Rudd Adoption Research Program,
Notes from Conference Breakout Groups 2014

Researchers
Presenters Rachel Farr & Jen McDermott

This session was composed of Parents, Clinicians/Professionals, Faculty and Graduate/Pre-Grad Students.

The topics discussed by session participants were narrowed down to 3-themes that were highlighted in the final large panel discussion of the day. These themes were presented in respect to future directions for research and fall under a “there’s not enough (yet)” category.

1) **Translation** of research to clinical/family settings AND of researchers/clinicians hearing/understanding family stories

2) **Training** - of educators in the schools and of future researchers in the field.

3) **Timing**
   3a) It’s not clear whether the impacts of interventions such as the ones presented in the keynote talk carry through other ‘sensitive’ time points in development (i.e. adolescence and young adulthood).
   3b) What is the role of **compensatory mechanisms** across development? (i.e. Session leader McDermott briefly presented some work on potential neural indicators of compensatory mechanisms reflecting self-awareness that were linked to heightened socio-emotional functioning among children who have experienced early adversity.)

*Below is a full listing of the topics covered by the small groups and then discussed in the larger research group session.*

- Encouraging parents to educate educators
- Issues related to education system
- Suggestion of having a research liaison with adoption services and within education system
- TRANSLATION of knowledge (Accessibility is key at multiple levels)
- Identifying personal connections/context
- Validation of experience/perspective/strategies
- Microaggressions
- Supportive Policy
- Timeframe
- Broader Composition to Research and/or Policy Groups
- MEDIA
- Education of graduate students (next generation of researchers/clinicians across fields)
- COMPLEXITY
- Talking to parents (what’s missing)
- Difficulty with “‘quick fix’ approach