Description: Migrants in need of protection (MNP)—those who migrate abroad primarily to evade an imminent threat to their survival—account for an increasing share of all international migrants worldwide. Nevertheless, demographic research on these migrants and their migration dynamics remains comparatively underdeveloped relative to demographic research on migrants who relocate abroad primarily in pursuit of material gains, social status, or family reunification. In this talk, I describe a new, ongoing study that aims to understand heterogeneity in the different types of threats Latin American MNP seek to evade; how these threats track MNP onto different pathways of incorporation; and how pre-migration threats and post-migration incorporation jointly shape MNP family dynamics, health, and wellbeing in Costa Rica—a middle income country with a large and rapidly growing MNP population.

Dr. Abigail Weitzman’s research explores interconnections between demographic and social psychological processes. In particular, she asks how expectations and desires influence the nature of important events in people’s lives, cumulatively shaping demographic patterns in the aggregate; and, reciprocally, how shifting demographic circumstances influence desires, expectations, and behaviors in ways that determine individuals' social and health trajectories. She holds a PhD in Sociology from New York University and completed an NIH postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Michigan. Prior to becoming an academic, she served in the Peace Corps twice and interned at the United Nations.