



VANDERBILT  
UNIVERSITY



CENTER FOR  
**Research** ON  
**Inequality**  
AND **Health**



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24



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# DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

Welcome to the first annual report of the Vanderbilt Center for Research on Inequality and Health! I am so happy to be able to share stories, photos, facts, and figures that highlight the enormous success of our inaugural year. Inside this report you'll see and hear about the exciting research, teaching, and community engagement activities that our center faculty, staff, and student affiliates embarked upon in 2023-24.

Our new center is a unique collaboration between the Vanderbilt College of Arts & Science and the School of Nursing. Working across disciplines and schools in a collaborative fashion is a hallmark of Vanderbilt University's approach to solving the world's greatest challenges, and the center for Research on Inequality and Health is a wonderful example of this ethos.

The center is made possible through an exceptionally generous investment by the office of Vanderbilt Provost C. Cybele Raver as part of her signature Discovery Vanderbilt Initiative, which ignites scholarly activity and impact across the varied schools and colleges at Vanderbilt University. Trained as a developmental psychologist, Provost Raver is keenly aware of the importance of cross-disciplinary exploration in the areas of inequality and health. We at the Vanderbilt Center for Research on Inequality and Health are proud to propel this vision forward through hiring exceptional new faculty members across a range of departments, investing in research projects that address major social problems, training and mentoring our students to achieve their full potential, and working with the broader community to advance our understanding of health-related inequalities so that we can better design programs to address them.

Whether you are a faculty affiliate, a potential student, a friend of Vanderbilt University, or a future partner, let me thank you for taking the time to learn more about our new center. On behalf of our Associate Directors Tara McKay (Associate Professor, MHS) and Shelagh Mulvaney (Associate Professor, Nursing) and all of the center's faculty and student/trainee affiliates, I invite you to join us in advancing the shared goals of Vanderbilt University and the center for Research on Inequality and Health!

Sincerely,



Kitt Carpenter

Director, Vanderbilt Center for Research on Inequality and Health  
E. Bronson Ingram University Distinguished Professor of Economics and Health Policy





Center affiliates meet with visiting lecturer Valerie Jenness: Katherine Wen, Rachel Donnelly, Laura Carpenter, Kirsty Clark, Lucie Kalousova, Kitt Carpenter, Tara McKay, and Gilbert Gonzales

## MISSION

The **Vanderbilt Center for Research on Inequality and Health** aims to unite, generate, and amplify scholarship at Vanderbilt on the causes and consequences of health inequalities. A key part of **Discovery Vanderbilt**, the Center builds on Vanderbilt's trans-institutional strengths in three areas of focused excellence: 1) LGBTQ+ policies and LGBTQ+ population health (through the TIPS-supported Vanderbilt LGBTQ+ Policy Lab); 2) implications of gun violence, mass incarceration, and racial inequality for public health; and 3) interrelationships among economic, social, and political inequality and health. The center endeavors to extend Vanderbilt's national and international prominence in each of these core areas while also investing in discovery and learning that integrates and intersects across these areas. The center builds on considerable strengths across multiple units within the College of Arts & Science (especially sociology, MHS, economics, and public policy studies) and forges new collaborations with Nursing – the center's secondary partner – as well as catalyzes existing strengths in Peabody, Divinity, and Law.

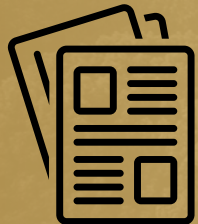
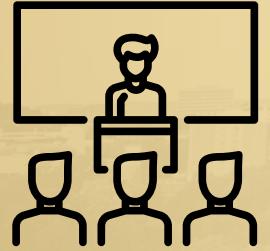


# OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



Over **\$16 Million** in active external grants

**76** faculty and student/trainee affiliates representing **27** distinct departments and units



**183** peer-reviewed publications by center affiliates

**12** seminars hosted, featuring world-leading experts in their fields

**7** Vanderbilt Investigators received grant feedback from mini mock review panels



Over **2,000** square feet of renovated, dedicated office space in Buttrick Hall

**ONE** shared vision to propel Vanderbilt's research impact in Inequality and Health



# BUILDING OUR INTELLECTUAL COMMUNITY



Center affiliates provide feedback to Rachel Donnelly-Mason on her grant proposal

Every Wednesday at noon, affiliates from the center meet to advance our intellectual community through three main types of events: 1) grantwriting studios; 2) professional development sessions; and 3) research seminars.

The **grantwriting studios** help us accomplish a key goal of increasing the quantity and quality of external funding proposals to federal agencies like the NIH as well as private foundations. In each studio a different faculty affiliate shares a key part of their grant application (e.g., Specific Aims or Reply to Reviewers) for other center affiliates to review. We then meet as a group and give feedback and advice on scientific issues, grantpersonship strategy, institutional details, and related grant components. As several center affiliates have extensive experience serving on grant review panels for NIH, NSF, and related agencies, these studios serve as realistic 'mock reviews'. The center affiliates have indicated that their proposals are stronger because of the trans-disciplinary feedback provided.





Liane Moneta-Koehler, Assistant Provost for Research Integrity & Compliance, gives a professional development session on changes to the NIH Data Management and Sharing Policy

The center also offered various **professional development** sessions as part of its weekly meetings. Topics in 2023-24 included: Grants 101: The Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How to Get Grants; Grants Administration at Vanderbilt University; Selling the Significance of Your Grant; and The New NIH Data Management and Sharing Policy. These sessions help center affiliates understand the external funding landscape for social scientists interested in inequality and health and keep us on top of the latest rules and regulations at NIH and other federal agencies.

On the next pages you will see the center's outstanding speakers in its **research seminar series**. Each of these individuals is a world-class expert in their research area and came to Vanderbilt for a day of individual meetings with students and faculty who have shared interests and a noon seminar which included a presentation of one of their current research projects followed by robust discussion and Q&A. The seminar series hosted sociologists, economists, physician scientists, nursing scholars, and public officials from institutions such as Penn, Columbia, Chicago, Maryland, and others. Their research addressed topics such as racial segregation and health, cash transfers and child abuse, Medicaid and Medicare payment policy, physical and mental health effects of gun violence, and interventions to support sexual minority youth and families.

# SEMINAR HIGHLIGHTS

## FALL 2023



**SEPTEMBER 6**

**Valerie Jeness**

*LGBTQ+ People's Experiences with Law Enforcement*

**University of California Irvine**



**OCTOBER 4**

**Kathleen Cagney**

*The Promise of Activity Space Approaches: Implications for Research on Context*

**University of Michigan**



**OCTOBER 18**

**Therese Richmond**

*Shots Fired: The Disparate Impact of Firearm Violence*

**University of Pennsylvania**



**NOVEMBER 1**

**Nicholas Smith**

*Residential Segregation, Social Networks, and Black-White Disparities in Health*

**University of Maryland**



**NOVEMBER 15**

**Lindsey Bullinger**

*Effects of Unconditional Cash Transfers on Child Abuse and Neglect*

**Georgia Tech**



**NOVEMBER 29**

**Tamara Konetzka**

*Medicaid Home- and Community-Based Services and Medicare Post-Acute Care*

**The University of Chicago**





# SPRING 2024



**FEBRUARY 14**

**Linda Waite**

*Bringing the Social World into Our Understanding of Health*

**The University of Chicago**



**MARCH 6**

**Jo Phelan**

*Imposterization in Academia, Psychological Distress, and Class Reproduction*

**Columbia University**



**APRIL 3**

**Kristen Schilt**

*How Does Sexual Identity Impact the Aging Process? A Comparison Across Two Nationally Representative Samples*

**The University of Chicago**



**APRIL 24**

**Dennis Flores**

*Centering Family-Based Queer Adolescent Health Interventions in the Age of Anti-LGBTQ Legislation in the Deep South*

**University of Pennsylvania**



**FEBRUARY 21**

**Avery Anderson**

*Looking Upstream to Investigate Suicide Disparities Among Sexual and Gender Minority Young People*

**University of Colorado**



**MARCH 27**

**Jonathan Metz**

*Discussion of: What We've Become: Living and Dying in a Country of Arms*

**Vanderbilt University**



**APRIL 10**

**Admiral Rachel Levine**

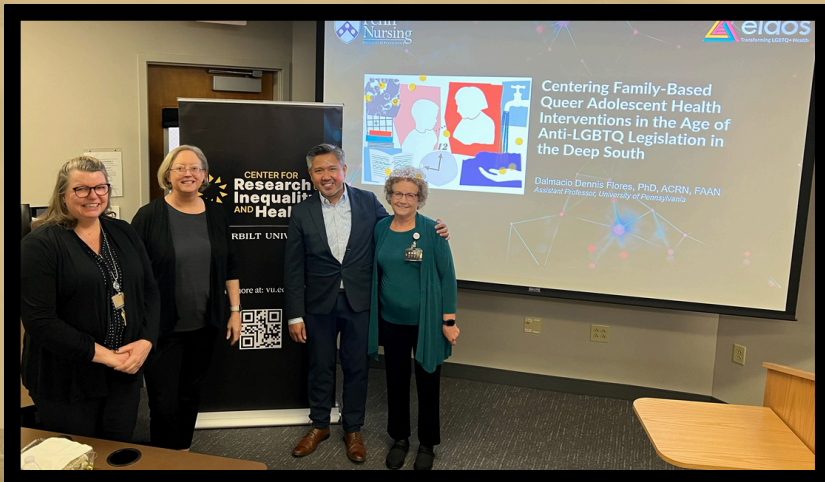
**Assistant Secretary for Health**

*Transgender Health and Policy in Tennessee, the South, and the United States*



# SCHOOL OF NURSING COLLABORATION

The Vanderbilt Center for Research on Inequality and Health is a one-of-a-kind collaboration between Vanderbilt's College of Arts & Science and School of Nursing. While the center has faculty affiliates across many other units (especially within Peabody and Medicine), the center's focus is on catalyzing cross-disciplinary collaboration amongst sociologists, economists, epidemiologists, health policy scholars, nursing scientists, and other researchers within A&S and Nursing. Our goal is to build on existing strengths and forge new partnerships and areas of excellence by strategically investing in research projects that span disciplinary boundaries. This partnership is concretely reflected in the appointment of Dr. Shelagh Mulvaney, Associate Professor of Nursing, as an Associate Director of the center. Dr. Mulvaney provides intellectual leadership to the center as the primary liaison to the School of Nursing.



**Seminar with Dennis Flores (Assistant Professor, Penn Nursing) at the Godchaux Nursing Annex**



**Mix and Match Event**



**Seminar with Avery Anderson (Assistant Professor, University of Colorado College of Nursing) at the Godchaux Nursing Annex**





**Welcome Back Event at Tee Line Curling**



**Mix and Match Event**

The first year of the center has included a lot of getting to know each other and learning about exciting research being done in both schools, with many areas of substantive overlap. This has been accomplished through explicit 'mixing and matching' research sessions between Nursing and A&S scholars, opportunities for social engagement (we curled together!), and intentionally hosting external seminars in both the center's home in Buttrick Hall and in the School of Nursing. The center has also explicitly prioritized inviting external speakers whose primary home is in Nursing to share their research with the center (e.g., Dennis Flores from the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing and Avery Anderson from University of Colorado College of Nursing). As the center enters its second full year, we look forward to more ways to meaningfully engage scholars studying inequality and health across A&S, Nursing, Peabody, Medicine, and Vanderbilt's other schools and colleges.

# LAUNCH EVENT: DR. STEPHEN RUSSELL



(From left to right)  
Tara McKay, Shelagh Mulvaney, Chancellor Daniel Diermeier, Provost C. Cybele Raver, Dr. Stephen Russell, and Kitt Carpenter.

Photo Credit: John Amis

The Vanderbilt Center for Research on Inequality and Health was pleased to kick off its official launch with an evening lecture by noted child and adolescent development scholar Dr. Stephen Russell on Monday, September 18, 2023 in Sarratt Cinema. This event was attended by Chancellor Diermeier and included introductory remarks kicking off the center by Provost Raver. Dr. Russell's lecture was attended by over 100 faculty, staff, students, and community members from across campus, Nashville, and the broader region.

Dr. Russell is the Priscilla Pond Flawn Regents Professor in Child Development, Chair of the Department of Human Development and Family Sciences, and the Amy Johnson McLaughlin Director of the School of Social Ecology at the University of Texas at Austin. He is a world leading expert on adolescent development, especially sexuality development and parent-youth relationships. Dr. Russell is a past-President of the Society for Research on Adolescence and was an elected board member of the National Council on Family Relations.

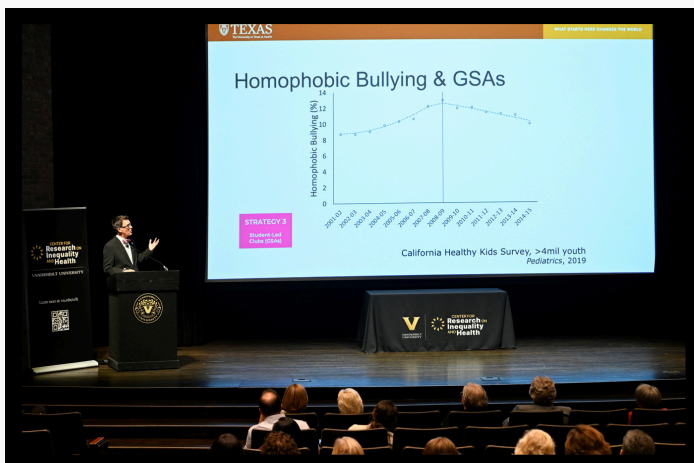






Photo Credit: John Amis

His keynote address was titled “Understanding LGBTQ+ Youth in Times of Change: Research & Personal History”. It was a wide-ranging examination of many topics he has researched including the role of changing attitudes on LGBTQ+ rights at inducing youths to come out earlier in more recent years, and the developmental collision that may ensue - the idea of a tension between fundamental developmental processes common to all adolescents and individual development processes for LGBTQ+ young people, with intrapersonal and interpersonal implications. Dr. Russell’s talk also reviewed research on policy responses to youth bullying, another research area where he has contributed significant knowledge.

Audience members had the opportunity to ask Dr. Russell varied questions about what his work means in the current sociopolitical environment, leading to many interesting discussions. A reception followed where the conversations continued with food and drink. It was a wonderful way to highlight a core research theme of the center and unite our community for a productive center launch.

# ADMIRAL RACHEL LEVINE LECTURE



Provost C. Cybele Raver with Admiral Rachel Levine



Photo Credit: Emily April Allen Photography

Another highlight of the first year at the Center for Research on Inequality and Health was our visit with Admiral Rachel Levine on April 10, 2024. Admiral Levine is the Assistant Secretary for Health at the United States Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Admiral Levine is trained as a pediatrician and was a Professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry at the Penn State College of Medicine, Pennsylvania's Physician General, and Pennsylvania's Secretary of Health prior to joining DHHS. In these roles she has worked on topics including the opioid crisis, eating disorders, vaccination, and LGBTQ+ health. She is the first openly transgender individual to be confirmed by the United States Senate.

Admiral Levine visited the center as part of a multi-day visit to meet with public health leaders in Nashville. Her lecture covered topics relating to transgender health, health policy, and the role of scientific evidence. The event also included remarks by Provost C. Cybele Raver that highlighted how Admiral Levine's visit embodied the goals of the Center for Research on Inequality and Health and Discovery Vanderbilt. In addition to center faculty and student affiliates, the event drew attendees from across campus - especially the medical school - as well as by community leaders such as Metro Nashville Councilwoman Olivia Hill and Tennessee State Representative Justin Jones. Attendees had the opportunity to ask Admiral Levine a range of important questions about how scientists and policy leaders can advance shared goals of improving population health.



# EXTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

**Affiliates of the Vanderbilt Center for Research on Inequality and Health were very successful in securing new external awards in 2023-24.**

**Below are some key highlights.**



**Leanne Boehm** (Nursing)

\$828K R01 grant from the National Institute on Aging

Title: Telehealth-Enhanced Patient-Oriented Recovery Trajectory After Intensive Care

**Lucie Kalousova** (MHS and Sociology)

\$600K grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Title: Informing Systems-Level Policy Solutions to Reduce Racial Disparities in the Quality of End-of-Life Experiences

**Tara McKay** (MHS)

\$700K R61 grant from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities

Title: A Multimethod Assessment of the Clinical, Economic & Social Impact of the Rejection of Federal HIV Prevention Funds in Tennessee

**Shelagh Mulvaney** (Nursing)

\$600K grant from the American Diabetes Association

Title: Improving Psychosocial Care in Diabetes: Pathways to Action

**Julie Ward** (MHS)

\$570K grant from the National Collaborative on Gun Violence Research

Title: Preventing unintended consequences: A mixed methods analysis of county-level ERPO use and incidence of injurious shootings by police in Florida 2015-2021

# NEW FACULTY



Center affiliates meet with visiting speaker Jo Phelan: then list faculty: Kirsty Clark, Lucie Kalousova, Lijun Song, Kitt Carpenter, Bruce Link (UC Riverside), Bianca Manago, Lawrence Stacey, Julie Ward, Rachel Donnelly, Holly McCammon, and Krista Mehari.

One of the most exciting parts of the Vanderbilt Center for Research on Inequality and Health is that Provost Raver's Discovery Vanderbilt initiative allows us to recruit outstanding faculty members whose research aligns with the mission of the center. We have been extraordinarily successful in doing so, landing our top choices in each of the three focal areas of the center and placed in their respective tenure-home departments. Below, you can learn more about these outstanding new faculty: Lawrence Stacey (Ph.D. from Ohio State), new Assistant Professor of Sociology with a focus in LGBTQ+ health; Julie Ward (Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins), new Assistant Professor of MHS with a focus on gun violence and health; and Reem Zaiour (Ph.D. from UC Davis), new Assistant Professor of Economics with a focus on social and economic inequality.





**Assistant Professor**  
**Department of Sociology**

**Lawrence Stacey** is a sociologist whose research interests revolve around gender, sexuality, health, and inequality. His three lines of research investigate inequality by sexuality and across the gender spectrum, with a focus on sexual and gender minority health; how parents shape children's gender and sexuality and why parents tend to be so invested in children's normative gender expressions and heterosexuality; and the consequences of early life adversity for health, parenting, and relationships later in the life course. Professor Stacey teaches undergraduate courses in gender and sexuality. He received his Ph.D. in Sociology from The Ohio State University in 2023.

**Julie Ward** examines entrenched and emerging threats to community safety, with an emphasis on the role of firearms, public policy and other structural determinants, and the experiences and perspectives of violence-affected groups whose views remain underrepresented in policy research. Her primary research goal is to understand and prevent violence and violence-related trauma in community spaces, with a translational goal of informing the development of more equitable public health and safety systems. Professor Ward teaches an undergraduate degree course titled Foundations of Population Health. She received her Ph.D. in Health and Public Policy from Johns Hopkins University in 2023.



**Assistant Professor**  
**Department of Medicine, Health & Society**

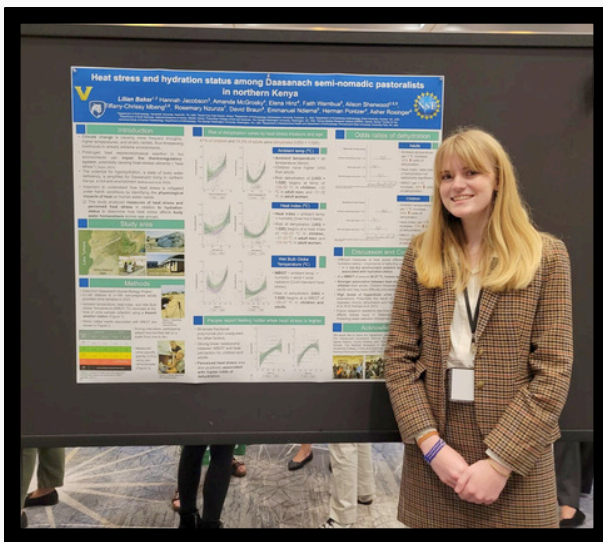


**Assistant Professor**  
**Department of Economics**

**Reem Zaiour** is a labor economist whose research primarily addresses questions related to immigration and crime. She is particularly interested in the determinants of migrant integration, the effects of violence on communities, and the impact of international migration on labor markets. Professor Zaiour will teach undergraduate course in the Economics of Migration. She received her Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California, Davis in 2024.

# SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

The Vanderbilt Center for Research on Inequality and Health supported numerous students and faculty members through a new Small Grants Program. These small grants had multiple purposes. First, we wanted to support undergraduates and graduate students in being able to present their inequality and health-related research at major conferences. We were pleased to be able to support students in anthropology, political science, economics, MHS, and others. Examples of these outstanding students that the center was able to support are below.



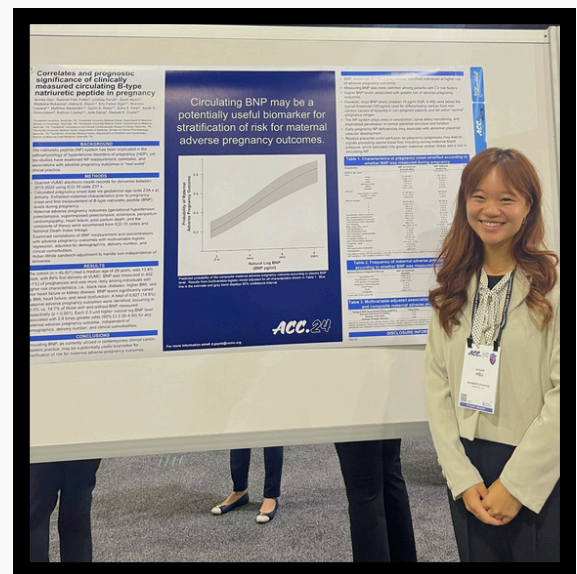
**Lillian Baker (undergraduate) at the Human Biology Association Annual Conference in Los Angeles, CA.**



**Insung Kim (undergraduate) at the Gatlinburg Conference in Kansas City, MO.**



**Jessica Kiser (Economics Ph.D. student) and Analisa Packham (faculty affiliate) at the Economic Demography Workshop at PAA in Columbus, OH.**



**Annika Hsu (undergraduate) at the American College of Cardiology in Atlanta, GA**





# SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

We also opened a competition for larger levels of support available to faculty affiliates of the center. Our first small grants recipient is Panka Bencsik, Assistant Professor of MHS. You can read more about Panka's center-supported research project below. We are excited to continue this small grants program in the coming year!



## **Panka Bencsik**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Medicine, Health & Society

*Project: Calls and Conduct: The Impact of Free Communication on Prison Misconduct*

Collaborators: Nour Abdul-Razzak (University of Chicago), Ashna Arora (University of Chicago), Omair Gill (UC Berkeley)

**Project Summary:** 1 in 2 Americans have a family member who has ever been incarcerated, and at any given time approximately 1.2 million Americans live in prisons. Once incarcerated, keeping in touch with loved ones is one of the primary ways for individuals to maintain their wellbeing. Frequent communication also has the potential to ease individuals' transition back into society once released. However, existing prison communication systems in the U.S. are costly, with one hour of in-prison work earning approximately one minute of call time, on average. Almost 70% of incarcerated workers say that they are not able to afford basic necessities, like phone calls, with their prison wages. Yet, causal evidence on the impact of free and eased communications is absent. More broadly, today, a key feature of existing initiatives to improve re-entry outcomes in the U.S. is that they do not invest in improving living conditions while individuals are incarcerated. This is a missed opportunity, as improved living conditions within prisons have been shown to reduce recidivism in contexts as distinct as Colombia, Italy, and Norway. This project will estimate the effect of free prison communications in Colorado and Iowa on wellbeing and safety in prisons, specifically how free communications changed violent misconduct, non-violent misconduct, and mental health outcomes among the incarcerated.

**For details on current and future small grants competitions at the center, please visit our website: <https://www.vanderbilt.edu/research-inequality-health>.**

# SPACE IMPROVEMENTS

OUR LOCATION: BUTTRICK HALL, 3RD FLOOR



**During Renovation**



**After Renovation**

The Vanderbilt Center for Research on Inequality and Health is pleased to make its home on the 3rd floor of Buttrick Hall in Vanderbilt's historic core. Numerous center faculty have primary offices in this suite, and there is also flex space for administrative assistants; small group meetings and participant interviews; a kitchen; and distinct spaces for undergraduate, graduate student, and postdoctoral researchers and research assistants.

The centerpiece of our physical space is Buttrick 344, which is a flexible conference room/classroom space flooded with natural light that hosts our research seminar series, grantwriting studios, professional development meetings, mix-n-match collaborative activities, and social events such as our Holiday Party and Graduation.



**Center Holiday Party**





**Buttrick 344 set up as boardroom style**



**Buttrick 344 set up as classroom style**

Through the generous Discovery Vanderbilt investment, our physical space underwent a significant expansion and renovation in summer 2023, growing our footprint by about 40 percent and adding many new faculty offices. Our main conference and community room was also greatly expanded; it can now host larger events, and in summer 2024 it will see a major audiovisual upgrade.

The Vanderbilt Center for Research on Inequality and Health on the 3rd floor of Buttrick Hall is a vibrant ecosystem of students, faculty, and staff members working daily to advance research on the causes and consequences of health-related inequalities. We encourage you to stop by for a visit the next time you are in our neighborhood; we would be pleased to show you around the space and welcome you to our community!



**Celebrating graduates who served as research assistants for the Center**

# NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

## FACULTY

Faculty affiliates of the Vanderbilt Center for Research on Inequality and Health had numerous notable achievements in the 2023-24 academic year, including:

- **Panka Bencsik** (MHS) was awarded a Dean's Faculty Fellowship, won the Novartis Prize from the Irish Economic Association for the best health economics paper, and was a program chair for the Crime and Health sessions of the American Society of Health Economists research conference.
- **Leanne Boehm** (Nursing) was recognized with the Veterans Affairs Quality Scholars Rising Star Award, is an Inducted Fellow at the American Academy of Nursing, and earned a Dean's Award for Recognition of Faculty Achievement in Research Endeavors at VUSN.
- **Kitt Carpenter** (Economics) served as President of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management and was inducted into the National Academy of Medicine.
- **Kirsty Clark** (MHS) was named Advocate of the Year by the Office of LGBTQI Life, given annually to "someone who lives their commitment to justice and is a posture for service."
- **Kate Clouse** (Nursing) was named a 2024-25 Southeastern Conference Academic Leadership Development Program Fellow and finished her term as a Vanderbilt University Chancellor Faculty Fellow.
- **Rachel Donnelly-Mason** (Sociology) was awarded a Dean's Faculty Fellowship and was elected Nominations Committee Chair in the Mental Health Section of the American Sociological Association.
- **Gilbert Gonzales** (MHS) was awarded the 2023 Chancellor's Cup for "contributions to undergraduate relationships between students and faculty outside the classroom".
- **Carolyn Heinrich** (Peabody) was awarded the 2024 Vanderbilt University Alexander Heard Distinguished Service Professor Award for scholarship that contributes to the analysis and solution of significant problems of contemporary society and was recognized with the 2024 H. George Frederickson Award for Career Contributions to Public Management Research.
- **Alvin Jeffery** (Nursing) was recognized with the Ph.D. Program Faculty Award from the School of Nursing.
- **Holly McCammon** (Sociology) was named to the editorial board of *Mobilization* and was reappointed as Department Chair of Sociology.
- **Tara McKay** (MHS) was awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor.



- **Michelle Marcus** (Economics) was awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor and was named to the Editorial Council of the *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management* and the *Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists*.
- **Lin Meng** (EES) was awarded the Ralph E. Powe Junior Faculty Enhancement Award and the Steve and Bunny Fayne Dean's Faculty Fellowship.
- **Mulubrhan Mogos** (Nursing) was recognized with the Association of Black Nursing Faculty's Young Researcher Award and was named a Fellow of the American Heart Association.
- **Analisa Packham** (Economics) was awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor.
- **Julia Phillippi** (Nursing) was recognized with a 2024 Dean's Award for Outstanding Service to Students and Faculty.
- **Lori Schirle** (Nursing) was named a Fellow at the American Academy of Nursing and earned a VUSN Dean's Recognition for Faculty Achievement in Research Endeavors.
- **Lijun Song** (Sociology) was named Chair-Elect in the Section on Medical Sociology and completed her term as Chair of the Section on Sociology of Mental Health at the American Sociological Association.
- **Katherine Wen** (MHS) was awarded a Dean's Faculty Fellowship.

## STUDENTS/TRAINEES

- **Cameron Deal**, undergraduate in economics and math, published his research in several peer-reviewed journals and accepted admission to the Ph.D. program in Business Economics at Harvard University.
- **Jessica Kiser**, Ph.D. student, was selected to present her research at multiple national conferences.
- **Hasan Shahid**, postdoctoral scholar, earned 1st Place at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management's 2024 Poster Session.
- **Joao Tampellini Silva**, Ph.D. student in economics, was awarded the Best Third Year Paper Prize by the Department of Economics.
- **Nathaniel Tran**, Ph.D. student, published research in *JAMA Pediatrics*, was recognized with the 2024 Edward Ferguson Jr. Graduate Award for Excellence in Research, and earned a tenure-track Assistant Professor position at the University of Illinois-Chicago School of Public Health.
- **Zhe Zhang**, Ph.D. student, was the First Place Winner of the Department of Sociology Graduate Paper Award.

**Congratulations to all center affiliates on these outstanding accomplishments!**



[Vanderbilt Center for Research on Inequality and Health](#)



Annual Report Design Credit: Mikey Pastrana

