

# UNIVERSITY-BASED CHILD AND FAMILY POLICY CONSORTIUM

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## Member Feature: Rachel Gordon (UIC) & Laura Sosinsky (Fordham)

Consortium members Laura Sosinsky and Rachel Gordon collaborating on child care research



From left to right: Dr. Rachel Gordon (UIC) and Dr. Laura Sosinsky (Fordham)

One of the goals of the Consortium is to stimulate collaborations across members. [Rachel Gordon](#) and [Laura Sosinsky](#) provide an example of such a new research collaboration. They began to interact about their shared research interests through several calls for conference proposals that were circulated on the Consortium listserv last spring and summer. After several phone conversations and meetings at professional conferences, they began to work together on testing new approaches to measuring child care quality. They will each try some of these new strategies in their research projects over the coming year: Laura's Choosing Child Care study of parents' child care choices in the New York metropolitan area and Rachel's 2012 Chicago Area Study of child care providers in the Chicago area. They hope to share the findings of their work with the Consortium Research Interest Group in the future, bringing their collaboration full circle. Laura Stout Sosinsky is Assistant Professor in the [Department of Psychology at Fordham University](#) and Rachel A. Gordon is Associate Professor in the [Department of Sociology and Institute of Government and Public Affairs](#) at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

## **In unprecedented ruling, North Carolina Judge cites early childhood education research from the Center for Child and Family Policy at Duke University**

In what early childhood education advocates are heralding as an unprecedented occurrence, a North Carolina superior court judge, Howard Manning, has cited the importance of early childhood education, particularly among children age 0-5, in his recent ruling on the More at Four program and related state budget cuts.

In a newsletter posted by the NC Partnership for Children website, child development expert and Consortium member Jack Shonkoff commented:

*To my knowledge, this is the first time that a court has recognized what decades of scientific research have shown - that the foundation for learning (whether strong or weak) is built long before a child starts kindergarten. Indeed, science tells us that early experiences literally shape the architecture of the developing brain. With this knowledge as a context, the Court's decision is legally responsible, economically wise, and morally commendable.*

You can read the entire article [here](#).

In his ruling, Judge Manning references a specific study conducted by Center researchers Kenneth Dodge, Sunny Ladd and Clara Muschkin. Their study highlights the key benefits of preschool programming, specifically North Carolina's Smart Start and More at Four programs, which provide preschool access and a broader network of support for low-income children age 0-5 and their families. The study found that these programs have positive effects on the entire community cohort's average academic achievement, including spillover effects, indicating that "the peers of participants also benefit, perhaps by having better-trained teachers or teachers who spend less time remediating the low performance of other students."

To learn more about the results of the study, click [here](#).

For a PowerPoint presentation detailing the study results, please contact [suzanne.valdivia@duke.edu](mailto:suzanne.valdivia@duke.edu).

## **Consortium members present at 51st Annual NAWRS Workshop**

**National Association for Welfare Research and**

## **Statistics, 51st Annual Workshop**

**September 12 - 14, 2011, Vail, CO**

### ***"Connecting Across Programs and Systems: Doing More With Less"***

The National Association for Welfare Research and Statistics (NAWRS) held its 51st Annual Workshop in Vail, CO in September, titled "Connecting Across Programs and Systems: Doing More With Less." Consortium members Christina Groark (Pitt), Nicole Lawrence (Duke), Angie Snyder (Georgia State), and Matt Stagner (Chapin Hall) presented papers on a panel called "Leveraging University Research for Child and Family Policy Impact." Click [here](#) for further information about the workshop and [here](#) for a full program and information about the Consortium panel.

## **Calendar**

### **Tuesday, October 11: Careers Interest Group, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. (EDT)**

- Speaker: Dr. John Miles, Director, Searchlight Consulting, LLC
  - Topic: Research Careers Outside of Academia: Running a Policy Research Firm
- The Careers group meets monthly, every 3rd Monday. Co-Chairs: [Sara Benning](#) (University of Minnesota) and [Stephanie Curenton](#) (Rutgers).

### **Tuesday, October 11: Research Interest Group, 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. (EDT)**

- Speaker: Dr. Robert Goerge, Senior Research Fellow, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago
  - Topic: The National Survey of Early Care and Education
- The Research group meets monthly, every 2nd Tuesday. Co-chairs: [Rachel Gordon](#) (UIC) and [Anne-Marie Iselin](#) (Duke).

### **Friday, October 28: Engagement Interest Group, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. (EDT)**

- The group meets once a month, every 4<sup>th</sup> Friday. Co-chairs: [Jenni Owen](#) (Duke) and [Ray Firth](#) (Pitt)

If you would like to join one or more of the interest groups, please contact Shannon Smith for monthly conference call information: [shannon.smith@duke.edu](mailto:shannon.smith@duke.edu) or (919) 613-9303.

## Resources

### Grants & Fellowships

#### **Zero to Three, Leaders for the 21st Century Fellowship Program**

More than 25 years ago, Zero To Three rose to the challenge of strengthening the nation's ability to care for infants and toddlers by creating programs designed especially for leaders in the field. The core activity of Zero To Three's Leadership Development program is the prestigious Leaders for the 21st Century Fellowship, which enables professionals to better serve infants and toddlers in three fundamental ways. The Fellowship promotes a wider flow of knowledge about new advances in science, brings infant-toddler professionals into a professional home where all disciplines are welcome, and broadens professionals' repertoires of leadership skills for our increasingly complex world. The 260-plus fellows have gone on to develop high-impact programs that improve the lives of infants and young children in communities around the country. Click [here](#) to learn more and [here](#) to apply for the 2012 Leaders for the 21st Century Fellowship Program. *The deadline for applications is October 28, 2011.*

#### **Foundation for Child Development, 2012 Young Scholars Competition**

YSP's goals are to: (1) fund basic and policy-relevant research in this area; (2) support the career development of young investigators from the behavioral and social sciences or in an allied professional field. Applicants must hold a Ph.D. or its equivalent in one of the behavioral and social sciences or in an applied professional field (e.g., public policy, public health, education, social work, nursing, medicine). Three to four fellowships of up to \$150,000 for use over one to three years will be awarded competitively. Please go [here](#) for more information on the application process, or you can submit your question(s) via email to [ysp@fcd-us.org](mailto:ysp@fcd-us.org). *The deadline for proposals is November 2, 2011.*

#### **Doris Duke Fellowships for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect**

The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago invite outstanding doctoral students to apply for the Doris Duke Fellowships for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect. This fellowship opportunity is designed to identify and develop a new generation of leaders capable of and committed to creating initiatives that will advance child abuse prevention practice and policy.

The fellowships will be awarded to two cohorts of 15 fellows with two-year terms; the first started in the Fall 2011 and the second will begin in Fall 2012. Each fellow receives an annual stipend of \$25,000 for up to two years. Fellows can be based at any

academic institution in the U.S. and must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents in the U.S. to be eligible. The application period is now open. Applications are due by December 15, 2011. Click [here](#) for more information, [here](#) to download a brochure, and [here](#) to read profiles of the 2011 Fellows.

### **Society for Research in Child Development, Fellowships in Public Policy**

Policy Fellowships with the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) will be available for 2012-2013. SRCD Policy Fellows - in both Congressional and Executive Branch placements - work as "resident scholars" at the interface of science and policy. Applicants must have a doctoral level degree in any discipline related to Child Development. Both early and mid-career doctoral level professionals of all scientific disciplines related to child development are encouraged to apply. For more information and application instructions, please click [here](#). *The deadline for applications is December 15, 2011.*

### **Call for Proposals**

#### **The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is currently accepting proposals for The National Institute for the Early Childhood Professional Development, June 10 - 13, 2012, Indianapolis, IN**

Each year, the Institute focuses on a theme that addresses a key issue in the field. The [theme](#) for this year is "Leadership Throughout the Early Childhood Profession: Research, Policy, and Practice." In addition to theme-related sessions, the Institute also covers topics such as professional preparation and ongoing professional development, program administration, linguistic and cultural diversity, and many aspects of developmentally appropriate practice, including literacy, math, science, and the arts, and social, emotional, and physical development. Learn more [here](#), and submit your proposal [here](#). *Proposals are due October 28, 2011.*

### **Policy Publications, Briefs & Initiatives**

#### **Publication: "Adolescent summer care arrangements and risk for obesity the following school year" by Joe Mahoney**

Joe L. Mahoney's (University of California - Irvine) findings from a longitudinal study on common summer care arrangements and predicted risk for obesity were published last month in the *Journal of Adolescence*.

#### **Social Policy Report: "Quality of Early Childhood Development Programs in Global Contexts: Rationale for Investment, Conceptual Framework and**

### **Implications for Equity"**

The Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) recently released a Social Policy Report on [Quality of Early Childhood Development Programs in Global Contexts](#). This report, by Pia Rebello Britto (Yale University), Hirokazu Yoshikawa (Harvard University), and Kimberly Boller (Mathematica), presents a conceptualization of quality across settings and systems and identifies implications for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers on how they can work together to measure, improve and sustain early childhood development program quality.

### **New Initiative: Childhood Obesity Prevention Training Program (COPT), Penn State**

In Fall 2011, seven doctoral students will begin the Graduate Training Fellowships in Childhood Obesity Prevention Program at Pennsylvania State University. The program targets issues such as the number of obese children in the U.S. tripling in last 30 years. Read more about COPT [here](#).

## **Conference**

### **Society for Research in Child Development February 9 - 11, 2012, Tampa, FL**

#### ***"Positive Development of Minority Children"***

The Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) will be hosting a meeting on the Positive Development of Minority Children in Tampa, Florida from February 9 - February 11, 2012. The goal of this meeting is to highlight new and emerging findings, frameworks, paradigms, and methodologies from developmental, social-economic, social neuroscience, and intervention approaches to understanding and promoting the positive development of minority children. People may register for the meeting at the [SRCD website](#) beginning in November of 2011.

*The Consortium is a national, interdisciplinary member organization of highly regarded university-based child and family policy research centers, institutes, and programs.*



*This is a periodic newsletter of the Consortium.*

*We welcome your feedback and submissions for inclusion in future issues.*

