



Family Link

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Welcome HAIRI, New Institute Initiative

The Human-Animal Interaction Research Initiative, HAIRI, is a new initiative at the Institute that was founded and is co-chaired by Dr. Dieter Steklis and Netzin Steklis. The McClelland Institute and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences have provided seed funding for HAIRI's research for the 2014-2015 year.



HAIRI brings an interdisciplinary approach to understanding and promoting the health and well-being of both human and nonhuman animals in symbiotic relationships through rigorous scientific research that explores their biological, psycho-social, emotional and environmental connections and interactions.

HAIRI promotes the formation of multidisciplinary, collaborative teams that generate and conduct cutting edge research; articulate novel, practice-centered education programs; and establish outreach relationships with private partners, donors, health practitioners and animal-related industries. HAIRI also provides training and education opportunities for undergraduate students through participation in its research, education, and outreach programs.

Examining the Health and Well-being of Three Generations of LGB People

"Generations" is a five-year multi-site, mixed-methods examination of the health and well-being of three generations, or cohorts (ages 18-25, 34-42, and 48-55), of lesbians, gay men and bisexuals. Researchers are interested in how changes and improvements in the social environment of LGB people affect their lives and health and what implications these social changes may have for policies, such as the delivery of social and health services.

Investigators will use both quantitative and qualitative methods to explore LGB people's sense of identity and identification and involvement with the LGB community, life stressors and challenges, resilience and sources of

strength, and health and well-being. Utilizing the Gallup Daily Poll quantitative survey procedure, we will obtain a national sample of 550 respondents surveyed three times over a five-year period to assess how changes in the social environment impact health and well-being.

Additionally, researchers will collect a total of 180 narrative life histories of LGB individuals living in urban and non-urban regions within 80 miles of New York City, San Francisco and Tucson. Life histories will provide unique insights, in participants' own words, into how individual LGB people experience the social change affecting LGB health and well-being.

From the Director

Happy New Year!

As January begins I am pleased to be resuming my full-time role as Director of the Frances McClelland Institute. After two and a half years serving as interim director of the Norton School, I'm pleased that Dr. Jana Hawley is joining us as permanent director of the Norton School. Dr. Hawley has been Professor and Chair of Textile and Apparel Management at the University of Missouri. She comes to us with years of land grant university leadership.

In this issue of Family Link we are excited to introduce our newest initiative: Human-Animal Interaction Research Initiative – HAIRI. Do our pets keep us from being depressed because they actually act as probiotics? Are animal therapies effective for children with autism because they activate



certain kinds of hormones? These kinds of questions are at the root of research and potential interventions that can help us understand why the human-animal bond is so meaningful – emotionally, but also physiologically.

Our research programs and project continue to attract outstanding young scholars: In this issue we introduce you to three of our new postdoctoral scholars, as well as international scholars from Italy and Turkey that are visiting with us to work with faculty on research projects for several months.

Thanks as always for your interest and support of our work.

Very best regards,

Stephen T. Russell

McClelland Institute Welcomes Visiting Scholars



N. Büsra Akçabozan
from Ankara, Turkey

N. Büsra Akçabozan is currently working as a visiting scholar funded by The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey to study at the McClelland Institute with Dr. Melissa

Curran. Akçabozan is also a Ph.D. candidate in the Psychological Counseling and Guidance program at METU, Turkey.

Akçabozan has a strong interest in understanding intimate relationships, particularly marriage. In her work at METU, she focuses on investigating positive relational and marital outcomes as satisfaction and commitment by using quantitative methods. In her work at the Institute, she has been taking courses to enhance her statistical abilities and studying on different projects about intimate sacrifices among cohabitators with Dr. Curran.



Salvatore Ioverno
from Rome, Italy

Salvatore Ioverno is currently working as a visiting scholar at the Institute with Dr. Stephen Russell. Ioverno is a Ph.D. student in Clinical Psychology Sapienza University of Rome, Italy. Ioverno's

strong interest in studying methodologies and interventions to prevent homophobic bullying in schools has brought him to Tucson and the McClelland Institute to study with Dr. Stephen Russell. He will be looking at the impact of

victimization and coming out in LGB young adults and their role in predicting well-being outcomes.

For his Ph.D. project, Ioverno is collaborating on a cross-national study involving nine European countries about attitudes heterosexual young adults have towards same-sex marriage and same-sex parenting along with the attitudes in LGB individuals at national level, highlighting variables like the desire to be parent, internalized homophobia, and life satisfaction in order to evaluate LGB people's well-being.

Postdoctoral Research Fellows Join Institute



Dr. Danielle DelPriore

Dr. Danielle DelPriore is currently a postdoctoral research associate working with Dr. Bruce Ellis on a collaborative project funded by the National Science Foundation. This project is designed to examine the

impact of fathers on daughters' risky sexual behavior and decision-making. Dr. DelPriore received her Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology from Texas Christian University (TCU), where she utilized an evolutionary framework and social psychological methods to test the effects of primed paternal disengagement cues on women's sexual attitudes and perceptions. Funding from the NSF grant has provided an opportunity to combine this methodology with the differential sibling exposure design utilized by Dr. Ellis to examine the local effects of paternal disengagement cues on women with a history of exposure to low quality fathering. As such, this research aims to elucidate some of the psychological shifts that may contribute to accelerated sexual and reproductive outcomes exhibited by father-absent girls.



Dr. James P. Thing

Dr. James P. Thing received his Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Southern California (USC). Dr. Thing joins Dr. Stephen Russell's lab after completing a postdoctoral research fellowship in the Department of

Preventive Medicine at the University of Southern California where his research examined sexual identity disclosure to family members among Latino gay and bisexual young men. His current work will be with Dr. Stephen Russell on a project called "Generations," a five-year longitudinal, multi-site, mixed-methods study of health disparities among three cohorts of LGB persons. Dr. Thing, along with research assistants, will interview 60 LGB, White, Black, Asian and Pacific Islander, Latino and Native American women and men within an 80-mile catchment area of Tucson.

"Generations is a very exciting project with far-reaching implications for research and praxis on health disparities among sexual minorities. The mixed-methods approach will enable us to make generalizations about the U.S. LGB population from the quantitative data while delving deeply into the issues contextualizing and affecting health among sexual minorities' lives through qualitative interviews in which participants tell their own life histories."



Dr. Jack Day

Dr. Jack Day, a recent graduate of Oregon State University, joined the Just and Fair Schools project with Dr. Stephen Russell this past fall. This three-year project probes how policies influence school and community environments,

and how they relate to academic achievement, health, and well-being, especially among LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning) youth using data on school policies, and teacher and student reports of school climate, safety, and biased based bullying across high schools in California. This unique dataset allows for multi-level analyses of the contextual factors within and across schools that promote or inhibit positive academic outcomes, feelings of connectedness to schools, and the well-being of students.

The project is part of broad initiative established by the Just and Fair Schools Fund to address disparities in policies and practices of discipline within schools. The overall intent of the study is to expand the inquiry to include schools from across the U.S. to identify and inform policy that best supports youth, especially minority youth who are often the focus of the harshest discipline practices.



Casely Coan presents a reflection exercise on teenage sexual health education during the premier of the youth produced "Let's Talk about Sex Ed" video and study guide. The study guide was prepared by Casely Coan, Dr. Leah S. Stauber and Dr. Adela C. Licona. The event was cohosted by Planned Parenthood Arizona and the Institute's Crossroads Collaborative.
mcclellandinstitute.arizona.edu/crossroads



Building Strong Families

FMI researchers, Dr. Melissa Barnett and Dr. Melissa Curran, from Family Studies and Human Development in the Norton School, received a two-year grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Their study examines family instability among economically disadvantaged families with young children because family instability threatens child development, and economically disadvantaged families are particularly likely to experience instability.

The goal of this secondary data analysis is to examine how participation in the Building Strong Families (BSF) program, a federally funded relationship intervention program, caused families to experience reductions in three different forms of family instability (i.e., financial, family structure, romantic relationship quality) that in turn bolstered child development via increased father involvement and higher quality coparenting. By examining multiple forms of family instability as intervention pathways, we will be able to inform future intervention work aimed at strengthening relationships and wellbeing among economically disadvantaged families across the transition to parenthood.

Pamela Turbeville Speaker Series

Friday, January 16th – Roberto Baiocco, Ph.D.

Be as You Are: Clinical and Research Experiences from an Italian University Centre that Promotes the Wellbeing of LGBT People

Friday, January 23rd – Danielle Delpriore, Ph.D.

The Effects of Paternal Disengagement Cues on Women's Sexual Attitudes and Perceptions

Friday, February 20th – Kevin Grimm, Ph.D.

Methods Workshop

Friday, March 6th – Joyce Serido, Ph.D.

Life after College: Pathways to Self-Sufficiency in Young Adulthood

Friday, March 13th – Spring Poster Session

Friday, April 24th – Scott Killgore, Ph.D.

Sleep Deprivation Selectively Impairs Emotional Aspects of Cognition

National Research Plan for Adolescent Health

In late October a small group of scientists representing the Society for Research on Adolescence (SRA) and the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine (SAHM) met with federal representatives to begin plans for a national research agenda for adolescent health. Led by Institute Director Stephen Russell, Past-President of SRA, and SAHM President Carol Ford (Professor at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia), the goal of such a plan is to improve adolescent health and well-being in the United States through national priorities for research. Representatives from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Office of Adolescent Health (OAH) and several institutes within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) participated in the planning meeting.

The objectives for an adolescent health research agenda include: positioning adolescent health research prominently in national health research agendas; demonstrating research community support for the HHS OAH national agenda for adolescent health ("Think. Act. Grow."); energizing adolescent research through a national research agenda; and strengthening training and the pipeline of new adolescent health researchers.

Russell hopes that the plan will be influential in setting federal health research priorities. Learn more about the national agenda for adolescent health at Think. Act. Grow. (www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/tag/) The release of a national research agenda is anticipated in 18-24 months.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Jason Rivera
Frances McClelland Institute for Children, Youth, and Families
The University of Arizona
P.O. Box 210078
Tucson, AZ 85721-0078
Phone: 520.621.4978
Fax: 520.621.4979
E-mail: families@ag.arizona.edu
Website: McClellandInstitute.arizona.edu



The Frances McClelland Institute for Children, Youth, and Families is housed in The John and Doris Norton School of Family and Consumer Sciences, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at the University of Arizona. The Institute serves as a catalyst for cross-disciplinary research dealing with children, youth, and families.