

SOCIOLOGY COLLOQUIUM SERIES PRESENTS:

# Pain in the United States and Abroad: A Demographic Perspective

**DATE:** October 24, 2018 **TIME:** 12:00-1:15 p.m. **LOCATION:** 107 Capen

Abstract:

U.S. data points to pain as the single most highly reported health problem, the most common reason for doctor visits, and a salient determinant of quality of life. Demographic science has, however, generally neglected pain as an indicator of population health despite its prominence as a critical health condition. Part of the reason for this may be difficulty in linking pain to a specific cause, subsequently assessing the causal impact of pain on mortality, or situating pain within a disablement framework that is a common reference in demographic health research. It is within this backdrop that our team is seeking to expand the dialogue around the Demography of Pain. In this presentation we will talk about the emergence of our project and present some of the early results from our research. Using several large nationally-representative datasets from countries including the U.S., we will review recent worrisome trends in pain prevalence and examine disparities in pain among population subgroups. We will consider social determinants of pain, as well as pain consequences for disability and mortality. An overarching goal of this presentation is to highlight critical open questions in an important new area of population health research.



---

**Dr. Anna Zajacova** is an Associate Professor of Sociology at University of Western Ontario. She earned a PhD in Sociology and Demography from Princeton University in 2006 and was an NIA Postdoctoral Fellow at University of Michigan. Dr. Zajacova studies social determinants of adult health in the US. She focuses on the role of educational attainment, especially at the postsecondary level. She published over 50 studies on this topic, as well as other areas including body weight and health, health evaluation, and geographic differences in health.



**Dr. Zachary Zimmer** is a Professor of Family Studies and Gerontology, a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair, and Director of the Global Aging and Community Initiative at Mount Saint Vincent University in Canada. He received a PhD in Sociology with a concentration in Social Demography in 1998 from the University of Michigan. Since that time he has held previous positions at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, The Population Council, The University of Utah and the University of California at San Francisco. Over the course of his career he has taught courses in demography, aging, health policy, research methods and statistics. Dr. Zimmer's research focuses on an eclectic range of issues related to the health and welfare of older persons from a global and demographic perspective. He often works in, and collaborates with scholars from, developing countries, examining how healthy aging ensues within rapidly changing socioeconomic and demographic environments. His work has been published in journals that cross disciplines, such as gerontology, sociology, demography, public health, medicine and epidemiology.

---

**EVENT SPONSORS:** Department of Sociology      430 Park Hall      <http://sociology.buffalo.edu/>

---