THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES

RESEARCH INTERESTS OF GRADUATE FACULTY

HDFS GRADUATE FACULTY

Kazuko Y. Behrens, Ph.D., University of California at Berkeley, 2005
Assistant Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

Attachment and culture, parent-child relationships. Intergenerational transmission of attachment: how individuals’ childhood experiences affect their personality development and their states of mind with respect to attachment, which in turn affect parenting practices and their children's attachment security. How culture affects parenting practices and parent-child relationships in general.

Recent Publication: Behrens, K. Y. (in press). Mothers’ attachment status as determined by the Adult Attachment Interview predicts their 6-year-olds’ reunion responses: A study conducted in Japan. Developmental Psychology.

Nancy J. Bell, Ph.D., Northwestern University, 1973
Professor, Human Development and Family Studies
Coordinator, Graduate Minor in Adolescent and Young Adult Risk Taking

Narrative studies of identity processes. Developmental approach to intervention and evaluation.


Yvonne M. Caldera, Ph.D., University of Kansas, 1990
Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

Child development: Normative development of Mexican American children and families, young children’s play with sex-typed toys; Child care: the relation between infant child care and children’s socio-emotional development; Parenting: connections between parenting and infants’ socio-emotional development; the role of the father in young children’s lives; factors associated with the quality of the co-parenting relationship.

**Malinda J. Colwell, Ph.D., Auburn University, 2000**
Associate Professor and Child Development Program Director, Human Development and Family Studies

Preschool children’s emotional development; parental socialization of emotion; parent-child relationships


**Duane W. Crawford, Ph.D., The Pennsylvania State University, 1988**
Associate Professor, Human Development and Family Studies
Associate Dean, Graduate School

Family relationships; marital companionship; the transition to parenthood; the work-family relationship


**Du Feng, Ph.D., University of Southern California, 1995**
Associate Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

Application of multivariate techniques, longitudinal analyses; aging, intergenerational relationship and intergenerational transmissions; health disparity


**Judith L. Fischer, Ph.D., University of Colorado, 1973**
Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

Addictions; problems of adolescence; family problems; transitions in young adulthood


**Jacki Fitzpatrick, Ph.D., Auburn University, 1994**
Associate Chair, Human Development and Family Studies
Associate Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

Romantic/marital relationships, friendships in young adulthood, social support, undergraduate experiences


Elizabeth G. Haley, Ph.D., Florida State University, 1972
Dean Emeritus, College of Human Sciences
Associate Vice Chancellor for College Development Programs, Office of Institutional Advancement
Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

Leadership, philanthropy, impact of societal issues and technological change on families, university/community partnerships, young children, mid-life change and transitions,


Sybil L. Hart, Ph.D., Tufts University, 1995
Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

I specialize in development during infancy and early childhood and conduct research in two general areas. The first pertains to the emergence of jealousy. These studies explore factors that underlie the ontogenesis of sensitivity to exclusivity as well as those responsible for individual differences in jealousy’s presentation and differentiation along typical and atypical trajectories. The second pertains to the breastfeeding dyad. These entail multidisciplinary approaches involving teams of researchers from TTU and TTUHSC toward understanding and enhancing health and cognitive benefits for the breastfed infant during the first year of life.


Sarah Kulkofsky, Ph.D., Cornell University, 2007
Assistant Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

Cognition in social-cultural contexts; development and functions of personal memories; narrative skills and memory sharing; memory accuracy and distortion; development and maintenance of self-views.


**Michael E. McCarty, Ph.D., Vanderbilt University, 1994**

Associate Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

Development of cognition, perception, and action in infants and toddlers; future-oriented actions such as planning and anticipatory action within cognitive development; the formation of representations or stored knowledge in infants and toddlers.

**Recent Publications:**


**Miriam Mulsow, Ph.D., University of Georgia, 1998**

Director, Human Development and Family Studies Graduate Program

Associate Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

Family Stress, Resilience, and Parenting; Southeast Asia; Addictions; Program Evaluation; Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder; Child Maltreatment

**Recent Publications:**


**Sylvia Niehuis, Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin, 2001**

Assistant Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

Dating, courtship, and the transition to marriage; stability and change in premarital and marital relationships; antecedents and processes of divorce; methodological issues in studying family and personal relationships.

**Michael W. O’Boyle, Ph.D., University of Southern California, 1982**

Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

My area of expertise is Cognitive Neuroscience, a hybrid discipline that combines principles of Experimental Psychology with aspects of Behavioral Neurology. Essentially, I am interested in how cognitive models of higher order mental processes like perception, memory, and language relate to the underlying structures and neural circuitry of the human brain. In this regard, my current research interest is the investigation of the specialized functions of the left and right cerebral hemispheres and how they serve as a neurological basis for the development of individual differences in higher-order thinking processes, particularly as they relate to handedness, sex, autism, ADHD and mathematical giftedness.


**Lane Powell, Ph.D., Texas Tech University, 1984**

Faculty Associate, Human Development and Family Studies

Family life education, program development and evaluation, parenting, adolescent sexuality, marriage education and enrichment, marital satisfaction in long-term relationships.


**Alan Reifman, Ph.D., University of Michigan, 1989**

Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

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Adolescent and young adult drinking; emerging adulthood; social networks; peer/parent influences; structural equation modeling; meta-analysis


**Jean Pearson Scott, Ph.D., University of N. Carolina-Greensboro, 1979**
Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

Physical, psychological, and social factors associated with the aging process with particular attention to family and friend support networks of older adults; rural elderly; widowhood; coping strategies of families caregivers, older women; sibling interaction, end-of-life decision-making


**Elizabeth A. Sharp, Ph.D., University of Missouri-Columbia, 2003**
Assistant Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

Cognitions and adult relationships with a particular focus on romantic relationships, gender, timing of family life transitions, socio-economic influences. Quantitative methodology.


**Gwendolyn T. Sorell, Ph.D., The Pennsylvania State University, 1982**
Associate Professor, Human Development and Family Studies


**Elizabeth Trejos-Castillo, Ph.D., Auburn University, 2006**
Assistant Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

Etiology of problem behaviors among immigrant and minority youth; specifically, the relationships between family processes and externalizing and internalizing behaviors employing a comparative approach, either cross-cultural within the United States or cross-national.


Anisa Zvonkovic, Ph.D., The Pennsylvania State University, 1987
Chair, Department of Human Development and Family Studies
Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

My primary research area is work and its connection to personal life. I take a close relationships perspective on how aspects of the physical and social environment can have an impact on individuals and their family relationships. My current work is on job demands, particularly travel, and how they affect workers and their families.


ADJUNCT FACULTY AND
JOINT APPOINTMENTS

Catherine Spurlock Nathan, Ed.D., Texas Tech University, 1989
Director, Child Development and Research Center

Early childhood education, Parents as Teachers, Early Head Start


Charles W. Peek, Ph.D., Duke University, 1971
Professor, Sociology
Joint Appointment, Human Development and Family Studies
Gender stratification/roles and the sociology of sexuality in the family; gender role orientations, and their impact on political activity; differential impact of religion on gender ideologies of males and females; gender, age, and extramarital sexual behavior


Beth Shapiro, Ph.D., University of Connecticut, 1981
Adjunct Assistant Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

Etiology and treatment of psychological trauma/abuse; ecological psychology; event perception; nonverbal communication; infant perception


Anna M. Tacón, Ph.D., Texas Tech University, 1998
Department of Health, Exercise, and Sport Sciences