J.M., Bouwmeester, C. (2020, April). Use of the Neuropsychiatric Inventory Questionnaire (NPI-Q) to measure Behavioral and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia (BPSD) and Optimize Therapeutic Management in the Community Setting. *RISE (Research, Innovation, And Scholarship Expo)*, Northeastern University.


