

News from the CFS RDRC

Inaugural SURF Program Launches; JSIT Returns to In-Person



First SURF Program Debuts with a Successful Summer Workshop

In collaboration with the Economics Department at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), the Social Insurance Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF)

program launched with their first cohort of ten undergraduate students from underrepresented populations in May and June of 2022. This competitive, four-week, in-person program provided selected students with an introduction to social insurance; the policies surrounding the social safety net; research investigating these, and their impact on economically vulnerable populations.

"SURF was a great success in our inaugural year," said Erik Hembre, SURF Program Coordinator and Assistant Professor of Economics at UIC, "Over our intensive 4-week period, our ten fellows had a great time learning about the US social safety net through class discussions and lectures, interacting with leading scholars in the area, and learning valuable research skills. Students learned about the history and details of transfer programs, independently researched important policy topics, visited the Chicago Federal Reserve, learned STATA coding skills, and discussed the book "Trapped in America's Safety Net" -- including a virtual visit with author Andrea Louise Campbell. It was a transformative learning experience for both the fellows and the program leaders."

Following the four-week fellowship, SURF fellows began internships with current [CFS RDRC researchers](#) funded to investigate topics of social insurance. The internship provides an opportunity for participants to gain hands-on experience in contributing to active research projects. "I absolutely loved my SURF experience," expressed SURF fellow Jackie Lopez, "The lectures, debates, Stata training and visits from various professionals were extremely engaging and informative. My

favorite part though, was having toured the Federal Reserve building. I only wish I would have attended this program sooner because my interest in the topic of economics has substantially increased."

For more information on SURF, visit: <https://surf.econ.uic.edu/>

Year 4 of Annual Junior Scholars Intensive Training Sees Success

The week-long JSIT summer workshop returned to an in-person format on June 13th-17th in Madison, WI following two years of conducting the program online. This collaborative project between Howard University's Center on Race and Wealth and the CFS RDRC, has developed into a highly acclaimed training program that successfully prepares early stage faculty and scholars to develop research ideas and proposals on topics of 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 2022 JSIT Cohort:

- Mina Addo, University of Pennsylvania
- Bindiya Byambasuren, American University
- Frank Emeni, Howard University
- Callie Freitag, University of Washington
- Vikas Giwai, University of Wisconsin- Madison
- Hope Harvey, Harvard University
- Samsun Naher, University of New Mexico
- Eric Olsen, Ohio State University
- Cesia Sanchez, University of California- Berkeley
- Cody Vaughn, University of Wisconsin- La Crosse

For more information on JSIT and the 2022 Mentors and Speakers, visit:

<https://cfs.wisc.edu/2022/06/14/cfs-rdrc-jsit-2022-meet-the-scholars/>



Spotlight on Research: Social Security Interactions with Child Tax Credit Expansion



Jevay Grooms
Howard University
JSIT Cohort 2019



Madelaine
L'Esperance
University of Alabama
JSIT Cohort 2019

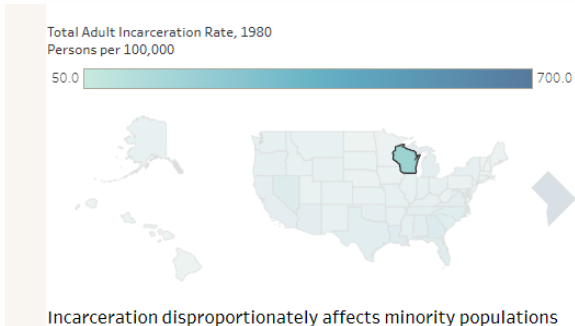


Tim Smeeding
UW-Madison

117-2) temporarily expanded the Child Tax Credit (CTC), increasing the number of eligible children and payment amount with advance monthly payments from July to December 2021. Many Social Security program participants were newly CTC eligible and tax filers with eligible children receiving a maximum CTC amount of \$3600 per child per year. Using Current Population Survey and Survey of Income and Program Participation data, this study simulates CTC eligibility and effects on income and poverty among SSI child beneficiaries and OASDI or SSI adult beneficiaries with children (hereafter “beneficiaries”) following the CTC expansion. The project identifies which program rules are most influential in increasing eligibility and how CTC program effects differ by demographic subgroups and geography. The findings from this study offer evidence on the interactions between CTC and Social Security Administration (SSA) administered programs.

For more information on the project and to view the report and brief, due to be posted in October, visit: <https://cfsrdrc.wisc.edu/project/wi22-05>

New Resources & Opportunities



- Newly released *Visualizing Vulnerability* interactive dashboard: Mapping Incarceration Rates by State: The Disproportionate Impact on Minority Populations

To explore the dashboard, visit: <https://cfsrdrc.wisc.edu/mapping-incarceration-rates-by-state>

- Household Finance Research Seminar, held weekly on Thursdays from

3:45-4:45pm. To view the Fall 2022 Speaker Calendar, visit:
<https://cfs.wisc.edu/2020/08/03/researchseminar/>

- **Hilldale Lecture Series:** Olivia Mitchell, PhD, International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans Professor, Professor of Insurance & Risk Mgmt. and Business Economics & Public Policy presents New Developments in Retirement Risk Management. September 28, 2022, 4:30 PM, Reception to follow lecture. More information [HERE](#).

Welcome to our New CFS Colleague: Jonathon Ferguson!

Jonathon joins CFS as a Financial Capability Learning Resource Specialist. He will be assisting in the outreach, dissemination, and resource development of CFS RDRC research. Jonathon has over 15 years of higher education experience and has held positions at North Central College, Northern Illinois University, Cornell University, and UW-Madison prior to his new role. Most recently, he worked in financial wellness for a growing, start-up company.



Jonathon was born and raised on the southside of Chicago and later relocated to Schaumburg IL, where he completed an associate's degree at William Rainey Harper College. Afterwards, he earned a bachelor's degree (History) and master's degree (Adult & Higher Education) at Northern Illinois University. He moved to Madison in 2014 and enjoys Madison's bike paths, coffee shops, and kayaking on Lake Mendota and Monona.

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Center for Financial Security
University of Wisconsin-Madison
1300 Linden Drive
Madison, WI 53706

(608) 890-0229
cfs@mailplus.wisc.edu
cfsrdrc.wisc.edu
Contact us today!