

# Doris Duke Fellowships

## *for the Promotion of Child Well-Being*

*Seeking innovations to prevent child abuse and neglect*

A Quarterly Publication

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### In this Issue

[The Role of Fathers](#)

[Quarterly Fellowship Activities](#)

[New Work from Fellows](#)

[Mentors in the News](#)

[Featured Fellow: Will Schneider](#)

[Featured Fellow: Aaron Banman](#)

[Resources on Fatherhood](#)

[Calendar of Events](#)

### Quick Links

[Doris Duke Fellowships for  
the Promotion of Child Well-  
Being](#)

[Chapin Hall at the  
University of Chicago](#)

[Doris Duke Charitable  
Foundation](#)

*This newsletter focuses on the role of fathers in the promotion of child well-being.*

## The Role of Fathers

As a nation, we love to celebrate holidays and special populations. While Mother's Day was formally adopted as a Federal holiday in 1914, Father's Day was not afforded this status until 1972. Today, the unique role fathers can and do play in the lives of their children is recognized in myriad ways, including, most recently, through President Obama's Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiative. Despite the widespread appeal of recognizing and supporting fathers, parenting support programs are often not effective in engaging and serving this part of the "parenting" equation. The research of two of our fellows summarized in this issue addresses this shortcoming. Aaron Banman and Will Schneider are working to clarify the role dads play in child rearing and to identify effective ways for programs to expand their impact on fathers.

These efforts are indicative of the fellows' interests in identifying gaps in our knowledge and building a compelling research agenda to address these gaps. Collectively, the fellows are engaged in research which cuts across all developmental stages from early childhood through adolescence, and are examining a wide range of interventions targeting families at both the treatment and prevention ends of the service continuum. Their research, as well as innovative program and policy initiatives being developed by others in the field, will be explored further during the Fellowship's annual meeting being held at Chapin Hall September 25 through September 27.

Sincerely,

**Deborah Daro, PhD**  
Fellowship Chair

**Lee Ann Huang, MPP**  
Fellowship Manager

## Quarterly Fellowship Activities

### Cohort Three Welcome Webinar

On April 16, the new cohort of fellows had a chance to connect via a webinar hosted by Chapin Hall. This was an opportunity for them to

introduce themselves and their research interests prior to the annual fellowship meeting in September.

### **Policy Mentor Webinar**

On May 9, staff at Chapin Hall held a webinar for Cohort Three policy mentors. The material included a formal introduction to the goals and structure of the fellowship, the primary communication strategies we use with mentors, and our expectations for the mentors and fellows. [A recording of the webinar can be accessed here.](#)

### **Quarterly Webinar by Fellows**

Five Cohort Two fellows (Aaron Banman, Brooks Keeshin, William Schneider, Kristen Seay, and Amanda Van Scoyoc) presented a webinar for the fellows titled, "Special Topics in Parenting: Substance Abuse and Fathering." After initially connecting at the annual fellowship meeting in September 2012, these fellows noticed that they shared interests in the effects of parental substance use and fathering on child maltreatment. After developing their ideas through monthly phone calls, they decided to bring their research to their colleagues in the fellowship.

### **APSAC Breakfast**

The Doris Duke Fellowship sponsored a networking breakfast on June 27 at the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) Colloquium in Las Vegas, Nevada. In attendance were prospective fellows, current and incoming fellows, members of the APSAC Board of Directors, and members of the APSAC organization. This networking opportunity allowed the fellows to connect with other doctoral students within APSAC as well as with key leaders and mentors within the field of child maltreatment prevention research.

## **New Work from Fellows**

**Kristen Abner**, Cohort Two fellow, and her academic mentor Rachel Gordon have an upcoming publication in the *Journal of Marriage and Family*. Abner, K., Gordon, R., Kaestner R., and Korenman, S. (2013). Does Child Care Quality Mediate Associations between Type of Care and Development? *Journal of Marriage and Family*. Forthcoming.

**Emily Bosk**, Cohort Two fellow, has a [new publication](#) available in the journal *Children and Youth Services Review*. This article posits that high-risk children and youth diagnosed with behavioral disorders often experience "a partial medicalization" where behavioral attributes shift between explanations of "badness and sickness". It also examines the implications of this shift on the intersection of the mental health and juvenile justice systems. Emily has also recently received a Dissertation Grant from [the Fahs-Beck Fund for Research and Experimentation](#).

**Megan Hayes** and **Jennifer Mullins Geiger** coauthored an article with Megan's academic mentor, Dr. Cynthia Lietz, titled "[Should I stay or should I go? A mixed methods study examining the factors influencing foster parents' decisions to continue or discontinue providing foster care.](#)" The article, available in the *Children and Youth Services Review* describes the personal, financial, and systemic issues impacting foster parents' ability to continue providing care for our nation's most vulnerable children.

**Elisa Kawam** is working with the Juvenile Court of Maricopa County and the Cradles to Crayons visitation center to conduct a study examining the educational needs of foster children under the age of 5, the barriers in meeting those needs, community and cultural strengths, and current accessibility of those services locally.

**Tia McGill** has been awarded the opportunity to attend the first Haruv Institute PhD workshop on child maltreatment. This international mentoring workshop, which will take place in Jerusalem, Israel in October,

offers the opportunity for doctoral students to discuss their dissertations with experts in the field of child maltreatment. As a workshop attendee, Tia will present her paper titled, "The Impact of Parental Mental Health Service Utilization on Parental Engagement and Completion of an Evidence-Based Child Maltreatment Prevention Program." In addition, she recently presented posters at the Health Disparities Research at the Intersection of Race, Ethnicity, and Disability National Conference, and at the APSAC Colloquium. Tia was also chosen to attend as a delegate to the King Center 2013 Millennial Health Leaders' Summit through the Center for Disease Control and Prevention in April, 2013.

**Will Schneider** presented his paper, "The Effect of the Great Recession on the Risk for Child Maltreatment," coauthored with Jane Waldfogel and Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, at the Population Association of America annual conference this past spring. Jane Waldfogel will also present the paper (with Jeanne Brooks-Gunn), "Parenting and The Great Recession," at the Society of Longitudinal and Life Course Studies annual conference in Amsterdam in September.

## Mentors in the News

**Rachel Gordon** recently won a grant through the U.S. Department of Education for her project "Measuring Preschool Program Quality: Multiple Aspects of the Validity of Two Widely-Used Measures." This project examines two measures of quality, the ECERS-R and CLASS, evaluating their structural validity, response process validity, and predictive validity specific to cutoffs defined in a policy system.

**Daniel Gordon** recently published an article called "Effectiveness of primary prevention efforts for intimate partner violence." This article presents a systematic review of intimate partner violence (IPV) prevention studies. These studies targeted partner violence victimization and/or perpetration, included a comparison or control group, and measured IPV behavior or outcomes involving knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, or other constructs related to IPV.

**Shannon Self-Brown** was awarded a grant through the National Institute of Mental Health to develop and test an innovative technology-based approach for implementing an evidence-based practice (EBP) in child welfare.

**John Lutzker** has recently published two new articles

- Shanley, JR., Graham, ML., Lutzker, JR., Edwards-Gaura, A., Whitaker, DJ., & Self-Brown, S.(2013). Lessons learned from national and international implementations of SafeCare. *International Public Health Journal*. 5(1). 31-38
- Lutzker, J.R. (2013). Parents with intellectual disabilities: Enhancing their training experiences. *Psychology in intellectual disabilities*. 38(2), 3-5.

## Featured Fellow

### Will Schneider

Social Work  
Columbia University

by AARON BANMAN

*Aaron and Will, both Cohort Two fellows, interviewed one another about their academic and professional work, their experience in the fellowship, and what has inspired their commitment to maltreatment prevention.*



After graduating from college, Will worked for a number of years in research and policy, first at the Center for Research on Child Wellbeing (CRCW) at Princeton University and then at the National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP) at Columbia University. Will developed his interest in the topics of father engagement, child development, and prevention of child maltreatment while at CRCW. At NCCP, Will worked on a variety of interactive tools designed to help policymakers and advocates understand how public policies affect young children.

As a combined MSW/PhD student in Social Work at Columbia University, Will continues to draw on Fragile Families data both for his dissertation and for his work with his academic mentor. Will's dissertation is focused on parenting engagement among unmarried, low-income, nonresident fathers and how these men can prevent child abuse and neglect. Will also works with his academic mentor, Jane Waldfogel, and Jeanne Brooks-Gunn on a project called "Fragile Families in the Great Recession" which investigates the effect of the recent recession on parenting and child development.

Will has had a fantastic experience being a part of the Doris Duke Fellowship and feels he has particularly benefited from his small group peer network on parenting. He thinks that the different perspectives that are brought together in the group have broadened his understanding of parenting and prevention of abuse and neglect. Will is looking forward to his final year in the fellowship!

## Featured Fellow

### Aaron Banman

#### School of Social Service Administration University of Chicago

by WILL SCHNEIDER

Aaron studied social work both as an undergraduate and in graduate school before working as a social worker in Chicago. In his professional career, Aaron has worked with a variety of child welfare programs and programs for individuals with disabilities. Aaron's diverse experience ranges from individual level clinical work, to program development, quality improvement, and grant writing. He also has policy advocacy and federal grant review experience. Aaron's experiences with the diverse child welfare systems in Minnesota, New York, and Illinois helped shape his current research interests. These experiences built his understanding of the necessity of early prevention services, the lack of father involvement and father engagement in prevention services, and challenges of implementing or modifying programs to fit new populations.



In the doctoral program at the [University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration](#) and through [Chapin Hall](#), Aaron is part of several

research projects focusing on prevention services -- specifically home visitation and parent training program -- and the inclusion of fathers into that prevention work. Aaron is [part of a team investigating](#) how a system of supports can strengthen a statewide group of diverse home visiting programs and has coordinated pilot projects to increase father involvement and engagement in existing home visiting and parent training programs. Through this work, Aaron has continued to see the importance of prevention services and father inclusion in those services. He is now delving in to how organizational and worker level factors influence how fathers are included in those services.

## Resources on Fatherhood

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services manages the [National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse](#).

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services also has information on [Promoting Responsible Fatherhood](#). Information is included on topics such as: include effective parenting, economic stability, incarceration, and research, evaluation and data.

The White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships includes [responsible fatherhood as a key priority](#).

The Office of Adolescent Health has several resources related to [adolescent fathers](#).

The National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections has an [extensive list of resources on Fatherhood](#).

Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago has examined the extent to which fathers were interviewed as part of the Integrated Assessment process of the child welfare system in Illinois. See [Identifying, Interviewing, and Intervening: Fatherhood and the Illinois Child Welfare System](#) to learn more.

## Calendar of Events

### *Fellowship Events*

#### **Doris Duke Fellowships Annual Meeting**

- Save the Date: September 25-27, 2013
- Chapin Hall and the Chicago Theological Seminary, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

#### **Doris Duke Fellowship Cohort Four**

- Application period begins August 15th
- Application and information will be available [here](#)

### *Abstract Deadline*

#### **Office on Child Abuse and Neglect: 19th Annual National Conference on Child Abuse & Neglect**

- April 29-May 2, 2014
- Sheraton, New Orleans, LA
- Abstract Deadline: October 11, 2013
- Submit your abstract and learn more [here](#)

#### **American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children: 22nd Annual Colloquium**

- June 11-14, 2014

- Hyatt Regency, New Orleans, LA
- Abstract Deadline: August 5, 2013
- Submit your abstract and learn more [here](#)

## ***Conferences***

### **American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting**

- August 10-13, 2013
- Sheraton Midtown and Sheraton New York Hotels & Towers, New York, NY
- Register and learn more [here](#)

### **American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting**

- November 2-6, 2013
- Boston Convention and Exposition Center, Boston, MA
- Register and learn more [here](#)

### **Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Fall Research Conference**

- November 7-9, 2013
- Washington Marriott Hotel, Westin Grand Hotel, and Ritz Carlton Hotel, Washington, DC
- Register and learn more [here](#)

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