

2015-2016 Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr. Social Justice Awards

The Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr., Social Justice Award inspires student scholarship in social justice and inequality. Created in honor of Dean Emeritus Frank Gilliam, this award recognizes his enduring legacy by ensuring that students will continue to address these crucial societal issues. This award was made possible by the generous contributions of the school's board of advisors, UCLA faculty, staff and alumni.

EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF COLLEGE-AGED FOSTER YOUTH IN RIVERSIDE, CA

Marylou Adriatico, MSW 2016

This project aims to assess the needs of Riverside's foster youth throughout the college application process. Master's student Marlyou Adriatico will attempt to answer the question: How can organizations and agencies improve service delivery and further educational equity for student's in need? With some of the lowest rates of higher education attainment, foster youth are more likely than their peers to experience poverty, homelessness, or incarceration. The goal of this project is to provide information and recommendations to increase awareness and improve services for foster youth living in Riverside and its surrounding areas.

MENTAL HEALTH UTILIZATION AMONG MEXICAN-AMERICANS

Joanna L. Barreras, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Social Welfare

This study examines patterns of mental health service utilization among Mexican Americans living in California. Studies show that Latinos experience external and internal barriers which limit and prevent mental health care use, including lack of health insurance, discrimination, cost of services, and associated stigma. By investigating the factors that impact utilization, this study aims to improve community outreach, agency policies, and access to services. Using data from the 2014 California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), Joanna will attempt to answer questions about individual attitudes and beliefs around accessing mental health care within the Mexican-American community.

CENTRALIZING DIVERSITY AND EQUITY PROGRAMMING AT UCLA

Elizabeth Calixtro, MPP 2016; Kevin Medina, MSW 2016; Nisha Parekh, J.D., MPP 2017

In collaboration with UCLA's Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, project members will explore current best practices around diversity and equity programming at UCLA. This project will evaluate cross-campus efforts to remove barriers for traditionally disadvantaged groups and create equitable opportunities for all. In a final policy paper team members will provide actionable recommendations for a sustainable infrastructure that reduces duplication efforts, uses funding efficiently, and shares common goals.

HOUSING INSECURITY AMONG YOUNG ADULTS OF THE MILLENNIAL GENERATION

Susanna Curry, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Social Welfare

The purpose of this research project is to uncover connections between childhood adversity and adult housing outcomes on a national scale. Doctoral student Susanna Curry will study whether social supports in the transition to adulthood moderate the relationship between childhood instability and adult housing instability. Across the U.S., risk factors for children include foster-care involvement, homelessness, and physical or emotional abuse. Using a nationally representative sample of young adults' housing challenges, this study will factor in demographic characteristics like race/ethnicity and control for parental income.

FOSTERING AND NEGOTIATING RESILIENCE AMONG FORMERLY INCARCERATED YOUTH

Charles H. Lea, III, PhD Candidate, Department of Social Welfare

This study will examine how community-based organizations foster healthy reintegration of formerly incarcerated youth. A specific focus will be placed on African American men ages 17-24 as they are at high risk for recidivism, unstable employment, substance abuse, and contact with the adult criminal justice system. How can organizations better facilitate positive educational and developmental outcomes through programming and vocational training? What are the specific factors that cultivate resilience and assist in successful reintegration? Charles Lea will partner with New Earth Arts and Leadership Center in Culver City, CA to help answer these questions.

BEHIND THE MODEL MINORITY: AN EXAMINATION OF ETHNICITY, PLACE AND JUVENILE ARRESTS AMONG ASIAN YOUTH IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY NEIGHBORHOODS

Christina Tam, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Social Welfare

This study examines the relationship between ethnic neighborhoods and types of juvenile arrests for five Asian subgroups in Los Angeles County. Addressing social justice and racial inequity, this project will bring to light certain injustices that Asian Pacific Islander (API) groups face given their status as the "model minority". Because a perception exists that this racial category is free of social problems, higher rates of API arrests are often overlooked. Christina Tam will investigate to what extent certain ethnic neighborhoods are associated with API juvenile arrests and how charges differ among ethnic groups.