

INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF “RACE” AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Center for Health Policy
University of New Mexico

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Director Nancy López, PhD (Director & co-founder)

Founded January 2009

Mission To promote the establishment of empirical, theoretical and methodological clarity about “race” that draws on cutting-edge thinking from multiple disciplines and diverse empirical traditions

To develop ways of empirically measuring “race” and assessing racialization processes in order to develop strategies for ameliorating race-based inequality

Principal Funding

RWJF Center for Health Policy (initiative seed funding; in-kind staff support); 2010 National Institutes of Health Workshop Grant (2010)

Objectives

- Provide best practices expertise (i.e., empirical, theoretical, methodological) and consulting to researchers in the natural and social sciences seeking to incorporate racial variables and racialization processes and dynamics into their studies.
- Provide expertise and consulting community members and policy-makers at the tribal, state, county and municipal levels for measuring (assessing) and ameliorating (addressing) racial disparities; create successful research partnerships between the university and surrounding local and national communities.
- Foster an institutional context for ongoing scholarly conversations about the empirical, theoretical and methodological understanding and empirical study of "race."

- Mentor RWJF Center fellows in their predoctoral, dissertation, and postdoctoral studies; career development of the next generation of scholarship on “race” disparities, equity and social justice.
- Nurture research agendas of UNM faculty as they relate to mapping and interrupting racial disparities and promoting equity and social justice in health and community viability, education, law and criminal justice.
- Improve national and local race data collection (e.g., Census, NM Hospitals Association, K-20)

Activities

2009	“Race” Study Group, 20 participants (Fall)
2009-2010	Speaker series, “Troubling ‘Race’: Cutting Edge Research Design Across the Disciplines,” 300-400 participants over four lectures
2011	Symposium, “Counting ‘Race’: Racial & Ethnic Measurements for the 2020 Census,” 150 participants (September 9)
2011	National Institutes of Health (NIH) Workshop, “Mapping ‘Race’ & Inequality: Best Practices for Conceptualizing and Operationalizing ‘Race’ in Health Policy Research,” 22 participants for two-day workshop (April 29-30)
2011-2013	New Mexico Hospital Association, Race and Ethnicity Advisory Committee
2013	New Mexico Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) Planning Committee
2013	Sociology Working Group on Race and Hispanic Origin Question Revisions for Census 2020 Memorandum (informal working group of the American Sociological Association)
2014	New Mexico Statewide Race, Gender, Class Data Policy Consortium

Publications

Transdisciplinary “Race” Working Group. 2010. Transdisciplinary Guidelines for Researching “Race.” Institute for the Study of “Race” & Social Justice, RWJF Center for Health Policy.

Gómez, Laura and Nancy López. 2013. Mapping “Race”: Critical Approaches to Health Disparities Research. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.