

The Networker

THE OFFICAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

SUSAN KRAUSS WHITBOURNE, UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, AMHERST



Susan Krauss Whitbourne

SSHD is going through exciting changes this year. First, thanks to the hard work of our membership chair, Mary Levitt, our membership continues to increase. Second, our funding committee, chaired by Larry Schiamberg and Jackie James, has secured a grant from the Retirement Research Foundation to support our Awards program. Details on the Awards can be found at our website, www.sshdonline.org. Third, as indicated by our Program Chair, Toni Antonucci, the Penn State Conference on October 19-21 is going to offer a number of informative and stimulating workshops, symposia, and posters.

We are also undergoing a number of other significant shifts as we look to the future of the society. Our relatively small size allows us to maintain personal connections with members, but as we grow, we are also proud to provide an important networking opportunity for people who are entering the field. Getting to know our members is an important priority for the organiza-

tion. The opportunity to socialize and interact with a wide range of scholars interested in human development is what makes SSHD unique among other professional organizations.

I hope that you will continue to support and promote SSHD by maintaining your involvement and by encouraging your colleagues to join. We greatly value your participation and look forward to seeing you in October! Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions or ideas at

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PRESIDENT-ELECT'S COLUMN TONI ANTONUCCI, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



Toni Antonucci

Plans are well underway for our fifth biennial meeting which will take place at Penn State University on October 19-21, 2007 (visit our website at www.sshdonline.org/meetings.htm).

I am very excited about our theme this year which is: *Crossing Boundaries in Human Development*.

We chose this theme because we believe that crossing boundaries is one of the most cutting edge issues of developmental science. Our goal is to explore the ways in which boundaries can be crossed in lifespan research -- be they disciplinary, developmental, cohort, biopsychosocial, cognitive-social, quantitative-qualitative, and/or research-policy boundaries.

Our 2007 biennial conference will focus on what we know and what we need to know about crossing boundaries in human development. We seek symposium proposals that address any of these or additionally creative boundary crossings. Please note that priority will be given to those proposals crossing multiple, and especially disciplinary, boundaries.

As you may know K. Warner Schaie, our extraordinary colleague and mentor who taught us all the difference between age changes and age differences, is formally retiring this year. We are planning a special recognition of his career and contribution to the study of human development. As part of this recognition, John Nesselrode of the University of Virginia will present an invited address in his honor.

We are also planning a special symposium in memoriam for our friend and colleague Jan Jacobs. Jacquie Eccles has organized this symposium which will address gender through the life span.

Symposium proposals are encouraged in all topic areas which cross boundaries in human development. In keeping with our program theme, all symposia are encouraged to include scholars from more than one discipline. Students are especially encouraged to submit posters to give them the opportunity to discuss their work with professionals in an intimate setting. SSHD is committed to being a student friendly society!

I am also excited about our special pre-conference event:

Longitudinal Methods: The Analysis of Growth and Change

We are offering a 1 ½ day pre conference workshop on Longitudinal Methods. This workshop is designed to provide participants with basic knowledge of structural equation modeling (SEM), multilevel modeling (HLM) and accompanying longitudinal methods for the analysis of growth and change. Participants will leave the workshop with a set of tools that they might apply in their studies and research programs. Participants will be introduced to a set of multivariate analytic methods that serve as the foundation for studying change within SEM and HLM frameworks. The format of the workshop is designed to permit participants to use and apply the techniques as they learn them. Analytic approaches, methods, models, and programming basics will be introduced in four class lectures. Each lecture will be accompanied by a practical session in which participants will analyze their own data, interpret the results, and receive individualized consultation from the instructors. For these sessions participants are encouraged to bring their data on a laptop computer with a working version of any SEM or multilevel software package (we shall provide syntax for use with most packages). The workshop faculty will be available for pre-workshop consultations regarding software selection and data preparation. By the end of the workshop participants will have begun analyzing their own data and will have a set of tools and templates for future use. Faculty include: Nilam Ram, PhD, Peter Molenaar, PhD, Mike Rovine, Eric Loken, PhD, all of Department of Human Development & Family Studies, Pennsylvania State University; and John R. Nesselrode, PhD, University of Virginia.

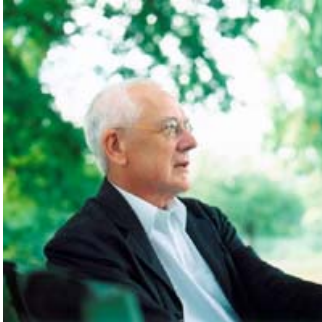
Prerequisites: Knowledge of ANOVA, regression, and familiarity with multivariate analysis techniques.

Consult the sshdonline website for additional information or email the Program Chair, Toni C. Antonucci at tca@umich.edu.

In Memoriam

Paul B. Baltes (1939-2006)

*"...And from their lessons seek and find
Instruction with an humble mind."*



Paul B. Baltes died on November 7, 2006, after struggling mightily against cancer. Paul was more than the most bril-

liant developmental scientist many of the developmental scientists in SSHD and, in fact, in all scholarly organizations dealing with life-span development, have known. It was Paul's vision for scholarship in developmental science that was the chief catalyst for the formation of SSHD and for much of its intellectual agenda. He was the epitome of both a world citizen and a warm and unflagging friend to, literally, hundreds of individuals. Despite his leadership on the world scientific stage he always took whatever time was necessary to help a friend with wise council, warmth and humor, and acts of incredible kindness and generosity. For generations of developmental scientists he was the exemplar

of theoretical and substantive creativity, methodological rigor, and ingenious insight into the applied and professional facets of science. He was a role model of the constant, conscientious, and caring mentor and friend. And he was a person of inestimable optimism that, together, developmental scientists could serve as a vital resource in the promotion of positive human development. The world is diminished by his leaving it, and we share with his wife and children their sense of enormous loss.

- *Thanks to Richard Lerner for giving expression to our sentiments*

You can help continue the landmark work of Paul Baltes by visiting the Margret M. Baltes and Paul B. Baltes Foundation at:

<http://www.margret-baltes-stiftung.de/>

Inaugural Society for the Study of Human Development Awards Program

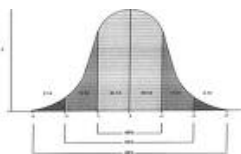
The steering committee of the Society for the Study of Human Development is pleased to announce the inauguration of the **SSHD Awards Program**. Specifically, an invitation is extended to SSHD members to nominate individuals in the field of human development for both scholarship and mentorship awards and for awards which provide unique opportunities for graduate students in human development programs. A description of the awards and procedures for nomination are included in the attachment below. **The deadline for submitting nominations is September 5, 2007.**

The inaugural presentation of the awards will occur at the SSHD Biennial Meeting at Penn State University, October 18-20. The following awards will be made at that time:

- **Distinguished Lifetime Career Award (\$3,000.00)**
- **Early Career Award (\$2,000.00)**
- **Mentor Award (\$1,000.00)**
- **Dissertation Award (\$500.00)**
- **Graduate Student Seed Grant (\$1,000.00)**

These awards are a unique opportunity for the SSHD membership to recognize outstanding achievement in human development, to provide support for promising graduate students and to further enhance the role of SSHD as the preeminent professional organization for the study of lifespan human development. We will look forward to receiving your nominations.

For More Information See Our Website at: www.sshdonline.org



SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



FIFTH BIENNIAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Crossing Boundaries in Human Development

October 18th – 21th, 2007

The Pennsylvania State University

Featuring:

Invited Address in honor of K. Warner Schaie by John Nesselroade
Memorial Symposium in honor of Jan Jacobs: *Gender across the Life Course*

Invited Address by Lynn Liben: *Life at the Edges: Exploring Spatial Representations across the Lifespan*

Also including:

- A Pre-Conference Workshop on Longitudinal Methods
- Symposia and Posters*
- *And It Takes a Village... to Create Good Science*
A new type of poster session*

* *Poster submissions accepted until September 1st*

Visit our website for details: www.sshdonline.org

OR

Complete the registration form at the end of this issue

APA's Science Government Relations Office seeks your input as we respond to a request for comment from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) on the National Children's Study (NCS) Research Plan.

The Research Plan can viewed at: www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov/research/research_plan/

The NCS is a longitudinal study established by the Children's Health Act of 2000 that seeks to examine a cohort of 100,000 children from pre-birth until they are 21 years old to determine the physical, chemical, and social environmental influences on their health and development. As of now, planning for the initial protocol of the NCS is nearing completion and the NCS Program Office is taking comments on its proposed research plan.

New and Noteworthy in Development

Development and Social Policy

Biggs, S. et al., (2006). The age-shift: Observations on social policy, ageism, and the dynamics of the adult lifecourse. *Journal of Social Work and Practice*, 20 (3), 239-250.

Abstract: Through a critical engagement with policy trends, we ask how shifts in ideologies of ageing might influence the possibilities available to adults as they grow older. Of particular interest are the implications for how people are being encouraged to think about the adult lifecourse. We address these questions by looking at policy development, taking the 2000-2005 period in the UK as a case example, and by comparing this period to wider regional and international trends. Finally, we assess the implications of contemporary policy, from a psychodynamic point of view, for the maintenance of a viable identity in later life and for intergenerational relationships

Applied Developmental Science

Bers, M. U. (2006). The role of new technologies to foster positive youth development. *Applied Developmental Science*, 10(4), 200-219.

Abstract: This article describes a developmental systems approach to applied developmental science (ADS), which provides a framework to design and evaluate technology-rich programs that promote positive development by emphasizing the strengths and assets of young people instead of focusing on diminishing or preventing risk-taking behaviors. Until now, most of the psychoeducational programs conceived within the ADS model have not focused on the role of new technologies in young people's lives. This absence is particularly striking given that, in today's world, new technologies play an important role in different areas of the lives of young people, such as education, entertainment, socialization, and communication. This article presents the concept of identity construction environments (ICE), an interdisciplinary model that proposes guidelines to design and study new technologies purposefully created to promote positive youth development (PYD). Two types of ICE have been de-

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veloped: one focusing on stand-alone technologies for learning, such as the Zora virtual city; and the other focusing on an approach for developing technologically rich learning contexts, such as the Project Inter-Actions robotics workshops. This article presents both examples of ICE and describes how their design fosters the 6 components of PYD. Initial findings from pilot studies conducted with very different populations of youth engaged in both types of ICE—such as young children, adolescents, and chronically ill children—are presented

Developmental Methods

Card, N.A., & Little, T. D. (2007). Longitudinal modeling of developmental processes. *International Journal of Behavioral Development, 31*(4), 297-302

Abstract: Methods for analyzing longitudinal developmental data have increased in terms of quantity and complexity in the last few decades. In this article, we describe the advantages of longitudinal data, review the use of longitudinal data in current developmental research, and then preview the articles in this Special Issue. A survey of recently published literature indicates that longitudinal data are commonly used (due to several advantages over concurrent data) across domains of developmental research and vary tremendously in terms of time spans studied, the number and structure of data points, and the analytic strategies used. The articles included in this Special Issue reflect the diversity in usage within developmental research and provide didactic presentations of advanced methods of analyzing longitudinal data to answer important developmental questions.

Cognitive Development

.Cowan, N. et al., (2006). *Rethinking* speed theories of cognitive development: Increasing the rate of recall without affecting accuracy. *Psychological Science, 17*(1), 67-73.

Abstract: Researchers have suggested that developmental improvements in immediate recall stem from increases in the speed of mental processes. However, that inference has depended on evidence from correlation, regression, and structural equation modeling. We provide counterexamples in two experiments in which the speed of spoken recall was manipulated. In one experiment, second-grade children and adults recalled lists of digits more quickly than usual when the lists were presented at a rapid rate of two items per second. In a second experiment, children received lists at a rate of one item per second; half the children were trained (successfully) to speak their responses more quickly than usual, at a rate similar to adults' usual rate. Recall accuracy was completely unaffected by either of these response-speed manipulations. Thus, although response rate is a strong marker of an individual's maturational level, it does not appear to determine the accuracy of immediate recall. These results have important methodological and theoretical implications for human development.

Developmental Genetics

Weaver, I. C. G., et al., (2005) Reversal of maternal programming of stress response in adult offspring through methyl-supplementation : Altering epigenetic marking later in life. *The Journal of Neuroscience, 25*(47), 11045-11054.

Abstract: Stress responses in the adult rat are programmed early in life by maternal care and associated with epigenomic marking of the hippocampal exon 17 glucocorticoid receptor (GR) promoter. To examine whether such epigenetic programming is reversible in adult life, we centrally infused the adult offspring with the essential amino acid L-methionine, a precursor to S-adenosyl-methionine that serves as the donor of methyl groups for DNA methylation. Here we report that methionine infusion reverses the effect of maternal behavior on DNA methylation, nerve growth factor-inducible protein-A binding to the exon 17 promoter, GR expression, and hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal and behavioral responses to stress, suggesting a causal relationship among epigenomic state, GR expression, and stress responses in the adult offspring. These results demonstrate that, despite the inherent stability of the epigenomic marks established early in life through behavioral programming, they are potentially reversible in the adult brain.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER?

The Society for the Study of Human Development (SSHD) is seeking to add new members and we invite you to consider joining this groundbreaking organization. SSHD is the *only* organization in the U. S. devoted exclusively to fostering research in human development across the life span. The Society was initiated in 1998 by a group of eminent scholars in the field who recognized the importance of creating a forum for life span researchers. We have had four successful biennial meetings and planning is under way for a fifth exciting conference. Our journal, *Research in Human Development*, is at the cutting edge of the field and will soon be available to members fully on-line. Our on-line newsletter, The Networker, keeps members up-to-date on job opportunities, Society activities, and new developments in the field.

To learn more about the Society, or to submit a membership application, log on to our web site: <http://www.sshdonline.org>. We look forward to including you in our growing membership and we hope to see you at our next meeting!

What are you missing?

Research in Human Development Vol. 4 (1-2) CURRENT ISSUE

Issues for Developmental Research Among Racial/Ethnic Minority and Immigrant Families

Cheryl A. Boyce, Andrew J. Fuligni

Research in Human Development 2007 4:1-2, 1-17

Looking Beyond Nativity: The Relation of Age of Immigration, Length of Residence, and Birth Cohorts to the Risk of Onset of Psychiatric Disorders for Latinos

Margarita Alegria, William Sribney, Meghan Woo, Maria Torres, Peter Guarnaccia

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Developmental Contexts and Mental Disorders Among Asian Americans

David T. Takeuchi, Seunghye Hong, Krista Gile, Margarita Alegria

Research in Human Development 2007 4:1-2, 49-69

Race, Ethnicity, John Henryism, and Depressive Symptoms: The National Survey of American Life Adult Reinterview

Harold W. Neighbors, Rashid Njai, James S. Jackson

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Ethnicity and Risk of Psychiatric Disorder Among Adolescents

Robert E. Roberts, Catherine Ramsay Roberts

Research in Human Development 2007 4:1-2, 89-117

Psychosocial and Cultural Correlates of Suicidal Ideation Among American Indian Early Adolescents on a Northern Plains Reservation

Teresa D. LaFromboise, Lisa Medoff, Caroline C. Lee, Alex Harris

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