

NKU Faculty Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity Highlights

VOLUME II // NUMBER 1

DAVID CHILDS

Associate Professor, Teacher Preparation and Educational Studies

6/5/2021

[Dr. Childs published a historical fiction text entitled "Escaping from Home: A Novel about Slavery and Freedom"](#)

A thrilling new historical fiction novel about how true friendship can overcome racial barriers, even on a slave plantation. Samuel Stilt's dad has gotten them in trouble again. When they are caught stealing a horse they find themselves on a plantation in the south working side by side with enslaved African Americans. Samuel changes forever when he befriends Nathaniel, a slave preacher and other people on the plantation. When Samuel begins teaching Nathaniel to read, he soon realizes that he is learning a great deal from his new friend as well. Just when it seems things are already bad enough, Master Rose sells his friend Charles away from his family. From this and other incidents Samuel realizes that even though he is poor his life as a free White person is much better than that of the slaves. Stuck on the plantation, Samuel finds himself trying to make the best of things and carve out a life at his new home.

* Childs, D., & Stone, J. (2021). *Escaping from home: A novel about slavery and freedom*. NY, New York: Sage.

LINDA DYNAN

Professor, Economics & Finance

5/17/2021

[Professor Dynan and Professor Richard Smith of University of South Florida publish work estimating the effect of medical quality peer-review expenditure on patient safety.](#)

Since the landmark Institute of Medicine's (IOM's) 2000 report first focused attention to the problem of the safety of inpatient care, it has been a priority of hospital staffs, administrators, and policymakers. Despite remarkable progress in the 20 years since the IOM report, there is still much unknown about how these improvements in safety have been achieved. Using a 12-year (2004 – 2015) panel of Florida acute-care general hospitals, this study estimates the relationship between hospital expenditure on peer (or quality) review and patient-safety outcomes, using a composite measure of patient safety (PSI-90) from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Their identification strategy to account for endogenous quality-review (QR) expenditure relies on exogeneity from within the hospital, in which they use staffing of non-acute ancillary services as instruments for QR expenditure. Estimation of hospital fixed effects (FE) with instrumental variables (FEIV) yields a statistically significant and beneficial effect of QR expenditure on patient safety. They find that, on average, a standard-deviation (\$2.4 million) increase in QR expenditure is associated with a 16 percent decrease in adverse patient-safety events (i.e. PSI-90). Broadly, this study represents a unique contribution to the literature by examining a direct relationship between hospital peer-review spending and inpatient quality of care.

* Dynan, L., & Smith, R. B. (2021). Hospital quality-review spending and patient safety: a longitudinal analysis using instrumental variables. *Health Services and Outcomes Research Methodology*, 1-33.

NKU Faculty Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity Highlights

LINDA DYNAN

Professor, Economics & Finance

6/4/2021

[Professor Dynan, Dr. Robert Siegel and Dr. Katelyn Gordon publish Behavioral Economics: A Primer and Applications to the UN Sustainable Development Goal of Good Health and Well-Being](#)

Behavioral economics (BE) is a relatively new field within economics that incorporates insights from psychology that can be harnessed to improve economic decision making with the potential to enhance good health and well-being of individuals and societies, the third of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. While some of the psychological principles of economic decision making were described as far back as the 1700s by Adam Smith, BE emerged as a discipline in the 1970s with the groundbreaking work of psychologists Daniel Kahneman and Amos Tversky. This article describe the basic concepts of BE, heuristics (decision-making shortcuts) and their associated biases, and the BE strategies framing, incentives, and economic nudging to overcome these biases. They survey the literature to identify how BE techniques have been employed to improve individual choice (focusing on childhood obesity), health policy, and patient and healthcare provider decision making. Additionally, they discuss how these BE-based efforts to improve health-related decision making can lead to sustaining good health and well-being and identify additional health-related areas that may benefit from including principles of BE in decision making.

* Siegel, R., Gordon, K., & Dynan, L. (2021). Behavioral Economics: A Primer and Applications to the UN Sustainable Development Goal of Good Health and Well-Being. Reports, 4(2), 16.

SUK-HEE KIM

Associate Professor, School of Social Work

7/16/2021

[Dr. Kim Publishes Peer-Reviewed Manuscript on Protection of Cognitive Impairment in Older Adults Through Non-Pharmacological Interventions](#)

Assessing the healthy cognitive aging within social work, gerontology, and other related health fields has been raised over the years. This review examines the potential protective effects of cognitive stimulation and training programs for older adults aged 65 and older. This present study explores what cognitive stimulation programs exist, while also identifying ways effective and science-backed research can improve the lives of older adults diagnosed with cognitive impairment. Therefore, the study investigates whether non-pharmacological interventions play a role in preventing cognitive decline, type of cognitive assessment, and the measurement among older adults. This study discussed the implications for social work practice and limitation. It also advances the work of social work practice by the further discovery of what drives the cognitive variance amount of older adults as they age based on the cultural aspect of the intervention.

* Kim, S., & Schneider, C. E. (2021). Protection of cognitive impairment in older adults through non-pharmacological interventions. Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment, 31, 1-17.

NKU Faculty Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity Highlights

SUK-HEE KIM

Associate Professor, School of Social Work

5/17/2021

[Peer-reviewed manuscript has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Social Work Education](#)

The study examines how structural racism amplified the direct and indirect effects of COVID-19 for African American, Asian/Asian American, and Latino/a/x and Hispanic in the social work education during the unplanned transition to synchronous and asynchronous education across the United States. The aim of the study is three-fold. First, centering Critical Race Theory, it discusses the experience of African Americans, Asian/Asian American, and Latino/a/x and Hispanic students in the higher education across the country. Second, it highlights the structural challenges faced by social work students of historically, racially, and ethnically oppressed communities and the lessons learned from the field of social work's pandemic response. Third, social work faculty lessons learned suggest to better meet the needs of historically, racially, and ethnically oppressed social work students; and the integration of Critical Race Theory to diminish the effects of structural racism in social work's future educational plans in response to COVID-19, or a similar health crisis.

* Farina, M.D., Kim, S., Watson, J., & Dayson, Y. D. (Accepted, 2021). COVID-19 and structural racial inequity: Lessons learned for social work education. *Journal of Social Work Education*.

ASHLEY R. VAUGHN

Associate Director & Assistant Professor of Practice, CINSAM

6/1/2021

[Dr. Vaughn publishes chapter in Teaching Motivation for Student Engagement](#)

Helping teachers understand and apply theory and research is one of the most challenging tasks of teacher preparation and professional development. As they learn about motivation and engagement, teachers need conceptually rich, yet easy-to-use, frameworks. At the same time, teachers must understand that student engagement is not separate from development, instructional decision-making, classroom management, student relationships, and assessment. This volume on teaching teachers about motivation addresses these challenges. The authors share multiple approaches and frameworks to cut through the growing complexity and variety of motivational theories, and tie theory and research to real-world experiences that teachers are likely to encounter in their courses and classroom experiences. Additionally, each chapter is summarized with key "take away" practices.

* Johnson, M., Vaughn, A. R., & Taasobshirazi, G. (2021). Common misconceptions and challenges of motivation principles. In D.K. Meyer & A. Emery (Eds.), *Teaching Motivation for Student Engagement*. Charlotte, NC. Information Age Publishing.

NKU Faculty Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity Highlights

JUSTIN YATES

Associate Professor, Psychological Science

4/27/2021

[Dr. Yates publishes paper examining potential molecular target for methamphetamine use disorder](#)

The goal of the current study was to determine if the N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) GluN2B-selective antagonist Ro 63-1908 can block the conditioned rewarding effects of methamphetamine as assessed in conditioned place preference (CPP). Two main experiments were conducted. In the first experiment, male (n = 24) and female (n = 24) rats received either vehicle or Ro 63-1908 (1.0-10.0 mg/kg) 30 min prior to the posttest to determine if blocking the GluN2B subunit attenuates expression of methamphetamine CPP. In the second experiment, male (n = 18) and female (n = 18) rats received either vehicle or Ro 63-1908 (1.0 or 3.0 mg/kg) 30 min prior to each conditioning session to determine if blocking the GluN2B subunit attenuates acquisition of methamphetamine CPP. Ro 63-1908 (3.0 mg/kg) blocked acquisition of methamphetamine CPP in male rats, but only attenuated CPP in female rats. Ro 63-1908 did not alter expression of CPP in either sex. Increasing the dose of Ro 63-1908 (10.0 mg/kg) failed to block acquisition of CPP in an additional group of female rats (n = 6). A control experiment showed that Ro 63-1908 (3.0 mg/kg) did not produce CPP or conditioned place aversion in male rats (n = 6) or in female rats (n = 6). The results of this study show that Ro 63-1908 is able to decrease the conditioned rewarding effects of methamphetamine.

* Yates, J. R., Campbell, H. L., Hawley, L. L., Horchar, M. J., Kappesser, J. L., & Wright, M. R. (in press). Effects of the GluN2B-selective antagonist Ro 63-1908 on acquisition and expression of methamphetamine conditioned place preference in male and female rats. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*.

RESEARCH NEWS

SUK-HEE KIM

Associate Professor, School of Social Work

7/16/2021

[Appointed by the Council on Social Work Education to the Commission on Research for a 3-year term effective July 1, 2021.](#)

Dr. Kim was recently appointed to the Commission on Research for the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) at the national level. The Commission on Research's mission is to advance rigor, relevance, and high ethical standards in the teaching and conduct of research related to social work education. Toward that end, the Commission on Research provides leadership in establishing key research priorities for improving social work education, in promoting the scholarship of teaching and learning within social work education, as well as in specifically promoting quality in research curricula across methods and paradigms in BSW, MSW, and doctoral programs. The Commission is concerned with advocating for research supported policies, practices and programs within CSWE, helping to build relevant data bases that promote innovation in social work education, and with strengthening the connections between social work education-related research and social justice.

NKU Faculty Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity Highlights

SUK-HEE KIM

Associate Professor, School of Social Work

[Dr. Suk-hee Kim Receives NIH Federal Grant Subaward through the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine](#)

The HEALing (Helping to End Addiction Long-Term) Communities Study is funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, part of the National Institutes of Health, in partnership with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Optimizing HEALing in Ohio Communities is a project with the Addiction Sciences, Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience Department, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. Northern Kentucky University has a sub-awarded to conduct essential functions to carry out the proposed study. Dr. Suk-hee Kim will closely work with the University of Cincinnati Criminal Justice Intervention Design Team to provide expertise in the implementation of evidence-based practices in criminal justice settings, and serve as the County Lead for the Criminal Justice Intervention Design Team in Guernsey County in Ohio over the study period.

Do you have research, scholarship or creative activity to share?

Use this [link](#) to submit for the next edition.

Prepared by:

University Research Council and

Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Education, Research and Outreach