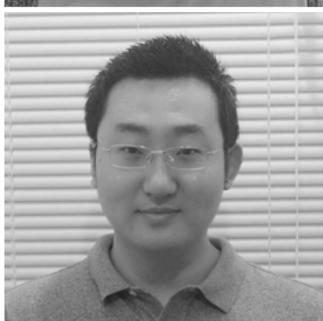


New Faces at the PSTC

Fall 2018



Faculty



Kevin Escudero

Assistant Professor of American Studies and Ethnic Studies

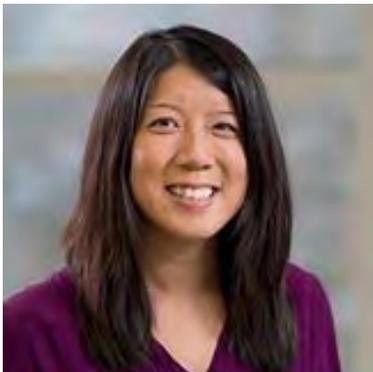
Kevin's research and teaching interests include immigration and refugee studies; comparative racial and ethnic studies; social movements; law and society; and critical human geography.



Alison Field

Professor and Chair of Epidemiology

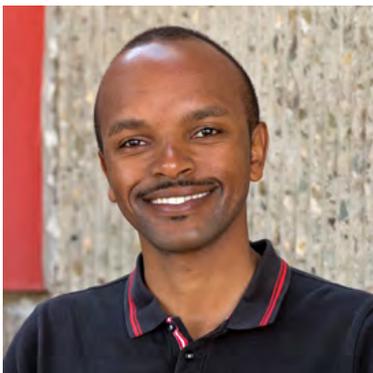
Alison's research focuses on determining the optimal classification for eating disorders and identifying the modifiable causes, correlates, consequences, and course of overweight and eating disorders among children, adolescents, and adult women.



Caroline Kuo

Assistant Professor (Research), School of Public Health

Caroline is a behavioral and social scientist. Her research program focuses on addressing disparities in mental health, sexual and reproductive health, violence, HIV, and other infectious diseases among vulnerable populations in low-resource communities. Caroline enjoys the many blue waterways of Rhode Island, is learning to play flamenco guitar, and is marveling in the magic of being a new parent.



Kevin Mwenda

S4 Associate Director | Assistant Professor of Population Studies (Research)

Kevin's research addresses changing spatial patterns of health outcomes such as infectious disease and undernutrition among vulnerable populations around the world, and how these patterns are influenced by various environmental, climatic, and socioeconomic factors. He loves playing basketball, soccer, hiking, traveling, and listening to international music.



Emily Rauscher

Assistant Professor of Sociology

Emily's research seeks to understand intergenerational inequality with a focus on education and health and identifying policies that could increase equality of opportunity. Her personal time is devoted to keeping up with two energetic children, ages 7 and 3. Before children, she swam and played water polo competitively. Now she enjoys hiking and going to the beach with her family.



Andrew Schrank

Professor of Sociology and International and Public Affairs

Andrew's current interests include the migration, training, and protection of unskilled workers in the U.S. and Latin America; access to essential medicines in the developing world; and the training and migration of health professionals in the twentieth century and beyond. He is interested in popular music and politics.



Neil Thakral

Assistant Professor of Economics

Neil has done research on the optimal allocation of public housing. He proposes a new mechanism for allocating public housing that improves the matching between tenants and housing units by allowing households to trade off their preferences for different units and waiting times. He shows that implementing this in practice would lead to substantial welfare gains.

Postdoctoral Trainee



Maria Steenland

Postdoctoral Fellow in Population Studies

Maria's research uses econometric methods to evaluate maternal and reproductive health programs and policies. Her previous research has tested the impact of policy changes in patient out-of-pocket costs, provider payments, and service organization on health care provision and utilization. Maria likes great food, running outdoors, yoga, listening to Fresh Air, and hanging out with her three nieces.

Predoctoral Trainees



Hilary Barker

Sociology

Hilary's research interests are family and work, gender and health, and inequality. She is currently researching paid parental leave policies and class divides in parental investments. Her hobbies are creative writing, reading, hiking, and skiing.



Courtney Choy

Public Health

Courtney's research focuses on cardiometabolic non-communicable diseases, early childhood development, and Pacific Islander populations. She grew up in Hawaii and loves to knit, paddleboard, and cook with her crockpot.



Megan Collier

Sociology

Megan's work is concerned with how neighborhoods, families, and different forms of capital intersect within the American education system. Her primary focus is on achievement gaps in urban areas and how organizations and institutions perpetuate or mitigate those gaps. She loves to travel, ski, play tennis, be near water, and take long walks with her rescue pup.



Teresa DeAtley

Public Health

Tess's research interests center broadly around domestic and international tobacco control policy, vulnerable populations, tobacco regulatory science, and advocacy. She enjoys running half marathons, hot vinyasa yoga, skiing, volunteering with BRYTE, and reading classics.



Pablo Garriga

Economics

Pablo studies how education policy impacts individual's outcomes and its potential externalities on others in the community. He also evaluates which policies generate the largest impact in terms of aggregate welfare for society. He was born in La Plata, Argentina, and enjoys cooking, swimming, running, and cycling.



Shanelle Haile

Sociology

Shanelle's research focuses on African diaspora organizations and their increasing role in U.S.-Africa policy. Her personal interests include film, photography, and Afro-literary fiction.



Madison Paulk

Anthropology

Madison's research focuses on the intimate labor practices of forced migrants in Durban, South Africa. More specifically, she is interested in the convergence of work, belonging, and gender in urban space. Her personal interests include reading (Afro-literary fiction), kayaking, micro-pubs, and museums.



Aditi Singh

Economics

Aditi's research interests include analyzing different kinds of inequality, such as those in income and education, and looking at their implications for economic growth. She enjoys reading, traveling, poetry, and sketching cartoons.



Valeria Zurla

Economics

Valeria's research investigates the labor market effects and welfare consequences of Earned Income Tax Credits in Italy. She also studies the effects of migration flows on local housing markets and how neighborhoods affect outcomes of asylum seekers; the link between regional health systems and workers' productivity; and the effects of terrorist attacks on political and voting outcomes. She was born in Milan and loves traveling, trying new foods, swimming, and most of all, alpine skiing.

Staff



Kelley Alison Smith

PSTC | Project Coordinator

Kelley's research is broadly concerned with sexual and reproductive health, particularly that of adolescents and sexual minorities. Her current responsibilities at the PSTC involve coordinating projects for PSTC Director Susan Short. Kelley lives in Lincoln with her wife and daughter in a house built ca 1740. She is a creative nonfiction writer and an avid amateur naturalist. She also loves old cemeteries, global textiles, singing harmonies, and thrift stores.



Carolina Velasco

PSTC | Office Aide

Carolina is from Ecuador and is pursuing the 5th Year Master's Program in Biostatistics, having completed her concentrations in Statistics and Public Health. She is passionate about global health, health disparities, and data analysis, and has grant and research experience in Mali, India, South Africa, and Brazil. She enjoys running, singing, and teaching.

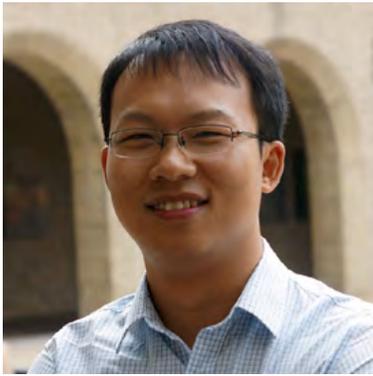


Guixing Wei

S4 | Senior GIS and Spatial Analyst

Guixing is a senior GIS scientist specializing in applying GIS techniques in understanding public health, sociology, and environmental phenomena. He enjoys playing basketball and table tennis, meeting people, and eating ramen and hotpot.

Visitors



Jing Liu

Annenberg Institute | Postdoctoral Fellow

Jing's work concerns the causes and consequences of student engagement and behavior, classroom interaction, school reform, and computational methods. He enjoys making new friends, trying food from all over the world, learning about health science especially related to biochemistry, and teaching his one-year-old daughter new skills every day.



Susanna Loeb

Annenberg Institute | Director

Susanna works on issues of education policy with the goal of equalizing and improving educational opportunities for students. She and her husband, Steve, have three children and love the outdoors and spending time with friends, old and new.



Kathleen Lynch

Annenberg Institute | Postdoctoral Research Associate

Kathleen's research examines policies and practices aimed at reducing educational inequality, particularly in mathematics. In her spare time she enjoys finding new restaurants, traveling, and strong coffee.



Domingo Morel

Annenberg Institute | Visiting Scholar

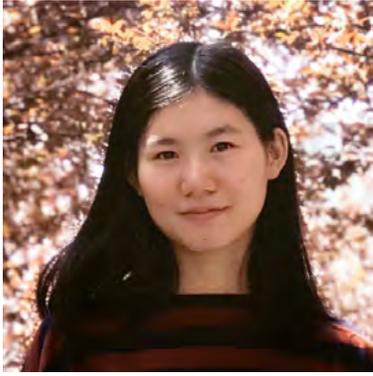
Domingo's research explores the ways state policies help expand or diminish political inequality among historically marginalized populations. He is an assistant professor of Political Science at Rutgers University and enjoys coaching his daughters' soccer teams and listening to podcasts.



Gail Mummert

Professor-Researcher, Center for Anthropological Studies,
El Colegio de Michoacán, Mexico

Gail's current research deals with the quotidian encounters of members of transnational families from different continents with agents of various Nation-states. She enjoys swimming, baking, and playing Scrabble and the piano. In her own mixed status and transnational family, she is learning to be a grandmother to three lively youngsters.



Weijia Zhang

PhD candidate, Population Research Institute,
East China Normal University

Weijia's research focuses on population migration and urbanization, and her current research explores new trends, new characters, and new problems of migrants in metropolises. She loves food, traveling, listening to classical music, reading interesting novels, and watching animation.

The following individuals will also be joining the PSTC this fall:

Hiep Ho

Annenberg Institute | Head of IT

Doris Holzberger

Annenberg Institute | Doctoral Student

Léon Marbach

Annenberg Institute | Visiting Scholar

Project Team

Alaina Angellis

Alaina is the Research Project Coordinator for the Equality of Opportunity Project's administrative support team. She spends her free time making music, feeding friends, and collecting esoteric facts for trivia night.

