

Co-Sponsors
National Center for Marriage Research
The Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of
Child Health and Human Development

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Susan Brown, National Center for Marriage Research
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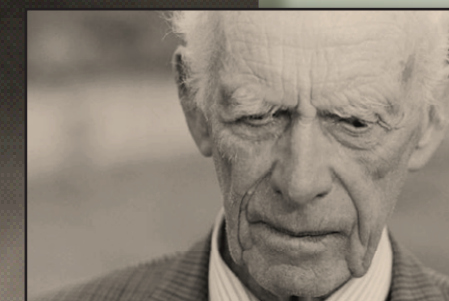
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The National Center for Marriage Research, established in 2007 by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, aims to improve our understanding of how marriage and family structures affect the health and wellbeing of families, adults, children and communities and to inform policy development and programmatic responses.

Families & Health

New Directions in Research and Theory



June 1-2, 2009
Natcher Conference Center
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, MD

Families & Health:

New Directions in Research and Theory



Monday, June 1, 2009

8:00-8:30

Welcome and Introductions

- Barbara Broman, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Deborah Carr, Rutgers University
- V. Jeffery Evans, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

Session #1

8:30-10:00

Families, Households, and Living Arrangements

- Mary Clare Lennon, City University of New York
- Sara S. McLanahan, Princeton University
- Debra J. Umberson, University of Texas
- Linda J. Waite, University of Chicago



10:00-10:30

Coffee Break

Session #2

10:30-12:00

Family Change and Instability

- Krista Perreira, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
- Holly Prigerson, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Brigham and Women's Hospital
- Robin W. Simon, Wake Forest University
- Megan Sweeney, University of California-Los Angeles



12:00-1:30

Lunch

Edward Seidman, William T. Grant Foundation

Senior Vice President, Program

Dr. Seidman's interests center on facilitating high quality theory, measurement, and intervention research to understand and improve the daily experiences of youth in families, classrooms, peer groups, and community-based organizations. Immediately prior to joining the Foundation, his research program examined the nature and course of the positive developmental trajectories of economically at-risk urban adolescents and how these trajectories are affected by the social contexts of family, peers, school, and neighborhood, and their interaction.

Robin W. Simon, Wake Forest University

Professor, Department of Sociology

Dr. Simon's research interests include mental health, emotion, gender and the family, social psychology, and medical sociology. She examines gender and social status variations in the consequences of role involvement, chronic role strains, and role transitions for mental health among adults. Her work also evaluates gender differences in both the experience and expression of emotion and emotional problems among children, adolescents, and adults.

Erica Spotts, National Institute on Aging

Health Scientist Administrator, Division of Behavioral and Social Research (DBSR)

Dr. Spotts' interests focus on family research and behavior genetics as well as genetic and environmental factors that play a role in marital relationships. She expanded her research on marital relationships to look at romantic relationships in adolescent and elderly samples. Dr. Spotts is also focusing on the transformation of romantic relationships from adolescence to emerging adulthood to full adulthood, how interpersonal relationships impact mental health, and the role that friendships and sibling relationships play in adulthood.

Megan Sweeney, University of California-Los Angeles

Associate Professor, Department of Sociology

Dr. Sweeney's research interests focus on the determinants and consequences of family transitions in the United States, with a particular emphasis on variation over historical time, across subpopulations, and over the life course. Some of her most recent work includes the emotional, physical, and behavioral well-being of children and adolescents living in stepfamilies.

Debra J. Umberson, University of Texas

Professor, Department of Sociology

Dr. Umberson's research focuses on structural determinants of psychological and physical health, with a particular focus on the effects of gender and relationships on health behavior and health. Recent publications consider how marital quality and the effect of marital quality on health change over time. Her current research, funded by the National Institute on Aging (NIA), considers how different types of social ties affect a range of health behaviors over the life course and how these linkages vary by race and gender.

Linda J. Waite, University of Chicago

Lucy Flower Professor, Department of Sociology; Director, Center on Aging

Dr. Waite is the Lucy Flower Professor of Sociology and Director of the Center on Aging at the University of Chicago. She is Principal Investigator of *The National Social Life, Health and Aging Study (NSHAP)*. Dr. Waite is co-author, with Frances Goldscheider, of *New Families, No Families?: The Transformation of the American Home*, winner of the Duncan Award from the American Sociological Association. She is also author, with Maggie Gallagher, of *The Case for Marriage: Why Married People are Happier, Healthier and Better Off Financially*, which won the 2000 Outstanding Book Award from the Coalition for Marriage, Family and Couples Education.

Janice Kiecolt-Glaser, The Ohio State University

Distinguished University Professor, Department of Psychiatry; S. Robert Davis Chair of Medicine, College of Medicine
Working in the area of psychoneuroimmunology, Dr. Kiecolt-Glaser has authored more than 200 articles, chapters, and books, most in collaboration with Dr. Ronald Glaser. Their studies have demonstrated important health consequences of stress. In addition, their programmatic work has focused on the ways in which personal relationships influence immune and endocrine function and health.

Mary Clare Lennon, City University of New York (CUNY)

Professor, PhD Program in Sociology

Dr. Lennon has spent a great deal of her career examining the relationship between gender, socioeconomic status, and health problems. She is working with the multi-campus, interdisciplinary CUNY Urban Health Collaborative on several initiatives, including research studies of homelessness and the proposed doctoral program in public health. Her recent research examines how housing insecurity affects the well-being of low-income families and children.

Kathleen McGarry, Dartmouth College

Joel Z. and Susan Hyatt 1972 Professor, Department of Economics

Dr. McGarry's research focuses on the wellbeing of the elderly with particular attention paid to public and private transfers, including the Medicare and SSI programs, and the transfer of resources within families. Her research combines work on the financial aspects of aging with issues related to health economics to examine issues of sufficiency of care and levels of resources among the elderly.

Sara S. McLanahan, Princeton University

William S. Tod Professor, Department of Sociology and Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs

Dr. McLanahan is a faculty associate of the Office of Population Research and is the founder and director of the Bendheim-Thoman Center for Research on Child Wellbeing. Her early work focused on the growth of single-mother families and its implications for women and children. Today, she focuses on the growth of fragile families -- unmarried parents raising children together -- and the implications for the reproduction of poverty and inequality. Dr. McLanahan currently directs the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study.

Krista Perreira, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Associate Professor, Department of Public Policy

Dr. Perreira studies the disparities in health, education, and economic well-being and inter-relationships between family, health, and social policy among immigrant families and their children. Her research interests include the following: child development and adolescence; demography of immigration; Latino health and income security; mental health and substance abuse; public policy analysis; welfare and Medicaid policy.

Holly Prigerson, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Brigham and Women's Hospital

Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School

Dr. Prigerson directs the Center for Psychooncology and Palliative Care Research that focuses on studies designed to improve the quality of life and care of cancer patients and their family caregivers. Dr. Prigerson focuses particular attention to the mental health of bereaved cancer patient caregivers. More specifically, she has conducted a series of studies that have identified "Prolonged Grief Disorder" as a distinct psychiatric disorder. She also has National Cancer Institute (NCI) and National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) funded studies to examine psychosocial factors that influence patient and caregiver grief, decision-making, and care. These psychosocial factors include ethnic disparities in family dynamics and doctor-patient communication.

Session #3

1:30-3:00

Family Relationships

- Rosemary Blieszner, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
- Catherine A. Chesla, University of California-San Francisco
- James C. Coyne, University of Pennsylvania
- Joseph G. Grzywacz, Wake Forest University



3:00-3:30

Coffee Break

Session #4

3:30-5:00



Caring for Families: Sharing the Burden?

- Janet Currie, Columbia University
- Pamela Herd, University of Wisconsin
- Sandra Hofferth, University of Maryland
- Kathleen McGarry, Dartmouth College

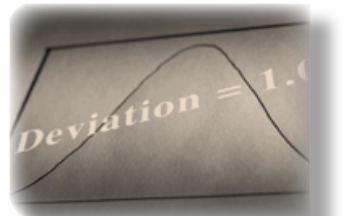
Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Session #5

9:00-10:30

New Directions in Research Methods

- Guang Guo, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
- David A. Kenny, University of Connecticut
- Janice Kiecolt-Glaser, The Ohio State University



10:30-10:45

Coffee Break

Session #6

10:45-12:00



The Future of Families and Health Research

- V. Jeffery Evans, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
- Edward Seidman, William T. Grant Foundation
- Erica Spotts, National Institute on Aging

Rosemary Blieszner, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Alumni Distinguished Professor, Department of Human Development
Dr. Blieszner’s current research interests include family and friend relationships and well being in adulthood and old age. She studies the use of community services by rural elders and their families as well as examines support for persons with mild cognitive impairment and their families.

Barbara Broman, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Services Policy
The Office of Human Services Policy is responsible for policy development, research and evaluation related to welfare reform, supports for low-income families, and services for families, children, and youth. Ms. Broman has served in other management positions in the Department where she (1) analyzed and developed policies and conducted and coordinated research and evaluation, specifically focused on children and youth issues; (2) coordinated the formulation of legislative proposals within the Department; and (3) directed the legislation, regulations, and public affairs activities for the HHS Office of Inspector General.

Deborah Carr, Rutgers University

Associate Professor, Department of Sociology
Dr. Carr’s interests include social psychology, aging and the life course, gender, and family. Her research focuses on how work and family experiences over the life course and across birth cohorts affect men’s and women’s psychological well-being. She also studies bereavement and end-of-life decision-making among older adults.

Catherine A. Chesla, University of California-San Francisco

Thelma Shobe Professor, Department of Family Health Care Nursing
Dr. Chesla’s research focuses on the family processes in chronic illness, including personal illness understandings and everyday coping with chronic illness. Her work studies persons and families from diverse backgrounds (African American, Chinese American, European American, and Latino). She is currently testing a family-focused cognitive behavioral intervention with immigrant Chinese patients with diabetes.

James C. Coyne, University of Pennsylvania

Professor of Psychology, Department of Psychiatry; Professor, Department of Family Practice and Community Medicine
Dr. Coyne and his behavioral science research team work on understanding the process of coping and adaptation in cancer patients and family members and testing the effectiveness of interventions in enhancing the patient’s well-being. The team is working to redesign methods of psychosocial intervention and examining ways of addressing the disadvantage of men without partners in the adherence to and outcome of treatment of cancer, a disadvantage apparently not shared by women without partners.

Janet Currie, Columbia University

Professor and Chair, Department of Economics
Dr. Currie’s research has focused on evaluating programs aimed at poor children and families. She has written about early intervention programs, programs to expand health insurance and improve health care, public housing, and food and nutrition programs. Dr. Currie is interested in social determinants of child health and in the relationship between socioeconomic status and health.

V. Jeffery Evans, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

Director of Intergenerational Research; Demographic and Behavioral Sciences Branch (DBSB), The Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute for Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)
Dr. Evans’ interests include public policy research and its translation into application. He directs the Intergenerational Research Program within the DBSB, participates in the NICHD Health Disparities Planning Group, manages the family and household portfolio in the branch, and is program scientist with the Community Child Health Network, a collaborative initiative conducting community-based research on disparities in pregnancy outcomes and child health.

Joseph G. Grzywacz, Wake Forest University

Associate Professor, Department of Family and Community Medicine
Dr. Grzywacz’s research has focused on the health-related implications of work, family, and the linkages between work and family. His expertise includes: families of color, Hispanics, work-family balance, work-family conflict, work/life integration, work-family facilitation, health, well-being, and health-behavior.

Guang Guo, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Professor, Department of Sociology; Faculty Fellow, Carolina Center for Genome Sciences; Faculty Fellow, Carolina Population Center
Dr. Guo’s research interests include the integration of sociology with genetics and epigenetics in the studies of fundamental sociological issues such as social and health behavior in humans, production of social stratification, and genes and ethnic identity.

Pamela Herd, University of Wisconsin

Assistant Professor, Robert M. LA Follette School of Public Affairs; Faculty Affiliate, Institute for Research on Poverty
Dr. Herd’s research in the welfare state examines the effects of Medicare and Social Security and how social policies shape gender, race, and class inequality. Her research on health explores how social factors, particularly socioeconomic status, shape disease processes, physical functioning, and mortality.

Sandra Hofferth, University of Maryland

Professor, Department of Family Science; Director, Maryland Population Research Center
Dr. Hofferth’s research focuses on American children’s use of time, fathers and fathering, research methods, and family policy. She examines the interrelationship among public policy, family resources, living arrangements, and children’s health and development.

David A. Kenny, University of Connecticut

Professor, Department of Psychology
Dr. Kenny is a social psychologist interested in social interaction and interpersonal perception and has worked in the areas of structural equation modeling, longitudinal data analysis, and program evaluation. He has also focused on how design decisions affect statistical analysis and on the issue of multiple levels of analysis. In addition, Dr. Kenny recently published the book *Dyadic Data Analysis* with Deborah Kashy and William Cook.