The larger project on which the presentation will be based concerns immigration detention. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operates the largest detention and supervised release program in the United States. In 2011, for example, over 400,000 immigrants were held in 250 detention centers around the country, at a cost of more than $2 billion. Despite the vast magnitude and cost of this program and its potential impact on immigrants and their families, little is known about this phenomenon and the population affected by it. This study empirically investigates, for the first time, three important questions about long-term immigration detention and release processes in the United States: (1) What are the social, economic, legal, and health consequences of long-term detention on immigrants, their families, and their communities? (2) What is the nature of bond hearings available to long-term immigrant detainees, and how do the detainees and their families experience and navigate this legal process? (3) What is the feasibility of applying methodological innovations in research on incarceration/reentry to a longitudinal study of difficult-to-reach immigrant populations? This study will produce policy-relevant knowledge that will advance research on immigration detention, law and inequality, and longitudinal survey methods.

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