



Family Link

SPRING 2014

<http://McClellandInstitute.arizona.edu>

New National Science Foundation Grants

Frances McClelland Institute faculty, Drs. Emily Butler and Bruce Ellis, have recently been awarded prestigious National Science Foundation grants.

Adult Emotional Processes

Dr. Emily Butler and Dr. Kobus Barnard are collaborating on an NSF grant to examine interpersonal emotions using Bayesian modeling, which is a powerful mathematical approach for predicting the behavior of complex systems.

“Our emotions are what help us decide what to do, learn from our experiences, and interact successfully with others; they contribute to every human behavior,” says Dr. Butler. “But right now we cannot predict emotions accurately; but if we could we would be able to intervene with domains including: close relationships, education, parenting, business management, consumer behavior, work performance, health behaviors, conflict resolution, and political negotiations.”

The project will use Bayesian methods to predict health behaviors and outcomes (e.g., weight gain, cancer recovery) from interpersonal emotional processes in the context of adult romantic relationships. Information generated by this research could be important for developing parenting classes, family counseling programs, interventions for health behaviors, managerial and negotiation training,

reducing bullying in schools, and promoting constructive international relations.

Fathers' Influence on Daughters

Dr. Bruce Ellis and Dr. Sarah Hill are also the recipients of an NSF grant and will be examining how fathers influence risky behavior and decision-making in adolescent girls.

“Many young people engage in risky decisions during adolescence as shown in high rates of car accidents, crime, binge drinking, sexually transmitted infections, and other negative health behavior,” says Dr. Ellis. “It is critical to understand the causes and motives underlying these risky behaviors, especially in the context of parents and peers, to help develop more effective intervention strategies.”



Researchers will examine the role of paternal engagement in regulating daughters' sexual attitudes, behaviors, and decision-making. The findings could provide for a more comprehensive understanding of the developmental contexts and intervening mechanisms through which risky behaviors and decision-making occur.

From the Director

Happy 2014! We're excited to share some of the great things happening at the Frances McClelland Institute!

This year means a lot to us. Ten years ago, John and Doris Norton had the vision and leadership to name to our School. We've kicked off a 10th anniversary campaign to celebrate the last 10 years and honor the Nortons for their vision. You can see what investments in the School and Institute can do by visiting the Legacy Endowment and 10th Anniversary campaigns online (www.cals.arizona.edu/fcs/legacy/home). We'd love for you to join other Legacy Leaders of the Frances McClelland Institute.

As you well know, federal research funding is tighter than ever. The numbers of high-quality applications have grown, while the total amount available to award has shrunk. So we are particularly pleased to announce two new grants from the National Science Foundation – congratulations to



Drs. Butler and Ellis on their success, and stay tuned to hear about what they learn in the coming years.

Personally, I am winding down my tenure as President of the Society for Research on Adolescence (www.s-r-a.org). Our biennial conference is coming up at the end of March in Austin, Texas – many Institute personnel and colleagues from UA will be attending. The theme I chose for the conference invited program is social justice, a topic about which I am passionate: Scholars from multiple fields will consider the ways that research on adolescence can contribute to a more just world for youth. You'll be able to see what we present on our website later this spring.

Please stop by the Institute the next time you are on campus. And thanks, as always, for your interest and support.

Very best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen T. Russell".

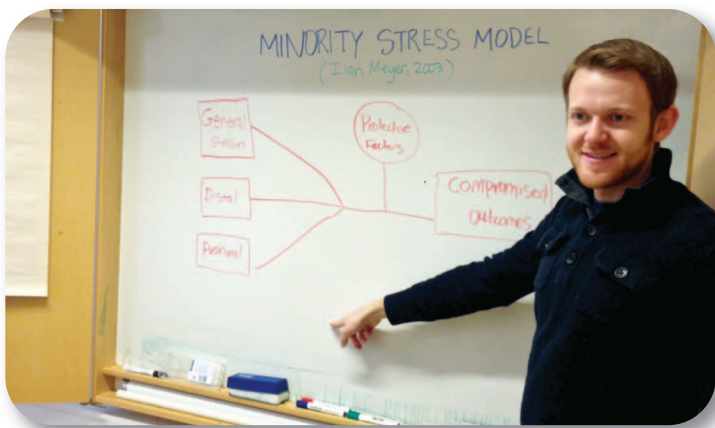
Stephen T. Russell, Ph.D., Interim Director
Distinguished Professor, Fitch Nesbitt Endowed Chair Director
Frances McClelland Institute for Children, Youth, and Families

Ph.D. Student Visits Norwegian University of Science and Technology

The National Science Foundation Graduate Research Opportunities Worldwide program and the Research Council of Norway funded Ph.D. student Ryan Watson to collaborate with a leading scholar in adolescent psychopathology, Dr. Lars Wichstrøm, at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology this past fall. Watson's visit to Norway sought explanations for findings that sexual minority (i.e., Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender; LGBT) youth in the United States are more likely to report compromised mental health outcomes.

Watson turned to Norway for answers on why the negative outcomes are so prevalent for LGBT youth in the United States and how these youth can be supported through interpersonal relationships. His project aimed to understand how culture uniquely impacted the lives of LGBT youth, which reveal areas in which we should direct our attention and resources to. This work forms the foundations of his dissertation project.

Comparing large data sets of youth from Norway and United States, Watson and his advisor Dr. Stephen Russell found that youth are reporting poor mental health outcomes across the board in both countries. However, findings from the Norwegian data show the importance of parents, peers,



Ryan Watson at Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim, Norway

and romantic partners in protecting youth against poor mental health outcomes. More intimacy with peers and romantic partners also protected youth from being depressed and suicidal. Data from both the United States and Norway implicate parents as the one of the most important support system for LGBT youth. Watson hopes that these types of findings from Norway can help elucidate the importance of culture and political environments for sexual minorities worldwide.

EVENT UPDATES

Moving Research into Practice (MRP)

FamilyLink is our opportunity a few times a year to keep our affiliated faculty, researchers, students, and community partners up-to-date on all the events and happenings at the Institute. We had a busy and exciting Fall 2013 and are all looking forward to Spring 2014 with even more great opportunities to get involved, informed, and support the work of the Institute.

Moving Research into Practice (MRP) is one of those ways the McClelland Institute helps support and cultivate young researchers. MRP is an honorary organization comprised of outstanding student researchers who have been nominated by faculty to participate. The mission of MRP is to bridge research and action through community partnership.

This past fall, MRP students participated in the Out of Darkness Walk in order to support the survivors of suicide and depression. MRP is continuing research on depression among the college student population this academic year and will conclude a review of relevant literature with the intention of submitting a proposal to The University of Arizona's Institutional Review Board to



MRP members (standing, from top left): Kaitlyn Macaulay, Ron Ruanto, David Porfirio, Amaka Ume, Melissa Evans; (seated, from left) Erica Goudy, Layla El-Sharkawy, Emily Boyd, and Lorena Aceves. Not pictured: Gina Weisman.

National Council on Family Relations

The 2013 National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) Annual Conference this past November in San Antonio, Texas, offered the opportunity for Norton School alumni and current students and researchers to reunite. The conference was also an opportunity for McClelland

Pamela Turbeville Speaker Series

This spring there will be a chance preview McClelland Institute researchers' presentations and posters for the Society for Research on Adolescence 2014 Conference as part of the Pamela Turbeville Speaker Series. Also scheduled for this spring are: Thaddeus Pace, an Affiliated Faculty with the Norton School and an Assistant Professor in the College of Nursing and Department of Psychiatry in the College of Medicine; Michael Sulkowski, an Affiliated Faculty with the Norton School and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Disability & Psychoeducational Studies in the College of Education; Justin Jager, Assistant Professor with the T. Denny Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics at Arizona State University; and Amelia Villagomez, an Affiliated Faculty at the Norton School and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry in the College of Medicine.

You can find the complete schedule of the Spring 2014 Pamela Turbeville Speaker Series at our website: www.mcclellandinstitute.arizona.edu/speakerSeries

conduct research and publish their findings.

Through Valentine's Day, MRP students will be selling beautiful roses from a local master florist in order to continue research and spread awareness. If you'd like to place an order email: MRPARizona@gmail.com.

You can find out more about MRP at our website: www.mcclellandinstitute.arizona.edu/MovingResearch

Institute researchers to present talks and posters to their colleagues across the country. 2013 NCFR posters from McClelland Institute researchers can be viewed online at our website: www.mcclellandinstitute.arizona.edu/posters

Spring 2014 Pamela Turbeville Speaker Series

Time: 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm Location: 402 McClelland Park

Friday, January 31

Thaddeus Pace – Interventions That Target Trauma-Related Illness: Biological Mechanisms and Beyond

Friday, February 28

Michael Sulkowski – Homeless youth in the borderlands: Phenomenology, risk and protective factors, and academic outcomes

Friday, March 7

Justin Jager – The Changing Transition to Adulthood: Documenting and dissecting historical variation in substance use trajectories

Friday, March 14

Poster Preview – the Society for Research on Adolescence 2014 Conference

Friday, April 18

Amelia Villagomez – Towards child mental wellness: parents, pills, playing and what's on our plates

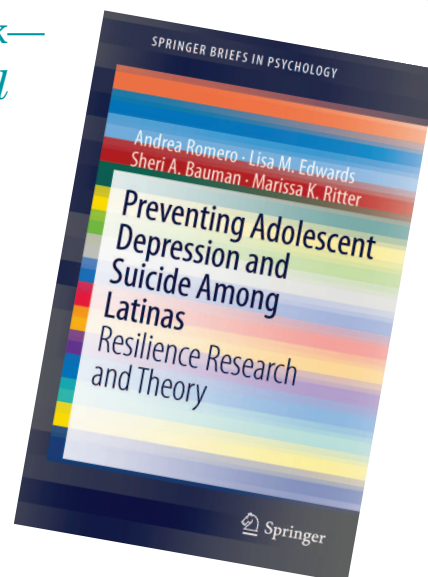
We are excited to share with you a new book—
*Preventing Adolescent Depression and
Suicide Among Latinas: Resilience
Research and Theory*

This fall Dr. Andrea Romero and coauthors published a book that describes the epidemic of adolescent Latina suicidal ideation and depression and how to address this critical issue. Since the 1960s Latinas have had among the highest rates of depressive symptoms and suicidal ideation compared to other ethnic and gender groups, and they are twice as likely to engage in suicidal behavior as their White or African American peers. These disparities reflect a multitude of lost opportunities for young Latinas to thrive and experience well-being in our society.

This book offers a concise summary of contemporary research on this critical topic. Among the considerations are the influences of bullying, families, immigration, and culture on Latina adolescent mental health. Presenting cutting-edge multiracial feminist frameworks for new and existing empirical findings, this book serves to guide the future research agenda on this topic. Clinical recommendations are also included.



Andrea Romero,
*Ph.D., Associate Professor
Academic Program of
Family Studies and
Human Development
Mexican American
Studies & Research
Center*



*Book cover for Preventing Adolescent Depression and Suicide
Among Latinas: Resilience Research and Theory*

*Authors: Andrea J. Romero, Lisa M. Edwards, Sheri Bauman
and Marisa K. Ritter*

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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.