

News from the CFS RDRC

Meet our JSIT 2023 Cohort, Register for RDRC Annual Meeting, Spotlight on COVID-19 Research

Fifth Annual Junior Scholar Intensive Training (JSIT) to take place June 12 - June 16 at UW-Madison

CFS will welcome [fifteen scholars](#) to participate in the fifth annual JSIT summer workshop from June 12th-16th in Madison, WI. This collaborative program with Howard University's Center on Race and Wealth (CRW) and the CFS RDRC, is a week-long intensive training program that prepares early-stage faculty and scholars to develop research ideas and proposals on social insurance, retirement, and disability.

To supplement its core agenda of research presentations, workshops, and mentoring, the CFS RDRC ends the summer with a small grant funding competition that will culminate in a research paper and brief.

Meet the 2023 JSIT Cohort:

Top row: Somalis Chy, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Amber Davis, Johns Hopkins University; Hira Farooqi, Center for Global Development; Isabel Garcia Valdivia, Brown University; Hyun Ju Kim, University of New Hampshire

Middle row: Stephan Lefebvre, Bucknell University; Kejda Llana, University of Delaware; Maretta McDonald, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Ravaris Moore, New York University; Magalie Nicolas, Barry University

Bottom row: Charlotte O'Herron, Harvard University; Matthew Pesner, University of Michigan; Meredith Slopen, Columbia University; Eman Tadros, Governors State University; Lauren Toppenberg, Columbia University



For more information on JSIT and the 2023 scholars, mentors, and speakers, visit: <https://cfsrdrc.wisc.edu/2023-jsit-summer-workshop.html>

Spotlight on Research: The Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Economic Security



Nicole Hair
University of South
Carolina



Carly Urban
Montana State
University

COVID-19 Health Disparities and the Economic Security of Families with Children

The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted low-income families and racial and ethnic minority communities. This study uses new data from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID) to contribute to the understanding of the causes and consequences of COVID-19 health disparities. Focusing on children and their caregivers, the study compares groups of families with disparate COVID-19 experiences. The study considers the structural and social inequities that may underlie COVID-19 health disparities and evaluates the impact of a parent or caregiver's COVID-19-related illness, hospitalization, or disability on measures of economic security. The study explores the extent to which the pandemic has exacerbated preexisting disparities in underserved communities.

The study findings may inform predictions about the need for SSDI and SSI benefits, including children's benefits when COVID-19 illness leads to a parent or caregiver's disability as well as changes in the distribution of SSDI or SSI applications across racial/ethnic and socioeconomic groups.



Stephanie Moulton
The Ohio State
University



Meta Brown
The Ohio State
University



Donald Haurin
The Ohio State
University



Caezilia Loibl
The Ohio State
University

How Does the Death of a Partner During the COVID-19 Pandemic Affect the Economic Security of the Surviving Older Adult?

The death of a partner has long been recognized as a significant threat to the economic security of older adults. Older adults experienced a significant increase in unexpected deaths during the COVID-19 pandemic. This study asks: How does the death of a partner during the COVID-19 pandemic affect the economic security of the surviving older adult? Does survivor financial vulnerability differ from pre-pandemic periods? This study uses a unique panel dataset for 2015-2021, combining individual-level administrative data on quarterly labor force participation and earnings and detailed financial information from credit report data, for older adults (age 50 and older) in Ohio. The credit data include death indicators each quarter. The study uses co-residence at the same address and a predictive algorithm based on age, gender, and credit characteristics to match individuals in the dataset to probable partners within a household. The study examines how pre-pandemic indicators of financial vulnerability associate with the death of a partner during COVID-19. The study estimates the relationship between the death of a partner and labor force and credit outcomes and explores heterogeneous effects for particularly vulnerable groups of survivors—including women and those with weaker financial histories who are more likely dependent on Social Security survivors' benefits. This study is among the first to provide a detailed analysis of the economic security of older adults who experienced the death of a partner during COVID-19.

Registration Open for RDRC Annual Meeting

Join The Michigan Retirement and Disability Research Center (MRDRC) virtually for the [25th Annual Retirement and Disability Research Consortium](#), Thursday, August 3, and Friday, August 4. The half-day programs feature the latest SSA-funded research on benefit receipt, SSDI and SSI application trends, retirement and disability disparities, and more, presented by researchers from MRDRC, the National Bureau of Economic Research, Boston College, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. View the complete program [here](#). The event is free, but registration is required:

Webinars, Podcasts, & Publications

Webinars:

- Register for our August 29th, noon CT, webinar titled **Family Proximity and Co-Residence in Retirement**. Researchers Meg Bea and Somalis Chy will present on their work from [WI22-03](#). They will discuss how residential changes to live near or with family coincide with retirement, and how this varies across demographic groups, as well as how these associations correspond with early OASI claiming. [Register for the webinar here.](#)
- A recording of our April webinar titled **The Child Tax Credit Expansion's Impact on Income and Poverty** highlights the work of [WI22-05](#) and [WI23-03](#), which looks at the topic of child tax credits and other child-driven income support programs and social security beneficiaries. A recording is available [here.](#)
- A recording of our March webinar titled **Health, Health Insurance and Financial Security** explores the research of [WI22-12](#), with researchers Katie Fitzpatrick, Associate Professor & MPP Program Director at Biden School of Public Policy & Administration at the University of Delaware, and Keisha Solomon, Research Scientist in the Department of Economics at Howard University. Webinar discussants include Kabir Dasgupta, Senior Economist at the Federal Reserve, and Caroline Gomez-Tom, Outreach Specialist with Covering Wisconsin. A recording is available [here.](#)



Podcasts:

- Episode 1: **Interview with Dr. Cliff Robb**: Enhancing Trust in the Social Security Administration and E-Government Among People Targeted by Fraud | Spring 2023
- Episode 2: **Interview with Jill Hoiting**: I Don't Like all of Those Fees—Pragmatism about Financial Services Among Low-Income Parents | Spring 2023
- Episode 3: **Interview with Dr. Lisa Klein Vogel and Dr. Molly Costanzo** All in the Family: Parents of Children with Disabilities and Retirement | Spring 2023
- Episode 4 Coming Soon: Interview with Stephanie Moulton: The COVID-19 Pandemic and Older Adults' Employment and Economic Security: Insights from Earnings and Credit Panel Data | Summer 2023

New and Archived Publications:

- [CFS RDRC Working Papers](#)
- [CFS RDRC Research Briefs](#)

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