Greetings to all PAA members and participants in what is a terribly difficult time. We send our wishes and hopes for good health to all of you. This letter is about how we will try to maintain the survival of a strong intellectual PAA community through our Virtual PAA 2020.

About 6 weeks ago we composed a draft of this letter, welcoming you to Washington DC and listing the highlights of what we expected to be a “normal” PAA. Needless to say, there is nothing in that draft that describes the Virtual PAA 2020. For all of us, PAA is the highlight of our professional year and it’s terribly sad not to experience it the way we usually do.

We have worked hard with PAA staff to develop a virtual opportunity that will allow people who had planned to participate an opportunity to share their research. While we know this is a difficult time, and we have tried not to pressure anyone to participate in ways that make their lives more challenging, we also know there are some people who really want to experience some of the interaction that would normally take place at PAA. We hope this virtual experience will offer important opportunities to develop and maintain professional networks, even during this trying time.

Our virtual PAA allows any session chair organizer to host a virtual session at any time, although most will be on the days originally scheduled for PAA (April 23–25), or to host a session that is not at a given time and provides online access to material from presenters and discussants. Some of these sessions only include a subset of the original presentations. Any paper presenter, whether or not your session is hosted by a chair organizer, can upload materials to your session. Anyone giving a poster can upload materials into the originally scheduled poster session. We hope PAA members will attend sessions, view sessions and posters, read papers, and provide constructive feedback to participants. While the format is certain to suffer from the difficulty of developing a virtual approach in record time, we hope that many of you will participate and attend the Virtual PAA 2020, making it as vibrant an intellectual exchange as possible.

Originally, we constructed a program with 266 oral sessions (including 38 flash sessions) and 1008 posters in 10 poster sessions. In total, 4,246 population scientists appeared on the program, indicating the tremendous interest in this PAA. In the end, we expect approximately 100 sessions organized in virtual fashion; we do not know how many posters will be presented, but hope the number will be large.
This is a new world for all of us and you will hear more from us throughout the year, as we try to continue virtual PAA activities and scientific interactions. The PAA organization is very strong, spirited, and passionate about supporting its membership. That energy is fueled by our remarkable membership. The PAA organization is comprised of an excellent staff, an involved and committed Board, and a set of committees with a large group of dedicated members, seeking to support the membership. With your engagement and help, we will adapt and emerge an even stronger community and organization.

We owe huge thanks to the PAA staff and board, PAA 2020 Program Committee, session organizers, poster selection team, PAA committees, and the entire membership.

Thank you for your patience and good will. Stay healthy and we hope to see you online!

**PAA NEWS**

**Nominees for PAA Offices 2020**

The Nominations Committee is pleased to put forward the following slate for the 2020 PAA Election. The Nominations Committee includes Susan Short (Brown University), Irma Elo (University of Pennsylvania), and Kelly Raley (University of Texas at Austin.)

**President** (2 for 1 position):
Sonalde Desai  
Myron Gutmann  

**Vice-President** (2 for 1 position):
Jeff Morenooff  
Jennifer Van Hook  

**Nominations Committee** (6 for 3 positions):
Jennifer Hirsch  
Rosalind King  
Krista Perreira  
Sharon Sassler  
John Robert Warren  
Yu Xie  

**Board of Directors** (9 for 4 positions):
Jennifer Barber  
Tyson Brown  
Elizabeth Cooksey  
Will Dow  
Alex Ezeh  
Michelle Frisco  
Jennifer Karas-Montez  
Laura Lindberg  
Mark VanLandingham  

**Publications Committee** (2 for 1 position):
Vladimir Canudas-Romo  
Samuel Clark  

Per the PAA Bylaws, additional nominations may be made within 60 days of the date of this publication (approximately March 15, 2020) by petition signed by at least 10 members and submitted to the PAA Secretary-Treasurer, Bridget Gorman. The election will begin in early June and will last for 60 days.
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE: NEW YEAR, NEW BUDGET

By Suzanne Stokes Vieth, Deputy Director of Government Affairs

Congress wrapped up the Fiscal 2020 budget on December 16, 2019, and it was quickly signed into law by President Trump. The final bill had mostly good news for the agencies that directly support population research and federal data collection. The big winners were the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which saw an increase of $2.6 billion, and the Census Bureau, which received a $3.7 billion increase, due mainly to the decennial enumeration. The National Science Foundation saw a welcome increase of over $200 million, although this final number fell short of expectations given that both the House and Senate had allocated higher amounts earlier in the process. More details, including other agencies of interest to PAA members, can be found here.
Less than two months later, it was time for the President to roll out his Fiscal Year 2021 budget request, which was released on February 10. This budget blueprint represents a U-turn from many of the increases in non-defense discretionary spending that the President signed into law mere weeks earlier. In fact, the overall budget request anticipates spending considerably less than the budget ceiling established in a two-year budget deal reached over the summer. For this reason, and the fact that Congress has the ultimate authority to appropriate spending, the conventional wisdom is betting on a final budget that looks much different than the blueprint. For more details on the President’s budget as it pertains to our agencies of interest, read here.

In addition to appropriations, the Congressional agenda this year may include legislation to reauthorize the 21st Century Cures Act of 2016, colloquially referred to as “Cures 2.0.” The Cures Act authorized and directed investments in NIH’s medical research agenda. With Cures 2.0, there may be an opportunity to persuade Congress to ensure that behavioral and social research is included in the federal government’s research priorities. PAA sent a letter to the Chair and Ranking member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee in response to their request for input, laying out the value of population research in advancing the nation’s health. Read the letter here. There are also indications that the House may move forward on legislation to reauthorize the National Science Foundation, which turns 70 this year.

Finally, don’t forget about Advocacy Counts 2020, a one-day Advocacy Day mobilizing PAA members to advance on Capitol Hill, being held just prior to the kickoff of the PAA meeting. Click on the Advocacy Counts link above for registration information. Hope to see you there!

DATA POINTS
Forecasting COVID-19 in Whatcom County, WA
By David Swanson, Professor Emeritus of Sociology, UC Riverside, and Faculty Affiliate, Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology, University of Washington

Using a simple extrapolative geometric model, I developed baseline and updated forecasts of the surge peak of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Whatcom County, Washington (published in the Northwest Citizen). The baseline shows
the expected surge peak in the absence of containment measures taken by the Governor of Washington and local officials. The updates take these measures into account. I was able to monitor the efficacy of the containment measures by comparing the updated forecasts to the baseline. Updated forecasts show that reducing the rate of increase early in the surge produced a tremendous reduction in the expected cases. This graph illustrates the difference between the baseline forecast of March 29th and the first update, which was done on April 3rd.

I deliberately used a simple geometric model to do the initial forecasts for Whatcom County because sophisticated ones require so much data that they typically are not usable for a small area finding itself in the initial surge of a pandemic. I felt it was vital that people living in counties and small towns have some idea of what they might be facing rather than remaining in the dark. As more data became available over time I fitted a more complex exponential model to the data and found that the results compared favorably to those of the simple geometric model.

CONFERENCES
The 13th Global Meeting on Population and the Generational Economy will take place August 3-7, 2020 in Honolulu, Hawai’i. Building on the work of the National Transfer Account Network, the meeting will include a one-day conference that is open to policymakers, the media, researchers, students, and the public, as well as four days of scientific sessions, workshops discussion groups, and training sessions. This meeting is co-organized by the East-West Center and the Center for the Economics and Demography of Aging at the University of California, Berkeley. The agenda will include sessions on work around the world, new developments in understanding the generational economy, aging in Hawai’i and the United States. The agenda will also include regional meetings of the NTA network and workshops on using NTA data for analysis and projection of public finances, longitudinal analysis, generational wealth accounts, and other innovations. For additional information, to submit an abstract, and to register, please go to the National Transfer Accounts website. The deadline for registration and submission is April 30, 2020.

TRAINING
2020 ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research. Founded in 1963, the ICPSR Summer Program offers rigorous, hands-on training in statistics, quantitative methods, and data analysis for students, faculty, and researchers of all skill levels and backgrounds. From May through August 2020, the ICPSR Summer Program will offer more than 80 courses in Ann Arbor, Michigan and other cities around the world. Registration for all courses will open on February 11, 2020. For more information, visit our webpage or contact sumprog@icpsr.umich.edu or (734) 763-7400. This year’s curriculum includes courses on Bayesian analysis; MLE; regression analysis; data science; machine learning; race, ethnicity, and quantitative methodology; qualitative methods; R; and many other methods and techniques. ICPSR Summer Program offers several scholarships for both students and faculty. The ICPSR Summer Program is world-renowned for its premier quality of instruction, fun learning environment, and unparalleled networking opportunities. Scholarships are available. We hope to see you this summer! Follow the Summer Program on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

PSID Data User Training Workshop, June 15-19, 2020, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. This five-day workshop will orient participants to the content and structure of the Panel Study of Income Dynamics, its special topics modules, and the PSID Child Development Supplement and PSID Transition into Adulthood Supplement. The workshop pairs instructional sessions led by experienced PSID researchers and staff with guided lab sessions in which users construct their own analytic data files. The workshop is open to predoctoral students, postdoctoral fellows, college and university faculty, and professional researchers. Admitted predoctoral students and postdoctoral fellows may request to be considered for a stipend to help with travel and housing costs. Applications received by April 17 will be given priority for enrollment. Learn more about the workshop and apply to participate through the ICPSR Summer Program. Support is provided by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute on Child Health and Human Development, the National Institute on Aging, and the National Science Foundation.
OPPORTUNITIES

Editorial Board: Population and Environment. Springer and Population and Environment invite nominations for the 2020-2024 editorial board of the journal. This leading scientific journal in the fields of population and environmental studies is the sole social science journal focused on interdisciplinary research on social demographic aspects of environmental issues. Disciplines commonly represented in the journal include demography, geography, sociology, human ecology, environmental economics, public health, anthropology, environmental studies, and others in which population and environment are topics. The editorial board of Population and Environment consists of approximately twelve members who report to the Editor in Chief. Board members will participate in an annual virtual advisory board meeting; consult with the Editor in Chief on manuscripts in their area of expertise; recruit manuscripts; and otherwise promote the journal. Nominees should have proven excellence in peer-review publication and expertise in population and/or environmental studies. A good command of English is a requisite, as all manuscripts are submitted in this language. This is a volunteer position. Self-nominations are encouraged. The deadline for nominations is May 15, 2020. Send a short letter of nomination and a CV by email to Springer, attn. Esther Otten. For further information on Population and Environment, please visit our website. The full announcement is available online.

Russell Sage Foundation: Call for Letters of Inquiry for Timely or COVID-19-Related Social Science Research—Application Deadline May 21st, 2020 (2 PM EST). The Russell Sage Foundation was established in 1907 for “the improvement of social and living conditions in the United States.” It dedicates itself to strengthening the methods, data, and theoretical core of the social sciences in order to better understand societal problems and develop informed responses. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, RSF is accepting letters of inquiry that satisfy the following criteria: a) the research is so timely and time-sensitive that the project must start before April 1, 2021; or, b) the research analyzes social, political, economic, or psychological disruptions resulting from the coronavirus crisis that affect social and living conditions in the United States. All LOIs must focus on issues related to the foundation’s core program areas and special initiatives: Behavioral Economics; Decision-Making and Human Behavior in Context; Future of Work; Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration; Social, Political, and Economic Inequality. Any LOIs submitted for this call must include an appendix of one or two pages that explains why the proposed research meets either or both criteria. This appendix does not count against the usual 4-page limit for LOIs. The deadline for LOIs is Thursday, May 21st, 2020 at 2 PM EST. More detailed guidelines on our programs can be found here: https://www.russellsage.org/application-requirements. Potential applicants are encouraged to email programs@rsage.org for any questions.

Russell Sage Foundation: Visiting Scholars Fellowship—Application Deadline: June 25, 2020 (11:59 PM EST). The Visiting Scholars Program provides a unique opportunity for select scholars in the social, economic, political and behavioral sciences to pursue their research and writing while in residence at the foundation in New York City. The foundation annually awards up to 17 residential fellowships to scholars who are at least several years beyond the Ph.D. Visiting Scholars typically work on projects related to the foundation’s core programs and special initiatives. The fellowship period is September 1st through June 30th. Scholars are provided with an office at the foundation, computers, library access, supplemental salary support, and some limited research assistance. Scholars from outside NYC are provided with a partially-subsidized apartment near RSF. See http://www.russellsage.org/how-to-apply/visiting-scholars-program. Questions should be directed to James Wilson, Program Director, at programs@rsage.org.

Russell Sage Foundation Visiting Researcher Fellowship: September 2020–June 2021 (up to a 5-month visit)—Application Deadline: May 1, 2020. On an occasional basis, the Russell Sage Foundation (RSF) has available office space for short-term Visiting Researchers conducting research relevant to RSF’s core programs and special initiatives. These positions do not come with any financial support and are available for visits up to five months, between September 1 and June 30, as space permits. Visiting Researchers are provided with an office at the foundation, computers and software, and library access. Applicants from outside the greater NYC area may be provided with a partially-subsidized apartment near RSF, if available. Visiting Researchers must be several years beyond the PhD and have a project that is relevant to the Foundation’s program areas. More information about the
program and applying can be found here: [http://www.russellsage.org/how-to-apply](http://www.russellsage.org/how-to-apply). Questions should be sent to programs@rsage.org.

Russell Sage Foundation: Opportunities for Journalists—Application Deadline: May 1, 2020 (for visits between September 2020 and June 2021). There is a long, rich history of journalists writing and reporting about topics related to RSF’s mission to “improve the social and living conditions in the United States.” Because journalists report on issues of relevance to RSF, the foundation offers a [Visiting Journalist Fellowship](http://www.russellsage.org/how-to-apply). In conducting original research on a wide range of social, political, and economic conditions and presenting those findings to the public, journalists are critical to our understanding of Americans’ lives and lived experiences. Visiting Journalists work full-time in residence at the Foundation for up to three months (possibly up to four months if space is available) alongside resident [Visiting Scholars](http://www.russellsage.org/how-to-apply) who might help inform the development of their projects. For more information about the foundation, our programs, and the application process, please visit our website: [www.russellsage.org](http://www.russellsage.org). Questions can be sent to programs@rsage.org.

**JOBS**

**Lead Statistician at Nielsen.** As the world’s largest research organization, Nielsen is powered by talented, creative scientists. Our Data Science researchers come from diverse disciplines such as statistics, research methodology, mathematics, psychology, business, engineering and demography. These professionals drive innovation, new product ideation, experimental design and testing, complex sampling and analysis, and delivery of data insights. Because Data Science is at the core of Nielsen’s business, our work has high visibility and makes a direct impact on our clients. Nielsen’s Data Science organization is looking for a highly motivated individual to join the team as a Lead Statistician (Lead Data Scientist). This position will be responsible for designing/selecting samples, designing/conducting data investigations, creating analysis plans, and leading methodological initiatives to support the enhancement of audience measurement products and services. This position will require a candidate with excellent statistical skills who can communicate to both a statistical audience and also effectively communicate complex analytical and statistical concepts to a non-statistical audience. Please see our website for complete details.

**Postdoc/Research Scientist in Digital and Computational Demography at the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR).** The Digital and Computational Demography Lab, headed by MPIDR Director Emilio Zagheni, is looking for candidates with a background in Demography, Data Science, Computer Science, Statistics, Economics, Sociology, Psychology, Social Psychology, Geography, Applied Mathematics, Public Health, Public Policy, or Related Disciplines. The successful candidate must have obtained their Ph.D. (or expect to have obtained their Ph.D. by the time the post commences in early 2021, and their profile should match one of the following three: 1) A methodologist interested in producing methodological advances in the field of Digital and Computational Demography; 2) A social and behavioral scientist with strong expertise in at least one of the following substantive areas: migration and mobility, population aging and generational processes, social demography, environmental demography, (digital) health, technological change and well-being; 3) A computational social scientist interested in working on questions central to demographic research. Across all profiles, the ability and willingness to work in interdisciplinary teams in order to conduct cutting-edge research that advances population science is key. Please see the website for the full job posting. Applications must be submitted online at [https://demogr.mpg.de/go/JobAd369427](https://demogr.mpg.de/go/JobAd369427).

**Violence Against Women and Children: A Critical Thinking Stream.** Reproductive health services focus mainly on family planning, unwanted pregnancy, safe abortion, safe motherhood, etc., but these programs have never focused on violence against women and children in any country. There is a lack of awareness about violence against women and children worldwide. Professor Sathiya Appunni (Department of Statistics and Population Studies, University of the Western Cape, South Africa) would like to invite PAA members/volunteers, who are willing to join a critical thinking stream. This forum will focus on community development regarding violence against women and children and spreading information all over the world. If you are interested, or have any new thoughts or ideas, contact Professor Appunni at sappunni@uwc.ac.za.
BOOKS
Peter A. Morrison and Thomas M. Bryan. *Redistricting: A Manual for Analysts, Practitioners, and Citizens* (Springer, 2019). This book provides a user-oriented overview of U.S. Census data and demographic methods for redistricting applications. It addresses current issues and concerns accompanying the creation, adjustment, and evaluation of election districts and plans that incorporate them using 2020 Federal Census data. It meets the needs of local governments, citizen redistricting commissions, parties to litigation, and practitioners using Census data for political redistricting. It illustrates technical problems that analysts will encounter when applying these data, supplemented by extensive case studies illustrating these technical issues and how they can be addressed. This book is a comprehensive reference manual for applied demographers, data scientists, statisticians, citizen redistricting commissions, parties to litigation, practitioners, and any analyst or organization engaged in political redistricting using US decennial census data. Available online at springer.com.

PEOPLE
Adéلامar (Dely) N. Alcántara, of the University of New Mexico, died November 3, 2019. Alcántara is widely recognized for her expertise in applied demography. She served as the New Mexico state demographer for decades, and was the principal investigator of the state-funded project on census analysis and demographic research. Alcántara joined UNM in 1985 and served as the director of Geospatial and Population Studies since its founding in 2011. Alcántara has also conducted significant research in other areas of sociology and demography, including studies on fertility, mortality, migration, Indian education, poverty, welfare reform, health insurance access, and gender studies. Her recent research includes co-writing *Use of Kernel Density and Raster Manipulation in GIS to Predict Population in New Mexico Census Tracts*, published in 2018. Alcántara was an advocate for social justice and her work in demography included attention to poverty. She received the 2018 Si Se Puede Award from Dolores Huerta at the National Hispanic Cultural Center’s Cesar Chavez Day in Albuquerque. She was a leader in the Filipino community, founding or leading several organizations in New Mexico. In honor of her late son, she co-founded the Manoa Alcántara Jojola International Center for Arts and Language MAJICAL Learning Montessori School in the province of Tarlac, Philippines. Alcántara was a role model and mentor to everyone with a sharp mind and humorous wit, wisdom, and courage. She is survived by her husband, Theodore (Ted) Jojola. Donations are requested for the Adélamar (Dely) Alcántara Memorial Fund ([http://bit.ly/DelyMemorialFund](http://bit.ly/DelyMemorialFund)), established by the Albuquerque Community Foundation. This fund will be disbursed to various organizations close to Alcántara.
As stated in the Bylaws of the PAA Constitution, “Meetings of the Association shall be held only at places where there is written assurance that no member will be denied full access to facilities of the meeting place.”

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PAA is a nonprofit, scientific, professional organization established “to promote the improvement, advancement, and progress of the human race by means of research into problems connected with human population, in both its quantitative and qualitative aspects, and the dissemination and publication of the results of such research.” Members receive the journal *Demography* and PAA Affairs. An annual meeting is held in the spring. Dues in 2019 are: Regular member, $130; Emeritus member, $112; Early-Career member $90; Student member $50; members in these categories who select to receive *Demography* in print will add $22 to their membership fees; this applies to all except low-income members which is $50. To join, contact: Population Association of America, 1436 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, 301.565.6710.

*PAA Affairs* is the official newsletter of the Population Association of America. Its purpose is to report to PAA members news of the Association in particular and of the profession in general. Brief news items of interest to people working in the population field may be sent to the Editor (see address at right), who reserve the right to select for inclusion among the items received, and to edit items for publication. Deadlines for submission of items for the quarterly issues are as follows:

- **Spring:** February 15
- **Summer:** May 15
- **Fall:** August 15
- **Winter:** December 5

2020 President of PAA: Eileen Crimmins

Future PAA Meetings
2021 May 5-8, St. Louis, MO
   America’s Center
2022 April 6-9, Atlanta, GA
   Atlanta Marriott Marquis