



Selected Research Projects

Successful Employment for People with Disabilities Project (2011-present)

Sponsor. Image Center for People with Disabilities and Independence Now (Maryland Centers for Independent Living for People with Disabilities)

Project Description: Research to practice project designed to identify attributes of the environment and individuals that lead to successful careers for people with disabilities and translate findings into evidence based employment programs and training curricula.

Long Term Unemployment and the Recovery (2010-2011): Statistical analysis, interviews, ethnography, and policy recommendations using DOL data and qualitative data on the impact of the recession and weak recovery on the general population and people with disabilities. Created and disseminated two policy reports: *Who are the Long Term Unemployed in this Recession and What can be Done to Help Them?*

<http://www.thecyberhood.net/documents/papers/unemployment.pdf> and *How has the recession affected employment for people with disabilities?*

<http://www.imagemd.org/disability-unemployment-report.doc>

Faith and Organizations Project (2000-2012)

Sponsors. Pilot study: Bradley Foundation, Louisville Institute, and Shoemaker Fund. Phase 1 Study: Lilly Endowment.

Project Description. Responding to a request from faith community and faith-based organization (FBO) leaders, the project developed and implemented a series of research-to-practice projects designed to 1) understand the relationship between founding communities and FBOs, 2) understand the role of founding faith traditions in systems and practices, 3) clarify the role of FBOs in their sector and relationships with government and other funders, and 4) understand relationships with people served by FBOs. Compared organizations providing health, senior services, social services, community development and education founded by Catholics, Mainline Protestants, Jews, Evangelicals, Peace churches, Muslims, and African American Christians. (See <http://www.faithandorganizations.umd.edu/> for products and additional details)

Ask-Me! Project and Disability Systems Projects (2008-2010)

Sponsor. Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)

Project Description. With consulting support from Bonham Research, the [Arc of Maryland](#) conducted Ask Me! — an annual quality of life study of adults in Maryland with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) that was conducted for DDA. It fulfilled a federal mandate to assess quality of life for people served by DDA and is unique in the field because it was developed in partnership with a wide array of self-advocacy organizations and employed people with IDD in all phases of the research. Dr. Schneider's activities involved four separate projects:

- *Ask Me! Revisions.* Developed a revised version of the questionnaire and documented the history and rationale for Ask Me! over its first 10 years. Tasks included developing and conducting focus groups, participating in questionnaire design and piloting, developing on-line surveys for various stakeholder groups, performing a background literature review, analyzing project development over time, and developing reports.



- *Study of Workforce and Service Coordination Systems.* Qualitative study using focus groups, key informant interviews and document review. In partnership with Arc of Maryland staff, developed, conducted, analyzed and wrote report evaluating workforce investment, employment and service coordination systems for people with disabilities in Maryland.
- *Peer Interviewer Study.* Ask Me! employed IDD adults to perform interviewing, coding and data entry tasks. Conducted a depth interview study of the impact of employment with Ask Me! on current and former Ask Me! interviewers. Designed project, conducted research, analyzed data, and wrote report and draft academic paper.
- *Agency Snapshot Tool.* Working with Arc of Maryland staff, created a tool for use by Ask Me! and agency staff to perform visual quality checks using rapid observation techniques of any agency serving people with IDD that uses Ask Me!.

Also designed two future research projects on disability service systems and organizations that would connect Ask Me! data to assessments of organizations serving people with disabilities.

Ask Me! was replaced with the National Core Indicators Project, a nationally normed quality of life study in 2012, with a requirement that Ask Me interviewers and other people with IDD serve as interviewers. Worked with contractor to transition between surveys, developed informed consent materials, hired, trained and managed interviewers.

Social Capital and At-Risk Communities (2002-2010)

Sponsor. Annie E Casey Foundation

Project Description. A series of projects that built on Dr. Schneider's previous studies of social capital for communities, social service agencies, faith communities, families and individuals. The projects supported the foundation's initiatives on social capital and the *Making Connections* initiative, a multi-city research/practice project to build capacity in targeted neighborhoods. Research included key informant and depth interviews, case studies, document review, GIS analysis and statistical analysis of data collected by Urban Institute for the *Making Connections* Initiative. Responsible for grant writing and financial administration of project.

Model for Disseminating Evidence Based Health Education and Health Services Products through Government and Private Systems (2004-2005)

Sponsor. National Cancer Institute (AAAS fellow's project)

Project Description. Performed research and designed model for disseminating evidence-based health practices to marginalized populations. The model derived from prior research on the roles of community-based organizations (CBOs), FBOs and social capital for disparities populations (low income, immigrant/refugee, people of color, and people with disabilities). The model uses social capital, network, and system design theory to identify key community stakeholders and partner with them to disseminate products, programs and information. Model was piloted by NCI after the fellowship. Discussed pilot outcomes with NCI staff.



Knowledge Transfer Teams Evaluation (2003-2004)

Sponsor. National Cancer Institute (NCI). Internal project conducted while an AAAS fellow assigned to the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences, NCI.

Project Description. Developed and conducted an evaluation of NCI dissemination activities using a combination of records review, NCI database analysis, interviews, and systems analysis. Proposed database system and other changes to improve tracking of dissemination activities.

Gateway Cities Religion and the New Immigrants Study (2002-2003)

Sponsor. Pew Charitable Trust

Project Description. As part of the Washington DC project (Dean Hoge and Michael Foley PIs) in the Pew Charitable Trust's *Gateway Cities* initiative — a multi-site national study of the integration of post-1964 immigrants into U.S. society, developed and conducted research on social service agencies either founded by or serving immigrants from selected populations. The Washington DC project was conducted under the auspices of Life Cycle Institute, Catholic University of America. Research combined qualitative and quantitative methods — case studies, agency and congregational surveys, key informant interviews, rapid ethnography and document reviews. Also included statistical analysis of quantitative data collected by the larger study to develop analysis contributing to team project reports and publications. Led development of a dissemination conference targeted toward Washington DC area governments and non-profit and faith community leaders working with immigrants.

Kenosha Social Capital Study (1999-2001)

Sponsors. Aspen Institute Non-Profit Sector Research Fund and the Palmer Foundation

Project Description. A study of the Latino and African American sub-communities of Kenosha focusing on the dynamic among Latino and African American CBOs and churches; community residents; employers; and the city-wide community organization and faith community contexts in order to improve health, employment, workforce development, social welfare, and human services delivery systems. Organized a coalition of these community groups along with the Kenosha County Job Center, Kenosha city government, Kenosha County Department of Human Services. Multi-method study consisting of four components: 1) case studies and participant observation in key organizations and churches serving these communities; 2) life history interviews with families regarding social resources, use of workforce investment and human services systems, work, education, and involvement in organizations and churches; 3) quantitative survey of employment practices of Kenosha employers; and 4) needs assessment survey of the Kenosha Latino and African American populations.

Silver Spring Neighborhood Center Evaluation and Needs Assessment Study (1998-1999)

Sponsors. Connelly Foundation and Opportunities Industrial Center of Greater Milwaukee

Project Description. Led team of faculty, student and consulting researchers from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, University of Wisconsin-Parkside and a nonprofit center in a needs assessment and impact evaluation of the effects of changing welfare, workforce development, health insurance, and child welfare policy on a Milwaukee



CBO, its neighborhood, and its participants. The Silver Spring Neighborhood Center is a settlement house using a one-stop-shop model for the entire age range through partnerships with 15 organizations. Conducted a multi-method study consisting of four components: 1) case studies and participant observation of the neighborhood settlement house and the agencies associated with it; 2) depth interviews of participants; 3) community resource analysis through statistical mapping of the neighborhood, windshield survey of community organizations, and interviews with selected organizations and churches; and 4) statistical analysis of the CBO's administrative databases and correlation of those data with available demographic resources on the community. Conducted agency evaluation and comparative effectiveness evaluation comparing this organization to others performing similar health, workforce investment and human services programs. Worked with agency to build its capacity and assist in efforts to foster neighborhood change.

Kenosha Conversation Project (1997-1998)

Sponsor. Palmer Foundation

Project Description. Led a community needs assessment, local systems change and policy change process regarding workforce development and welfare reform in Kenosha, WI — one of the models for the 1996 welfare reform legislation and health insurance reform. Research consisted of 1) focus groups with stakeholders including participants in Kenosha area nonprofits; administrators, program managers and line staff of the Kenosha County Job Center (KCJC) and Kenosha County Department of Human Services; social service agency staff; employers; government officials; church representatives; and advocacy organizations; 2) interviews with key people involved in welfare reform; and 3) case studies and participant observation in KCJC and an advocacy organization. Developed coalition of government, non-profit and faith community stakeholders who oversaw the research process, participated in a listening project conference, and developed action activities using findings. Over 3,000 copies of the report were distributed to state and local governments, community and faith organizations dealing with welfare, and requestors from foreign countries. Project featured in interview with Cokie Roberts for National Public Radio (NPR).

Studies of Workforce Development, Welfare, Health Insurance, and Training in Philadelphia (1988-2009)

Sponsor. Philadelphia Private Industry Council (PIC)

Project Description. As Assistant Director at the Institute for the Study of Civic Values, designed and led a series of applied, evaluation and action research projects designed to understand the public health insurance, welfare and workforce investment system in Philadelphia as well as outcomes research on welfare, health insurance access, post-secondary education and training at the request of the Campaign for Self Sufficiency, a coalition of training providers, adult basic education providers, community legal services, advocacy organizations, the Mayor's Commission on Literacy, and the Philadelphia Private Industry Council (PIC). The research included the following individual projects:

- *Economic, Racial and Educational Census Mapping Project (1997 & 2009).* Analysis of census maps of Philadelphia and the Philadelphia region as background demographic data for other research and program development.



- *The Rapid Attachment Study (1996-1998).* Quantitative analysis and interventions outcome evaluation of an administrative database for a short-term job readiness and job placement program. The database included demographic information, work, post-secondary education and training history, health insurance, and job placement information. Performed an outcomes analysis of the relationship of previous work and training experience to placement and a GIS mapping analysis of the relationship between where participants live and where they work.
- *Social Network Study (1996-1997).* Quantitative study of people enrolled in nine post-secondary education programs or community colleges. The study linked the experience of trainees to types of training providers (for-profit, non-profit, mandatory, different types of skills training) and was used to develop a typology of work/education experience and provide outcomes data on different types of training programs and providers.
- *Life Experience of Welfare Recipients (1992-1996).* The qualitative companion project to the *Social Network Study* including life history interviews of 20 individuals and participant observation of over 100 public assistance recipients in various education and training programs offered by the *Institute for the Study of Civic Values (ISCV)*.
- *The Alternative Work Experience Program Evaluation (1993-1995).* Quasi-experimental design evaluation of a model service learning post-secondary education and work experience program for people on welfare run by ISCV. The evaluation was based on program statistics, case studies, document review, and ethnographic observations of that program from 1993 through 1995.
- *Survey of Training Providers in Philadelphia (1992-1993).* Combined survey, case study, and document review of 29 adult basic education and training programs in Philadelphia.
- *The Education and Training System in Philadelphia (1992-1993).* Companion ethnographic study to the *Survey of Training Providers* examining Philadelphia PIC and Commonwealth and Federal documents on training and welfare reform.
- *Community Women's Education Project (CWEP) Survey Analysis (1988-1993).* Statistical analysis of intake survey of all women enrolled in the CWEP workstart program over 5 years. CWEP provided adult basic education and career preparation programs for women.

Changing Relations: Newcomers and Established Residents in Philadelphia (1988-1989)

Sponsor. Ford Foundation

Project Description. Co-led one of six sites on a national study looking at the dynamics between newcomers and established residents in U.S. communities (Judith Goode co PI). The Philadelphia project focused on schools, workplaces and CBOs in three neighborhoods. The project examined on interactions among U.S. born whites, Polish émigrés, Latinos, African Americans and Koreans. Research included participant observation, interviews with representative families and key leaders, a combined quantitative/qualitative survey of local families, analysis of available statistics and secondary source material. Wrote grant reports, policy reports, papers and book. Developed and maintained contacts with city-wide institutions and community



organizations, schools, workplaces and community leaders.
Organized working groups to implement project findings. Developed federal legislation to implement findings.