



# Center on Race and Social Problems

School of Social Work

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UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

Annual Report  
2005-06



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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<b>From the Director</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Background</b> .....	<b>2</b>
Mission	
Goals	
<b>Activities and Functions</b> .....	<b>2</b>
Areas of Focus	
Research	
Service	
Education	
Academic Advisory Committee	
<b>Research</b> .....	<b>4</b>
Areas of Focus and Research Advisory Panels	
<b>Externally Funded Projects</b> .....	<b>4</b>
New in 2005-2006	
Ongoing in 2005-2006	
<b>Internally Funded Projects</b> .....	<b>7</b>
Pilot Projects	
Other Internally Funded Projects	
Projects in Development	
<b>Publications</b> .....	<b>13</b>
Special Journal Issue	
Journal Articles	
<b>Service</b> .....	<b>14</b>
Lecture Series	
Summer Institutes	
Documentary Screenings	
<b>Education</b> .....	<b>16</b>
Mentoring	
Summer Course	
Student Paper Award	
<b>Faculty and Staff</b> .....	<b>17</b>



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Larry E. Davis, PhD, Editor  
Ralph Bangs, PhD, Associate Editor  
Michael Newman, Administrative Assistant

Center on Race and Social Problems  
School of Social Work  
University of Pittsburgh  
2001 Cathedral of Learning  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260  
412-624-7382  
crsp@pitt.edu  
**crsp.pitt.edu**

## From the Director

As the Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP) enters its fifth year, the need for its existence remains evident. Both the reality and importance of color in America became blatantly apparent by the Hurricane Katrina crisis. Yet there are many who truly believe that color and race no longer matter in our society—the crisis we all witnessed in New Orleans says otherwise. The problems poor people of color experienced in Louisiana and Mississippi were not by design racist. However, what became clear is that the problems that people of color experienced as a result of this storm were caused by a legacy of racism and sustained by race-based structural and institutional inequities. As do most Americans, we find these observations disturbing, yet they also further commit us to our goal of making America a more just and fair society.



This yearly report highlights the accomplishments of the Center. I am pleased to say that we have much to celebrate. It was a good year, filled with hard work as we continued our mission to conduct research, mentor emerging scholars, and disseminate knowledge via our writing, lectures, and seminars.

First and foremost, we want to thank the University of Pittsburgh for providing us with funding to support the Center. We were initially funded for three years, but now thanks to Provost James V. Maher, we have the ongoing support we need to carry on with our mission. I want to personally thank the provost for his sustained support of the Center. Clearly, had it not been for his belief in the value of a center which addressed the important issues surrounding race there would be no Center. It is, of course, still up to us in the Center to find funding for our research projects and educational efforts. But we now have the opportunity to do so without also having to immediately and simultaneously seek funding for our operating costs.

We also want to thank the law firms of Buchanan Ingersoll and Rooney PC and Reed Smith LLC for their continuing support of our fall and spring lecture series. Many prestigious law firms would be hesitant to assist a center such as CRSP in its efforts to pursue racial insight, harmony, and justice. In contrast, these firms have been unwavering in their support of our efforts to bring forth a more racially fair, equitable, and just society. We wholeheartedly thank them.

Moreover, the lectures have been inspirational. They have greatly assisted the Center in fulfilling a major goal: to provide a place where scholars, students, and members of the community can gather together to discuss and better understand America's race-related social problems. Each month, multiracial and multidisciplinary groups of men and women gather together to discuss issues of race and economics, education, mental health, families, intergroup relations, and criminal justice.

Finally, our research efforts continue to support our mission. Externally funded projects are: examining minority contracts, evaluating social services to jail inmates and their families, determining ways to improve the retention rates of minority students, and studying community-based treatment of older methadone clients. Three new pilot projects were also funded by the Center this year. They examine race and youth reentry after juvenile justice placement, incarcerated youth, and volunteerism and subsequent health among the elderly.

The work of the Center on Race and Social Problems is sorely needed and there remains much to be done. We take on this challenging work thankful for the support of our colleagues and friends in the University and in the larger Pittsburgh community.

Larry E. Davis  
Donald M. Henderson Professor  
Dean, School of Social Work  
Director, Center on Race and Social Problems

# BACKGROUND

## Mission

*“The problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the color line.”*  
-WEB DuBois, 1903

Although progress has been made since these words were spoken more than a hundred years ago, America’s race-related problems remain.

Race and ethnicity matter in virtually all aspects of our society and are likely to matter more as our society becomes even more diverse. Presently, persons of color make up 33 percent of the U.S. population. By 2050 they will make up 50 percent. This shift will have a profound effect on the social, psychological, and economic lives of all members of our society.

The mission of the Center on Race and Social Problems is to conduct applied social science research on race, ethnicity, and color and their influence on the quality of life for all Americans.

The University of Pittsburgh established the Center in 2002 to help lead America further along the path to social justice by conducting research, mentoring emerging scholars, and disseminating knowledge. The Center is interdisciplinary in its approach, multiracial in its focus, and the only race-related center to be housed in a school of social work.

## Goals

The goals of the Center are to:

**Foster high quality, multidisciplinary research on racial issues.** CRSP aims to achieve this goal by developing new knowledge and gaining substantial local and national funding for research.

**Mentor scholars who focus on race-related research.** CRSP aims to accomplish this goal by providing students, postdoctoral fellows, faculty, and other scholars with guidance and support in project design, proposal development and presentation, data gathering and analysis, and publishing.

**Disseminate race-related knowledge and information to the academic and the larger Pittsburgh community.** CRSP aims to accomplish this goal by providing talks, forums, conferences, lectures, summer institutes, and courses.



## Activities And Functions

### Areas of Focus

The Center focuses on race-related social problems in the following six areas:

- Economic Disparities
- Educational Disparities
- Interracial Group Relations
- Mental Health
- Youth, Families, and the Elderly
- Criminal Justice

Aligning itself with the mission of the University of Pittsburgh, the Center is engaged in the following activities and functions:

## Research

Executing a high-quality, multidisciplinary applied research program is at the core of the Center’s mission. Faculty who work with the Center are encouraged to focus on developing realistic and achievable solutions to the topics they address.

Faculty members affiliated with the Center are organized into groups based on the previously listed six areas of focus. These groups, called Research Advisory Panels (RAPs), bring together faculty members with similar interests to work individually or in groups to develop new research initiatives.

Addressing race-related problems requires a wide range of expertise. The Center establishes and maintains relationships with interested faculty from across the University and provides these social scientists with an



**Drs. Larry Davis, Ruth McRoy, Robert Hill, and Carol Spigner, Race and Child Welfare Summer Institute**

identity and a location for research and training on racial topics. The Center aids university researchers in developing and obtaining external funding for their projects. Finally, the Center strives to become a national resource for race-related social science information for both academics and the general public, and it serves as a collection site for questionnaires, instruments, and relevant research resources.

## Service

With focus on, but not limited to, the Pittsburgh region, the Center on Race and Social Problems serves the informational needs of the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. It provides the community with both data and technical assistance, conducts special studies on current issues, and disseminates research findings. Interested citizens can attend the Center's seminars, lectures, and conferences to gather information or engage in dialogue on race-related issues. They are also encouraged to go to our website for up-to-date newsletters, papers, books, conferences, summer institutes, and course offerings.

## Education

Anyone interested in race-related issues has a variety of opportunities to get involved with the Center's research. The Center educates, trains, and mentors scholars from the undergraduate to the postdoctoral level. A position on a research project affords individuals the opportunity to gain not only valuable skills and experience, but also funding for their education. The Center also offers graduate courses on race and related social problems.

## Academic Advisory Committee

The Center is guided by an Academic Advisory Committee of Experts from across disciplines at the University of Pittsburgh and elsewhere. The committee is chaired by Edmund Ricci, Director of the Institute for Evaluation Science in Community Health in the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public Health. Other members from the University of Pittsburgh are:

- Kathy Blee, Department of Sociology
- Charlotte Brown, Department of Psychiatry
- Willa Doswell, School of Nursing
- Audrey Murrell, Graduate School of Business
- Janet Schofield, Department of Psychology and Learning Research and Development Center
- Richard Schulz, University Center for Social and Urban Research
- Stephen Thomas, Graduate School of School Public Health
- Lu-in Wang, School of Law
- Hide Yamatani, School of Social Work

Members from outside the University of Pittsburgh are:

- Alfred Blumstein, Carnegie Mellon University School of Public Policy and Management
- Joe Feagin, Texas A&M University Department of Sociology
- Patricia Gurin, University of Michigan Program on Intergroup Relations
- James Jackson, University of Michigan Institute for Social Research
- Ruth McRoy, University of Texas Center for Social Work Research
- Michael Sherraden, Washington University School of Social Work
- Robert Taylor, University of Michigan School of Social Work



## Areas of Focus and Research Advisory Panels

The Center provides social scientists with both an identity and a location for research and training on racial topics, and aids researchers in developing and obtaining external funding for their projects. Faculty associated with the Center conduct basic and applied studies, quantitative and qualitative data collection, and primary and secondary data analysis.

Faculty members affiliated with the Center are organized into groups based on the Center's six areas of focus. These Research Advisory Panels (RAPs) bring together faculty members with similar interests to work individually or in groups to develop new research initiatives.

The chairs of the RAP groups in 2005-2006 were:

- Economic Disparities: Ralph Bangs, CRSP
- Educational Disparities: Ralph Bangs, CRSP
- Interracial Group Relations: Janet Schofield, Department of Psychology and Learning Research and Development Center
- Mental Health: Christina Newhill, School of Social Work
- Youth, Families, and the Elderly: Willa Doswell, School of Nursing
- Criminal Justice and Substance Abuse: Hide Yamatani, School of Social Work

## Externally Funded Projects

### New in 2005-2006

Ralph Bangs and Audrey Murrell, *A National Study of Minority and Women Business Contracting*. June 1, 2006 – May 31, 2008. Funded by the Fulfilling the Dream Fund, created by the Ford Foundation and other foundations.

This two-year project studies contracting with local governments by minority- and women-owned business enterprises (M/WBEs). The main goals of the project are to (1) stop actions by government officials that exclude qualified M/WBEs from primary contracts; and (2) get local governments to adopt and implement

affirmative action policies and practices that will increase prime contracts with these firms. The project will achieve these goals by:

- Producing research that documents discriminatory practices and lack of M/WBE participation in prime contract awards; and
- Engaging local government officials and community and legal leaders in helping to change local government practices and methods.

The project focuses on central city, county, and school district governments in Boston and Chicago. It builds on two earlier CRSP-funded pilot studies conducted in Pittsburgh in 2004 and 2005 that revealed low minority shares of local government contract awards, lack of bidding by qualified minority firms, and discriminatory local government practices.

John M. Wallace, Jr., *Congregations Helping to Unite and Revitalize Congregations Holistically (CHURCH) Project: The Impact of Crime on Clergy and Congregations*. May 1, 2006 – January 31, 2007. Funded by a grant from the Louisville Institute to Dr. Wallace.

The broad goals of the CHURCH project are to (1) increase knowledge about how the social ecology in which religious institutions are nested influences how they carry out their missions and (2) elucidate the challenges and opportunities that clergy face as they seek to lead congregations in high crime and physically and socially disordered communities. The project's specific aims are to:

1. Document empirically the nature and extent of criminal activity in selected communities;
2. Examine the nature of programs and ministries that inner-city congregations offer in response to crime in the community;
3. Explore the extent to which crime and its consequences relate to congregational change in programs, policies and/or practices; and
4. Ascertain the impact of crime on clergies' attitudes, perceptions and ministry experiences.

### Ongoing in 2005-2006

Ralph Bangs, Larry E. Davis, Hide Yamatani, *Improving High School and Post-High School Outcomes for African American Youth in Allegheny County*. July 2003 – November 2005. Funded by the Heinz Endowments.

The project had three parts: (1) a summary of records on student progress through high school; (2) phone interviews with high school graduates about post high school education and employment; and (3) a description of effective programs for improving African American high school achievement and transition to postsecondary education. Reports on all three parts were completed in fall 2005 and were presented to the staff of the Heinz Endowments.

Daniel Rosen, Sara Goodkind, Lindsey Smith, Latika Davis-Jones, *Photovoice: A Community Based Project to Involve Older Adult Methadone Clients in the Decisions that Affect Their Lives*. May 2005 – August 2006. Funded by the Staunton Farm Foundation.

This collaborative project between University of Pittsburgh researchers and staff at Tadiso Inc. (a methadone clinic on Pittsburgh's North Side) utilized the methodology of photovoice – a process by which people can identify, represent, and enhance their community through a specific photographic technique. Its primary objectives were to (1) empower African American Tadiso methadone clients over the age of fifty to record and reflect on their lives, (2) increase collective knowledge about the health and social status of older African American methadone clients, and (3) engage policymakers, treatment staff at Tadiso, and the broader society in health and community issues that are of the greatest concern and greatest amount of pride to the clients. Photovoice relies on both the visual image and accompanying stories to furnish evidence and to promote an effective, participatory means of sharing expertise in order to create healthful public policy.



**Dr. Luke Bergmann, from Oregon Health and Science University, at "Race, Crime, and Communities," the center's second summer institute**

During the fall of 2005, ten older adult African American methadone clients from Tadiso met for eight consecutive weeks to take photographs of various topics relevant to their lives. Participants completed an initial training session that introduced them to the concepts and techniques of photovoice and to the technical aspects of using a camera. In subsequent weeks, participants agreed on specific themes and took photographs that

focused on these. The photos were then used to guide group discussions. The overall goal of the project was to identify the service needs of this vulnerable population. Participants identified caring for others, poverty, physical health, and transportation as some of the critical issues they were facing as they became older. A photo exhibit with accompanying narratives was presented in the spring of 2006 as an in-service for the Tadiso staff. A public showing of the photographs is being scheduled for the coming year.

Janet Schofield, Rochelle Woods, and Leslie Hausmann, *Increasing Institutional Identification of College Students as a Means of Improving Retention*. September 2004 – September 2007. Funded by the Spencer Foundation, the Sloan Foundation, and the University of Pittsburgh Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies.

Retention of college students, especially African American students, is a major concern in the U.S. This study tests the idea that increasing students' sense of belonging to their university will increase their intended and actual retention at that university. It also explores the impact of a wide variety of other variables.

All African American (N=287) freshmen at a large predominantly White university were invited to participate in the first wave of a 3-wave survey and 62% did so. A similar number of their White peers (N=297) were randomly selected to participate and 76% did so. All these students were invited to participate in two later waves of the survey. Most of both groups (over 90%) did so.

## EXTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

All participating students received surveys that included questions that measured different variables of interest (e.g., sense of belonging, perceived campus racial climate, satisfaction with the university, study habits, intentions regarding their continued enrollment at the university, etc.) at the beginning, middle, and end of their freshman year. In addition, one third of these students were randomly assigned to a condition designed to enhance their sense of belonging to the university. Others were randomly assigned to one of two control conditions in equal numbers. With students' permission, university records were used to gather information on each participant's enrollment status at the end of his/her freshman and sophomore years as well as on additional background variables likely to influence retention, such as SAT scores.

An extensive set of MMC (multilevel model for change, a kind of hierarchical linear modeling) analyses were conducted to test the contention that sense of belonging is related to students' intentions to persist. These analyses led to the conclusion that sense of belonging does predict intentions to persist and that it can be influenced by interventions such as the one used here. Additional analyses are being conducted.

John M. Wallace, Jr. *Monitoring the Future: Drug Use and Lifestyles of American Youth*. Dr. Wallace is a co-investigator on this project with Lloyd Johnston, Jerald Bachman, Patrick O'Malley and John Schulenberg at the University of Michigan. August 1, 2002–July 31, 2007. Funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Monitoring the Future is an ongoing epidemiological research and reporting project that began in 1975 and has become one of the nation's principal sources of reliable information on trends in drug use among adolescents and young adults. This research study has three broad and complementary aims: (1) to monitor drug use and potential explanatory factors among American secondary school students, college students, other young adults,

and selected age groups beyond young adulthood; (2) to distinguish which of three fundamentally different kinds of change—maturational, historical, and/or cohort—are occurring for various types of drug use, including the use of tobacco and alcohol; and (3) to study the causes, the consequences, and the maturational patterns associated with these different types of change in drug use. Dr. Wallace's specific research focuses on racial/

ethnic and gender differences in the epidemiology of adolescent substance use and on the role of religiosity as a protective factor against the use of alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs.

John M. Wallace, Jr. *The Skillman Foundation A Call to Service Faith-Based Initiative Cluster Evaluation*. April 1, 2002 — March 31, 2007. Funded by the Skillman Foundation.

The goal of this project is to increase the capacity of faith-based organizations to collaboratively design, implement and evaluate non-school hour programs for children in Detroit. The purpose of the evaluation is fourfold:

1. To enable the Skillman Foundation to assess the effectiveness of its programmatic approach toward faith-based service delivery;
2. To assist the organizations that the Foundation funds as they seek to improve their programs and steward the Foundation's resources;
3. To increase the capacity of the organizations to use their evaluation findings to improve their services, and
4. To promote shared learning among the key evaluation stakeholders.



President and founder of Gwen's Girls and former Pittsburgh Police Commander Gwen Elliott at the center's spring 2006 speaker series



Hide Yamatani, Ralph Bangs, Larry E. Davis, Aaron Mann, and Lambert Maguire, *Allegheny County Jail Collaborative Evaluation Research: Follow-up Study of 300 Inmates*. July 2003 – December 2006. Funded by the Human Services Integration Fund.

In 1997, the Allegheny County Bureau of Corrections formed a collaborative task force with various social service organizations to effectively return less dangerous offenders back to communities. The collaborative was organized to form partnerships and share resources to assist former incarcerated individuals with a variety of necessary human services. However, the collaborative's capacity to generate desirable benefits to incarcerated individuals and community residents became a leading question. In response, Dr. Yamatani, with the consultative assistance of the project's Co-PIs R. Bangs, L. Davis, A. Mann, and L. Maguire and an advisory committee, designed a unique process and outcome-based evaluation study.

The major evaluative components of the project are:

1. Service processes and collaboration practice;
2. Service needs of inmates;
3. Intermediary achievement among former inmates, e.g., job training, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, employment, housing, etc.;
4. Ultimate outcomes among former inmates, e.g., post-release criminal behavior and recidivism; and
5. Cost savings as a result of reducing repeat jail entry

As of August 2006, the following have been completed:

1. Ethics and scientific integrity reviews and approvals by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Programs, the University's Institutional Review Board, and a federal audit;
2. Development of the measurement instruments used in face-to-face inmate and post-release interviews, approximately 500 questions each;
3. Post-release interviews with more than 300 recent inmates; and
4. Analysis of inmate profile and service needs data (n=3,370.)

The researchers have also begun comparing jail reentry data from periods prior to the collaborative (1994 to 1996) to periods after the collaborative (2003 to 2005.) They have examined the records of approximately 67,000 inmates.

Future steps in this project will be to:

1. Complete the examination of historical reentry rate data;
2. Conduct a more extensive assessment of inmate needs at jail entry;
3. Continue with intermediate and final outcomes assessments of former inmates (at one, six, and 12 months post-release); and
4. Begin an integrated data assessment in collaboration with the Allegheny County Reentry Mapping Project.

## Internally Funded Projects

### Pilot Projects

Each year the Center makes a university-wide announcement requesting proposals for pilot research projects. When evaluating the proposed projects, emphasis is placed on the overall value of the project to the Center's goals, the scientific merit of the research, the likelihood that the work will lead to scholarly publication, and the potential for substantial external funding of subsequent studies.

Three new pilot studies were funded in January 2006.

Sara Goodkind, Jeffrey Shook, Michael Vaughn, and Latika Davis, *Youth Reentry Experiences from Juvenile Justice Placement: A Qualitative Pilot Study Exploring Race, Gender, and Service Needs*.

Youth exiting justice system confinement are experiencing two simultaneous transitions – from placement to the community and from childhood to adulthood. This dual transition makes the challenge of reentry arguably more difficult for young people than for their adult counterparts. Further, juveniles constitute a substantial proportion of those exiting U.S. justice system placement each year – approximately 100,000 out of 700,000. Youth of color are overrepresented among those in placement, and thus among those exiting placement as well. The disproportionate confinement of African American youth is particularly problematic in Pennsylvania where custody rates of African American youth are ten times those of White youth. Almost two-thirds of youth exiting placement have had a prior juvenile justice placement, and studies suggest that

## INTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

around half of them are likely to return to the juvenile system, or, as they age, show up in the adult system. Beyond tracking rates of recidivism, however, there is very little research on youths' reintegration experiences and virtually none on the effects of race and gender on such experiences. The goals of this pilot study are to learn about juveniles' reentry experiences and develop tools to assess and understand these experiences by:

1. Developing instruments and hypotheses for assessing youths' diverse reentry experiences and post-incarceration outcomes in a broad range of areas, including but not limited to justice system involvement, education, employment, housing, relationships with family and peers, social integration, mental and physical health, substance use, and community-level social processes; and
2. Understanding differential experiences of youth by race and gender through an interactional approach that considers the effects of race and gender simultaneously.

The ultimate goal of this research is to provide information necessary to improve the services and supports available to youth and their communities before, during, and after justice system involvement, and thus to decrease justice system involvement and facilitate positive post-incarceration outcomes.

Fengyan Tang, *Racial Disparities in the Volunteer Experience among Older Adults*.

Older adults are increasingly involved in volunteerism and civic engagement in the United States. Volunteerism promotes public health. However, from a political economy perspective of aging, racial disparities may exist in older adults' volunteer experiences with regard to the amount of time committed, the types of organization and activities, and the perceived benefits of volunteering.

Using a sample of older volunteers in Pittsburgh, this pilot study aims to describe the racial distribution in

volunteer programs that use older adults; examine whether there is a difference in the well-being outcomes associated with volunteering between White and African American older volunteers; and explore whether there is racial difference in the perceived benefits of volunteer experiences and organizational support for volunteer performance.



Fall 2005 speaker series: Dr. Nancy Grote from the School of Social Work

Questions for the Older Volunteer Survey were adapted from previous work by the principal investigator. The PI asked older volunteers about their volunteer experiences in terms of time commitment, activity type, well-being outcomes, perceived importance of organizational facilitation, and demographics. The PI adapted questions for the non-volunteer survey from national surveys including The Health and Retirement Study, The Current Population Survey, and Community Partnerships for Older Adults Survey. The non-volunteer survey asks older adults about their reasons for not volunteering, social activities, and health status.

To survey older volunteers, researchers sought the assistance of volunteer program directors from four volunteer organizations in the City of Pittsburgh. Researchers selected, screened and identified older adult non-volunteers from those who participate in social activities in the senior centers affiliated with the four volunteer organizations, and from those living in high-rise senior housing.

This study involved mail and group-administrated surveys. Data collection began in May 2006 and will be completed in September 2006. One hundred older volunteer and 100 non-volunteer (age 55 and above) responses will be collected. To date, 172 surveys have been received. A \$10 dollar gift card was sent to each participant as a token of appreciation for participating in the study.

Michael Vaughn, Jeffrey Shook, and Sara Goodkind, *Multilevel Characteristics of Incarcerated Youth and the Role of Race*.

Although rates of crime and violence have fallen over the past decade, there has been a significant rise in the number of Americans who are incarcerated, including juveniles. Policy and practice disputes over the disposition of youthful offenders continue unabated. These disputes, however, persist with little empirical information about the characteristics and social circumstances that surround incarcerated youth. Given the racial disparities in incarceration, policy decisions need to confront the role that race plays in this phenomenon. Thus, this study begins to address the chasm between juvenile justice policy and practice and the scientific realities of incarcerated youth. Specific aims of the investigation are to:

1. Describe the patterns of demographic, individual, behavioral (e.g., prior offending, substance use, possession, and distribution of drugs), situational (e.g., differential access to private places), and sociocultural contextual (e.g., perceptions of neighborhood disorder) influences among a sample of incarcerated youth (ages 13-17);
2. Compare racial groups across a range of measures and assess the properties of instruments with regard to their reliability and appropriateness; and
3. Identify distinct characteristics and variables that will facilitate the testing of key hypotheses and inform the direction of future studies.

Pilot study findings will readily yield important data regarding the complexity of problems that afflict incarcerated youth. More specifically, data will (1) identify similarities and differences especially with respect to racial and ethnic groups, (2) begin to determine multi-level factors and cross-level interactions critical for future outcomes, and (3) assess site and instrument feasibility.

Given the relative lack of studies on incarcerated youth, aim one will provide important social and person-level information to serve as a first step in understanding the elemental patterns of the sample. Aim two will provide critical comparative data that will facilitate understanding with regard to racial and ethnic group differences. In addition, aim two will offer the opportunity to replicate and extend previous work with employed measures.

Basic reliability and validity data will be collected in an effort to establish the research utility of these instruments. Aim three will build upon aims one and two by identifying key variables to facilitate hypothesis-testing that will inform current research and larger studies to follow.

These aims will continue the research cycle in this area by constructing empirically testable theory that can guide future research or question existing facts. This represents a unified approach to the study of incarcerated youth - an important conceptual strategy rarely used in studies of any kind. Further, the data collected are necessary to begin developing effective prevention and intervention approaches that

contribute to evidence-based juvenile justice practice and inform policy. As such, study findings will build upon a small yet growing base of information on the many problems that affect incarcerated youth, add new data with respect to race, and inform larger projects to follow. A number of pilot projects started in previous years were under way in 2005-2006:

Ralph Bangs and Audrey J. Murrell, *Increasing Local Government Contracts with African American Firms*.

The purposes of this study were to (1) find out whether qualified and interested African American firms were actually trying to obtain information from local governments on prime contract opportunities and (2) identify barriers that prevent African American firms from obtaining the information and from bidding. In partnership with minority business program directors





## INTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

at two local governments, researchers interviewed 20 African American firms that were qualified for and interested in prime contracts with each of these local governments to find out the strengths of the firms, their past experiences with local government prime contracts, their recent efforts to obtain information on contract opportunities, and what changes in local government practices would be needed for the firms to bid. A report was provided to each of the local governments in fall 2005 and a journal article will be prepared and submitted for publication. The Maurice Falk Fund provided additional funds to support a graduate student working on this project.

Raymond Jones, *Race and Perceptions of Sportsmanship*.

This study uses an aversive racism model to explain differences in the penalties assessed to certain “peripheral” actions by African American versus White athletes. Each participant is presented with a video-based interaction of a simulated game situation using EA Sports’ Madden NFL 2005 video game. The results of the pilot study will be submitted for publication and used to design a larger study to test the effects of racism in sports within a sample of semi-professional sport officiators.

The development of the research stimuli to be used for data collection was completed in July. Based on the proposed methodology, each participant is presented with a randomly selected series of video-based interactions using the video game. While this video game has the capacity to store game events and situations and the ability to keep the details of the event through its in-depth “instant replay” feature, this information had to be captured and converted to DVD format. Then all other aspects of the scenario needed to be made constant across experimental conditions and the DVDs needed to be tested. The research design calls for a total of 240 participants and recruitment and data collection began in mid-September. Data analysis and summary should be completed this year..

Eva Marie Shivers, *Sistahs Who Care: Exploring Multiple Discourses and the Construction of Relationships between African American Child Care Consultants and Teachers*.

Guided by a recent surge in the use of the consultation-training model in many early childhood initiatives throughout the United States, the following research questions were posited:

1. What are the career/education pathways to becoming a child care consultant?
2. To what extent are African American consultants using communication strategies from both the professional world of early childhood education and from their own cultural communities that may or may not be recognized in formal training classes or program planning?
3. Are there any associations between consultant background characteristics (e.g. education, age, pathway to position) and communication styles?
4. What are consultants’ perceptions of themselves as cultural “insiders/outside” in these early care settings, and does their perceived position as “insider” or “outsider” affect the relationships they construct with child care teachers?



Spring 2006 speaker series:  
Dr. Orlando Patterson from Harvard University

This study involved semi-structured interviews with 20 African American female child care consultants who are specialists in the field of early childhood development. Based on preliminary content coding analysis, researchers identified several critical themes in participants’ responses:

- Most of the participants in this sample started as teachers in an early childhood education (ECE) classroom, became directors of their centers, and then started consulting informally before identifying themselves as professional consultants.
- Most of the consultants articulated a preference

## INTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

for being viewed as cultural “insiders,” stating that it helped in relationship-building, which in turn helped in enhancing the quality of the teachers’ work with children.

- The most salient challenge identified by consultants in this sample was “harsh” or “developmentally inappropriate” discipline and behavior management with children.

Next the researchers intend to publish two scholarly articles in peer-reviewed journals and develop a proposal to seek funding for a larger study to analyze the association between consultants’ styles of communication and their effectiveness in enhancing the quality of teachers’ practices with children.

Audrey J. Murrell and David Porter, *Perceptions of Organizational Support, Social Identity, and Reciprocation Warmness: A Study of African American Managers.*

This project focused on beginning to understand the nature of perceived organizational support within a demographic group that has typically been ignored in this area of research through a web-based survey of a sample of African American employees. Former participants in the African American Leadership Institute at the Anderson School at UCLA served as the primary sample for this pilot study. The University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR.) designed and administered the web survey that evaluated measures of perceived support, felt obligation, reciprocation warmness, and experience with discrimination. It also included several outcomes measures (organizational commitment, organizational citizenship, job satisfaction, work alienation.)

To date, researchers have collected 221 responses to the web survey. Data analysis of the responses is underway and a preliminary report of the findings should be ready for dissemination and presentation by in 2006. Additional activities are ongoing to ensure that the study reaches its target of 300 sample respondents. Researchers will submit preliminary findings for possible presentation at the annual meeting of the Academy of Management Association which takes place in Philadelphia in August, 2007. Lastly, a presentation is planned for the end of 2006.

Valire Carr Copeland, *African American Adolescents’ Perceptions of Mental Illness, Treatment, and Services.*

This study will (1) collect data on the perceptions male and female African American adolescents ages 11-17 have of mental health, mental illness, mental health services, mental health treatment, and treatment engagement and (2) determine whether these adolescents perceive mental health and professional treatment to be helpful or effective and whether they perceive effective treatment as having any relationship to the racial, cultural, and economic factors which define their lives. The researcher is in the process of gaining approval for the project from the University’s Institutional Review Board.

Willa Doswell, Jerome Taylor, and Betty Braxter, *Influences of the Conceptualization and Processing of Racial Stereotypes on the Intended Sexual Behavior of African American Early Adolescents.*

The specific aims of this study were to (1) assemble three to five focus groups to obtain descriptive information on the media viewing habits and diets of local inner city Pittsburgh African American male and female adolescents and (2) to conduct preliminary psychometric testing of new instruments examining how media is processed by early teens. To date researchers have conducted one male and two female focus groups with a total sample of 30 participants. Researchers anticipate conducting one last female focus group and have targeted a group of girls to be tested. Each focus group participant has completed the new battery of instruments as part of his/her study participation, and as soon as the final group of girls is collected, the psychometric analyses will begin. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has reissued its RFA on Mass Media Influences on Adolescent Sexual Behavior and researchers plan to submit an R01 application in February 2007. Two manuscripts are under development and await the qualitative analysis of the focus group data, and the psychometric analyses of the quantitative data.

Helen Petracchi and Larry E. Davis, *Educational and Labor Force Participation Implications of Adolescent Fathering for African American Males.*

During the past year, the researchers continued to support a doctoral student while utilizing the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLS-Y) to examine racial identification of respondents from their adolescent

# INTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

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years through middle age (1979 – 2002). Researchers are analyzing whether young fathering affects the educational attainment of African American men. During the coming year, two articles detailing the results of these analyses will be submitted to scientific journals.

## Other Internally Funded Projects

Three projects with internal funding were ongoing in 2005 – 2006.

Charlotte Brown, Valire Carr Copeland, Nancy K. Grote, and Kyaien Conner, *Depression Stigma, Race, and Treatment Seeking Behavior and Attitudes*. Additional funding from the University Center on Social and Urban Research and the Office of the Vice Provost for Research.

This pilot study examines the relationship between stigma and treatment-related behaviors and attitudes in adults with depression. The major focus of this research is to examine the impact of both perceived public stigma and internalized stigma on treatment-related behaviors and attitudes (e.g., current treatment for depression, intention to seek treatment for depression, attitudes toward depression treatment). The analyses will determine the mediating or moderating effects of internalized stigma on the relationship between perceived public stigma and mental health treatment-related behaviors and attitudes. In addition, researchers will examine whether their effects differ by race (African American versus White) and age (<65 versus 65+). This research should refine conceptual understanding of how stigma affects mental service utilization in adults with depression. Researchers also intend to identify modifiable factors that can be the target of clinical and community-based interventions to reduce depression stigma and increase treatment utilization for depression, particularly in African Americans. Data collection is now underway, and a concept paper entitled “The Conceptualization of Stigma: Public Stigma, Internalized Stigma, and Race” is currently under review.

Larry E. Davis, Raphael Engel, Jayashree Mohanty, Kyaien Conner, and Latika Davis-Jones, *Measuring Race and Ethnicity: Inside and Out*.

The goal of this project is to collect and compile the best instruments for measuring intraracial phenomena such as racial self esteem, racial identity, and acculturation and interracial phenomena such as racial prejudice and conflict. Thus far researchers have collected almost 100 of these scales. They have written brief abstract/description of each scale’s purpose, intended audience, prior usage and psychometric properties. Permission to reproduce these scales has been obtained from their respective authors. The project should be completed this academic year.

Larry E. Davis, John Wallace, and Ralph Bangs, *Racial Demographics of Social Problems*.

CRSP is preparing a comprehensive report on racial demographics in the City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, and the Pittsburgh metro area, with comparisons to the nation. Data are being gathered in the following areas: demographics, economic conditions, education disparities, families, youth and elderly, mental health, race relations, and criminal justice. The report is expected to be completed by the end of 2006 and it will be useful to both civic and academic communities.

## Projects in Development

The following projects are in development, with university faculty currently working on proposals to submit to external funders.

Christina Newhill, Edward P. Mulvey, and Shaun Eack, *Substance Use, Emotion Dysregulation, and Violence in Borderline Personality*.

Borderline personality disorder (BPD) is a complex and disabling disorder that presents significant challenges for service delivery in drug and alcohol treatment services, other behavioral health care, and the criminal justice system. One of the central features of BPD is ongoing dysregulation of emotion, particularly negative affect, which can lead to self harming behavior and may be one of the core processes producing an increased risk of violence toward others in those with BPD. Although advances have been made in the treatment of repetitive



self-harm in BPD, little treatment development effort has been directed toward addressing the problem of repetitive violence toward others in individuals with BPD including those who also have substance use problems. Building on their prior work developing a reliable and valid measure of emotion dysregulation, the proposed study lays the groundwork for developing an intervention for reducing repetitive violence toward others in individuals with BPD and substance use problems.

The study will interview 126 individuals with BPD, using structured and semi-structured instruments to assess the constructs of interest. First, researchers will examine whether emotion dysregulation elevates risk for violence and influences two of the most robust established risk markers for future violence—substance use and psychopathy. If supported, this establishes empirical justification for expecting that an intervention targeting emotion dysregulation will have a sizable effect on involvement in violence. Second, researchers will examine the potentially moderating influences of race and gender on the relationship between emotion dysregulation and violence and identify the types of situational contexts that trigger such incidents. This provides guidance about whether specialized interventions for different high risk groups are needed. Finally, researchers will address feasibility issues by soliciting consumer input regarding factors that may enhance or undermine the likelihood of successfully recruiting, engaging, and retaining repetitively violent individuals with BPD and substance use problems in psychosocial treatment. The information gained from this project will be used to support and guide an R21 application.

Christina Newhill, Edward P. Mulvey, Shaun Eack, *Mapping the Trajectory for Violence toward Others in Individuals with Borderline Personality Disorder.*

Although advances have been made in the treatment of repetitive self-harm in borderline personality disorder (BPD), little treatment development effort has been directed toward addressing the problem of repetitive

violence toward others. This project will examine whether emotional dysregulation serves as a mediator for two of the most robust risk markers for future violence, psychopathy and substance use. It will also explore the potentially moderating influences of race, gender, and socioeconomic status on the relationship between emotional dysregulation and violence.

The information gained from this project will be used to support and guide an R21 application to develop and test a culturally competent violence reduction treatment for repetitively violent patients with BPD and substance abuse problems.



**Dr. Richard Schulz, Director of Pitt's University Center for Social and Urban Research, at the center's spring 2006 speaker series**

## Publications

### Special Journal Issue

Papers from center-associated faculty will be published as a special issue of the *Journal of Health and Social Policy*. The special issue focuses on why race still matters and was edited by Ralph Bangs, Ed Ricci, and Larry E. Davis.

The authors, both academics and practitioners, bring diverse perspectives to the topic of why race matters in quality-of-life issues and how it affects and is affected by social policy. This project is motivated by the belief that collecting data and understanding racial and ethnic differences are necessary for all groups to have equal opportunity to fully participate in and benefit from American society.

The articles demonstrate that race matters in a variety of areas. The authors address racial identity, intergroup relations, education, socioeconomic and environment conditions, health and mental health, substance abuse, services for the elderly, and methodological issues relating to race research. A number of populations are featured including preschool children, adolescents, working-age adults, and the elderly as well as African Americans, minorities in general, and females and males. Finally, each article also considers social policy implications.

The articles and authors are:

- Janet Schofield, Lu-in Wang, and Pat Chew, “Culture and Race in Provider-Client Relationships”
- Valire Carr Copeland and James Butler, “Reconceptualizing Access: A Cultural Competence Approach to Improving the Mental Health of African American Women”
- Nancy K. Grote, Sarah E. Bledsoe, Jill Larkin, and Charlotte Brown, “Depression in African American and White Women with Low Incomes: The Role of Chronic Stress”
- Daniel Rosen, Richard M. Tolman, Lynn A. Warner, and Kyaie O. Conner, “Racial Differences in Mental Health Service Utilization among Low-Income Women”
- Christina E. Newhill and Daniel Harris, “African American Consumers’ Perceptions of Racial Disparities in Mental Health Services”
- Catherine G. Greeno, Courtney Colonna-Pydyn, and Martha Shumway, “The Need to Adapt Standardized Outcomes Measures for Community Mental Health”
- Carolyn Carson, “Lessons Learned: The Unintended Consequences of Policy Decisions Affecting Maternity Services for Pittsburgh’s African Americans”
- Ravi K. Sharma, Kathleen A. McGinnis, and Patricia I. Documèt, “Disparities in Health Status and Health-Service Utilization among Hispanic Ethnic Subgroups”
- John M. Wallace, Jorge Delva, Jerald G. Bachman, Patrick M. O’Malley, John E. Schulenberg, Lloyd D. Johnston, and Christopher Stewart, “Race/Ethnicity, Religiosity and Adolescent Alcohol, Cigarette and Marijuana Use”
- Eva Marie Shivers, Kay Sanders, Alison Wishard, and Carollee Howes, “Ways with Children: Examining the Role of Cultural Continuity in Practices and Beliefs about Working with Low-Income Children of Color”
- Ralph Bangs, Audrey Murrell, Monique Constance-Huggins, “Minority Business Bidding For Local Government Contracts: The Complexity of Availability”

## Journal Articles

Goodkind, S., & Miller, D. L. (2006). A widening of the net of social control? “Gender-specific” treatment for young women in the U.S. juvenile justice system. *Journal of Progressive Human Services*, 17(1), 45-70.

Goodkind, S., Ng, I., & Sarri, R. C. (2006). The impact of sexual abuse in the lives of young women involved or at risk of involvement with the juvenile justice system. *Violence Against Women*, 12(5), 456-477.

Jonson-Reid, M., Davis, L., Saunders, J., Williams, T., & Williams, J.H. (2005). Academic self- efficacy among African American youth: implications for school social work practice. *Children & Schools*, 27(1), 5-14.

Wallace, Jr., J.M., Bachman, J.G., O’Malley, P.M., Schulenberg, J.E., & Johnston, L.D. (in press). Religiosity and adolescent substance use: the role of individual and contextual influences. *Social Problems*.

Yamatani, H. (2006). Unveiling patterns of salary inequity: suggested measurement strategy for health care organizations. *Journal of Health and Social Policy*, 21(4), 95-108.

## Service

### Lecture Series

The Center hosts a monthly series of lunchtime lectures during the academic year. These lectures provide an opportunity for faculty, students, and community members to engage in race-related discussions of mutual interest.

CRSP is very happy to have the support of two major Pittsburgh law firms, Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC and Reed Smith LLC. These firms have sponsored the speaker series for three academic years, from September 2004 to April 2007.

The Center thanks these firms for recognizing the importance of race in our society, the necessity of developing real-world solutions to our country’s defining social problem, and the value of sharing knowledge and engaging in dialogue on these issues.

The fall series is sponsored by Buchanan-Ingersoll. In fall 2005 the speakers were:

Dr. Patricia Gurin, University of Michigan Institute for Social Research, “After Grutter and Gratz: Challenges in Using Diversity Educationally.”

Dr. Nancy Grote, University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work, “Overcoming Barriers to Care: Engaging Depressed, Disadvantaged, Minority Women in Evidence-based Treatments.”

Dr. Joe Trotter, Carnegie Mellon University Department of History, “African American Urban History: The Value of Historical Perspectives on Race and Contemporary Social Problems.”

Dr. Margaret Beale Spencer, University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education, “Brown’s Legacy and Lessons for Healthy Children.”

The spring series is sponsored by Reed Smith. In spring 2006 the speakers were:

Dr. Harry J. Holzer, Georgetown University Public Policy Institute, “Employment Trends for Young Black Men: Causes and Policy Implications.”

Ms. Gwen Elliott, Founder and CEO, Gwen’s Girls, Empowering Girls: Gender-Specific Approaches for Productive Futures.”

Dr. Rich Schulz, University of Pittsburgh Center for Social and Urban Research, “Enhancing the Quality of Life of Latino, Black, and White Dementia Caregivers: The REACH II Randomized Controlled Trial.”

Dr. Orlando Patterson, Harvard University Department of Sociology, “Father Absence Among African Americans.”

## Summer Institutes

The Center hosted its first summer institutes in June 2006, one on child welfare and one on criminal justice. Fifty people, the maximum allowed, attended each day-long event.



Fall 2005 speaker series:  
Dr. Margaret Beale Spencer from the  
University of Pennsylvania

“Race and Child Welfare” examined the extent and causes of the over-representation of minority children in various federal, state, local, and private welfare programs. The event was designed to bring together researchers and service providers to collaborate on research, policy changes, or practices that could be undertaken to address the problem.

Our speakers were:

- Ruth McRoy, Center for Social Work Research, University of Texas;
- Robert Hill, Westat Corporation;
- Carol Spigner, School of Social Policy and Practice, University of Pennsylvania;
- Helen Cahalane, School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh;
- Walter Smith, Family Resources of Pennsylvania; and
- Marcia Sturdivant, Department of Human Services, Allegheny County.

The goal of “Race, Crime, and Communities” was also to unite scholars with practitioners, in this case those who deal with crime and its effects—service organizations, funding agencies, community leaders, and law enforcement and corrections officials.

Our speakers were:

- Luke Bergman, Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Oregon Health and Science University;
- George Tita, School of Social Ecology, University of California at Irvine;
- Darnell Hawkins, Department of Criminal Justice, University of Illinois at Chicago;
- Rolf Loeber, Department of Psychiatry, University of Pittsburgh;



- Al Blumstein, School of Public Policy and Management, Carnegie Mellon University.

The group explored how race and crime are related to community drug activity, gangs, juvenile behavior, and social systems overall. They reviewed methods researchers use to study communities, including new state-of-the-art methods that provide better opportunities for collaboration.

## Documentary Screenings

The Center hosted public screenings and discussions of two documentary films this year. In November, we screened *The House We Live In*, part three of *Race: The Power of an Illusion*, a documentary produced by California Newsreel for PBS. This episode focuses on how our institutions and policies benefit some groups at the expense of others and how the accumulated impact of past discrimination shapes the present. The Maurice Falk Fund supported the event.

In March we showed *The O.J. Verdict*, an installment of PBS's *Frontline* series. This documentary examines the fundamental clash between how Black and White America viewed the criminal justice system when the case arose ten years ago, the role that the media played in the case, and the trial's lasting impact on American perceptions of race, justice, and the criminal justice system.



Dr. Joe Trotter, Carnegie Mellon University, at the center's fall 2005 speaker series

## Education

### Mentoring

The Center employs one full-time postdoctoral fellow. In 2005-2006 our fellow Sara Goodkind worked on female juvenile delinquency. Dr. Goodkind is now an assistant professor in the School of Social Work.

In the past year, more than a dozen graduate and undergraduate students have been employed on center-sponsored research projects. These students have come from the School of Social Work, the School of Education, the School of Arts and Sciences, the Graduate School of Public Health, the College of Business Administration, and the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs.

### Summer Course

In the summer of 2006 the Center sponsored its first graduate course. *Special Topics: Race and Social*

*Problems* was offered through the School of Social Work and was taught by Center Associate Director Ralph Bangs.

### Student Paper Award

In an annual university-wide competition for graduate students of all disciplines, the Center solicits papers addressing contemporary race-related social issues. Students are encouraged to work with faculty to publish the winning papers in appropriate journals.

This year's award of \$500 went to Deborah Conway for her paper "Resilience in Low-Income African American Women Enrolled at a Community College." Ms. Conway is a doctoral student in the Department of Psychology in Education in the School of Education. Her submission was sponsored by School of Education Assistant Professor Eva Marie Shivers.

## Staff

**Larry E. Davis, PhD**  
Director

**Michael Newman**  
Administrative Assistant

**Hide Yamatani, PhD, MBA**  
Associate Dean for Research  
School of Social Work

**Ralph Bangs, PhD**  
Associate Director

**Megan Soltesz**  
Finance and Business Manager School  
of Social Work

## Faculty Associates

**Betty Braxter**  
Nursing

**Gary Koeske**  
Social Work

**Janet Schofield**  
Psychology and Learning Research and  
Development Center

**Charlotte Brown**  
Psychiatry

**Aaron Mann**  
Social Work

**Eva Marie Shivers**  
Education

**Valire Carr Copeland**  
Social Work

**George McClomb**  
Social Work

**Jeffery Shook**  
Social Work

**Willa Doswell**  
Nursing

**Audrey Murrell**  
Business

**Fengyan Tang**  
Social Work

**Sara Goodkind**  
Social Work

**Christian Newhill**  
Social Work

**Jerome Taylor**  
Africana Studies

**Nancy Grote**  
Social Work

**Helen Petracchi**  
Social Work

**Michael Vaughn**  
Social Work

**Ray Jones**  
Business

**David Porter**  
Howard University and UCLA

**John Wallace**  
Social Work

**Daniel Rosen**  
Social Work

## Research Assistants

**Kyaien Conner**  
Social Work Doctoral Student

**Leila Lucas**  
Graduate School of Public and  
International Affairs Master's Degree  
Student

**Lindsey Smith**  
Social Work Doctoral Student

**Monique Constance-Huggins, MPIA**

**Matthew Stepnick**  
Business Administration Bachelor's  
Degree Student

**Latika Davis-Jones**  
Social Work Doctoral Student

**Jayashree Mohanty**  
Social Work Doctoral Student

**Haleigh Hanlon**  
Social Work Doctoral Student

**Kobie Pruitt**  
Business Administration Bachelor's  
Degree Student

**Jennifer Thornton**  
Arts and Sciences Bachelor's Degree  
Student

**Cynthia McCrae**  
Social Work Doctoral Student

**Jervonne Singletary**  
Public and International Affairs  
Graduate Student

**Misha Zorich, MSW, MDiv**



## Center on Race and Social Problems

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Undergraduate Studies



## University of Pittsburgh

*School of Social Work  
Center on Race and Social Problems  
2001 Cathedral of Learning  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260*

*412-624-7382  
Fax: 412-624-1984  
E-mail: [crsp@pitt.edu](mailto:crsp@pitt.edu)*

**[www.crsp.pitt.edu](http://www.crsp.pitt.edu)**