

APPC Speaker Series (2013-2014)



The Annenberg Public Policy Center is hosting a lunchtime speaker series to engage with scholars, practitioners and policymakers in fields that are relevant to the policy center's work, including adolescent health, children and media, and political communication. The series is open to the public and all University of Pennsylvania faculty, staff and students are welcome to attend. Seating is limited, and an RSVP is required.

All talks will be in the second-floor atrium at the APPC, at 202 South 36th St. Buffet lunch will be served at noon, lecture at 12:30.

William Jacoby, Michigan State University

Monday, October 28, 2013



Measuring Political Knowledge in the Mass Public: Calibrating a Useful Instrument. William G. Jacoby, Ph.D.

(<http://polisci.msu.edu/jacoby/>), is a professor in the Department of Political Science at Michigan State University and a research scientist at the University of Michigan. There is little consensus among scholars as to the best way to measure the knowledge of individual citizens. One strategy relies upon interviewer assessments, though there are systematic differences in interviewers' judgments. Professor Jacoby presents an approach for taking interviewer biases into account.

Rebecca Puhl, Yale University

Thursday, December 5, 2013



Weight Bias and Stigmatization: Implications for Research and Public Health Efforts Addressing Obesity. Rebecca Puhl, Ph.D., Deputy Director of the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity at Yale University

(http://www.yaleruddcenter.org/who_we_are.aspx?id=331), will look at the current evidence, extent and health consequences of weight stigmatization. As a senior research scientist, she coordinates research and policy efforts aimed at reducing weight bias and improving the quality of life of children and adults affected by obesity.

Jennifer Manganello, University at Albany-SUNY and APPC Distinguished Research Fellow

Thursday, January 16, 2014



Exploring the Relationship between Health Literacy and Media Use among Youth. While health literacy has been widely studied, there is a lack of research concerning health literacy and youth, and almost no research has examined the relationship between health literacy and media use. Has Internet access improved health literacy skills, and are youth with limited health literacy at a disadvantage when it comes to understanding and using the information they find? Jennifer Manganello, Ph.D. (<http://www.albany.edu/news/experts/7891.php>), will explore these ideas, present data from a teen health literacy study, and discuss ideas for future research.

Katie Davis, University of Washington

Tuesday, February 18, 2014



The App Generation: How Youth Navigate Identity, Intimacy, and Imagination in Today's Digital World. Drawing on a research program with colleagues at Harvard University, including interviews of young people and focus groups, Katie Davis, Ed.D. , will explore the potential and drawbacks of new media technologies for young people. An advisory board member for MTV's digital abuse campaign, A Thin Line, Dr. Davis (<http://katedavisresearch.com/>) is co-author with Howard Gardner of *The App Generation*, published in October.

Jean Decety, University of Chicago

Thursday, March 6, 2014



The Best and the Worst: Empathy and its Contribution to Morality. Jean Decety, Ph.D., uses neuroimaging to study the emotional and cognitive reactions of children and adults to the experience of pain and misfortune in others. His research has even identified an empathic response in laboratory rats. Dr. Decety (<http://psychology.uchicago.edu/people/faculty/jdecety.shtml>), who has appointments in both the departments of psychology and psychiatry at the University of Chicago, will present his research on the role of empathy as a mediator of moral decision making in both normal and psychopathic individuals.

David B. Allison, University of Alabama

Wednesday, April 2, 2014



Myths and Presumptions in Nutrition and Obesity: Practices Which Propagate Them and Proposed Solutions. David B. Allison, Ph.D., will discuss a number of popular ideas that are actually myths (i.e., demonstrated to be false) and others that are presumptions (i.e., not yet shown to be true nor yet shown to be false). Dr. Allison (<http://www.soph.uab.edu/ssg/people/davidallison>), director of the Nutrition Obesity Research Center, also will discuss the practices of researchers and others that lead to the propagation of such myths and presumptions as purported facts. Finally, proposed solutions aimed at

buttressing the fidelity of research reporting and reasonableness of research interpretation will be offered.