



broom center for demography

University of California, Santa Barbara

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Mission Statement

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

Number of Faculty/ Research Affiliates: 37

Departmental Affiliations

- Anthropology
- Asian American Studies
- Environmental Science and Management
- Chicana and Chicano Studies
- Economics
- Geography
- Global Studies
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Sociology

Key Areas of Research

- **Social Determinants of Inequality**
- **Population Health, Spatial Processes, and Environment**
- **Migration, Race, and Ethnicity**
- **Families, Gender, and Work**
- **Biodemography and Evolution**

Domestic Research Projects

- Abortion and Women’s Future Socioeconomic Attainment
- Aging, Race, and Health Disparities
- Geographic Variation in Cesarean Sections in the United States
- Heat Stress, Health, and Child Stunting
- Health Care Resources for Latinx Immigrants Across U.S. Destinations
- Housing Insecurity, Place, and Social Networks Among Sexual Minority Men
- Sociospatial Determinants of Health Within Latinx Communities
- Latino/a Destinations and Health Access Among Children in Latino/a Families
- Education Attainment and LGBT Policy
- Urinary Mono-Ethyl Phthalate Levels Among Children and Adults the United States
- Breastfeeding and Diurnal Maternal Inflammation
- Gender and Sexuality of Friendship
- Immigrant Selectivity at School Entry
- Environmental and Socioeconomic Drivers of Migrant Farmworkers’ Health
- The Health Impacts of Obstetric Unit Closures in the United States
- Gender Inequality, STEM, and Pay Gaps
- Wildfire, Evacuation, and Cardiovascular Events

Regional Research Projects

- Extreme Heat and COVID-19 on the Labor Supply of Migrant Workers in California
- Impact of Droughts on Served Drinking Water Disparities in California
- Location Analytics to Support Wildfire Response
- Geographic Variations of HIV Care Among U.S. Counties
- Food Security Among College Students During the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Activity Spaces and the Geography of Sexual Networks Among Sexual Minority Men in Los Angeles

International Research Projects

- Socioecology of Social Aging
- Life History, Demography, and Behavior in Wild Blue Monkeys in Western Kenya
- Peer Beliefs and Gender Norms Among Tanzanian Men
- Household Adaptation Strategies and Land Degradation Vulnerability
- Linking Infection, Physical Activity, Genotype, and Biological Sex With Dementia in Two Native American Populations

International Research Projects (cont’d)

- The Tsimane Health and Life History Project
- Early Life Adversity, Reproductive Patterns, and Breast Cancer Risk
- Gender, Fertility, and Intrahousehold Dynamics and Resilience in the Senegalese Peanut Production Chain
- Social Environment and Inflammation in Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias in Captive Rhesus Macaques
- The Climate–Food–Urbanization Nexus and the Precursors of Instability in Africa
- Racism, Social Relations, and Economic Destinations in Mexico
- The Effect of NAFTA on Mexico’s Wage Gap
- The Economics of Reducing Food Losses in India
- Lifespan, Body Mass, and Cancer Among Mammals
- Mechanisms Linking Microchimerism and Maternal Reproductive Health
- Social Vulnerability Indexes and the Importance of Wealth Across Global Contexts
- Forest Concessions and Eco Certifications in the Peruvian Amazon
- The China Trade Shock and the Gender Wage Gap in India
- Hunter–Gatherer Sociospatial Complexity and the Evolution of Language

Research to Policy

- Kate Taylor’s research on abortion and women’s future socioeconomic attainment, published in the November 2024 issue of *American Sociological Review*, engages with abortion policy and economic impact.
- Stuart Sweeney is currently supporting the U.S. Agency for International Development’s investment strategies, by evaluating gender empowerment measures of the Gender Action Learning System. The overall goal is to increase agricultural output, income, and nutrition in a way that supports gender equity.
- Heather Royer published a paper on the health impacts of obstetric unit closures in the United States in July 2024, which garnered the attention of policy makers. Counter to conventional wisdom, although women may have to travel further to the hospital, they seem to get higher quality care.
- Alan Murray is currently working with the Santa Barbara County Fire Marshal to demonstrate levels of compliance with fire hydrant access. These data support city and ordinance planning as the city undergoes demographic change.
- Alan Murray presented at the Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council’s Wildfire Evacuation and Survival Workshop in May 2024. The council used this information to create policies to provide the community with knowledge to make critical decisions in real life wildfire evacuations.

In the News

- “[‘Maternity Ward Closures’ Tradeoffs](#),” *Axios*, C Owens, September 13, 2024.
- “[‘Deep in the Amazon Rainforest Lives a Community Whose Hearts Age More Slowly](#),” *BBC News Mundo*, A Millán Valencia, August 17, 2024.
- “[‘Drought-Related Water Pollution Disproportionately Affects California Latino Communities: Study](#),” *The Hill*, S Udasin, August 8, 2024.
- “[‘A Stranger to Oneself: The Mystery of Fetal Microchimerism](#),” *The Scientist*, H Thomasy, July 22, 2024.
- “[‘Tens of Thousands of Residents Moved Out of San Diego County Last Year—Almost Double the Number a Year Earlier](#),” *San Diego Union-Tribune*, L Weisberg, March 14, 2024.

Funding Sources

- Binational Science Foundation
- California Policy Lab
- Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
- John Templeton Foundation
- The Leakey Foundation National Cancer Institute
- National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
- National Institute on Aging
- National Institute on Drug Abuse
- National Science Foundation
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