

POPULATION STUDIES CENTER NEWSLETTER



This Monday [Irma Elo](#), Director of the Population Aging Research Center, introduced Rebeca Wong who's talk centered on the [Mexican Health and Aging Study \(MHAS\)](#): Evolution and Research Opportunities over more than 15 years of the study. To watch all of this semester's colloquium talks go to our [YouTube channel](#).

Single-sex schools and unexpected STEM outcomes

Using data from Seoul, South Korea, Penn Researchers found evidence that girls in same-sex schools don't have increased chances of excelling in STEM fields, contrary to popular belief. "Historically, single-sex schools were thought to provide an environment in which females could express themselves without being overridden by aggressive males or worrying about social interaction," Behrman says. "Although there is this history, there is almost no previous evidence of the effects, just associations that may be due, in part or completely, to who chooses to attend single-sex schools." To read more about [Park](#), [Behrman](#) and Choi's work read the new Penn Current article [here](#).



Penn India Research and Engagement Fund Call for Proposals

Before the holiday break begins, the Penn Global team wanted to remind you that proposals for the exciting new opportunity, the **Penn India Research and Engagement Fund (Penn IREF)**, are **due no later than 5pm EST on Friday, January 19, 2018**. Completed applications should be submitted as a PDF file via email to the Global Engagement account at global@exchange.upenn.edu.

Penn IREF is a competitive matching program designed to stimulate and support activity in and on India. The primary goals of the Fund are:

- To support outstanding research projects from across the University that are poised to make significant contributions to their field and catalyze transformative ideas in and across academic disciplines and schools.
- To increase the study and understanding of India at Penn and create opportunities for meaningful student engagement, including the development of innovative curricular activities, new courses, and short term study opportunities, such as Penn Global Seminars.
- To develop new, or strengthen existing, institutional and faculty-to-faculty relationships with Indian partners. The Penn India Research and Engagement Fund will award up to \$2 million over two years, with up to \$1 million being contributed by the Office of the Provost and up to \$1 million from matching internal or external funds.

The Fund will support research, conferences, and other activities in conjunction with Indian counterparts that further Penn's impact and strengthen its partnerships. All Penn faculty and senior administrators are eligible to apply. For more information about the Penn India Research & Engagement Fund, [please visit our website](#). If you have any questions about the Fund, you may also contact Penn Global via email at global@exchange.upenn.edu or by phone at 215.898.5675.

2017 NSF Proposal & Award Policy Newsletter

Take a look at all the 2017 NSF newsletters [here](#).

New PSC Working Paper: Corinne Low

[Corinne Low](#) and Jeanne Lafortune published [Betting the House: How Assets Influence Marriage Selection, Marital Stability, and Child Investments](#) to the [PSC Working Paper Series on Scholarly Commons](#). Read the abstract below:

Marriage used to be practically universal, but now persists as an institution for only some groups, while others choose non-marital fertility. This paper posits that if one role of marriage is to insure one partner's investment in children, then home-ownership can be seen as providing the necessary "collateral" for this contract. As easier divorce and paternity enforcement outside of marriage have reduced the relative strength of the marital contract, the division of assets, particularly the family home, post-separation has remained unique to marriage. We provide a model where husbands can "ante up" the marital home to elicit more optimal child investments, whose costs are born mostly by the mother, by reducing the chance of divorce while providing consumption insurance to their partner. This, in turn, increases the value of marriage for those able to access this collateralized version of the contract. The model predicts that individuals able to buy a home at the time of marriage will invest more in children and have greater labor specialization, while policy changes that eroded marriage's relative commitment value would have heterogenous effects by asset-holding, both of which appear to hold in US data.



Looking for something fun to do before the holidays?

Check out the Penn Ice Rink at the Class of 1923 Arena. This 2,500-seat arena is located on Penn's Campus adjacent to the east entrance of Penn Park. Public skating and skate rentals are only \$8/person with your Penn ID! For more information about session times, lessons or ice hockey check out the website [here](#).

Here are some photos from last week's Holiday Party. Thank you to all who came to celebrate another wonderful semester.



Happy Holidays and see you all next year!



Please contact psc_library@mailman.ssc.upenn.edu to submit news & events or with questions.