NEW WORLDS of Adoption Conference

"Helping Families Overcome Early Adversity"

APRIL 11th

Rudd Adoption Research Program
623 Tobin Hall
University of Massachusetts Amherst
135 Hicks Way
Amherst, MA 01003
Phone: (413) 545-0547
Email: adoption@psych.umass.edu
www.psych.umass.edu/ruddchair/

For information about supporting the Rudd Adoption Research Program, please contact Jennifer Cooper, Director of Development, College of Natural Sciences. She may be contacted at (413) 545-2771 or jcooper@cns.umass.edu

This program is sponsored by the Massachusetts Psychological Association. Massachusetts Psychological Association is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. Massachusetts Psychological Association maintains responsibility for this program and its content.
A gift from Andrew and Virginia Rudd, combined with matching funds, established the Rudd Family Foundation Endowed Chair. The Rudd’s gift reflects their personal commitment to stimulate the development of new knowledge about adoption in order to benefit adoption practice (placements, education, post-adoption services, clinical work) and policy (at agency, state, federal, and international levels).

The Rudd Adoption Research Program is one of the key activities of the Rudd Chair. The program is located within the University of Massachusetts Amherst Psychology Department and is affiliated with the multidisciplinary Center for Research on Families.

The program has four goals:

- to advance knowledge about the psychology of adoption
- to provide evidence-based knowledge to inform adoption policy and practice
- to build capacity for excellence in adoption research
- to promote adoption research initiatives of emerging scholars

In short, the program seeks to develop synergy among scientists, practitioners, and policymakers from varied disciplines who share interests in the many topics relevant to adoption. The ultimate goal of these activities is to contribute to evidence-based practice in adoption and to provide research-based information that will influence policy at agency, state, federal, and international levels.

The program is directed by Harold D. Grotevant, Ph.D., who holds the Rudd Family Foundation Chair in Psychology at UMass Amherst. He is Principal Investigator on the Minnesota/Texas Adoption Research Project (MITARP), a 20-year longitudinal research study that focuses on the consequences of variations in openness in adoption arrangements for all members of the adoptive kinship network: birthmothers, adoptive parents, and adopted children, and for the relationships within these family systems. His work has resulted in over 100 articles published in professional journals as well as several books, including Openness in Adoption: Exploring Family Connections (with Ruth McRoy, Sage Publications, 1998). He is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association, Association for Psychological Science, and the National Council on Family Relations; Senior Research Fellow of the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute; former Board President of Adoptive Families of America; and recipient of research, teaching, and leadership awards. Here he is pictured with Andrew and Virginia Rudd, whose generous gift established the Rudd Family Foundation Chair in Psychology.

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8:00 REGISTRATION & COFFEE
Campus Center, Auditorium (Level 1)

9:00 WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

9:15 KEYNOTE
Innovations and Best Practices: Helping Adoptive Families Overcome Early Adversities
Presenter: Dr. Philip Fisher, University of Oregon

Many decades of research on children who have experienced early life adversity (e.g., abuse, neglect, and extreme poverty) has led to a solid scientific knowledge base about risk and resiliency. It has also led to an array of evidence-based programs that have been shown to positively impact life-course outcomes for those children and their families. Research in this area holds great promise in revealing information about common neural mechanisms underlying many of the poor outcomes we see in these populations. It also provides us with tools for leveraging our emerging understanding about the brain’s plasticity over the course of development in order to maximize the effectiveness of interventions. Perhaps nowhere is this more important than in the area of adoption, where there are still very few evidence-based interventions, where many adoptive parents struggle to find appropriate services that can meet the needs of their children and families, and where there is very little state or national legislation to guide the allocation of resources, or the type of support to be provided. This presentation will describe activities of our research group to address these issues, within the context of basic science, intervention, and public policy.

10:45 BREAK

11:00 ADOPTIVE PARENT PANEL DISCUSSION
Chair: Nancy Solow, Social Worker, Adoption Journeys
Panelists: Alan Lawton-Singer, Karen Green, Margo Chapski & Carmel Steger.

11:45 ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRESENTATION OF POSTER AWARD

12:00 LUNCH

12:30 POSTER SESSION, BOOK SALE & NETWORKING

1:45 BREAKOUT SESSIONS (5 OPTIONS)
Following lunch, attendees will break into 5 groups, indicated below. These group meetings will each be co-facilitated by persons familiar with Dr. Fisher’s work and with the needs of adoptive parents and adopted children. The goal of the sessions will be to continue the discussion of the implications of Dr. Fisher’s work in very practical terms, and relating the discussion to the audience for that breakout. The goal of the afternoon groups will be to identify how people in the group can take that knowledge back to their settings and use it.

1. ADOPTIVE AND FOSTER PARENTS  ⚫ CAMPUS CENTER, AUDITORIUM (LEVEL 1)
   Leaders: Dana Johnson, University of Minnesota & Mary Jo Spencer, University of Minnesota

2. CHILD WELFARE/DCF WORKERS  ⚫ CAMPUS CENTER, ROOM 162 (LEVEL 1)
   Leaders: Ruth McRoy, Boston College Graduate School of Social Work & Leo Farley, Department of Children and Families

3. CLINICIANS  ⚫ CAMPUS CENTER, ROOM 168 (LEVEL 1)
   Leaders: David Scherer, UMass Amherst & Adrie Raade, Boston University

4. RESEARCHERS  ⚫ CAMPUS CENTER, ROOM 917 (LEVEL 9)
   Leaders: Jennifer McDermott, UMass Amherst & Rachel Fari, UMass Amherst

5. EDUCATORS  ⚫ CAMPUS CENTER, ROOM 908 (LEVEL 9)
   Leaders: Martha Henry, MJ Henry & Associates & Michael McManus, McManus Counseling

3:30 BREAK/ TRAVEL TO CLOSING/ SNACKS
CAMPUS CENTER, AUDITORIUM (LEVEL 1)

3:45 CLOSING PANEL
Facilitated by: Dr. Philip Fisher, University of Oregon

5:00 END
Control parenting paradigm and teaches classes throughout the area to system.

Professionally, Ms. Chapski is an Occupational Therapist with parents and children with whom she works and is delighted to present at the University’s annual social work conference on developmental stages in the Center for Adoption Support and Education (CASE) and currently provides Massachusetts. She is a certified trainer in Adoption Competence for the School for Social Work, Nancy specializes in post-adoption services, including family-work, adoption identity, attachment trauma, group work, and adolescence. She provides services to a wide variety of adoptive families including counseling and advocacy with mental health and education systems. She has worked with foster and adoptive families since 1990, beginning with Shiloh in Vermont’s Adoptive Services. Her professional experience also includes ten years with Casey Family Services in Vermont, and for the past ten years, Adoption Journey of Massachusetts. She is a certified trainer in Adoption Competence for the Center for Adoption Support and Education (CASE) and currently provides training to clinicians in Central Massachusetts. In addition, Nancy trains school personnel in strategies for helping students who have histories of attachment trauma. She has worked in the New England New England University’s annual social work conferences on developmental stages in the adopted child. She is privileged to learn a great deal every day from the parents and children with whom she works and is delighted to present a panel of wise and experienced parents to this conference.

NANCY SOLOW

DR. DAVID M. SCHERER

Dr. Scherer is an innovative child and family systems therapist and employs a family systems theoretical orientation in his work that have focused on adolescents in the family context. In particular, he has worked on developing innovative models of psychotherapy for adolescents and young adults for Thinking Outside the Classroom. Her area of expertise includes the effects of early trauma or loss on the development of Social Communication Intervention and Executive Function skills and development of children touched by adoption or foster care. Recently, she completed the recorded version of Dr. Bruce Perry’s Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics—Case-Based Training Series. Dr. Raade is also an adoptive parent as her 11-year-old son was adopted from Russia.

ADELE S. RAADE, PH.D., CCC-SLP

Adjunct. Assistant Professor, Boston University.

Dr. Raade, PhD, is an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences at Boston University. She has more than 20 years of clinical experience as a speech-language pathologist in a wide variety of settings. Since March of 2012, she has also served as an Executive Function Coach for adolescents and young adults for Thinking Outside the Classroom. Her area of expertise includes the effects of early trauma or loss on the development of Social Communication Intervention and Executive Function skills and development of children touched by adoption or foster care. Recently, she completed the recorded version of Dr. Bruce Perry’s Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics—Case-Based Training Swans. Dr. Raade is also an adoptive parent as her 11-year-old son was adopted from Russia.

DAVID SCHERER, PH.D.

Professor, Clinical Psychology, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Dr. Scherer is a licensed psychologist and professor in the UMass Amherst Clinical Psychology Program. He earned his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Virginia in 1980 and has been on the Psychology faculty at UMass Amherst since 2005. Dr. Scherer’s clinical and research work has focused on adolescents in the family context. In particular, he has worked on studies of how adolescents and parents make important medical decisions and innovative models of psychotherapy for adolescents. Dr. Scherer was trained as a structural family therapist and employs a family systems theoretical orientation in his clinical work with children, adolescents and their parents. In addition, he is the proud parent of an adopted daughter who is now a teenager.
Dr. Henry is nationally recognized for her expertise on adoption, and her master’s degree in social work from Springfield College in Springfield, MA. Prior to joining MJ Henry & Associates, he was the Director of Training and Technical Assistance at the Office of Foster Care and Adoption, where he led the team responsible for the re-design of the Massachusetts foster parent preparation program (MAFP-B). He has also worked for the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families (DCF) at multiple levels. In addition, Mr. McManus is nationally recognized for his expertise on implementation, training, and practice of CANS (Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths) information integration and communication tool in both child welfare and child mental health systems.

Dr. McDermott is charting the developmental sensitivity of cognitive and affective regulation across contexts using a combination of behavioral and physiological approaches. The primary goal of this research is to determine the manner by which regulatory abilities promote efficient learning and contribute to adaptive socioemotional outcomes in children. She has been a Co-Investigator on the Bucharest Early Intervention Project, a study examining the effects of a powerful intervention on outcomes for children in Romania who have experienced significant early adversity.

Prior to her recent positions, Dr. Henry served as Director of the Office of Foster Care and Adoption at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, where she led a team of multidisciplinary professionals in administering educational programs and consultation services focused on a wide array of child welfare and children’s mental health practices.

Samantha Wilson (Medical College of Wisconsin), Alison La Pean Kirschner, Thomas May, Kaija Zusevics, Kimberly Strong, Jodi Wadell, Ebony White, Xian Zhang, Amanda Baden, Ellen Pinderhughes

Elliotte S. Harrington (Montclair State University), Julia Kimball, Andrew Kitchen, Jonathan Maza, Zowy Shaw, Jadah Stephens, Jodi Wadell, Ebony White, Xian Zhang, Amanda Baden, Ellen Pinderhughes

Ellen Pinderhughes

Stigma and Foster Care: An Experimental Investigation

Karine Poitras (University of Quebec at Trois), George M. Tarabulsy, Lisa Auger

Bicultural Socialization Practices in the Netherlands, Norway, and the United States of America with Children Adopted from India

Rachel Katz, Ann Easterbrooks, Ellen Pinderhughes, Laurie Mille

Early Adjustment of International Adoptive Families Compared to Non-Adoptive Families

Dr. McDermott received her doctorate in Human Development from the University of Maryland in 2008. Her research focuses on how children learn to regulate their behaviors and emotions, with a special emphasis on the role of individual differences and influence of early experience. To explore these issues, Dr. McDermott is charting the developmental sensitivity of cognitive and affective regulation across contexts using a combination of behavioral and physiological approaches. The primary goal of this research is to determine the manner by which regulatory abilities promote efficient learning and contribute to adaptive socioemotional outcomes in children. She has been a Co-Investigator on the Bucharest Early Intervention Project, a study examining the effects of a powerful intervention on outcomes for children in Romania who have experienced significant early adversity.

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2. Culture Keeping or Cultural Tourism? Cultural Socialization in Transracial Adoptive Families

Xian Zhang (Tufts University), Ellen Pinderhughes

3. Adoption Confirms that God is in my Life: Links between Religious/Spiritual Commitment and Feelings about Adoption in Adolescents

Tobias Gade (University of Massachusetts Amherst), Harold D. Gestovant

4. Experiences of Microaggressions and Resiliency among Children with Same-Sex Parents

Emily Crain (University of Massachusetts Amherst), Rachel Farr

5. Contacts with Biological Parents Following Child Placement in Foster Care: Associations with Security of Attachment and Externalization

Karina Polita (University of Quebec at Trois), George M. Tarabulsy, Lisa Auger

6. Bicultural Socialization Practices in the Netherlands, Norway, and the United States of America with Children Adopted from India

Maureen Rikv-Behringer (Caez Western Reserve University), Victor Groza, Wendy Tieman, Femmen Juffer


April Moyer (Clark University), Ayssa J. Henry, Kallin A. Black, Abbie E. Goldberg

8. Identity Development in a Transracial Environment: Racial/Ethnic Minority Adoptees in Minnesota

Emma Hamilton (University of Minnesota), Diane Sarem, Margaret Keyes, Matt McGur

9. A Qualitative Study of Racial and Adoption Microaggressions Experienced by Adoptive Families with Children

Elisette S. Harrington (Montclair State University), Julia Kimball, Andrew Kitchen, Jonathan Maza, Zowy Shaw, Jadah Stephens, Jodi Wadell, Ebony White, Xian Zhang, Amanda Baden, Ellen Pinderhughes

10. Early Adjustment of International Adoptive Families Compared to Non-Adoptive Families

Chee Kik-te (Tufts University), Jessica Mathews, Elizabeth Mulhine, Rachel Katz, Kim Lutzeboars, Ellen Pinderhughes, Laurie Mille

11. Adverse Childhood Experiences Effect On Young Adults Chronic Stress Response

Karen Kalamkis (University of Massachusetts Amherst), Jerold Meyer


Julie Guest (Boston College)

13. Focus Group Attitudes and Opinions About the Potential Use of Genomic Sequencing as a Substrate for Biological Family History for Adult Adoptees

Samantha Wilson (Medical College of Wisconsin), Alison La Ruan Kirschner, Thomas May, Kaja Zuzovic, Kimberly Strong, Harold Grothe, Samantha Wilson, Jessica Aronau, Arthur Drerow, Carmen Knight, Michael Farrell

14. Dyadic Trajectory Fit in Adoptive Families

Bibiana Koh (Augsburg College), Martha A Ruster

15. Stigma and Foster Care: An Experimental Investigation

Deborah Denzel (University of Massachusetts Amherst), Marian L. McDonald

16. Unpacking Racial Preferences of Young Transracial Adoptees from China

Danyi Cooley (Tufts University), Ellen Pinderhughes

17. Exploring the Psychosocial Adjustment and Parental Relationships of Ethiopian Adoptees: The Unfold Stories

Dara Kuman (Boston College), Ruth McRae

18. How Does Parental Anxiety Affect Children’s Self-Perceptions in Adoptive Families with Lesbian, Gay, and Heterosexual Parents?

Maggie Cunningham (University of Massachusetts Amherst), Rachel H. Farr


Matthew Shuman (Child Welfare Information Gateway), Gene Flango

20. Positive and Negative Aspects of Transracial adoption: Perspectives of Korean Transracial Adoptees

Danielle Godin (University of Massachusetts Boston), Patricia G. Ramsey

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Matthew Shuman (Child Welfare Information Gateway), Gene Flango

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