

A Data Infrastructure for Measuring the Care Economy

Committee

Kosali I. Simon

Chair

KOSALI SIMON is Distinguished Professor, Paul O'Neill Chair, and Herman B Wells Endowed Professor in the O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Associate Vice Provost for Health Sciences at Indiana University Bloomington and Executive Director of the Indiana University Research Data Commons. She is also a research associate of the National Bureau for Economic Research. She is a health economist with interests in health and healthcare outcomes in the context of state and federal policy. Her current research mainly focuses on the impact of health insurance reform on healthcare and labor market outcomes, and on the causes and consequences of the opioid crisis. She is active in national leadership roles in her profession, serving on several boards and in editorial positions. She is the president elect of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management and served as president and board member of the American Society of Health Economists. She serves as editor for the Journal of Health Economics, co-editor for the Journal of Human Resources, and editorial board member for the American Journal of Health Economics and the Journal of Policy Analysis and Management. Simon is a member of the National Academy of Medicine. She has a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Maryland.

Julie Bynum

Member

JULIE BYNUM is the Margaret Terpenning Professor of Medicine in the Division of Geriatric Medicine and Vice Chair for Faculty Affairs in the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Michigan. She is also a Research Professor in the Institute of Gerontology, Geriatric Center Associate Director for Health Policy and Research, and a member of the Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation. She was previously on the faculty at Dartmouth Medical School where she received prestigious career development awards from the Robert Wood Johnson Physician Faculty Scholar Program and the National Institute of Aging Beeson Scholar Program. She is known for leading interdisciplinary research teams to study questions about the complex drivers of quality and costs for older adults and how to improve health care policy and performance using national administrative data. She currently leads a portfolio of NIH-funded research that examines the quality of care, diagnosis, and treatment of people with Alzheimer's Disease and related dementia in the community, nursing homes, and assisted living and is the director of The Center to Accelerate Population Research in Alzheimer's. She was an Atlantic Philanthropies Health & Aging Policy Fellow and served as a member of several National Academies, Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) committees, including the consensus Committee on Building Data Capacity for Patient-Centered Outcomes Research, the planning committee for the Workshop on Family Caregiving for People with Cancer and Other Serious Illnesses, and the Forum on Aging, Disability, and Independence. She has an M.P.H. from the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene & Public Health, and an M.D. from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Pilar Gonalons-Pons

Member

PILAR GONALONS-PONS is the Alber-Klingelfhofer Presidential Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology with affiliations to the Leonard Davis Institute for Health Economics, the Population Studies Center, Population Aging Research Center, and Gender and Sexuality Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. Previously, she was a visiting scholar at the Russell Sage Foundation. Her research examines how work, families, and public policies structure economic inequalities, including understanding the distribution and economic penalties associated with paid and unpaid care work provided to children and adults. Her empirical work typically uses quantitative techniques and longitudinal datasets from multiple countries, and she has researched the potential and shortcomings of existing survey measures for care provision in the United States. Her work has been published in the American Sociological Review, Demography, Social Problems, Population Development Review, and Socio-Economic Review. She has a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and she was a postdoctoral fellow at Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

Chris M. Herbst

Member

CHRIS M. HERBST is a Foundation Professor in the School of Public Affairs (SPA) and a faculty affiliate in the School of Social Work in the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions at Arizona State University. He is also a Research Fellow at the Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA) in Bonn, Germany, and held (in 2024) the George Soros Visiting Chair in the School of Public Policy at Central European University. Herbst's research focuses on the economics of childcare and early childhood education, emphasizing the impact of early education policy on the childcare workforce, children, and parents. Herbst's work has been published in numerous peer-reviewed outlets, including the Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Journal of Urban Economics, Educational Researcher, and Early Childhood Research Quarterly and has been funded by the Smith Richardson Foundation, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, and other entities. In addition, Herbst's research has been featured in major news outlets, including the New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, NPR, The Atlantic, TIME, and Bloomberg. He has also spoken about childcare and early education as a guest on NPR's The Diane Rehm Show and The Indicator as well as Shankar Vedantam's Hidden Brain and KJZZ's The Show. He obtained his Ph.D. in public policy from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Aparna Mathur

Member

APARNA MATHUR is a senior research manager in economics at Amazon and a visiting fellow at The Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity. In her role at Amazon, she tracks and conducts research to help identify labor and employment related challenges faced by Amazon's domestic and global workforce, with a view to informing best policy. Previously she was a senior fellow at Harvard Kennedy School's Mossavar-Rahmani Center, where she researched safety net issues. She also served as a senior economist at the Council of Economic Advisers (CEA), as part of the COVID-19 response task force and worked with epidemiologists on the health aspects of the crisis, while also tracking the economic downturn that came with the lockdowns. Prior to joining CEA, she was a resident scholar in economic policy studies at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI). At AEI, she directed the AEI-Brookings Project on Paid Family and Medical Leave, building bipartisan momentum on paid leave. Her academic research has focused on income inequality and mobility, tax policy, labor markets and small businesses. She is currently serving on the University of Maryland Economics Leadership Council. She is also on the boards of the National Academy of Social Insurance, Simply Green, and the National Economists Club. Mathur is also a member of the Advisory Council of the Aspen Institute Economic Opportunities Program. She received her Ph.D. in economics from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Chris Payne

Member

CHRIS PAYNE is the Head of Time Use and Household Satellite Accounts Branch at the Office for National Statistics in the United Kingdom. He is an expert in the measurement and valuation of unpaid household service work, including unpaid care services, within National Accounting Frameworks. He has a decade of experience working with time-use data, including leading the development of modernized online light-diary time-use instruments and subsequent data collection. He is also experienced with creating estimates of unpaid household service output using alternative data sources to time-use data. He recently tested novel approaches to collecting unpaid supervisory care time, which is typically difficult to collect from standardized time diary data sources alone. Payne previously served as chair of the United Nations (UN) Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts task team providing guidance on the treatment of unpaid household service work in the System of National Accounts 2025. He was a contributing author for the UN Economic Commission for Europe 2017 guide on valuing unpaid household service work, a member of the Eurostat Harmonised European Time Use Survey working group, and a member of the UN expert group on time-use statistics. Payne is currently studying the measurement of unpaid care as part of a part-time Ph.D. linking aspects of national accounts, time use and well-being. He has a B.Sc. in psychology from the University of the West of England and a foundation degree in Marine Engineering from the University of Portsmouth.

Judith A. Seltzer

Member

JUDITH SELTZER is research professor, professor emerita of sociology, and former director of the California Center for Population Research at the University of California, Los Angeles. Previously, she was on the faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she contributed to the development and implementation of the National Survey of Families and Households. Her research interests include kinship patterns, intergenerational obligations, relationships between nonresident fathers and children, and how legal institutions and other policies affect family change. She is especially interested in kinship institutions that are in flux, such as marriage and cohabitation in the contemporary United States or divorced and non-marital families. She also explores ways to improve the quality of survey data on families. She is an Associate of the National Academies and served on several National Academies committees, including the Committee on National Statistics, the panel on the Implications of Using Multiple Data Sources for Major Survey Programs, and the standing committee on Reengineering Census Operations. She is a past president of the Population Association of America and she previously served on the Board of Overseers for the General Social Survey. She has a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Michigan.

Joanne Spetz

Member

JOANNE SPETZ is director and Brenda and Jeffrey L. Kang Presidential Chair in Health Care Financing at the Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies, at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF). She is also Claire D. and Ralph G. Brindis Endowed Professor in Health Policy Studies and serves as director of the Health Workforce Research Center on Long-Term Care at UCSF. Her research focuses on the economics of the health care workforce, organization of health care services, and quality of health care. She is an expert in the nursing workforce, and leads studies of nurse supply, demand, education, earnings, and contributions to the quality of care across healthcare settings. Her research includes analyses of large secondary datasets, mixed-methods evaluations, surveys, and econometric analyses. Spetz is an Honorary Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and served on several National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine committees, including the Committee on Consideration of Generational Issues in Workforce Management and Employment Practices and the Standing Committee on Credentialing Research in Nursing. She received her Ph.D. in economics from Stanford University.

Jay Stewart

Member

JAY STEWART is Research Fellow at the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research. Previously, he was the Senior Research Economist in the Division of Productivity Research and Program Development at the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), where he directed and conducted research related to improving BLS productivity measures. Before joining the BLS productivity office, he was a research economist in the Office of Employment and Unemployment Statistics, where he was heavily involved in the development of the American Time Use Survey. Stewart worked on every aspect of the survey—writing the initial proposal, determining what concepts to measure and how to measure them (including passive childcare), developing a strategy for contacting respondents, developing the edit and imputation procedures, and analyzing the data. He has also written papers on the aspects of survey design, analysis of time-use data, childcare, and child sleep. More recently, Stewart served on the United Nations Expert Group subgroup on measuring passive childcare. Stewart obtained a Ph.D. in economics from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Bledi Taska

Member

BLEDI TASKA is Chief Data and Analytics Officer at TalentNeuron, where he leads a team of economists and data scientists specializing in the application of econometrics and real-time labor market data to support public policy, research, and product development. Previous positions included head of analytics at SkyHive, executive vice president and chief economist at Lightcast, and chief economist at Burning Glass. Taska is a labor economist and a leading authority on the future of work, and an expert in leveraging state-of-the-art artificial intelligence and machine learning to analyze real-time labor market data. He served as advisor to international organizations such as the World Bank, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the European Commission, the World Economic Forum, and UNESCO on topics related to skills development, education reform, and labor-market policies. He is frequently invited to speak at global conferences and events on the trends and challenges facing the future of work. Taska's policy work has received global media attention from outlets such as the Economist, the Daily Telegraph, the Financial Times, the New York Times, and the Wall Street Journal. His research has appeared in leading academic journals including the American Economic Review, Review of Economic Studies, Nature, Research Policy, and Labor Economics. He received his Ph.D. in economics from New York University.

Kali S. Thomas

Member

KALI THOMAS is Leonard and Helen R. Stulman Professor in Aging and Community Health and Associate Director of Health Services Research at the Center for Equity in Aging at the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing. Previously, she was Associate Professor in the Department of Health Services, Policy and Practice at Brown University and Research Health Science Specialist at the Providence VA Medical Center, where she led research on home and community-based services (HCBS) for older adults as alternatives to institutional care. As a gerontologist, her research focuses on identifying ways to improve the quality of life of older adults needing long-term services and supports (LTSS) through applied health services research. With funding from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the National Institute on Aging, the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute, and multiple foundations, she has led research projects examining the organization, delivery, and financing of LTSS to meet older adults' medical and non-medical needs. Her research spans the LTSS continuum, ranging from in-home services to long-term care provided in institutional settings. She is on the editorial boards of the Journal of Aging & Social Policy and the Journal of Nutrition for Gerontology and Geriatrics. She has a Ph.D. in Aging Studies from the University of South Florida.

Dana Wray

Member

DANA WRAY is a Senior Analyst at Statistics Canada working on Statistics Canada's Time Use and Caregiving Surveys. She has expertise in survey design, data collection, and research and analysis on the topic of the care economy, specifically on unpaid work and care. Wray was a lead author on Statistics Canada's conceptual framework of the Canadian care economy. Her work on Statistics Canada's care economy project, ongoing for several years, includes providing expertise to and collaborating with Canadian academics and experts as well as international organizations. Her research, which has been published in top peer-reviewed journals, examines the gendered dynamics of unpaid care work, time use data, and impacts on well-being and social policy. Wray holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Toronto.

Ajit Zacharias

Member

AJIT ZACHARIAS is a Senior Scholar and Director of the Distribution of Income and Wealth program at the Levy Economics Institute of Bard College. His research primarily focuses on the theory, measurement, and analysis of economic well-being and deprivation. Along with other Levy scholars, Zacharias has developed alternative measures of economic welfare and deprivation. The Levy Institute Measure of Economic Well-Being (LIMEW) offers a framework that accounts for how changes in labor markets, wealth accumulation, government spending and taxes, and household production shape the economic determinants of standard of living. Levy scholars have utilized the LIMEW to track trends in economic inequality and well-being in the United States. The Levy Institute Measure of Time and Income Poverty is aimed at revealing the nexus between income poverty and unpaid work. Zacharias holds a Ph.D. in Economics from The New School for Social Research.

Krisztina Marton

Staff Officer