

Irma T. **Elo** (Ph.D., Public Affairs and Demography, Princeton, 1990) is Associate Professor of Sociology; she is Associate Director of the PSC and immediate Past Chair of the GGD. She is the Chair of the Board of Scientific Counselors of the NCHS and has served on the Board of Directors of the PAA, on a number of special NICHD and NIA scientific review panels, is on the Board of the Section on Population of the ASA.

**Scientific Accomplishment.** Elo is interested in how societal inequalities affect health outcomes across the life course. She has made substantive and methodological contributions to the study of race/ethnic and socioeconomic differentials in mortality. Recent examples are two articles on Hispanic mortality at older ages using data from the Social Security Administration, in *Demography* and in *Pop Research Policy Rev*. The latter article provides first direct evidence on the effect of “salmon bias” on the Hispanic mortality advantage at ages 65 and above. Recent work (in *Demog Res*) on trends in black-white differences in mortality has examined the contribution of causes of death to changes in black-white differences in male and female mortality and sex mortality differences among whites and blacks. Trends in black-white mortality differences vary by sex with fluctuations being more pronounced for men, in part driven by changes in mortality from homicide and HIV infection in young adulthood and cardiovascular diseases, cancer and HIV infection in middle age. Mortality trends have been more favorable for black women than for black men. She published a paper with **Preston** (in *Pop Dev Rev*) on inaccuracies in US life tables for blacks. Elo’s collaboration with T. Perls on a multi-center study on familial concentration in exceptional longevity has led to an article in *J. Gerontol Series A*, on survival of parents and siblings of “supercentenarians.” She finds support for the notion that the lifespan of parents and siblings of long-lived individuals also exceed the average lifespan of their respective birth cohorts. Her recent work on educational differences in mortality includes a paper (*Eur J Pop*) comparing educational and income differences in all cause and cause-specific mortality in Finland and the United States. Elo has collaborated with **J. Culhane** and others in analyses of race/ethnic disparities in maternal and infant and child health using data from the Longitudinal Study of Low-Income Philadelphia Mothers and their Children (LSPMC) and Philadelphia birth records (*Am J of Obst and Gyn, Ambul Pediatr, Matern and Child Heal J, and Pediatr.*)

**Present and Future.** Elo has extended her work on black-white differences in mortality by examining trends in “avoidable” mortality in the United States using vital statistics and census data. This work will utilize linked NHIS-MCD data to assess whether black-white differences in “avoidable” mortality are related to black-white differences in SES, health insurance coverage, and other relevant individual characteristics. She collaborates in this research with Macinko, a RWJF Health and Society post-doctoral fellow at Penn. She will continue to collaborate with Perls on the Exceptional Survival and Longevity Study where she will be responsible for linking participants to early life census records to obtain information on early life family characteristics and assess age reporting. She will collaborate with Perls on studies of familial concentration of longevity using data from the LLFS and the New England Centenarian Study. Elo, in collaboration with **J. Culhane** and demography graduate students, will continue analyses of the LSPMC, including investigations of associations between early life events and maternal health and health behaviors in young adulthood. Preliminary results suggest that early life experiences exhibit a significant association with health behaviors and depressive symptoms in young adulthood among low-income inner-city women. Together with **Kohler** and I. Kohler, Elo is working on new grant proposal to examine the association between children’s educational attainment and parental health. Early results from the Mexican Health and Aging Study (MHAS, **Soldo**, PI) suggest that children’s educational attainment is associated with intergenerational transfers and parental health. Elo plans to extend this work by utilizing various data sets from developing and developed countries. Elo is also a co-investigator on a study on the Dynamic Relationship of BMI and SES over the Life Cycle and Between Generations (**Chang**, PI).

**PSC and Research.** As Associate Director Elo has been involved in all aspects of the PSC, with primary responsibility for computing and training; she has been and will continue as head of the CITID core, and will serve on the Demographic Methods unit of the Methods section of the Development Core. Her externally funded research with **J. Culhane**, T. Perls, J. Macinko and others makes extensive use of the CITID, including PSC computer networks, bibliographic services and web consulting. Elo has worked with the project on Data Sharing for Demographic Research, housed at the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research, to facilitate the archiving and distribution of data sets collected by PSC research associates. Elo is also one of two Demographers, with **Smith**, on the HHS award (D. Schwarz, PI; **J Culhane**, Co-PI) to the CHOP for the Montgomery Co., PA vanguard site for the NCS.