PATHWAYS TO CHILD FLOURISHING: CONTEXTS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND CHILD FLOURISHING

University of Notre Dame
September 28-30, 2014
WELCOME

- Daniel Lapsley, Chair of Psychology
- Julia Braungart-Rieker, Director, Center for Children and Families
- Darcia Narvaez, Program Chair
WHY ARE WE HERE?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimensions of child well-being</th>
<th>Average ranking position (for all 6 dimensions)</th>
<th>Dimension 1</th>
<th>Dimension 2</th>
<th>Dimension 3</th>
<th>Dimension 4</th>
<th>Dimension 5</th>
<th>Dimension 6</th>
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</table>

OECD countries with insufficient data to be included in the overview: Australia, Iceland, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, New Zealand, the Slovak Republic, South Korea, Turkey.
## Specific Developmental Disabilities in U.S. Children Aged 3-17 Years*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disability</th>
<th>Percent Change between 1997-1999 and 2006-2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any developmental disability</td>
<td>17.1%^</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADHD</td>
<td>33.0%^</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autism</td>
<td>289.5%^</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blind/unable to see at all</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cerebral palsy</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moderate to profound hearing loss</td>
<td>-30.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning disability</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intellectual disability</td>
<td>-1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seizures, past 12 months</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stuttered or stammered, past 12 months</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other developmental delay</td>
<td>24.7%^</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, NHIS, 1997-2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Americans Have Worse Health Than People in Other High-Income Countries; Health Disadvantage Is Pervasive Across Age and Socio-Economic Groups

WASHINGTON — On average, Americans die sooner and experience higher rates of disease and injury than people in other high-income countries, says a new report from the National Research Council and Institute of Medicine. The report finds that this health disadvantage exists at all ages from birth to age 75 and that even advantaged Americans — those who have health insurance, college educations, higher incomes, and healthy behaviors — appear to be sicker than their peers in other rich nations.
“Not perceiving what has changed” Randy Olson
OLD-GROWTH NATIONAL FORESTS
SHIFTING BASELINES

Culture

Adult being and morality

Childrearing practices

Individual psycho-social neurobiology
EVERY COMPLEX ANIMAL HAS A DEVELOPMENTAL NICHE FOR ITS OFFSPRING

the set of ecological and social circumstances typically inherited by members of a given species  
(West and King, 1987)
Evolved expected support provided

Species-Typical Developmental System

Smart, effective creature

Species-Typical Outcome
Evolved expected support NOT provided

Species - Atypical Developmental System

Outside normal range of intelligence & effectiveness

Species Atypical Outcome
BASELINE FOR MAMMALIAN DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS

- Developmental Niche
  - Emerged long before the Pleistocene
  - Catarrhine mammals emerged more than 30 million years ago

- Human form distinctive
  - Human genus emerged from ancestral great apes
  - Cultural practices stable for 99% of human genus history
EVOLVED DEVELOPMENTAL NICHE
THE HUMAN NEST

- **POSITIVE TOUCH**: Held or kept near others constantly
- **RESPONSIVITY**: Experience prompt responses to their cues
- **BREASTFEEDING**: Frequently (2-3 times/hr initially) for 2-5 yrs
- **FREE PLAY IN NATURE**: Multiage play groups
- **POSITIVE SOCIAL SUPPORT**: Dense social embeddness
- **MULTIPLE ALLOPARENTS**: Frequently cared for by individuals other than mothers (esp. fathers and grandmothers)
- **Plus SOOTHING PERINATAL EXPERIENCE**

Hewlett & Lamb, 2005; Konner, 2005, 2010
GETTING TO CHILD FLOURISHING

- Our evolutionary lineage
  - Inheritances
  - Capacities and propensities
- Developmental niche
  - What has changed in caregiving
  - How child development is influenced by caregiving
- Consider what might be changed to improve child outcomes
INTEGRATE THE KNOWLEDGE BASE

An issue at the interface of multiple disciplines
2010 SYMPOSIUM: HUMAN NATURE AND EARLY EXPERIENCE: ADDRESSING THE “ENVIRONMENT OF EVOLUTIONARY ADAPTEDNESS”
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2012 SYMPOSIUM: ANCESTRAL LANDSCAPES IN HUMAN EVOLUTION: CULTURE, CHILREARING AND SOCIAL WELLBEING
Ancestral Landscapes in Human Evolution
Culture, Childrearing and Social Wellbeing

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SYMPOSIUM 2014

- What does flourishing look like?
- What brings about child flourishing?
- Why types of family environment foster flourishing?
- What types of community support foster flourishing?
- What kind of interventions restore traumatized children to a flourishing trajectory?
EARLY COGNITIVE AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Christine Robinson
Julia Braungart-Rieker
Colwyn Trevanner
Sarina Saturn
THE BIOLOGY OF PARENTING

EA Quinn

Ruth Feldman
PARENTING BIOLOGY

Lee Gettler

James Swain
TRAUMA AND RECOVERY

Bruce Perry

Holly Brophy-Herb

Laura Miller
SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

- Each speaker has 45 minutes to present.
  - Followed by 10 minutes for discussion

- 5 minute breaks before the hour