

The Earl Babbie Research Center

Research at the Babbie Center

The Earl Babbie Research Center (EBRC) at Chapman University is committed to empowering students and faculty to engage in scientific research that tackles pressing social, behavioral, economic, and environmental issues. The Center's mission is to offer research support and guidance to students, faculty, and the wider community, while also generating research that addresses global societal challenges.

Message from Earl and Suzanne Babbie

Thirteen years ago, Suzanne and I were deeply honored by the establishment of the Babbie Center, with its special emphasis on training students to conduct social research. Who knew it would also achieve international fame for its annual survey of American Fears. That Government Corruption has led the list year after year seems especially telling these days. We were honored by the establishment of the Center but equally honored by the distinguished scholars who were willing to associate themselves with it.

Thank you.



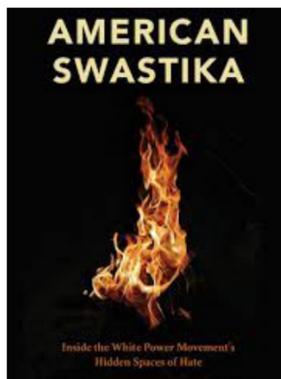
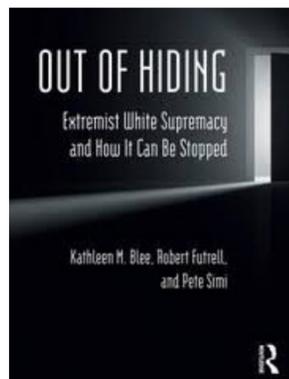
2024–2025 HIGHLIGHTS

The Study of Population Health Division

Investigates the social and contextual factors that influence physical and psychological health. Team members within the Division are employing innovative quantitative methods and extensive data sources to uncover the root causes of health inequities. The Division published four (4) peer-reviewed manuscripts in 2024/2025, one of which is a collaboration with the Center's 2024/2025 Research Assistant, Valentine Chung ('25), submitted three (3) external grant applications, and currently has two (2) manuscripts undergoing peer review, including one that is in the Revise and Resubmit stage.

The Study of Violence and Radicalization Division

Advances the scientific exploration of the causes and effects of various forms of violence, with a particular emphasis on street gangs, hate crimes, and terrorism. The Division is advancing its research on political violence through the publication of four peer-reviewed articles, two books (see below), and a federally funded project that examines threats to public officials from 2013 to the present.



The Study of American Fears Division

Marked the 11th anniversary of the Chapman University Survey of American Fears (CSAF). CSAF asks a representative national sample of Americans about more than 90 fears and related behaviors. The FEAR survey has been cited in over 1,000 print, broadcast, and online media. The overall themes in 2025 highlight a deep concern for government integrity, personal and loved ones' health, environmental issues, and geopolitical tensions, particularly regarding security and privacy.

Top 10 Fears of 2025:	%	'24 Rank
1. Corrupt Government Officials	69.1%	1
2. People I Love Becoming Seriously Ill	58.9%	2
3. Economic/Financial Collapse	58.2%	↑ 15
4. Cyberterrorism	55.9%	↓ 3
5. People I Love Dying	55.3%	↓ 4
6. US Becoming Involved in Another World War	55.3%	↑ 7
7. Pollution of Drinking Water	54.5%	↑ 11
8. Russia Using Nuclear Weapons	53.7%	↓ 5
9. Pollution of Oceans, Rivers, and Lakes	53.5%	↑ 13
10. Government Tracking of Personal Data	52.7%	↑ 20

The percentage represents the percentage of the American public that is afraid of the subject. The arrows indicate what direction the fears are going in according to the level of fear.



Advisory Board Member Spotlight

We posed the question to our Advisory Board: "What trends do you foresee for the future of quantitative methods in the social sciences?"

Arvind Singhal, the Samuel Shirley & Edna Holt Marston Endowed Professor at the University of Texas at El Paso and Director of the Social Justice Initiative: "I envision a more

strategic application of quantitative data to pinpoint positive outliers that have successfully addressed specific challenges despite significant obstacles. Leveraging data to uncover 'bright spots' within 'hot spots' can provide valuable insights into 'what works.'"

Methods Training

In keeping with the EBRC's commitment to provide methodological training, we deliver Statistical Consulting Services to faculty, staff, and students. Our experts provide support with statistical analysis and data interpretation.

Babbie Student Worker

Graduating senior, Valentine Chung, served as the Center's 2024-2025 Research Assistant



Valentine Chung with fellow graduates, Wilkinson faculty, and Director of the Earl Babbie Research Center, Dr. Ashley Kranjac



Our 2023/2024 EBRC Research Assistant, Roxy Aguilera, has been awarded a Fulbright U.S. Student Program grant to serve as an English Teaching Assistant in Galicia, Spain, for the 2025–2026 academic year.

FUNDING EARLY CAREER SCHOLARS

In alignment with the EBRC's mission to conduct research that tackles global issues, the Center provided funding for various research projects undertaken by junior social science faculty in Wilkinson College.



Dr. Minju Kwon

"The Earl Babbie Research Center has always been incredibly supportive of my academic career as a junior scholar at Chapman. The Center allowed me to become a lifetime member of the Korean Political Science Association, which is the largest academic community for political scientists in South Korea. Being a member of this association will enable me to develop my research projects on human rights in South Korea and, more broadly, East Asia in the long term. I will participate in the 28th International Political Science Association World Congress, co-organized by the association, in July 2025 to present my book project and expand my networks with scholars and practitioners."



Dr. Joshua Liashenko and Research Team

"The generous support from the Earl Babbie Center, is instrumental in advancing our research on the lived experiences of queer

youth, specifically the impacts of queer trauma, friendships, and community. Using this funding, we aim to center and celebrate the voices and stories of the marginalized queer youth, gaining a more nuanced understanding of how queer individuals navigate queer trauma and find healing through community and friendships."



Dr. Lewis Luartz

"This work on voters in Taiwan is crucial in the current socio-political environment given shifting tensions in US-China-Taiwan relations. My research suggests that those voters who withdraw from engaging in the political system in Taiwan may be less likely to adopt a party affiliation, which could impact the ruling party's ability to govern in a contentious time. This award will help promote that research among experts at the 2025 Midwest Political Science Association annual meeting."



Dr. Hannah Ridge

"I greatly appreciate the Babbie Center's support. It allowed me to attend the 2025 ASREC conference, which focused on the confluence of economics, religion, and culture. I presented work on the impact of religious nationalism in Israeli politics."