

2016

Rudd Chair Annual Report 2016

Harold D. Grotevant
University of Massachusetts Amherst

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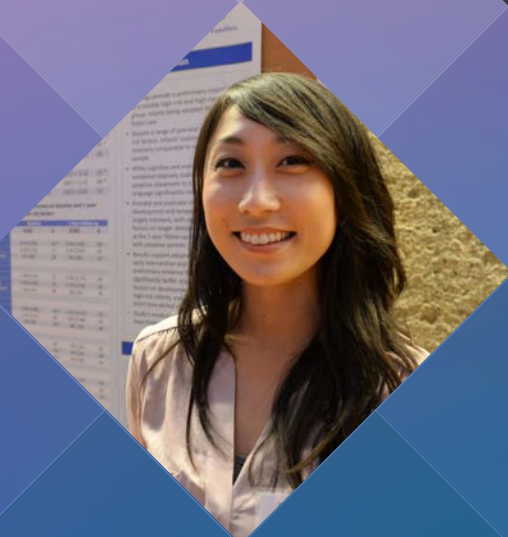
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Grotevant, Harold D., "Rudd Chair Annual Report 2016" (2016). *Rudd Adoption Research Program Annual Reports*. 8.
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Rudd Family Foundation
Chair in Psychology
ANNUAL REPORT 2016

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Rudd Family Foundation Chair in Psychology

The Rudd Family Foundation Chair is located within the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and is affiliated with the interdisciplinary Center for Research on Families. The program conducts state-of-the-art research on the psychology of adoption that will impact policy at agency, state, federal, and international levels. It also trains postdoctoral scholars, graduate students, and undergraduate students in theories and methods needed for the study of adoption. Conferences, workshops, and publications disseminate research-based information needed by practitioners, policy makers, and the public. And through key community partnerships, the Rudd Adoption Research Program demonstrates how adoption research can transform policy and practice for the benefit of all whose lives are touched by adoption.

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From the Chair



Dear Friends,

This report showcases the work accomplished through the Rudd Family Foundation Chair at UMass Amherst in calendar year 2016. Through the conduct of original, cutting-edge research, the development of community partnerships and programs, dissemination of information, and preparation of the next generation of adoption scholars, we are providing significant leadership in the global adoption research community.

Our eighth annual conference, “New Worlds of Adoption and Foster Care: Thriving on the Frontline,” was copresented with the Re-Envisioning Foster Care in America Initiative and the Boston College School of Social Work. On May 13, we welcomed to the campus our largest audience ever—350 professionals, parents, adoption community members, practitioners, and youth. Videos from this and prior conferences continue to be available, 24/7, at no cost, on our Rudd Adoption YouTube channel.

In the sections in this report profiling our research projects and the conference, we have included brief overviews of selected findings and key messages; we hope you find them of interest. If you would like more detailed information about any of our projects, please contact us.

This year we also welcomed visiting scholars to campus from the UK and Spain, and we are delighted to announce the launch of the new Rudd Family Visiting Professorship program, which will allow us to bring renowned internationally known scholars to campus for short or extended stays. Through this program, we will be able to enhance training, encourage innovative and collaborative research paths, and expand the implementation of the best adoption practices in the United States and internationally. Recipients will be selected for their expertise in adoption and for their commitment to use their residency to promote dissemination of knowledge to the larger adoption community, including researchers, practitioners, community members, policy makers, and students.

I invite you to review this report of our 2016 activities and see for yourself the exciting ways in which our programs have developed. As always, we express our continuing thanks for their generosity to Andrew and Virginia Rudd, to Scott Chaplin, and to our growing number of individual donors and organizational funding partners who make our work possible every day.

Harold D. Grotevant, PhD
Rudd Family Foundation Chair in Psychology
hgroteva@psych.umass.edu

How Does the Rudd Chair Accomplish Its Mission?

The Rudd Adoption Research Program is the primary vehicle through which the mission of the Rudd Chair is carried out. The program is located within the University of Massachusetts Amherst Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences and is closely affiliated with the interdisciplinary Center for Research on Families. The program seeks to develop synergy among scientists, practitioners, and policy makers from varied disciplines who share interests in the many topics relevant to adoption. The ultimate goal of these activities is to contribute to evidence-informed practice in adoption and to provide research-based information that will influence policy at agency, state, federal, and international levels.

The following examples demonstrate how the mission has been furthered during 2016; more details may be found throughout this report.

The Rudd program advances knowledge about the psychology of adoption.

- Data from the longitudinal Minnesota Texas Adoption Research Project, based at UMass Amherst, have revealed ways in which siblings of adopted children play important roles in the adopted child's feelings about his or her own adoption.
- New findings from the Contemporary Adoptive Families Study revealed that adoptions among gay and lesbian couples are increasingly common, that many of the children's birth mothers intentionally chose gay or lesbian adoptive parents for their child, and that contact between adoptive and birth parents is common and generally working out well.
- We are in an age of rapidly expanding knowledge about the role of genetics in health and widespread availability of genetic testing. In this environment, new discussions among bioethicists and adoption researchers are exploring ways in which adopted persons face a health disparity due to their lack of family history information about genetic relatives.
- Several studies from the Rudd lab have focused on microaggressions, the covert slights, indignities, or insults often experienced by adopted children and adults, and the links between receiving microaggressions and feelings about one's adoption.

The Rudd program provides evidence-based knowledge to inform adoption policy and practice.

- Rudd faculty and students presented their research at important national and international conferences, including the Fifth International Conference on Adoption Research (ICAR5), held in Auckland, New Zealand, in January 2016.
- The Rudd program presented its largest annual conference yet (350 participants and over 60 presenters/authors), with longtime collaborators from the Re-Envisioning Foster Care in America initiative and Boston College School of Social Work. The conference included plenaries, concurrent sessions, poster presentations, and a vibrant youth track.
- Three major presentations were videotaped and are available on the Rudd Adoption YouTube channel; PowerPoints from concurrent

sessions and posters are available on the Rudd ScholarWorks website. (See "Electronic and Social Media," page 17 for URLs.)

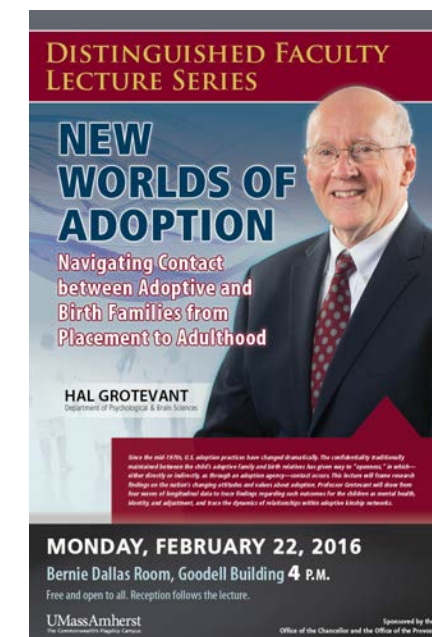
• The conference was introduced by Massachusetts's Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families and by the Commissioner of the U.S. Administration on Children, Youth, and Families, both of whom expressed their support for the day's important dissemination activities.

The Rudd program engages with community partners at the local and national levels to incubate, implement, and evaluate innovative programs that have potential for broad impact.

- The Rudd program continues to partner with Big Brothers Big Sisters in the innovative Adoption Mentoring Partnership, which matches college students who were adopted with children in the community from similar adoption backgrounds in order to provide a role model and friendship that will endure for years to come.
- On the UMass campus, the Rudd program brings together groups of adoptive parents, college students from varied adoptive backgrounds, and students who have experienced foster care to provide venues for discussion, collaboration, and empowerment.

The Rudd program mentors the next generation of adoption-competent scholars.

- Eight undergraduate students in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences (PBS) at UMass Amherst served as research assistants in the Rudd Adoption Lab, learning about the research process and assisting with ongoing projects.
- Honors students Yelena Ravvina and Kaitlyn Baron, seniors in PBS and Commonwealth Honors College, designed their honors theses under the supervision of Rudd faculty mentors, qualifying them for graduation with honors and providing opportunities for presenting their work at the Statewide Undergraduate Research Conference and elsewhere.
- Graduate students in clinical and developmental psychology (Krystal Cashen, Karin Garber, and Albert Lo) developed increasing independence in their research, assisting with ongoing research and developing master's theses and doctoral dissertations that contribute to knowledge about adoption and lay foundations for their careers.
- Josep Mercadal Rotger, doctoral student in clinical psychology from Ramon Llull University in Barcelona, was in residence for several months during 2016 learning about best practices in adoption research and receiving consultation on his dissertation, for which Professor Grotevant serves as an international examiner.
- Robert Clifford visited the Rudd program in connection with his Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowship, a prestigious award which funds British citizens to investigate inspiring practices in other countries and to return with innovative ideas for the benefit of people across the United Kingdom.



Reaching Our Goals Advancing Knowledge about the Psychology of Adoption

Research Questions . . . and Answers

Spotlight on Research Conducted in the Rudd Program

How Do Siblings Matter in Adoption?

Most adopted children have siblings. But what role do these siblings play in their adoptions? We were able to address this question with data from the Minnesota Texas Adoption Research Project (MTARP: Hal Grotevant, PI), a longitudinal study following adoptive families (domestic infant placements) with varying degrees of contact with their child's birth mother from middle childhood into young adulthood. When adopted adolescents (average age: midteens) reported that their siblings (adopted or parents' biological children) were involved in their contact with their own birth relatives, the adopted adolescents reported more frequent contact with birth relatives, greater satisfaction with the contact, more positive feelings about their birth mother, and fewer externalizing problem behaviors than did adoptees whose siblings were not involved. These outcomes were still present eight years later, when the adopted youth were in their early 20s. A key point is that siblings, through their involvement and participation, can contribute in positive ways to the family's adoption experience, and to the positive adjustment and satisfaction of the target adopted child. These findings suggest

the importance of promoting and supporting positive sibling relationships across time, given the important contributions they can make to individual experiences and outcomes.

Farr, R. H., Flood, M. E., & Grotevant, H. D. (2016). The role of siblings in adoption outcomes and experiences from adolescence to emerging adulthood. Journal of Family Psychology, 30, 386–396.

Primary support for the Minnesota Texas Adoption Research Project has come from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the National Science Foundation, the William T. Grant Foundation, and the Rudd Family Foundation Chair in Psychology, UMass Amherst.



Birth Family Contact in Adoptions by Lesbian and Gay Couples

The adoption of children by lesbian and gay couples has become much more commonplace in recent years. The number of children in such adoptions almost doubled in the first decade of this century; currently over 22,000 adopted children are being raised by over 16,000 same-sex couples in the United States. The longitudinal Contemporary Adoptive Families Study (CAFS: Rachel Farr, PI) has contributed numerous important new findings, most recently to our understanding of how lesbian and gay adoptive couples navigate contact with their children's birth relatives. CAFS is a longitudinal study of 106 lesbian, gay, and heterosexual couples who adopted through private agencies in the United States. Contact with birth family members was equally likely across lesbian, gay, and heterosexual couples when the children were school age. Most adoptive parents reported either a verbal or written agreement about contact with their child's birth relatives. Adoptive parents expressed relative satisfaction with their contact arrangements, regardless of sexual orientation. Many wanted even more contact, especially as their children were starting to ask more questions about their birth parents. Although

this was somewhat more true for lesbian mothers than for gay or heterosexual couples, there were many more similarities than differences in dynamics of birth family contact as a function of parental sexual orientation. Study results also challenged stereotypes and assumptions about how birth parents choose prospective adoptive parents for their children. Lesbian and gay adoptive parents indicated that their children's birth parents had either intentionally sought out or ultimately selected a same-sex couple to raise their child; many had specific reasons for doing so, such as positive relationships with gay or lesbian relatives or friends.

Farr, R. H., Ravvina, Y., & Grotevant, H. D. (under revision, October, 2016). Birth family contact experiences among lesbian, gay, and heterosexual adoptive parents with school-age children. Ravvina, Y. (2016). Perceptions of birth family contact among lesbian, gay, and heterosexual parents involved in open adoptions. Undergraduate honors thesis, Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, University of Massachusetts Amherst.

The Contemporary Adoptive Families Study has received funding from the American Psychological Foundation's Placek Grant (awarded to Rachel Farr), the Williams Institute at UCLA and the Lesbian Health Fund (awarded to Charlotte J. Patterson), the American Psychological Association Dissertation Award (awarded to Rachel Farr), and the Rudd Family Foundation Chair in Psychology, UMass Amherst.

Does Adoption Present an Avoidable Health Disparity?

Rapidly expanding expertise about genetics and genetic testing have opened up new discussions about ethics in adoption and have raised the question about whether the lack of genetic-relative family history experienced by adoptees should be viewed as an avoidable health disparity. Health disparities present a disadvantage to a group of people due to their lessened capacity to identify diseases and conditions for which they might be at risk. New research being conducted by an interdisciplinary team that spans universities in California, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Carolina, as well as the Rudd program at UMass Amherst, seeks to understand attitudes about and possibilities associated with the availability of genetic testing for adults who were adopted. Bioethicists, including project director Tom May, hold that there are several essential elements that define a health disparity: a) it presents an underlying disadvantage for a group, b) it is systematic and frequent or persistent, c) it is unfair or unjust to the affected population, and d) it is avoidable. Whether an adoption took place through a private agency, the child welfare system, or an international placement, it is highly likely that the adopted person has, at most, incomplete information about his or her genetic background; this may contribute to suboptimal medical care and health planning. With justification based on information

gleaned from focus groups at the Medical College of Wisconsin and interviews with young adults in the MTARP project, a grant application has been submitted to NIH to examine the clinical implications of lacking family medical history.

May, T., Strong, K. A., Zusevics, K. L., Jeruzal, J., Farrell, M. H., Kirschner, A. L., Derse, A. R., Evans, J. P., & Grotevant, H. D. (2016). Does lack of "Genetic-Relative Family Health History" represent a potentially avoidable health disparity for adoptees? American Journal of Bioethics, 16(12), 33–38. doi: 10.1080/15265161.2016.1240255

May, T., Evans, J. P., Strong, K. A., Zusevics, K. L., Derse, A. R., Jeruzal, J., Kirschner, A. L., Farrell, M. H., Grotevant, H. D. (2016). Issues of "Cost, Capabilities, and Scope" in characterizing adoptees' lack of "Genetic-Relative Family Health History" as an avoidable health disparity: Response to open-peer commentaries on "Does Lack of 'Genetic-Relative Family Health History' represent a potentially avoidable health disparity for adoptees?" American Journal of Bioethics, 16(12), W4–W8. doi: 10.1080/15265161.2016.1248581

Discussed in: Campbell, O. How adoptees are filling in the holes in their family medical history. New York Magazine, The Science of Us, January 17, 2017.

“Well, you don’t look like you were adopted!”

“She’s not your real mother.”

“How could your birth parents give you up?”

Microaggressions and Adoption

Adopted persons, both children and adults, are occasionally the recipients of comments received as covert slights, indignities, or insults, called microaggressions. Under the leadership of doctoral candidate Karin Garber, members of the Rudd lab have been involved in several investigations of adoption and race-related microaggressions. For her master’s thesis, Garber developed a taxonomy of adoption-related microaggressions experienced by adolescents and young adults adopted by same-race parents. The three quotes at left are examples of the themes “questioning authenticity,” “assumption of bionormativity,” and “intrusive questions,” respectively. Garber’s work with Rachel Farr and colleagues and her dissertation advanced this work into the areas of microaggressions experienced by adopted children with lesbian or gay parents and with internationally and transracially adopted Korean American adults. Garber’s mixed-methods research has been groundbreaking in that it used qualitative methods to establish taxonomies of microaggressive comments followed by quantitative methods to examine the feelings and intensity associated with types of microaggressions. Even though adoption has become a widely accepted method for building families, a considerable amount

of education is needed to inform the public about the subtle ways in which microaggressions, whether communicated with negative intent or not, can corrode an adopted person’s sense of identity and self-esteem.

Garber, K. J.-M. (2016.) *Intraracial and intraethnic microaggressions experienced by Korean American internationally and transracially adopted persons*. Doctoral dissertation, Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Garber, K. J., & Grotevant, H. D. (2016, January). *A complexity of emotions: Young adult adoptees’ experiences with microaggressions*. Paper presented at the Fifth International Conference on Adoption Research (ICAR5), Auckland, New Zealand.

Garber, K. J., & Cashen, K. (2016, May). *Intraracial and intraethnic microaggressions experienced by Korean American internationally and transracially adopted persons*. Poster presented at the New Worlds of Adoption and Foster Care conference: Thriving on the Frontline. Amherst, MA.

Farr, R. H., Crain, E. E., Oakley, M. K., Cashen, K. K., & Garber, K. J. (2016). Microaggressions, feelings of difference, and resilience among adopted children with sexual minority parents. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 45, 85–104.

Reaching Our Goals Providing Evidence-Based Knowledge to Inform Adoption Policy and Practice

The Rudd Adoption Research Program sponsored the eighth annual Rudd Adoption conference, “New Worlds of Adoption and Foster Care: Thriving on the Frontline” on May 13, 2016, on the UMass Amherst campus. The conference was presented jointly with the Re-Envisioning Foster Care in America Initiative (REFCA) and the Boston College School of Social Work, under the leadership of longtime colleagues Judy Cockerton and Ruth McRoy, respectively. In our largest conference to date, 350 participants enjoyed a full slate of keynote presentations and panels, concurrent sessions, research poster displays, and a full-day youth conference.

The day was introduced by Linda Spears, commissioner of the Department of Children and Families, Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In discussing the many changes being implemented in the department, she outlined five core principles:

- Better understand the complex lives that children and families lead, and determine what DCF can do to intervene
- Simplify – focus on working with people and having less paperwork
- Help people obtain the support they need to make good decisions
- Improve how the department recruits, prepares, and supports families as resources
- Decrease caseloads and provide greater support for the tasks that workers do every day

She expressed her excitement at the collaborative approach being modeled at the conference and challenged everyone present to think differently about how we work together and support each other to get the work done on behalf of the children in state care.

A full-day Youth Track ran in parallel to the regular conference sessions. Almost 40 youth and young adults from across Massachusetts participated. All of the youth attendees had a personal connection to the foster care/adoption system. Youth attendance was sponsored in full by the nonprofit One Simple Wish. Rise Above, a youth leadership organization, provided additional swag for all youth attendees. The day started with an orientation/cohort building workshop to introduce them to their peers and explain the format of the conference. Youth were then able to attend any workshop of their choice and integrate fully into the conference proceedings. The goal of the day was to encourage, train, and support youth to sit at the table alongside adult leaders hoping to inspire change in the foster care system. Youth all spoke very highly of their experience. They expressed feeling valued and seen. They all left feeling energized and eager to truly participate in a Re-Envisioning of Foster Care in America.

“This conference sets a high standard for any others which I may attend in the future.”



Hal Grotevant (L) and Judy Cockerton (R), conference organizers, with Linda Spears (center), DCF Commissioner.

“Outstanding conference that focuses the spotlight on deeper understanding of both problems and solutions.”

The following summaries highlight several of the many excellent presentations:

Implementing Evidence-Based Practice with Mothers of Infants and Toddlers in the Child Welfare System

Mary Dozier, Amy E. DuPont Chair of Child Development and Professor of Psychology, University of Delaware
 Vicky Kelly, Consultant, Annie E. Casey Foundation; former Director of Delaware Department of Children and Families

Mary Dozier and Vicky Kelly presented an innovative joint keynote, in which Dozier discussed her Attachment and Behavioral Catch-Up (ABC) intervention, and Kelly commented from her considerable experience working with families and directing caseworkers. The ABC intervention has solid research evidence behind it, earning the highest rating on the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare rating scale. The program models how caregivers of infants who have experienced trauma can learn to provide nurturing care to their infants, even when the infant's behavior is very challenging. To see the video of their keynote, visit http://scholarworks.umass.edu/rudd_conf/2016/Presentations/16/.



Mary Dozier

Creating Trauma-Sensitive Schools

Anne Eisner, Deputy Director, Trauma and Learning Policy Initiative, Boston

This presentation shared the work of the Trauma and Learning Policy Initiative, a collaboration of Massachusetts Advocates for Children and Harvard Law School. Based on their publications, Helping Traumatized Children Learn and Creating and Advocating for Trauma-Sensitive Schools, the workshop summarized the impact of trauma on learning, behavior and relationships at school, and described the attributes and framework that can guide schools in creating the schoolwide infrastructure needed to provide a safe and supportive, trauma-sensitive learning environment that is responsive, not only to the needs of students who have been exposed to adverse childhood experiences, but to the needs of all students. Of special importance is the thorough commitment of school staff and administrators to creating and nurturing a sense of shared responsibility for all students. The presentation featured a team of educators who are creating a trauma-sensitive school. For more information, visit <https://traumasensitiveschools.org/>.



Vicky Kelly

Finding Adoptive Families for Children in Care: Perspectives from the United States and England

Cheryl Dance, Research Fellow, Department of Social Care and Social Work, Manchester Metropolitan University, England
 Kathy Ledesma, National Project Director, AdoptUSKids, U.S. Children's Bureau

This was one of several sessions pairing researchers and program staff from related projects in the United States and England, in order to better understand how practices and policies are affected by national context,

but also to consider best practices. Presenters Ledesma and Dance considered the way in which adoption has become a permanent option for some groups of children in care in the United States and in England. They explored the profiles of children adopted from care and outlined similarities and differences in legislation, policy, process, and practice in the two countries. The session primarily focused on current issues and tensions associated with finding families for children in a timely way. Discussion included assessment of parental capacity and care planning for children within the human rights framework, practitioner values and beliefs, delays for children, and the impact of new technology and adopter-initiated matching. For more information, visit <http://www.adoptuskids.org/>. For descriptions of the Rudd-REFCA keynotes, concurrent sessions, and poster sessions, please visit <https://www.umass.edu/ruddchair/Rudd-REFCA2016>.

Videos of the following three sessions may be found at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL7obuMoN-gYNjbOdUxAUM3yRarWpVOKh8>.

- “Implementing Evidence-Based Practice with Mothers of Infants and Toddlers” (Mary Dozier & Vicky Kelly)
- “Turning up the Volume on Older Youth Permanence” (Ruth McRoy and Mary LeBeau, with panelists Rodney Walker, Cedric Riley, Kim Stevens, Pat O’Brien, Karen Zilberstein, Jaime Caron)
- “Sexual Minority and Heterosexual Parents Adopting through the Child Welfare System” (Abbie Goldberg, April Moyer, David Brodzinsky)

External conference cosponsors included the Treehouse Foundation, Boston College School of Social Work, Massachusetts Department of Children and Families, Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Rise Above, The Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts, Berkshire Children and Families, and the Massachusetts Psychological Association. UMass Amherst cosponsors included the College of Education, College of Natural Sciences, Center for Research on Families, and Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences.

“I know that I can count on experiences with Rudd to be stimulating and highly professional. It's at Rudd that I encounter the best of the best with respect to learning about research, policy, and practice.”

Within the conference audience of 350, 40 young people participated in the Youth Track, which provided a full day of sessions and activities

“Great new information—felt recharged from being in attendance. Thank you!”



Reaching Our Goals

Building Capacity for Excellence in Adoption Research Adoption Research Lab Graduate Students



Lisa Barone (BS, Child Development and Family Studies, West Virginia University) is a second-year graduate student in the master's of public health program with a concentration in community health education. Since joining the lab in the fall of 2015, Lisa has enjoyed learning about the adoption research field and understanding the place it has in many fields, including public health. She is currently working on a paper with Dr. Grotevant and Ms. Fiorenza regarding the Inventory of Dimensions of Emerging Adulthood (IDEA) scale that is used to assess an emerging adult's transition to adulthood and its relation to the Minnesota/Texas Adoption Research Project (MTARP) Wave 3 and Wave 4 data.



Krystal Cashen (BA, Psychology, Vassar College) is a third-year developmental science student at UMass Amherst working with Dr. Harold Grotevant. Krystal is currently working on her master's thesis, which will examine competency in close relationships as a potential indicator of positive adjustment for emerging adult adoptees. Broadly, Krystal's research interests include relationship functioning among emerging adult adoptees, as well as adoptive families' representations of adoption. Krystal is particularly interested in how research may inform policies related to adoption.



Karin Garber (BA, Psychology, Scripps College; EdM. and MA, Psychological Counseling, Teachers College, Columbia University; MS Clinical Psychology, UMass Amherst). Karin is currently a sixth-year clinical psychology student working with Dr. Grotevant. She recently defended her mixed methods dissertation on intraracial and intraethnic microaggressions experienced by Korean American adopted individuals. She is currently on clinical internship at the Counseling and Student Development Center at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in Honolulu.



Albert Lo (BS, Psychology, University of Delaware) Albert is a second-year clinical psychology student at UMass Amherst working with Dr. Harold Grotevant. Albert is currently completing his master's thesis, which focuses on parenting cognitions, or how adoptive parents think about adoption, and how they might matter for family relationships. He is also involved in research examining how different trajectories of birth family contact over time may predict the well-being of adopted individuals in adulthood. Albert is currently the program coordinator for the Adoption Mentoring Partnership (AMP). As program coordinator, he instructs college-age adoptive mentors who are matched with adopted children in the community.



Reaching Our Goals

Building Capacity for Excellence in Adoption Research International Visiting Scholars

Visiting scholars have always played an important role in the Rudd program and will be doing so increasingly with the launch of the Rudd Program Visiting Professorship. This year, we welcomed two visiting scholars to campus—from the United Kingdom and from Spain. Here are their stories.

Robert Clifford

What role can technology play in improving adoption? This was the question that inspired Robert Clifford's successful application for the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowship for 2016. The Winston Churchill Trust funds British citizens to investigate inspiring practices in other countries and return with innovative ideas for the benefit of people across the United Kingdom. During the course of his fellowship, Robert traveled to the Fifth International Conference on Adoption Research in New Zealand (where he met Hal Grotevant), followed by visits in Australia; Ann Arbor, Michigan; Boston; Amherst; Washington, DC; and Baltimore. He chronicled his visits and insights in his blog, *Modern Adoption*. (www.modernadoption.net)



On his visit to the Rudd program, he was especially interested in the Adoption Mentoring Partnership since he was just embarking on his own service as a mentor back home through an organization called Mentoring Plus in Bath, England. He is very interested in technology platforms that might facilitate mentoring and connection among young adult adoptees—including Skype, Google Hangouts, and StoryWorth. He is continuing to stay connected with the Rudd program through . . . not surprisingly . . . technology!

The final report from Robert's fellowship is archived here: <http://www.wcmt.org.uk/sites/default/files/report-documents/Clifford%20R%202015%20Report%20FINAL.pdf>.

One of the key themes listed in his findings reflects the ongoing work of the Rudd program:

“Better information and better data is crucial to improved adoption. No doubt improvements in this area will speed up adoptions as requested by the U.K. government, but also help decisions made by social workers and adoptive parents to be better informed.”

Josep Mercadal

Josep Mercadal was also introduced to Hal Grotevant at the Fifth International Conference on Adoption Research (ICAR5) in New Zealand. A brief conversation after Hal's keynote



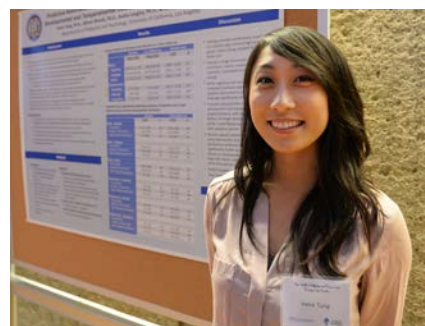
address set the stage for ongoing contacts in Spain. Josep is a clinical psychology doctoral student in the Couple and Family Research Group at Ramon Llull University in Barcelona. Many of his interests (adopted adolescents, identity, family processes, adjustment) parallel those that have been studied in MTARP for the past 30 years. Josep was fortunate to receive funding from his university to spend several months at UMass consulting with the Rudd lab team and working on his dissertation. During his visit, Josep became familiar with the ongoing projects being undertaken in the lab and spent time with Rudd graduate students and lab staff. The experience ultimately led to his inviting Professor Grotevant to be an external examiner for his dissertation defense, scheduled for June 2017.

Josep's research is based on a study of 100 internationally adopted adolescents and their parents. Using an attachment framework, he and colleagues are examining outcomes, such as school performance and psychological adjustment. While he was in the United States, his local newspaper (from the island of Menorca) prominently featured his travels and his work; see photo above.

Honors Awarded and Received



Dr. Joyce Maguire Pavao received the 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Adoption Education and Practice.



Graduate student Irene Tung (from UCLA) received the 2016 Outstanding Poster Presentation Award.



Hal Grotevant received the Chancellor's Medal after presenting the 2016 Distinguished Faculty Lecture. Pictured here with staff and students Jen Dolan, Lisa Barone, Karin Garber, Laura Wildman-Hanlon, Lisa Fiorenzo, and Albert Lo.

The Rudd Adoption Research Program presented its 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Adoption Education and Practice to Dr. Joyce Maguire Pavao during the New Worlds of Adoption and Foster Care conference. Joyce Maguire Pavao, EdD, LCSW, LMFT, is the founder and CEO of the Center for Family Connections, Adoption Resource Center, Pre/Post Adoption Consulting Team, and Family Connections Training Institute, all in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Throughout her career, she has received numerous recognitions honoring her work with individuals, couples, and families with adoption-related issues, foster care issues, guardianship and kinship, as well as complex families formed through reproductive technology, single parent families, gay and lesbian families, and families through remarriage. The citation on the plaque stated: "This award is given in honor of your career in adoption education, advocacy, and innovative practice. Through a lifetime of achievement and effective collaboration, you have made lasting contributions to the public understanding of adoption and adoption-competent practice. In keeping with the mission of the Rudd Adoption Research Program, we are pleased to honor your career of excellence in the field of adoption."

The annual award for Outstanding Poster Presentation at the Rudd conference was presented to Irene Tung from the University of California at Los Angeles. Her presentation (with colleagues Allison Christian-Branch, Audra Langley, and Jill Waterman), "Predictive Associations between Prenatal and Postnatal Risk Factors and Developmental and Temperamental Outcomes among Infants in Foster Care," was based on data from infants who had been in foster care. Almost all the infants had been exposed to drugs prenatally. Findings supported adoption as a critical early intervention and provided preliminary evidence that adoption may significantly buffer pre-placement risk factors on developmental outcomes for high-risk infants, even within a relatively short time period of one year.

Hal Grotevant, Rudd Family Foundation Chair in Psychology, was awarded the Chancellor's Medal in a ceremony at UMass on February 22, 2016. The Chancellor's Medal is the highest honor bestowed on UMass faculty for exemplary research and service contributions to the university. In connection with receipt of this award, Dr. Grotevant presented his Distinguished Faculty Lecture, "New Worlds of Adoption: Navigating Contact between Adoptive and Birth Families from Placement to Adulthood." This lecture provided the most current findings from his longitudinal research project on openness in adoption, which was begun over 30 years ago. Video of this lecture may be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QuPAQ6t9Ub0>

Communication and Dissemination

Publications and Presentations

PUBLICATIONS

Farr, R. H., Ravvina, Y., & Grotevant, H. D. (under revision, October 2016). Birth family contact experiences among lesbian, gay, and heterosexual adoptive parents with school-age children. *Family Relations*.

Grotevant, H. D., Lo, A. Y. H., Fiorenzo, L., & Dunbar, N. D. (in press, 2017). Adoptive identity and adjustment from adolescence to emerging adulthood: A person-centered approach. *Developmental Psychology*.

Grotevant, H. D., & Lo, A. Y. H. (in press, 2017). Adoptive parenting. *Current Opinion in Psychology*.

Farr, R. H., & Grotevant, H. D. (in press, 2017). Adoption. To appear in B. H. Fiese (Ed.), *APA Handbook of Contemporary Family Psychology*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Farr, R. H., Crain, E. E., Oakley, M. K., Cashen, K. K., & Garber, K. J. (2016). Microaggressions, feelings of difference, and resilience among adopted children with sexual minority parents. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 45, 85–104.

May, T., Strong, K. A., Zusevics, K. L., Jeruzal, J., Farrell, M. H., Kirschner, A. L., Derse, A. R., Evans, J. P., & **Grotevant, H. D.** (2016). Does lack of "Genetic-Relative Family Health History" represent a

potentially avoidable health disparity for adoptees?, *American Journal of Bioethics*, 16(12), 33–38. doi: 10.1080/15265161.2016.1240255

May, T., Evans, J. P., Strong, K. A., Zusevics, K. L., Derse, A. R., Jeruzal, J., Kirschner, A. L., Farrell, M. H., **Grotevant, H. D.** (2016). Issues of "Cost, Capabilities, and Scope" in characterizing adoptees' lack of "Genetic-Relative Family Health History" as an avoidable health disparity: Response to open-peer commentaries on "Does Lack of 'Genetic-Relative Family Health History' represent a potentially avoidable health disparity for adoptees?" *American Journal of Bioethics*, 16(12), W4–W8. doi: 10.1080/15265161.2016.1248581

Oakley, M., Farr, R. H., & Scherer, D. G. (2016). Same-sex parent socialization: Understanding gay and lesbian parenting practices as cultural socialization. *Journal of GLBT Family Studies*, advance online publication April 6, 2016. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/1550428X.2016.1158685>

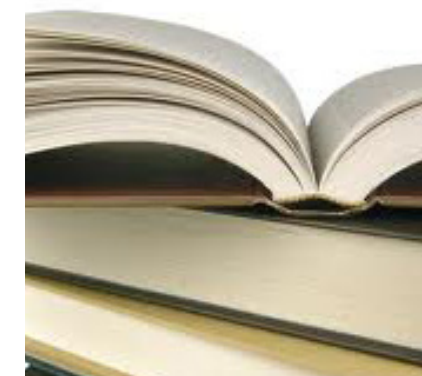
Farr, R. H. (2016). Does parental sexual orientation matter? A longitudinal follow-up of adoptive families with school-age children. *Developmental Psychology*, advance online publication October 20, 2016. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/dev0000228>

Farr, R. H., Flood, M. E., & Grotevant, H. D. (2016). The role of siblings in adoption outcomes and experiences from adolescence to emerging adulthood. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 30, 386–396.

THESES AND DISSERTATIONS

Garber, K. J.-M. (2016). *Intraracial and intraethnic microaggressions experienced by Korean American internationally and transracially adopted persons*. Doctoral dissertation, Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Ravvina, Y. (2016). *Perceptions of birth family contact among lesbian, gay, and heterosexual parents involved in open adoptions*. Undergraduate honors thesis, Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, University of Massachusetts Amherst.



PRESENTATIONS

Garber, K. J., & Grotevant, H. D. (2016, January). *A complexity of emotions: Young adult adoptees' experiences with microaggressions*. Paper presented at the Fifth International Conference on Adoption Research (ICAR5), Auckland, New Zealand.

Grotevant, H. D., & McRoy, R. G. (2016, January). *Open adoption comes of age: Navigating contact from placement into adulthood*. Invited keynote presented at the Fifth International Conference on Adoption Research (ICAR5), Auckland, New Zealand.

Grotevant, H. D. (2016, January). Discussant for L. Miller (Chair), *Educational outcomes in internationally adopted children*. Symposium presented at the Fifth International Conference on Adoption Research (ICAR5), Auckland, New Zealand.

Grotevant, H. D. (2016, January). Discussant for J. Miranda, J. Waterman, A. Langley, & D. Riley, *Preliminary results of a trial to evaluate the effectiveness of a manualized post-adoption intervention, ADAPT*. Symposium presented at the Fifth International Conference on Adoption Research (ICAR5), Auckland, New Zealand.

Grotevant, H. D. (2016, February). *New worlds of adoption: Navigating contact from placement into adulthood*. Distinguished Faculty Lecture, University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Battalen, A. W., Wigglesworth, C., McRoy, R. G., & **Grotevant, H. D.** (2016, May). *Birthmothers as grandmothers: Examining forms of postadoption contact and relationship quality with placed children and grandchildren*. Poster presented at the New Worlds of Adoption and Foster Care conference: Thriving on the Frontline. Amherst, MA.

Garber, K. J., & Cashen, K. (2016, May). *Intraracial and intraethnic microaggressions experienced by Korean American internationally and transracially adopted persons*. Poster presented at the New Worlds of Adoption and Foster Care conference: Thriving on the Frontline. Amherst, MA.

Lo, A. H., Grotevant, H. D., & McRoy, R. G. (2016, May). *Privacy and confidentiality in adoption research: Perspectives from the Minnesota/Texas Adoption Research Project*. Poster presented at the New Worlds of Adoption and Foster Care conference: Thriving on the Frontline. Amherst, MA.

Wrobel, G. M., & **Grotevant, H. D.** (2016, May). *Adoption-related curiosity at emerging adulthood*. Poster presented at the New Worlds of Adoption and Foster Care conference: Thriving on the Frontline. Amherst, MA.

Grotevant, H. D. (2016, October). *Adoption, adoptive families, adoptive identity: Current issues and questions*. Presentation at Hillel House, University of Massachusetts Amherst.

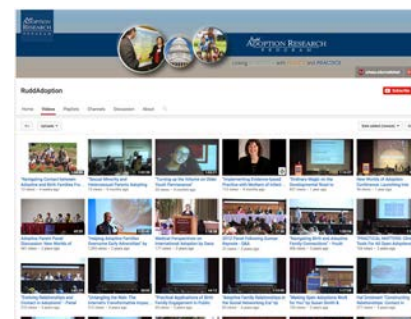
Grotevant, H. D., McRoy, R. G., Farr, R. H., & Ravvina, Y. (2016, November). *Talking 'bout my generation: Adoption openness in two longitudinal studies*. In R. H. Farr's (chair), *Emerging trends in adoption openness and birth family contact*. Symposium presented at the meeting of the National Council on Family Relations, Minneapolis.

Wrobel, G. M., Carlson, V., Phillips, Z., Ruff, M., & **Grotevant, H. D.** (2016, November). *Profiles of contact between adoptive and birth family members across time*. In R. H. Farr's (chair), *Emerging trends in adoption openness and birth family contact*. Symposium presented at the meeting of the National Council on Family Relations, Minneapolis.

Names of current and former Rudd program faculty affiliates, staff, and students are in bold.

**Communication and Dissemination****Electronic and Social Media**

The Rudd Chair has a strong presence on the Internet, using the latest technology to inform and network with others. Here are just a few examples of current tech projects:

**YouTube Channel: The Rudd Adoption Research Program**

The Rudd Adoption Research Program YouTube channel disseminates videos from our prior conferences. Videos are available on demand, 24/7, at no cost to viewers. This fulfills an important part of the Rudd program mission, of connecting adoption research with practitioners, policy makers, and the public.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/RuddAdoption/videos>

**Facebook: Rudd Adoption Research Program**

The Rudd Adoption Research Program Facebook page includes current news about the program as well as links to Internet news about adoption research, practice, and policy. Please visit, "like" us, and subscribe to our newsfeed.

<http://www.facebook.com/RuddAdoptionResearchProgram>

**Home Page: Rudd Chair**

The Rudd Chair home page in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences contains up-to-date information about the activities of the Chair, including news about current and past conferences as well as the program's community partnerships.

<http://www.psych.umass.edu/ruddchair/>

<http://www.umass.edu/ruddchair/adoption-research-institute>

**ScholarWorks**

ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst is a digital repository for the research and scholarly output of members of the University of Massachusetts Amherst community, administered by the UMass Amherst Libraries. The Rudd Adoption Research Program has its own page, hosting information about its annual conference, doctoral dissertations, master's theses, presentations, and publications.

<http://scholarworks.umass.edu/rudd/>

Community Partnerships

Adoption Mentoring Partnership

“This program has helped me feel less alone as an adopted person. I don’t feel like the only one on campus who is adopted.”

—Mentor

The Adoption Mentoring

Partnership was established in 2010 to address the lack of school and community support and understanding for adoptees and their families that were voiced by adoptive parents in the Amherst, Massachusetts, area. By providing adopted children with a mentor who has also experienced the challenges related to adoption, race, and ethnicity, the child is introduced to a new friend and role model. His or her family is matched with an invaluable resource: a person who has experienced the challenges of negotiating a balance between the culture of one’s adoptive parents, one’s own birth heritage and culture, and one’s own identity as an adopted person.

In this truly collaborative undertaking, the Adoption Mentoring Partnership (AMP) is a joint venture between the Rudd Adoption Research Program at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampshire County. With the support of Adoption Journeys (which provides postadoption

services) and the Amherst Regional School District, the program’s goal is to provide adopted children with adopted mentors who can help to normalize the experience of being adopted and help mentees better negotiate complex issues such as adoption, race, and ethnicity. AMP utilizes the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampshire County’s existing best-practices mentoring model. Mentor-mentee matches receive thorough screening, a rigorous intake process, regular match support, and clinical supervision. The matches spend 3–5 hours together each week of the school year for a minimum of three semesters. During their weekly visits, matches spend quality time together doing fun activities in the community, sharing with one another about their lives, and discussing adoption when it arises naturally during their time together. In addition to individual monthly supervision with a BBBS case manager, the adopted mentors also meet biweekly in a clinically supervised seminar to discuss the latest research in both adoption and mentoring; share perspectives on their matches and activities; and discuss, unpack, and process their own adoption stories.

By the end of 2016, AMP had engaged a total of 37 mentor-mentee pairs. Currently, AMP involves 10 matched pairs: five returning from prior years and five new matches. A real sign of program success is that matches have continued far

beyond the required three semesters of participation. Many mentors have stated that the mentor group meetings continue to remain the only place they feel comfortable talking about their experiences with adoption, allowing AMP to support and enrich the lives of the mentors as well as the mentees.

A strong research component has been built into AMP since its beginning. Current mentors are being interviewed and completing questionnaires about their experiences and attitudes throughout the year; a comparison group of adopted college students who are not mentors is also completing similar measures. The first round of data for former mentors is being collected in an effort to understand the long term impact AMP has had on their lives. Families and mentees also participate in interviews and surveys to determine the social, emotional, and academic impacts of being matched in the program.

“What I like about the Adoption Mentoring Partnership is that it normalizes adoption and gives my daughter one-on-one attention from someone else who is also adopted.” —Parent

In light of the continued community interest and success of the Adoption Mentoring Partnership, efforts are being undertaken to fully document and research aspects of program development. With solid evaluation research undergirding the program, next steps will be to make the program available for replication at other sites across the United States. Discussions are underway with some adoption agencies about how our AMP model might be adapted to their needs and the resources available in their localities. As a direct result of the program’s strengths and collaborative partners, AMP is uniquely positioned to expand as an effective preventive intervention in the lives of adopted children and adopted emerging adults.

Funding for AMP has come from the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, the Frank Stanley Beveridge Family Foundation, the Rudd Family Foundation Chair in Psychology at UMass, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampshire County, and private donors. A comprehensive overview of the program is available online, as follows:
French, Q. Y. S., Grotevant, H. D., & Dolan, J. H. (2013). The Adoption Mentoring Partnership. Amherst, MA: Rudd Adoption Research Program, UMass Amherst. available at: http://www.umass.edu/ruddchair/sites/default/files/adoption_mentoring_partnership_01-23-2013.pdf.



Community Partnerships Re-Envisioning Foster Care in America

Re-Envisioning Foster Care in America (REFCA) seeks to change the culture and practice of how we perceive and support children and youth in the public foster care system. The vision of REFCA is that all children and youth who experience foster care are connected to stable, loving families and caring communities in order to ensure their health and well-being so that they can lead productive lives.

The Rudd Adoption Research Program (Hal Grotevant, Jen Dolan) was one of the original conveners of this initiative, along with the Treehouse Foundation (Judy Cockerton, Kerry Homstead) and Friends of Children (Jane Lyons). The initiative has now expanded considerably to include other community stakeholders, including the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Children and Families. It has become a national movement.

The Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin County region of western Massachusetts serves as an incubator for this national model. REFCA envisions a collaborative, multisector, and active “lab” that engages individuals and organizations in a vital process of dialogue, engagement, reflection, and action over time to support change and positive outcomes for youth in care.



Rudd program Manager Jen Dolan continued to serve as a member of the Treehouse Design Team. The goal of the Design Team is to create a blueprint of how to work toward Re-Envisioning Foster Care in America. In addition, Dolan was instrumental in collaborating with Judy Cockerton, founder and chief executive officer of the Treehouse Foundation, with the goal of connecting UMass students with her Birdsong Farm Program. Birdsong

Farm offers year-round equine assisted programs designed to serve children who have been placed in foster care. UMass students worked closely with the foster care children so that each child felt safe while riding a horse.

For further information about the REFCA initiative, visit <http://refca.net>, or for more information about Birdsong Farm, visit <http://birdsongfarm.org>.



Community Partnerships Local Community Engagement

In addition to community engagement through formal channels, such as the Adoption Mentoring Partnership (AMP) and Re-Envisioning Foster Care in America (REFCA) initiatives, the Rudd program has also initiated informal adoption-related activities on campus. Jen Dolan has been coordinating a monthly roundtable “bring-your-own-lunch” discussion for UMass adoptive parents. The informal discussions focus on a wide range of topics and are consistently well attended. Parents who attend have children adopted internationally and through the child welfare system. Most of the parents who attend have children in their teens, but there is a range in age from 6 to 26 years.

Dolan has also spearheaded development of the UMass Student Adoption Advisory Board (USAAB). Many students express an interest in participating in the Adoption Mentoring Program (AMP), and yet most do not complete the application because of the significant time commitment required for participation in the program. Our research on AMP has revealed that the mentors have found a great deal of value in meeting together as a cohort. It provides students with a place in which they can talk about adoption and how that identity plays a role in their lives. Dolan brought together those students who initially wanted to be involved in the mentoring program but ultimately declined the opportunity. A group of dedicated students (all

of whom are adopted) created the UMass Student Adoption Advisory Board. The students decided on the organization’s name and developed the following mission statement:

“The mission of the UMass Student Adoption Advisory Board (USAAB) is to advise professionals and non-professionals in the field of adoption about how to best support those who are adopted and their families. In addition, the group will engage in adoption-related advocacy by raising awareness on campus about the lived experience of those who are adopted.”

Now in the second year, the students elected officers and have set broad goals of retention, outreach, advising, and membership (ROAM). Each weekly meeting starts with an engaging check-in and ends with “real talk” in which the students share challenges they have faced in regard to being adopted.

Members of the UMass Student Adoption Advisory Board (USAAB) sponsor educational and advocacy events.



Rudd Program Personnel

Rudd Program and Staff Listing



Faculty

Harold D. Grotevant, Rudd Family Foundation Chair in Psychology
 Kirby Deater-Deckard, Professor of Developmental Psychology
 Jennifer M. McDermott, Assistant Professor of Developmental Psychology
 Patricia G. Ramsey, Professor of Psychology and Education,
 Mount Holyoke College
 David Scherer, Professor of Clinical Psychology

Staff

Jen H. Dolan, Program Manager
 Lisa Fiorenzo, Data Manager/Analyst
 Sophia Love, Events Coordinator (with the Treehouse Foundation)
 Angela Russo, Events Coordinator (with the Center for Research on Families)

Graduate Students

Lisa Marie Barone, School of Public Health and Health Sciences
 Krystal Cashen, Developmental Psychology
 Karin Garber, Clinical Psychology; Adoption Mentoring Partnership
 Research Coordinator
 Albert Lo, Clinical Psychology

Undergraduate Research Assistants

Kaitlyn Baron (Commonwealth Honors College student)
 Andrew Drinkwater (Amherst College)
 Bryan Eppich
 Joseph Gomolson
 Courtney Kennedy
 Yelena Ravvina (Commonwealth Honors College student)
 Maria Rinaldi
 Anna Stewart

Adoption Mentoring Partnership Mentors

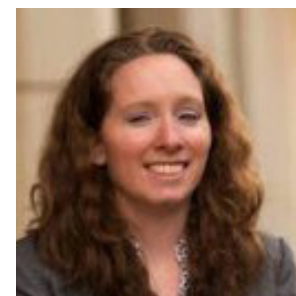
Julia Dexter	Sarah Ivy
Andrew Drinkwater	Jennifer Little
Juliana Friedman	Mary "Micki" McInnis
Camille Gladieux	Emily Sjogren
Joseph Gomolson	Anna Tian Stewart
Ana Gremli	Victoria (Lulu) Wan
Ariana Grob	Julia Zabusky
Carly Hochron	

Rudd Program Personnel

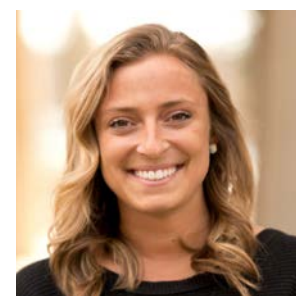
Staff Profiles



Jen H. Dolan EdD, Rudd Adoption Research Program, Program Manager
 Jen is responsible for oversight of the Rudd program community partnerships and the annual conference; in addition, she works with Dr. Grotevant to provide leadership for all aspects of the Rudd program. For the Adoption Mentoring Partnership, she coordinates all programmatic activities and has a strong role in conducting the research, interviewing mentors, a comparison group of university students, and the parents of the mentees. In addition, she has administered follow-up surveys to former mentors who have graduated. In addition, Jen continues to serve as a key member of the Re-Envisioning Foster Care in America (REFCA) Design Team, whose charge is to create a road map and implementation plan for innovative activities in western Massachusetts and beyond. Significant activities in 2016 included planning our first-ever joint Rudd/REFCA conference titled, "Thriving on the Frontline," establishing the UMass Student Adoption Advisory Board (USAAB), and helping to initiate a meeting of UMass foster youth.



Lisa Fiorenzo Rudd Adoption Research Program, Data Manager/Analyst
 Lisa contributes her expertise in data organization and analysis to a number of ongoing projects, including the longitudinal Minnesota/Texas Adoption Research Project (MTARP) and the Adoption Mentoring Partnership, a unique mentoring program that connects adopted UMass undergraduates with adopted youth in the Amherst area, in collaboration with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampshire County. Currently, Lisa is focusing on implementing novel techniques for assessing group-based changes in outcomes across multiple waves of data. She also serves as a methodology consultant with the Center for Research on Families at UMass Amherst.



Sophia Love Events Coordinator
 Sophia graduated as a Commonwealth Honors College student from the UMass Amherst Isenberg School of Management in 2015 with a dual degree in hospitality and tourism management and management. While a full-time student, she served as the events coordinator at the Center for Research on Families at UMass Amherst, where she planned many events, lectures, conferences, seminars, and workshops from inception to completion. In 2016, she drew on that experience in her role as Events Coordinator for the Rudd-REFCA New Worlds of Adoption and Foster Care conference, for which she coordinated all activities between the Rudd program and the Re-Envisioning Foster Care in America. She currently works at the Isenberg School of Management as the events coordinator for Alumni Engagement.



Angela Russo Assistant Director, Communications and Events, Center for Research on Families
 Angela joined the Center for Research on Families as the assistant director of communication and events and the Rudd team in December 2015. She has over a decade of experience in marketing, communications, and event planning in the fields of higher education, publishing, architecture, and technology. Angela oversees all aspects of event planning for the program. Angela is thrilled to be a part of the Rudd Adoption Research Program and assisting in their efforts to promote research findings and influence public policy surrounding adoption and foster care.

Rudd Program Personnel

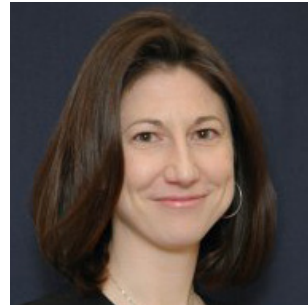
Faculty Affiliates



Kirby Deater-Deckard, PhD

Professor of Developmental Psychology, UMass Amherst
Director, Developmental Science Initiative

Dr. Kirby Deater-Deckard is a developmental psychologist who studies child and adolescent cognitive and social-emotional development, and the role of parenting and peer environments in developmental outcomes. As part of this research, he and his colleagues study adoptive and foster families. He conducted the Northeast-Northwest Collaborative Adoption Projects, at the time, the largest psychological survey of parents of internationally adopted youth in the United States. More recently, his work on adoption and fostering is focusing on international variations in family structures and youth outcomes in lower- and middle-income countries.



Jennifer M. McDermott, PhD

Assistant Professor of Developmental Psychology, UMass Amherst

Dr. McDermott's work examines the influence of early experience on cognitive and affective development across early to middle childhood. In particular, she has explored the impact of stressful early caregiving contexts on cognitive skills as well as adaptive emotion reactivity and regulation processes. Dr. McDermott is also interested in determining whether supportive teacher-child and peer relationships contribute to emerging cognitive skills that can enhance academic outcomes for children in foster care.



Patricia G. Ramsey, PhD

Professor Emerita of Psychology and Education, Mount Holyoke College

For the past decade, Dr. Ramsey's work has focused on adoptive family relationships and on different aspects of transracial adoptees' identity formation. She has been involved with the Rudd program since its inception. Although retired in 2015, she has remained an enthusiastic Rudd Faculty Affiliate and has benefited greatly from the expertise and support of the scholars who are part of the Rudd program. She has built connections between the Rudd Center and Mount Holyoke in numerous ways, including development of an advanced lab class, "Psychological Perspectives on Adoption," in which several Rudd program faculty participated. She and her students regularly present their work at the annual Rudd conference. Recently, she has been building international collaborative bridges between the United Kingdom and the United States in adoption research.



David Scherer, PhD

Professor of Clinical Psychology, UMass Amherst

Dr. David Scherer is a licensed psychologist and professor of psychological and brain sciences at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Dr. Scherer is a family systems theorist and therapist. His research and clinical work have concentrated primarily on adolescents and their families. His work focuses on how adolescents develop autonomy in the family context and innovative models of psychotherapy for troubled and substance-abusing adolescents. He has published extensively on how adolescents and parents make important medical and research participation decisions in the *American Journal of Bioethics*, *Pediatrics*, *Journal of Pediatrics*, *Journal of Adolescent Health*, and *American Psychologist*. He currently serves on the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Psychologists.

Rudd Program Personnel

Advisory Board



Amanda Baden, PhD

Amanda Baden is associate professor in the Department of Counseling and Educational Leadership at Montclair State University, New Jersey. She was the recipient of the John D. Black Award in 2014 from the American Psychological Association and Division 17 (Counseling Psychology) for the Outstanding Practice of Counseling Psychology. Her research and clinical practice are focused on adoption triad members, transracial/international adoption issues, racial and cultural identity, and multicultural counseling competence.



Dana E. Johnson, MD, PhD

Dana E. Johnson is a professor of pediatrics and member of the Divisions of Neonatology and Global Pediatrics at the University of Minnesota where he cofounded the International Adoption Program in 1986. His research interests include the effects of early institutionalization on growth and development and the outcomes of internationally adopted children. He has received the Distinguished Service Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Joint Council for International Children's Services, the Friend of Children Award from the North American Council on Adoptable Children and the Harry Holt Award from Holt International. Dr. Johnson has an adopted son from India, two birth daughters, and three stepdaughters.



Femmie Juffer, PhD

Femmie Juffer is professor of adoption and foster care studies at the Centre for Child and Family Studies, Leiden University, the Netherlands. She was the first person to hold the Chair on Adoption Studies, which was established at Leiden University, Centre for Child and Family Studies, in 2000 by Wereldkinderen (Worldchildren), The Hague. Her research interests include international adoption and foster care, sensitive parenting and attachment-based interventions, and children's recovery after adversity. Juffer received the Casimir Award in 2005 for excellence in teaching in the faculty of social and behavioral sciences at Leiden University. For her efforts to translate science into practice, she was awarded a royal decoration of Officer in the Order of Orange-Nassau (2010). In 2015, she received the Leiden University Public Services Award for her work. She hosted the Third International Conference on Adoption Research in 2010.



Ruth G. McRoy, PhD

In 2009, Ruth G. McRoy became the first holder of the Donahue and DiFelice Endowed Professorship at Boston College Graduate School of Social Work. Prior to joining the Boston College faculty, McRoy was a member of the University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work faculty for 25 years and held the Ruby Lee Piester Centennial Professorship. A practitioner, academician, researcher, trainer, and lecturer in the field for over 30 years, her work has focused on such topics as open adoptions, birth mothers, kinship care, adoptive family recruitment, minority recruitment, racial identity development, transracial adoptions, older child adoptions, family preservation, adolescent pregnancy, and postadoption services. In 2010, McRoy was selected as a fellow in the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare and also was named the recipient of the St. John's 2010 Outstanding Scholar in Adoption Award. She also received the 2013 U.S. Children's Bureau's Adoption Excellence Award and the 2014 North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) Child Advocate of the Year Award.



Cynthia Monahan, PsyD

Cynthia Monahan served as the founding director of the Cutchins Children's Clinic in Northampton, Massachusetts, for 28 years. The mission of the clinic has been to match the best trained and most experienced clinicians with the children and families most in need. Dr. Monahan is the author of *Children and Trauma: A Parent's Guide to Helping Children Heal* (Jossey Bass, 1993). Dr. Monahan has lectured frequently on childhood trauma, models of intervention with parents of traumatized children, and child psychotherapy. She has taught at the Smith College School for Social Work and at the Antioch New England doctoral psychology program. Dr. Monahan has a full-time private practice in Easthampton, Massachusetts, where she consults frequently with children and families whose lives have been touched by domestic and international adoption.



Elsbeth Neil, PhD

Elsbeth (Beth) Neil is a registered social worker and professor of social work and director of research at the School of Social Work, University of East Anglia (UEA), Norwich, England. She has been undertaking research in the field of adoption since 1996 and has conducted a longitudinal study focusing on postadoption contact, following through to late adolescence a group of adopted children and their birth relatives and adopted parents. She has also completed two studies funded by the U.K. government: the Helping Birth Families study, which examined support services for birth relatives of children adopted from care, and the Supporting Contact study, which looked at how adoption agencies support face-to-face contact arrangements between adoptive children and their birth relatives. In 2006, she organized and chaired the Second International Conference on Adoption Research held at UEA.



Melinda Novak, PhD

Melinda Novak is professor and former chair of the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She established the UMass Primate Laboratory, a small primate facility in which students receive training in handling and managing captive primates, performing behavioral and health assessments, and conducting research. Dr. Novak is head of the Behavioral Primatology Unit at the New England Primate Research Center at Harvard Medical School where she conducts her federally funded research on the causes of and treatment for abnormal behavior in primates. At UMass, she is a recipient of the College Outstanding Teacher Award, the Distinguished Faculty UMass Alumni Association Award, and the Chancellor's Medal for Distinguished Faculty Lecturer, the highest honor bestowed on faculty for exemplary research and service contributions.



Jesús Palacios, PhD

Jesús Palacios is professor of developmental psychology at the University of Seville, Spain. He has conducted research on both domestic and international adoptions in Spain, especially focusing on issues of recovery after early adversity and parent-child relationships. He has published numerous books and articles on foster care and adoption, including *Psychological Issues in Adoption: Research and Practice*, coedited with David Brodzinsky (Praeger, 2005). He has developed protocols for the assessment of adoption suitability and has coauthored a preadoption training program for prospective adopters, as well as books for both prospective and adoptive parents. In Spain and other countries, he consults regularly with governmental agencies about how to improve systems of foster care and adoption on behalf of children, and he has played a leadership role in connecting adoption researchers around the world. He hosted the successful Fourth International Conference on Adoption Research in Bilbao, Spain, in 2013.



Maureen Perry-Jenkins, PhD

Maureen Perry-Jenkins is professor of psychology and director of the Center for Research on Families at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Her research focuses on the ways in which sociocultural factors, such as race, gender, and social class, shape the mental health and family relationships of employed parents and their children. She was a recipient of the University of Massachusetts Distinguished Outreach Research Award for her efforts to apply her research to policy as well as the Outstanding Teacher Award in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. Professor Perry-Jenkins was recently designated a fellow of the National Council on Family Relations and completed a term on its board of directors. During 2015–16, she was a fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Social Sciences, Stanford University.



Sally Powers, EdD

Sally Powers is professor of psychological and brain sciences at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and associate dean for research and faculty in the College of Natural Sciences. Dr. Powers's research investigates the interplay between psychosocial risk factors (particularly social and behavioral stressors in close relationships) and biological risk factors (endocrine dysregulation) that influence gender differences in the longitudinal course of depression and anxiety. She is a fellow of the Association of Psychological Science, senior faculty for the European Association of Adolescent Researchers, and has served on numerous federal grant review panels and scientific journal editorial boards. At UMass, Dr. Powers has been awarded the Conti Faculty Fellowship for outstanding research, the Chancellor's Medal for Distinguished Faculty Lecturer, and the Distinguished Faculty UMass Alumni Association Award.



David Scherer, PhD

David Scherer is a licensed psychologist and professor of psychological and brain sciences at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Dr. Scherer is a family systems theorist and therapist. His research and clinical work have concentrated primarily on adolescents and their families. His work focuses on how adolescents develop autonomy in the family context and innovative models of psychotherapy for troubled and substance-abusing adolescents. He has published extensively on how adolescents and parents make important medical and research participation decisions. He currently serves on the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Psychologists.

Poster session at 2016 Rudd-REFCA Conference.



Rudd Program Partners and Collaborators



Susan Harris O'Connor, Kim Stevens, and Ruth McRoy presented "Racial Identity at the Intersection of Artist, Academic, and Advocate" at the 2016 Rudd-REFCA Conference.

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Center for Research on Families
 College of Education
 College of Natural Sciences
 College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
 Commonwealth Honors College
 Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences
 Office of Engaged Learning
 Office of Family Resources
 Ombuds Office
 Psychological Services Center

Community Associates

Adoption Journeys
 Amherst Regional Public Schools
 Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampshire County
 Boston College Graduate School of Social Work
 Center for Evidence-Based Mentoring, University of Massachusetts Boston
 Clark University Department of Psychology
 Donaldson Adoption Institute
 Jones Library, Amherst, MA
 Massachusetts Department of Children and Families
 Mount Holyoke College
 Re-Envisioning Foster Care in America Initiative
 Treehouse Community at Easthampton Meadow
 Treehouse Foundation

Service to the Profession and the University

During 2016, Dr. Grotevant provided service to a number of professional, community, governmental, and university organizations.



Professional, Community, and Governmental Organizations
 St. John's University Adoption Initiative, Advisory Board
 Society for Research on Identity Development, Student Award Selection Committee
 Treehouse Foundation, National Advisory Board
 Center for Adoption Support and Education, Advisory Board for Development of Adoption Competent Mental Health Professional credential
 Fifth International Conference on Adoption Research (ICAR5), Auckland, New Zealand, Organizing Committee

Editorial Boards / Consulting Editor Positions:

Adoption and Fostering
Adoption Quarterly
Emerging Adulthood
Family Process
Identity: International Journal of Theory and Research
Journal of Early Adolescence
Journal of Family Psychology

University Service:

Department Chair, Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences
 Executive Committee, Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences
 Organizer, "Making UMass Work for You" series, Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences
 Advisory Board and Steering Committee, Center for Research on Families, UMass Amherst
 Leadership Team, College of Natural Sciences
 Life Sciences Advisory Committee, College of Natural Sciences
 Life Sciences Graduate Program Advisory Committee, College of Natural Sciences

Transformative Generosity



In 2016, a generous new contribution from Andrew and Virginia Rudd established the Rudd Family Visiting Professorship. This new fund will endow a visiting professorship within the Rudd program at UMass in order to enhance training, encourage innovative and collaborative research paths, and expand the implementation of the best adoption practices in the United States and internationally. Recipients will be selected for their expertise in adoption and for their commitment to use their residency to promote dissemination of knowledge to the larger adoption community, including researchers, practitioners, community members, policy makers, and students.

Andrew and Virginia Rudd came to know UMass first as parents in 2000, when their eldest daughter enrolled in the university. Following her graduation, they established the Rudd Family Foundation Chair in Psychology with a generous gift in 2005. The inaugural holder of the chair, Hal Grotevant, began working at UMass in 2008. A pledge drive for funds matching a subsequent donation was successfully completed in 2014, leading to the establishment of the Rudd Family Endowed Fund for Outreach to Adoptive Parents. The Rudds' vision and their support have made it possible for the adoption program to become well established in the adoption research world, in the community, and at UMass.



The program has also benefited from the support of another major donor, Scott D. Chaplin (UMass Amherst Class of 1989), whose life has been touched by adoption. "Giving is an affirmation of how great UMass Amherst was for me," Chaplin said. "The adoption research is interesting and unique, and UMass is really making a name for itself in this area." Gifts made to the Rudd Family Foundation Chair in Psychology, the Rudd Family Endowed Fund for Outreach to Adoptive Parents, and the Rudd Family Visiting Professorship support the priorities of the Rudd Adoption Research Program reflected in this report. Donations will support programs such as adoption research, the annual conference, the Adoption Mentoring Partnership, Re-Envisioning Foster Care in America, adoption research training, graduate student and postdoctoral scholar stipends, and visiting scholars. For further information about this unique opportunity, please contact Chelsea Gwyther, executive director of development, College of Natural Sciences. She may be contacted at (413) 577-6422 or at cgwyther@umass.edu.



COMING IN 2017!

April 27, 2017

We Celebrate Adoption
UMass Campus Center,
Room 168
6:00–8:30 p.m.

"We Celebrate Adoption" has been organized by a group of adopted and nonadopted students who are all committed to educating the larger community about adoption-related issues. The students will be staffing tables that have information about specific adoption-related topics, such as foster care, LGBTQ adoptive families, and identity development—just to name a few. Agencies including the Department of Children and Families, the Treehouse Community, and Adoption Journeys will also be present at the event. The event is sponsored by the students from the UMass Adoption Mentoring Program and students from the UMass Student Adoption Advisory Board, in collaboration with the Rudd Adoption Research Program.

May 19, 2017

Adoptive Parenting: Navigating the Calm and Rough Waters
Jesús Palacios, PhD
Professor of Developmental Psychology,
University of Seville, Spain
Rudd Family Visiting Professor

UMass Center at Springfield
9:00–11:30 a.m.

Adoption is one of the most effective alternatives for children who have experienced early adversity, as it allows for catch-up and reorganization to occur in critically important developmental domains, such as physical growth, language development, and social relationships. Despite these important opportunities for positive growth, the legacy of early adversity can remain, even years after the adoptive placement. This talk will focus on what adoptive parents, as well as professionals who work with adopted children, need to know to create the best possible growth-promoting environment for children recovering from early adversity. The lecture will be followed by a panel discussion in which Professor Palacios and local adoptive parents and professionals discuss best evidence-informed practices.

**ADOPTIVE PARENTING:
 NAVIGATING THE CALM AND
 ROUGH WATERS**
JESÚS PALACIOS, PH.D.



May 21–26, 2017

Summer Adoption Research Institute

Twenty-four graduate students and recent PhDs with strong interest in a career involving adoption research will convene for the 2017 Rudd Summer Adoption Research Institute, May 21–26, 2017, on the campus of UMass Amherst. The Institute provides an opportunity for extended interactions and community-building among a small group of participants and research faculty. Topics and presenters include the following:

Data Organization and Management
 Scott Long, Indiana University

Culture, Race, and Class in Designing and Interpreting Adoption Research
 Amanda Baden, Montclair State University; Ruth G. McRoy, Boston College

Longitudinal Data Analysis
 Aline Sayer, UMass Amherst

Disseminating Research Findings to Adoptive Parents and Policymakers for Impact
 Jesús Palacios, University of Seville, Spain

Analyzing Family and Couple-Level Data
 Holly Laws, Yale University

Secondary Data Sets with Adoption Data: Opportunities and Challenges
 Hal Grotevant and Kirby Deater-Deckard, UMass Amherst

Funding for Adoption Research
 Hal Grotevant and Kirby Deater-Deckard, UMass Amherst

Conducting Research with LGBT Adoptive Families
 Abbie Goldberg, Clark University

Contact Information

Rudd Adoption Research Program
623 Tobin Hall
University of Massachusetts Amherst
135 Hicks Way
Amherst, MA 01003

(413) 545-0547
adoption@psych.umass.edu
www.umass.edu/ruddchair/

For information about supporting the
Rudd Adoption Research Program,
please contact Chelsea Gwyther,
executive director of development,
College of Natural Sciences.
She may be contacted at
(413) 577-6422 or
cgwyther@umass.edu.



Rudd
ADOPTION RESEARCH
PROGRAM