Seeing Like a Rover: How Robots, Teams and Images Craft Knowledge of Mars
Wednesday | January 27 | 11:30-1:00 pm – Machmer W32
Janet Vertesi (Princeton University / Sociology) takes us behind the scenes to reveal the work that goes into creating our knowledge of Mars. Vertesi’s account of the inspiringly successful Rover project reveals science in action, a world where digital processing uncovers scientific truths, where images are used to craft consensus, and where team members develop an uncanny intimacy with the sensory apparatus of a robot that is millions of miles away. This talk is co-sponsored by the Department of Sociology and ISSR.

Faculty Perspectives on Data Management
Thursday | January 28 | 12:00-1:30 pm – 107 Bartlett Hall
Three scholars with a deep and varied experience in developing and evaluating data management plans will explore the key practical and ethical issues they present. In addition to the practicalities of developing convincing data management plans for NSF proposals, this panel will examine the ethics of big data that go beyond the IRB certification, investigating exactly how data participates in our social world, and what we as researchers can do about it.

Featured Panelists
Janet Vertesi (Princeton University / Sociology)
Brian Schaffner (UMass-Amherst / Political Science)
Laurel Smith-Doerr (UMass-Amherst / Sociology)
Moderator: Krista Harper (UMass-Amherst / Anthropology)

Individual and Ecological Variation in Child Undernutrition: a multilevel approach
Friday | January 29 | 11:00-12:00 pm – 107 Bartlett Hall
Iván Mejía Guevara (Harvard University / Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health Studies) explores decomposition of the variability of child anthropometry and anthropometric failure at the individual and ecological levels by using multilevel statistical methods. Analysis of data from children in India assesses the relative importance and contribution of well-established risk factors in shaping variation in child undernutrition. Results reveal that between-child differences account for the majority of child anthropometric status, while risk factors explain a very small proportion.

CV Building Blocks for the Academic Job Market
Thursday | February 25 | 12:00-1:30 pm – Campus Center Room 163c
This session will provide advanced-career graduate students with strategies to create convincing academic CVs. A UMass faculty panel will describe CV components, discuss examples from the perspective of recent hires and hiring committees in the social and behavioral sciences, and provide suggestions for re-framing a CV for different audiences. While all graduate students are welcome, this session will be particularly helpful for those approaching the academic job search. A pizza lunch will be provided. This event is co-sponsored by the Graduate School Office of Professional Development and ISSR.

Featured Panelists
Katie McDermott (College of Education & Center for Public Policy & Administration)
Michael Morgan (Communication)
Jamie Mullins (Resource Economics)
Tatishe Nteta (Political Science)

Graduate Student Fellowship Opportunities for Graduate Students of Color
Tuesday | March 8 | 12:00-1:30 pm – Bartlett 107
This event will provide tips and tools for finding fellowship programs designed to support graduate students of color. Panelists will also share advice on crafting a competitive proposal, both from the perspective of an award-winning graduate student and faculty member of grant review panels. A pizza lunch will be provided. This event is co-sponsored by ISSR, the Graduate Students of Color Association, and the Graduate School Office of Professional Development.

Featured Panelists:
Faculty reviewer: Manisha Sinha (Afro-American Studies)
Graduate student grantee: Kasey Jernigan (Anthropology)
Social Science Research Methods at the Frontier: Affirming Black Lives Matter
Wednesday | March 23 | 12:30-2:00 pm — UMass Campus Center Hadley Room (10th floor)
Three scholars of race and politics reflect critically on the frontiers of research methods in each of their disciplines in light of the fight for racial justice. This event is part of a weeklong, campus-wide and interdisciplinary engagement with the Black Lives Matter movement, and is co-sponsored by ISSR and the Psychology of Peace and Violence Program.

Featured Panelists
Dawn Dow (Syracuse University / Sociology & Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs)
Fredrick Harris (Columbia University / Political Science & Center on African-American Politics and Society)
Linda Tropp (UMass Amherst / Psychology of Peace and Violence)

Social Science Research Methods at the Frontier: How do we heed the call?
Monday | March 28 | 12:30-2:00 pm — Bartlett 107
This inter-disciplinary dialogue aims to engage scholars across the 5 Colleges to identify implications and shared agendas for social science research after a week of events centered on the Black Lives Matter movement and the fight for racial justice. This event is co-sponsored by ISSR and the Psychology of Peace and Violence Program in collaboration with a wide range of partner organizations such as the Public Engagement Project and the GEO Black Caucus.

Dialogue Moderators:
TBA

The (Un)Importance of Disciplinary Boundaries
Tuesday | March 29 | 11:30 am – 12:30 pm — Bartlett 107
All our work relates to disciplinary boundaries—sustaining, transgressing, reshaping and dialoguing with the conceptual and methodological legacies they represent. This panel invites differently positioned scholars to discuss the diverse meanings of disciplinary traditions. Of what do these boundaries consist? What sustains them? What do they enable or impede? What are the challenges of working across them? What does (or should) the future hold for disciplines as we know them?

Featured Panelists:
Jana Fountain (Political Science)
Julie Hemment (Anthropology)
Donald Katzner (Economics)
Laurel Smith-Doerr (Sociology)
Moderator: Millie Thayer (Sociology)

What Social Science Research brings to Big Data Research: A view from experience
Friday | April 1 | 12:00 – 2:00 pm — Room TBD
The world of big data offers enormous opportunities for social science, but social scientists have a great deal to offer to a (data) world that is currently looking to computer scientists to provide answers. Three major areas in which social scientists can contribute, based on decades of experience, include causal inference, data quality, and addressing privacy and confidentiality. This talk will discuss each of these in turn using examples drawn from a new large scale social science data infrastructure constructed using big data techniques. This event is co-sponsored by the Computational Social Science Institute, Department of Economics, and ISSR.

Featured Speaker
Julia Lane (New York University / Center for Urban Science and Progress & Wagner School of Public Service)

Examining the Replication Crisis
Friday | April 8 | 12:30 – 2:00 pm — Bartlett 107
The ability to replicate research findings is an essential component of the scientific process. However, the scientific process itself has come under considerable scrutiny due to recent evidence that the results of many studies and experiments are difficult, if not impossible, to replicate. This panel discussion will explore the causes, controversies and consequences of the “Replication Debate” featuring methodologists and researchers from across the social and computational sciences. This event is co-sponsored by ISER and the Computational Social Science Institute.

Featured Panelists
Emery Berger (Information and Computer Science)
Thomas Herndon (Economics)
David Jansen (Information and Computer Science)
Caren Rotelle (Psychology)
Adrian Staub (Psychology)

Developing a Budget and Timeline for Funding Proposals
Tuesday | April 12 | 12:00 – 1:00 pm — Bartlett 107
Many funding applications require a budget and timeline, yet funders often provide little guidance on how to prepare these elements. This session will outline resources to draft a budget and timeline and participants will receive assistance in developing drafts of these proposal elements. Bring your lunch; coffee and dessert provided. This event is co-sponsored by the Graduate School Office of Professional Development and ISSR.

Featured Panelists
Heidi Bauer-Clapp (Office of Professional Development)
Karen Mason (Institute for Social Science Research)

Please RSVP using links provided or at www.umass.edu/issr.

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