

## Newsletter 4/2004

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### NEW GRANTS

Congratulations to:

- Elke Weber (Psychology and Business) and Eric Johnson (Business)  
*Preferences as Memory*  
National Science Foundation

Drawing on insights about the functions and operations of memory, Weber and Johnson suggest that memory plays a crucial role in preference and choice. This project will examine memory processes in preference and choice at a more micro and process-oriented level in order to illustrate that memory processes are fundamentally involved in the formation and expression of preference.

- Elke Weber  
*Decision-making in agricultural production in the Argentine Pampas: Alternative choice process formulations and the value of climate information*  
NOAA, Human Dimensions of Global Change Research Program

This project examines decision-making in agricultural production systems in the Argentine Pampas in the face of climate variability and other risk factors, and in response to improved climate information and climate forecasts. Employing a combination of modeling and fieldwork, this research will place a strong emphasis on understanding the dynamics of human behavior and decisions, particularly with respect to choice and uncertainty.

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### ISERP GRADUATE FELLOWS

The Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy invites advanced Ph.D. students to apply for its Graduate Fellows program. The program is specifically designed for students who are within two years of completing their dissertation, enabling them to participate in an environment that materially and intellectually fosters completing high quality dissertations. It is particularly appropriate for students who would benefit from a cross-disciplinary environment. Fellows present their work at a bi-weekly seminar and are provided with a workspace, computer, administrative and technical support. Space is limited and the program is highly competitive.

Applications are due Friday, April 16th, 2004. For more information on the program or application guidelines, please visit our website at

[http://www.iserp.columbia.edu/education/fellows\\_program/fellows.html](http://www.iserp.columbia.edu/education/fellows_program/fellows.html) or contact Lisa Ballard at [lb2239@columbia.edu](mailto:lb2239@columbia.edu).

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### ISERP WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS

ISERP sponsors or co-sponsors regular workshops and seminars. Starred workshops meet weekly; others meet once or twice a month.

- \*Contentious Politics (M 4-6)
- International Politics Seminar (M 4-6)
- Nonprofit Organizations (W 4-6)
- \*Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences (M 6:30-8:30)
- 20th Century Amer. Politics & Society (Th 4:10-6)
- \*Human Decision Making Seminar (Th 5:15-6:30)
- American Society and Politics (F 10-12)
- Health & Society Scholars (F 10-12)

- ISERP Graduate Fellows (F 12-2)
- Historical Dynamics (Fri 12-2)
- Political Economy (TBA)
- Political Psychology (May 1)

For more details on schedules and locations, please visit:

[http://www.iserp.columbia.edu/news/calendars/workshop\\_schedules.html](http://www.iserp.columbia.edu/news/calendars/workshop_schedules.html)

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## ISERP ADMINISTRATION

### New Staff:

ISERP welcomes Betsy Arias to the administrative team. She will be working with Kristin Murphy as Grants Administrator and can be reached at 854-0742 or [ba215@columbia.edu](mailto:ba215@columbia.edu).

### Reminders:

A reminder to all with accounts sitting in ISERP (both those with funds from ISERP and external grant accounts) about some of the University regulations regarding reimbursement for expenditures. We've heard through the grapevine that Accounts Payable, although somewhat lenient in the past, is going to be significantly more strict about compliance with University regulations.

### Remember...

1. All purchases of computers, equipment, supplies, etc. should be made through the University. According to University Guidelines, Travel Business & Expense (TB&E) Forms are not to be used for anything other than travel and small purchases of supplies while traveling. Purchases made on research accounts must be done through the department and charged directly to the account. This is true for all purchases other than travel and small emergency supplies. Note that the repercussions for not following the above guidelines may be Columbia's refusal to reimburse for expenditures - we want to do everything we can to make sure this doesn't happen. For your own information, a list of most of the vendors with which the University has contracts can be found at:  
<http://cpmcnet.columbia.edu/dept/purch/>
2. If you are submitting for reimbursement, you must do so within 90 days of the purchase/end of travel.
3. In addition to taping all your receipts to a blank page for submission, all purchases/travel expenses should be listed in chronological order on the TB&E form.

Please don't hesitate to contact Marlyne Thomas ([mnt2101@columbia.edu](mailto:mnt2101@columbia.edu)) or Leslie Wright ([lmw84@columbia.edu](mailto:lmw84@columbia.edu)) if you have any questions or concerns.

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## RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT

Please visit the Research Development Office's website for information on grant development and administration services at ISERP, including grant seeking support, proposal submission, grant administration and human subjects assistance. On the site you will also find useful tools for proposal development including a budget worksheet and tips on NSF Fastlane submissions. If you have any questions or comments, please send them to Kristin Murphy ([km632@columbia.edu](mailto:km632@columbia.edu)).

[http://www.iserp.columbia.edu/services/services/research\\_development.html](http://www.iserp.columbia.edu/services/services/research_development.html)

Also, please note that all new human subjects protocols must now be submitted through RASCAL, Columbia's on-line grants processing system. To arrange RASCAL training sessions for departments or individuals, call the RASCAL Help Line at (212)870-3480. For more information about RASCAL, please visit: <https://www.rascal.columbia.edu/>

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QMSS - Master's students interested in RA work

Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences (QMSS) is ISERP's interdisciplinary Master's degree program in quantitative methods. Through the program, QMSS students develop quantitative research techniques and analytical skills. Representing a diverse range of experiences and interests, QMSS students are well prepared for work in the social sciences, and many are eager to get involved in research opportunities with Columbia faculty. Many students are work/study eligible as well. To find out more about how these students might contribute to your project, please contact QMSS Director, Chris Weiss, at [cw2036@columbia.edu](mailto:cw2036@columbia.edu)

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## HEALTH & SOCIETY SCHOLARS PROGRAM AT COLUMBIA - SCHOLARS

H&SS announces its next cohort of scholars, 2004-06:

- Michael Emch holds a Ph.D. in Geography from Michigan State University. He is a spatial epidemiologist who specializes in spatial modeling techniques for infectious disease research. He is currently an Assistant Professor of Geography at Portland State University where he teaches geographic information systems, spatial analysis, and satellite image processing. He is presently the Principal Investigator of a National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and National Science Foundation funded project entitled "Geographical Analysis in Vaccine Trials: Spatial Confounders, Effect Modifiers, and Herd Immunity Measurement."
- Sara Shostak holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of California, San Francisco, and an M.P.H. from the University of California, Los Angeles. Her research focuses on the emergence of genetic/genomic approaches within the environmental health sciences and their consequences for environmental health research, regulation, and policy. More broadly, she is interested in the social, ethical, and political dimensions of genetic/genomic knowledge, especially for efforts to address health disparities in the United States.
- Jennifer Stuber received her Ph.D. at Yale University in the Department of Health Policy. Her dissertation quantified the effect of stigma along with state policy choices on participation in Medicaid and the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program. She is currently an Investigator at The New York Academy of Medicine where she has been heavily engaged in research on neighborhood determinants of health and behavior and on discrimination and its association to poor health. As an H&SS scholar, she will explore how social factors including community and family norms, the media and policies targeted at disenfranchised groups, contribute to the generation of stigma.

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## HEALTH & SOCIETY SCHOLARS PROGRAM AT COLUMBIA - SHORT COURSES

The following short course is open free of charge to faculty, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate students at Columbia University, as well as faculty and postdoctoral fellows at other sites of the RWJ Health & Society Scholars Program. Please send an email expressing your interest to [chssp@columbia.edu](mailto:chssp@columbia.edu) and we will notify you as soon as the short courses open for registration.

- April 15 and 22, 2-5pm: *Propensity Score Matching: Moving Towards Causal Inference with Observational Data*, Short Course presented by Jennifer Hill (SIPA), IAB 270B.  
\*Registration required\*

For more details, please visit our calendar of events at: <http://chssp.columbia.edu/Calendar.asp>