

George Mason University

Department of Psychology

Applied Developmental Psychology Student Group

ADPSG

Potential Head Start Grant to Kate Zinsser

During her time at Mason, Kate Zinsser, a fifth-year doctoral student, has developed an interest in the impact that the emotional climate of early childhood care and education (ECCE) centers have on teachers and children, especially teachers' socialization of emotion and children's development of emotional competence. In exploring this interest, Kate has found that little research has addressed the influential role directors play in managing ECCE centers' emotional climates.



In pursuit of answers, Kate, in collaboration with Dr. Denham, Dr. Chazan-Cohen, and her father, an organizational psychologist, recently submitted a grant application to the Office of Head Start to fund her dissertation. Through the Assessment of Positive Early Education Leadership (APEEL) project, Kate aims to develop and pilot a multi-rater feedback tool for ECCE directors. Through responses from parents, teachers, non-teaching staff, and other administrators, ECCE directors will be able to use the tool to evaluate their influence on and management of their center's emotion climate.

The tool will be developed through a thorough review of program management, organizational psychology, early childhood education, and infant mental health literature, as well as data from in-depth interviews and focus groups with teachers, parents, and other subject matter experts. Kate sees the tool as building a foundation for management and leadership coaching for directors, which is sorely needed. The results of this preliminary investigation will inform a manuscript fulfilling Kate's dissertation requirements.

Her project is an extension of the Teachers as Socializers of Social Emotional Learning (TASSEL) project currently being carried out by the Denham and Curby labs, and utilizes participating Head Starts and private childcare centers in the Northern Virginia area. Therefore, a secondary goal of this project is to gather useful data on ECCE leadership and management that can be combined with the teacher, classroom, and child data already being collected. Kate hopes to hear from Head Start about the award decision within the coming weeks!



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GMU student emails:
@masonlive.gmu.edu

ADPSG Executive Council



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Faculty Advisor
awinsler



This could be you!

Get involved with
ADPSG!
Contact Danielle

The ADP faculty meets once a month and they want to hear from YOU!

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns that you would like to share with the faculty, contact your ADP Student Representative, Sammi Plourde at splourd2@masonlive.gmu.edu



A Welcome from the ADPSG President!

Greetings ADP Students and Faculty!

The ADP Student Group (ADPSG) invites you to get involved at George Mason, as well as in our community. Last year, ADPSG participated in the Thanksgiving food drive for Northern Virginia Family Services (NVFS) Operation Turkey program. This fall, we will participate in the 2nd Annual 5k Walk/Run/Roll Against Bullying on October 6th. We would also like to invite you to play basketball on Friday afternoons! If you would like to get involved with ADPSG events and planning, please email me at dmead@gmu.edu. Looking forward to seeing you at upcoming service and social events this year!

- Danielle Mead, ADPSG President

Fall Colloquia Series is Underway!

All colloquia are located in **East 122 @ 12:00pm** unless otherwise noted.

All members of the GMU community are welcome to attend.

Wed Sept 5 Dr. Tamara Halle, Co-Director, Early Childhood Research, Child Trends

School Readiness Research at Child Trends

Wed Sept 12 Dr. Mary Bruce Webb, Administration for Children/Families, OPRE

Applied Developmental Research in Non-Academic Settings

Wed Sept 19 Dr. Aurali Dade, Assistant VP, GMU Office of Research Integrity and Assurance

GMU Human Subject Research (HSRB) Procedures

Wed Sept 26 Dr. Melanie Killen, Dept of Human Development University of Maryland

Morality, Theory of Mind, and Intergroup Attitudes

Wed Oct 3 Dr. Louisa Tarullo, Mathematica

A Developmental Perspective on Policy Issues in Early Childhood

Wed Oct 10 Dr. Geetha Ramani, Dept of Human Development, University of Maryland

Using Informal Learning Activities to Promote Children's Numerical Knowledge

Wed Oct 17 Dr. Robert Emery, Psychology, University of Virginia

Joint Custody for Infants and Toddlers?: Debate, Theory, and Research on Alternative Parenting Plans for Very Young Children

Wed Oct 24 Dr. Julie Dunsmore, Psychology, Virginia Tech

Physiological Arousal as a Mechanism for the Effects of Entity and Incremental Feedback on Children's Prosocial Behavior in Middle Childhood

Wed Oct 31 Dr. Amy Madigan Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, DHHS

Down the Rabbit Hole: Conducting Early Childhood Research in a Policy Setting

Wed Nov 7 Dr. Wendy Kliewer, Psychology, Virginia Commonwealth University

Contributors to Resilience in Urban Youth: Individual, Family, and Community Factors

Wed Nov 14 Mr. Ken Guerrant, GMU University Career Services

Career Resources for Developmental Psychology Students

Wed Nov 28 Student Presentations

Wed Dec 5 Dr. Jim Howard, Psychology, Catholic University

The Aging Brain and Mind: Implications for Learning.

Dr. Chazen-Cohen's Infant Development Lab

Dr. Cohen is currently the co principal investigator assessing two early childhood programs, Early Steps to School Success and Educare. Early Steps to School Success is a home visiting program in rural areas for children 0 - 3 and a book exchange program from 3-5 years old. The program focuses on literacy and school readiness. Educare is an early childhood education program for low-income families for children 0 - 5 years old. Dr. Cohen's lab members are currently completing the child assessments for the Educare program, and coding videos for the Early Steps to School Success Program.



Dr. Curby's Development in School Contexts Lab (DISC) and Dr. Denham's Child Development Lab

Dr. Denham's and Dr. Curby's lab are collaborating on a large study, which is known as *Teachers as Socializers of Social Emotional Learning* (TASSEL). They are assessing teachers' means of modeling emotional expressiveness, reacting to children's emotions, and teaching about emotions. They are obtaining both teacher self-report and observations. Additionally, assessors are collecting data on children's social, emotional, and pre-academic competencies.

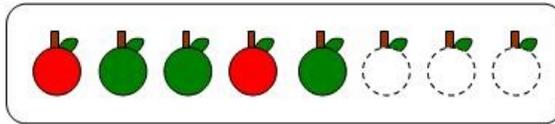


The second current project in Dr. Denham's Lab is, *Computerized Assessment of Preschool Social Emotional Learning* (CAPSEL). They are computerizing a battery of assessments aimed at measuring children's social and emotional competence. These computerized tools will be used in early childhood educational settings, instructional and outcome-based purposes.



Dr. Pasnak's Cognitive Interventions Lab

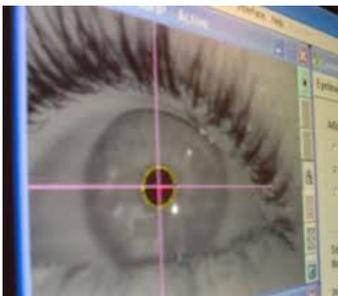
The Cognitive Intervention Lab is currently looking at how early mastery of patterning translates to better math and literacy skills



as well as overall improved academic achievement in first graders. Additionally they are examining how patterning fits in with other developmental skills to include: seriation, multiple seriation, class inclusion and transitivity.

Dr. Rojhan's Behavioral and Developmental Disabilities (BADD) Lab

Dr. Rojhan's Lab is currently working on three projects: Eye tracking with infants and toddlers, Self-mutilation in the typically developing population, and emotion perception and emotional responses in intellectual disabilities. All three studies are still in theory or data collection; therefore, all data have not yet been examined.



Dr. Winsler's Language, Culture, Music, Self-Regulation, & School Readiness Lab

Doctoral student, Deepti Gupta is collecting online survey data, from mothers and their 10-13 year old children, for her dissertation on *Cultural Differences in Maternal Emotion Socialization of Anxiety and Anger in Young Children*. The current study focuses on the ways in which emotion and temperament (personality) shape how individuals navigate their social world, including how this relates to parenting. This study examines the influence of culture on mother-child dyadic relationship vis-à-vis



emotion socialization, within two target cultures: India and the United States.

The lab has been working hard on publishing recently completed work and were excited to submit 15 papers for publication during summer 2012.

ADP Lab Projects

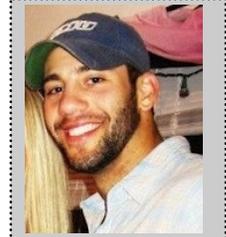
Xiaozhu An (Rojahn) This is my first year in the ADP Master's program. I come from China, where I finished my undergraduate study and earned my BS degree in Applied Psychology. My experience as a volunteer at Elim Infan- tile Autism School evoked my interests in autism. My research interests include any aspects of autism and cognitive development of children with developmental disabilities.



Daisy Andonyadis (Denham) I am a first-year Master's student in the Applied Development program and I am currently working in Dr. Denham's lab. I graduated from James Madison University in 2012 with a B.S. in Psychology and a minor in Family Studies. My research interests are social and emotional development in early childhood and parent-child interactions.



Alec Bernstein (Rojahn) Alec graduated in 2012 from James Madison University with a B.S. in psychology and a concentration in behavior analysis. Entering the Applied Developmental Psychology as a master's student in the Fall of 2012, he works under the supervision of Dr. Rojahn. His research interests include behavioral interventions to enhance proper eye contact in children with autism.



Allison Bock (Pasnak) I received my bachelor's degree in Psychology from Christopher Newport University in 2007 and my master's degree in Developmental Psychology at Illinois State University in 2009. Prior to attending George Mason, I also taught as an adjunct professor at Germanna Community College and worked as a mental health specialist at Mary Washington Hospital in Fredericksburg, VA. I am currently working with Dr. Pasnak and have interests in studying interventions for children who have cognitive delays, specifically in reading and executive functioning.



Jameela Conway-Turner (Cohen) Originally from Wilmington, Delaware, I earned a B.A. in Psychology from Penn State University in 2010. I went on to earn a Master's degree in Applied Developmental and Educational Psychology from Boston College in 2012, and am now starting my first year as a doctoral student in the ADP program. I am interested in parent-child interactions, the social-emotional development of at risk youth, and program evaluation.



Alezandra Davidson-Palmer (Curby) I am a first year Master's student from Durham, North Carolina. I graduated from Wake Forest University in 2012 with a BA in Psychology. I became interested in the field after volunteering at a preschool and observing children over several years. My research interests include development in the context of preschool classrooms, and the influence of classroom environments and student-teacher interactions on child development.



Emily Doll (Winsler) Emily Doll graduated from Moravian College in Bethlehem, PA with her B.A. in Psychology and a minor in Education. At Moravian, she contributed to research regarding friendship and bullying, as well as the effects of parent-child book reading interactions on children's language and social-emotional skills. Her current research interests, which include relationships between language acquisition and social-emotional factors, stem from her experiences teaching preschool students and working alongside speech pathologists. She is also interested in the contributions of parent-child relationships to children's school functioning, including both academic performance and social/peer interactions.



Melissa Fetterer (Pasnak) I am a first-year Master's student in the ADP Program. I graduated from Birmingham-Southern College in May 2012 with a B.S. in Psychology. I am currently interested in developmental disabilities and am looking forward to new and exciting research opportunities.



Danielle Jackson (Cohen)



Sara O'Brien (Pasnak) I received my BA in 2010 in both Psychology and German Studies from Lewis & Clark College in Oregon. Originally, I am from San Francisco. I have worked as a Play Therapy Provider, a Child and Adolescent Treatment Specialist with Trillium Family Services of Oregon, and as a Montessori Primary and Elementary Teaching Assistant at schools in Virginia, Arizona, and Germany. My primary research interests are: developmental disabilities and learning difficulties, early intervention, emotional self-regulation in children, and classroom integration.



Dani Seville (Denham) Dani graduated from the University of North Florida in 2011, with a B.A. in Psychology and a concentration in Child Development. As an undergrad, she completed a practicum and research project through the Early Head Start and Head Start program. These experiences motivated her interests in early childhood intervention, low-income families, and socio-emotional skills. Dani entered George Mason's M.A. ADP program in Fall 2012.



Emily Spencer (Curby) I received my B.S. in Psychology from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2005. After graduation, I was commissioned as an officer in the Army and continue to serve on Active Duty at George Mason University, with a follow on assignment to The United States Military Academy at West Point in 2014. I also have a Masters degree in Applied Forensic Services from The Chicago School. I am a first-year Masters student working with Dr. Tim Curby and am interested in studying the effects of continuous geographical displacement, particularly on socio-emotional development, during early childhood.



Jordan Thibodeaux (Winsler) Jordan is a first-year Ph.D. student in ADP, and a member of Dr. Winsler's lab. His research interests include private speech and inhibitory control in bilinguals, self-regulation in relation to activity participation, e.g. music and sports, and special populations, e.g. gifted, ADHD, and developmentally disabled. His career goals include working in academia, applied research in schools and sport organizations, and/or overseeing developmental centers. Jordan is originally from Lafayette, Louisiana where he earned a bachelor's and master's degree in psychology. He is proud to be a Cajun, and now a Patriot. He currently lives in Centreville with his wife Christina.



Rebecca Ulrich (Curby) I graduated with a BS in Human Development from Virginia Tech in 2010 with a minor in psychology. At Virginia Tech, I was an undergraduate research assistant in Dr. Cindy Smith's Children's Emotions Lab, examining parenting and emotion regulation in young children. Following graduation, I worked as a behavioral counselor with an in-home behavioral intervention group in Richmond, VA, and as a research assistant for Abt Associates conducting policy and program evaluation. I am currently a first-year student in the doctoral program. My research interests revolve around the impact of classroom characteristics on children's development, both generally and in children with special needs.



Conference Update

Conference	Date	Location	Deadline for Submission	Website
American Educational Research Association (AERA)	April 27-May 1, 2013	San Francisco, California	Passed	http://www.aera.net/
National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)	November 7-10, 2012	Atlanta, Georgia	Passed	http://www.naeyc.org/
National Head Start Association (NHSA)	December 1-5, 2012	Grapevine, Texas	September 14, 2012	http://www.nhsa.org/
Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)	April 18-20, 2013	Seattle, Washington	September 20, 2012	http://www.srkd.org/
Early Education and Technology for Children (EETC)	April 2-4, 2013	Salt Lake City, Utah	September 21, 2012	http://www.eetconference.org/
Young Child Expo	April 17-19, 2013	New York, New York	September 30, 2012	http://www.youngchildexpo.com/
National Council on Measurement in Education (NCME)	April 26-30, 2013	San Francisco, California	October 1, 2012	http://ncme.org/
Virginia Association for Early Childhood Education (VAECE)	February 14-16, 2013	Reston, VA	October 1, 2012	http://www.vaece.org/
NAEYC National Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development	June 9-12, 2013	San Francisco, California	October 12, 2012	http://www.naeyc.org/institute/
Gatlinburg (Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities)	March 6-8, 2013	San Antonio, Texas	October 22, 2012	http://kc.vanderbilt.edu/gatlinburg/
Society for Prevention Research (SPR)	May 28-31, 2013	San Francisco, California	October 31, 2012	http://www.preventionscience.org/
Eastern Psychological Association (EPA)	March 1-4, 2013	New York, New York	November 1, 2012	http://www.easternpsychological.org/
American Psychological Association (APA)	July 31-August 4, 2013	Honolulu, Hawaii	November, 16, 2012	http://www.apa.org/
Association for Psychological Science (APS)	May 23-26, 2013	Washington, DC	January 31, 2013	http://www.psychologicalscience.org

Conference Travel Funding



If you plan on applying for financial support for conference travel this year, you have 2 options:

1) The **Graduate Student Travel Fund**

You may apply for one conference per fiscal year. *Before you travel* you must submit all application forms and instructions can be found on the GSTF website (<http://www2.gmu.edu/org/gstf/pdfs/application.pdf>). Be sure to **MAKE COPIES** of everything you submit.

1) The **ADPSG Travel Fund**

ADPSG has a modest budget to help grad students attend conferences. If you plan to attend a conference between now and the beginning of fall semester 2013, please email me at nhamdan@masonlive.gmu.edu **no later than October 8th** to request funds.

Please include the name and location of the conference and whether you are presenting (or have submitted a poster or paper to present) as priority will be given to students who are presenting. Please be certain that you will be attending the conference before you request funds.

Once funds have been allocated for a specific conference, they cannot be reallocated if you choose not to go and will then be lost to us. In addition to ADPSG funding, I encourage you to apply to the Graduate Student Travel Fund (<http://gstf.gmu.edu>) as it typically is able to offer more generous support. Also, it is important to note that many conferences offer student travel awards for which you can apply as well.



P.S. The ADPSG has rights to these funds only in exchange for a philanthropic act each semester. Please help us fulfill that commitment by Walking/Running against Bullying on October 6th. (See the back page for details).

The Advocates for Justice and Education Inc. Presents:

2nd Annual Walk, Run, Roll Against Bullying

What: It is the 2nd Annual 5k run, walk, roll sponsored by the Advocates for Justice and Education Inc. (Parent Training and Information Center for the District of Columbia). Your support will help students, families, educators, and communities to address bullying prevention!

Where: Rock Creek Park (Carter Barron) – Stage Road near Tennis Courts
16th & Kennedy Streets NW
Washington, DC

When: Saturday, October 6th 2012 - rain or shine!

Time: 7:30 am – 12:00 pm (Followed by brunch in DC for those who wish to join!)

Why: It is time to make a stand against bullying!

Registration: <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e6110vqb7004f853&llr=8rek5jhab>

The registration fee is \$20 for single adults but as a group of 10 + we will receive a discount of \$5 making the registration fee \$15

If you are interested in attending please notify Nicole Fettig by Wednesday, September 26th!

Can't make it? Please consider donating to show your support for the effort!

For more information, please contact Nicole Fettig,
(703) 731 – 6636 or nfettig@masonlive.gmu.edu