

FamilyLink

Improving lives of children, youth and families

Frances
McClelland Institute
Children, Youth, and Families
Summer 2017

Greetings from the Frances McClelland Institute for Children, Youth and Families,



What an incredible year we've had here at the Frances McClelland Institute for Children, Youth and Families (FMI). I am happy to update you on the numerous accomplishments of our faculty and students.

First, we began FMI's Family Advisory Council which is comprised of 49 leaders from local community organizations and nonprofits. The purpose of the FMI Family Advisory Council is to establish community partnerships, and to help us engage in strategic planning for the future sustainability of the Institute. The Council is also helping us to achieve our goal of making our research more accessible by co-hosting Community Conversations. These conversations are held in the community, and bring together community members and researchers to discuss a variety of topics.

Furthermore, we were pleased to host our first Methods Workshop this year with the leading expert in missing data, Dr. Craig Enders, from the University of California, Los Angeles. Over 45 faculty and students from across Arizona attended the day long workshop. We are looking forward to hosting another advanced methods training this upcoming Fall 2017.

In this edition of FamilyLink you can learn more about FMI. We invite you to visit our website where you can find out more about our research initiatives, links to faculty publications, grant information, graduate student research posters, and videos of the Tuberville Speaker Series. You can stay updated with FMI on social media with weekly updates on research, and events from the Institute.

Thank you for your continued partnership,

Andrea Romero, Ph.D.

Fitch Nesbitt Professor, Director, Frances McClelland Institute for Children, Youth, and Families

Welcome Dr. Katharine Zeiders!



We are pleased to welcome Dr. Katharine Zeiders, Assistant Professor in Family Studies and Human Development. She is serving as co-chair of the Latino Families Research Initiative. Dr. Zeiders brings cutting edge research and expertise on Latino families and youths' well-being specifically focusing on adolescent

development and sociocultural stressors.

Dr. Zeiders is currently working on two studies. The first is the College Election

Study which examines college students' stress hormone profiles before, during, and after the 2016 U.S. presidential election. The study aims to understand how individuals' political affiliations, beliefs, thoughts, and attitudes relate to key election issues, and in turn, predict differential physiological responses.

The second study is to examine how parents' beliefs, values, and political perspectives influence adolescents' stress hormone profiles before, during, and after the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

This study aims to understand how politics may influence interactions and relationships between parents and adolescents.



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Graduate Student Highlights

Maura Shramko, Tinker Award Recipient

Exploring Resilience in Context: A Qualitative Study of Youth Aspirations and Opportunities in Managua, Nicaragua By Maura Shramko



Research on Central American youth often focuses on gang violence and youth marginalization (Gomez, 2007), ignoring the creative and agentic ways that young people navigate adversity and, in some cases, thrive in spite of it (Masten, 2014). With funding from the Tinker Field Research Grant through the UA Center for Latin American Studies, and the Research and Project Grant from the UA Graduate & Professional Student Council, I spent four weeks in Managua during the summer of 2016 to explore youth resilience in context. I conducted qualitative interviews with 12 youth (ages 17-22) in one low-income neighborhood in Managua to examine how youth navigate opportunities and barriers related to education and work. I hoped to learn whether and how young men and women experienced and navigated gendered opportunities and barriers.

This study relied on the collaboration of Podcasts for Peace, a neighborhood-based community organization offering services and classes for children, youth, and families. Once weekly in the evenings a young men's group, and a young mother's group were held. My first week in Managua, I participated in the young mother's group, and was able to meet the seven young mothers present, their babies, and two facilitators. Overall, I conducted 12 interviews: 8 with young mothers (ages 17-22), and 3 with the youth from the men's group (ages 16-19).

I plan to code and analyze the data to examine themes related to youth aspirations and gendered expectations, particularly related to motherhood; youth navigation of gendered barriers and opportunities; and youth social analysis of making community change.

FSDH Graduate Student Accomplishments

FMI would like to highlight accomplishments of our graduate students. We are proud of all of our FSDH graduate students, and their hard work and dedication to the field of Family Studies and Human Development.

Dr. Chandni Parikh recently accepted a post-doctoral fellowship that began August 1, 2017 at the University of California Davis MIND Institute, where she will work with young children with autism and high-risk infants. Dr. Parikh has also successfully defended her dissertation, "Social Attention in Young Typically Developing and At-Risk Children: Eye Tracking Paradigms and Implications for Understanding Developmental Trajectories."

Dr. Amanda Pollitt successfully defended her dissertation entitled, "Inside and Outside: Heteronormativity, Gender, and Health in the Lives of Bisexual Youth." Dr. Pollitt is currently a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Texas at Austin Population Research Center.



Olena Kopystynska



Dr. Chandni Parikh



Dr. Amanda Pollitt



Alexandria Pech

Alexandria Pech was chosen as one of only five Research Advocacy in Critical Education (R.A.C.E.) Fellows. Alexandria presented her research on youth participatory action research at the R.A.C.E. conference in Denver, Colorado in May 2017.

Lastly, we would like to acknowledge the following graduate students for being selected as finalists for the Graduate and Professional Student Council Award: Amanda Pollitt (RA Award Finalist), Chandni Parikh (RA Award Finalist), and Olena Kopystynska (TA Award Finalist).

Project Semilla



This year, FMI has been participating in Project Semilla (The Seed Project), a project initiated by Dr. Lisa Edwards at Marquette University, that sends positive messages of hope through personalized bookmarks to students, especially for those who may experience bullying.

All students who receive bookmarks also make bookmarks for other students. Participating schools so far include University of Arizona, Pueblo Magnet High School, Ochoa Community Magnet School, Davis Bilingual Magnet Elementary School, and the John Valenzuela Youth Center. Our Family Advisory Council partners have also participated by making bookmarks, including Child and Family Resources, Arizona Children's Association, and the Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

FMI has distributed 410 bookmarks in Tucson. If you would like to participate in Project Semilla by making or distributing bookmarks, please email us at families@cals.arizona.edu.

ASPIRE



The ASPIRE (After School Program Innovation, Reflection and Education) project has reached over 50 after school programs in Maricopa County. In May 2017, 14 programs completed the 2 year

ASPIRE project that includes personalized coaching, program quality assessments, and professional development opportunities. ASPIRE contributes to intentional, high quality programming for an estimated 575 youth per day in Arizona. The ASPIRE Project is funded by the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust. Visit www.aspire.arizona.edu for more information.

One example of ASPIRE's work is providing professional development opportunities for youth care professionals in the Valley. This April, the ASPIRE team hosted a training at the United Way Valley of the Sun in Maricopa County. 30 youth care professionals attended the training focused on adolescent development in trauma informed care.

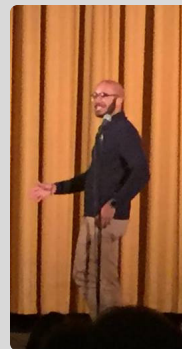
Community Conversation



In March, FMI co-hosted the first Community Conversation with the Primavera Foundation. The event was entitled "A Community Conversation: South Tucson Supporting Healthy and Resilient Youth," and was held at the Las Abuelitas Community Center where forty-four people came together to discuss Dr. Rebecca White's research findings about how communities, like the City of South Tucson, are doing a great job raising their kids and keeping them healthy. The event was a huge success, and we look forward to hosting more Community Conversations next year where we can share our research with the community.



Kindness In Action Speaker Series



This past January FMI co-sponsored the Kindness in Action Speaker Series with our community partners at the Ben's Bells Project. Author and TED Speaker, Clint Smith, delivered his presentation entitled, "Kindness and Masculinity: The Danger of Silence." Jeannette Maré, Executive

Director of Ben's Bells and FMI Family Advisory Council member, said this about the event "We were thrilled to bring Clint Smith to Tucson for our Kindness in Action Speaker Series and were so grateful to our partners who helped make it happen! Clint's talk provoked thoughtful conversation and questions about kindness, masculinity, athletics, fatherhood, expressing emotion, and the intersections of masculinity, race, and class." The event was held at the Loft Cinema. Faculty and graduate students from FMI attended the thought-provoking presentation.

New Funding from the Spencer Foundation

Dr. Andrea Romero has received a two year grant (\$50,000) from the Spencer Foundation to investigate profiles of civic participation among college age students. This study will examine how education is linked to civic participation through critical social analysis. Dr. Romero and her team of graduate student researchers believe the results of this study will have implications for educating young people about civic participation. Once the research is complete, results from this project will be made available to educators, the community and the public to educate and inform about civic engagement and participation amongst young adults.

Faculty Research Updates

- Dr. Emily Butler, chair of the Mechanisms of Emotion, Social Relationships, and Health (MESH) Initiative, was interviewed by New York Magazine for an article about interpersonal synchrony and how it works.
- Dr. Melissa Curran, head of the Romantic Relationships and Complex Families lab, was featured in UA News for her studies on sacrifice in couples' relationships.
- Dr. Russell Toomey, chair of the Youth Development and Resilience Initiative, had a study published in the Journal of Intercollegiate Sport about student athlete engagement in LGBTQ ally actions.
- Dr. Katharine Zeiders, Co-Chair of FMI's Latino Families Research Initiative, was featured in UA News describing the negative effects of mother's experiences of discrimination on the development of their children.
- Dr. Andrea Romero, and Dr. Russell Toomey, recently had an article published in the Journal of Latina/o Psychology entitled "When Is Bicultural Stress Associated With Loss of Hope and Depressive Symptoms? Variation by Ethnic Identity Status Among Mexican Descent Youth."



About FMI



The Frances McClelland Institute serves as a catalyst for cross-disciplinary research on children, youth, and families at the University of Arizona. Our research initiatives address questions important to the development and well-being of

contemporary children, youth and families, with the goal of improving basic understanding to enhance the lives of the people of Arizona and the world. In 2009, the Institute was dedicated to honor the memory and legacy of Frances McClelland. Frances was a business leader and philanthropist. She understood resilience in the lives of children and families.

In Partnership

Private support is fundamental to the origins and sustainability of the Frances McClelland Institute, the Janet and Barry Lang Lab for Child and Family Observation, and our facilities.

We are grateful to all of our donors who are recognized on our wall of Legacy Leaders, including John and Ruth Crist Dyer, Barry and Janet Lang, Beth and Ed Martin, Frances McClelland, Betty and Hamilton McRae, Beverly Mitchell, Linda Redman and David Rowe.

With your help, we can continue to engage in high quality research that will improve the lives of children, youth and families. You can contribute to our mission by visiting our website:

<https://mcclellandinstitute.arizona.edu/donors>