



Spring 2017 Newsletter

Spring Carolina Consortium on Human Development Seminar Series

Presentations are 2:00 – 3:15 PM in the lower level classroom at CDS.

[The full schedule and readings are posted on the CDS website.](#)

01/30	Gitta Lubke	Notre Dame
02/06	Doug Steinley	University of Missouri
02/13	Heathe Luz Reyes	UNC-CH
02/20	Dan Bauer	UNC-CH
02/27	Stephanie Zerwas	UNC-CH
03/20	Candice Odgers	Duke University
03/27	Elena Erosheva	University of Washington
04/03	Katherine Masyn	Georgia State University
04/17	Richard Van Dorn, Stephen Tueller, Kiersten Johnson	RTI
04/24	Kenneth Sher Cairns Capstone Lecture Graham Memorial	University of Missouri

The cornerstone of Developmental Science, and much of science in general, is the study of individual differences. A major challenge, however, is how to conceptualize the underlying structure of individual differences. Although in some cases individuals may simply differ by degrees along a continuum, in others cases there may exist hidden subgroups characterized by different patterns of behavior within a given developmental period and/or distinct developmental pathways over the long term.

To empirically study this type of population heterogeneity, researchers have increasingly turned to statistical models such as latent class/profile analysis, latent transition analysis, and mixture models, particularly growth mixture models. The use of these models has not gone without controversy, however, as evidenced by heated exchanges within the literature.

The purpose of the current consortium series is to explore this topic further from an expressly pragmatic point of view. Specifically, the overarching question that we seek to address is: ***What novel insights have we gained, or can we gain, about development from the application of these models of population heterogeneity?***

Invited speakers will include scientists working at the intersection of theory and methods who have implemented or focused on these models in their research and who can therefore offer unique and diverse perspectives on their merits. The goal of the presentations is to foster an interactive discussion of the role of statistical models for population heterogeneity in Developmental Science.

We thank the organizing committee – composed of Dan Bauer (UNC-CH, committee chair), Jennifer Coffman (UNC-CH), Patrick Curran (UNC-CH), Nisha Gottfredson (UNC-CH), Michaeline Jensen (UNC-CH), and Roger Mills-Koonce (UNC-G) – for coordinating this exciting series.

CDS Acting Director

This spring, we extend our thanks to Dan Bauer, who has taken the role of acting director while Andrea is on research and study assignment, and Jennifer Coffman, who is assuming additional duties to support the directorship during this time. Join them at CCHD consortium meetings this spring!

Predoctoral Application Deadline Announced

The application process for the Carolina Consortium on Human Development 2- Year Predoctoral Program is open. Please encourage applications from highly qualified graduate students at our constituent universities whom you are willing to mentor. This is a very competitive program and only those applications that are submitted with a CCHD faculty nomination will be considered. Materials will be reviewed beginning February 20. Details about the program and the application process can be found on our [website](#). Questions can be directed to [Jennifer Coffman](#).

CONGRATULATIONS!

CDS Pilot Grant Awardees

Congratulations to two CDS research teams who received pilot funding to launch new research efforts!



Dr. Sherick Hughes
UNC-CH

Project SyNERGY: Studying Neuroscience, Education and Racially-biased Generalizations for an academic Year is an interdisciplinary collaboration by Dr. Sherick Hughes (UNC-CH, School of Education) and Dr. Ahmad Hariri (Duke University, Psychology & Neuroscience). The goal of the project is to learn more about the relationships between racial bias, new racial experiences, and neuroplasticity, (i.e., the brain's ability to reorganize and reactivate after new experiences) with the objective of evaluating whether classroom diversity training can impact race perceptions and biases in pre-service teachers as a means of addressing educational disparities over time.



Dr. Nisha Gottfredson
UNC-CH

A second project is spearheaded by Dr. Nisha Gottfredson (UNC-CH, School of Public Health) and includes collaborators Dr. Alison Stuebe (UNC-CH, Maternal and Child Health), Dr. Karen Grewen (UNC-CH, Psychiatry, Neurobiology, and Psychology), and Dr. Cathi Propper (UNC-CH, CDS). These investigators will conduct interviews with mothers in recovery from addictions to learn about the role of new motherhood on recovery outcomes with the goal of identifying the intersection of risk and protective factors within the maternal developmental life course that might promote healthy outcomes.



Jill Hamm named Interim Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development at the School of Education, UNC-CH

Congratulations to Jill Hamm, professor of Applied Developmental Science in the School of Education at UNC-CH, and long-time Faculty member at the Center for Developmental Science, who has assumed a newly-created administrative role at the School. We are excited for Jill and wish her much success in her new role!

New CDS Faculty Interest Groups

Last fall we launched three new faculty interest groups at the CDS and plan to add a fourth this spring. These initial meetings were a chance for faculty with shared interests from multiple disciplines to meet one another, share ideas, identify new researchers to join the group, address research needs, and uncover potential collaborations that we can foster through the CDS. Thanks to those who participated in these first meetings. If you missed those meetings, it is not too late to stay in the loop. Simply contact [Lisa Foust](#) to be added to the listserv for any of the groups below for information about follow-up activities.

Two of our groups have had an initial meeting and will spend the spring identifying priorities with activities to follow this fall. One of these focuses is on **Race, Ethnicity, and Culture within Developmental Science** and is interested in novel approaches to understanding development within the context of race/ethnicity and culture. A second focus is on **Social Media and Adolescents** – this evolving group initially attracted researchers interested in mobile health studies with teens, in mobile data collection efforts that rely on technology, and in the study of social media and tech use as related to youth outcomes.

The Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience Working Group is a group of scientists interested in applying Developmental Science principles to understanding brain development and how it relates to the emergence of cognitive capacities over the early life course. They will be continuing their meetings and launching a set of talks and discussions.

A fourth working group that will launch this spring focuses on **The Intersection of Developmental Science and Education Research**. An initial meeting will be held this spring; please contact Lisa Foust or [Jennifer Coffman](#) if you are interested in attending this meeting.

CDS Reception at the Society for Research in Child Development Meeting in April

Please join us! The CDS will host a reception at the 2017 Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) in Austin, Texas. The reception time is set for Thursday April 6, 2017, 8-10 PM; more details will be coming soon. This is a great opportunity for a meet and greet with past, present, and future community members who affiliate with the Carolina Consortium on Human Development at the Center for Developmental Science.

CDS Comings and Goings:

New CDS Faculty

In October, the CDS Executive Committee accepted applications from seven new researchers across our partnering institutions to join the CDS faculty. Please welcome [Claire Baker](#) (UNC-CH, Education), [Janet Boseovski](#) (UNC-G, Psychology), [Jessica Cohen](#) (UNC-CH, Psychology & Neuroscience), [Jeff Greene](#) (UNC-CH, Education), [Kate Norwalk](#) (NCSU, Psychology), [Eva Telzer](#) (UNC-CH, Psychology and Neuroscience), and [Michael Tomasello](#) (Duke University, Psychology & Neuroscience). Look for faculty working groups and CCHD consortium

meetings (especially the Cairns Capstone Lecture) to meet these and other CDS faculty. Or, if you have a special interest that you would like to coordinate with the CDS, let us know.

Executive Committee Changes:

This spring, we also welcome Dr. Eva Telzer to the CDS executive committee. Thanks for serving Eva!