Council on Contemporary Families

20th Annual Conference

Families As They Really Are

Demographics

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University of Texas at Austin
Population Research Center
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Tufts University
Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Study and Human Development

University of Massachusetts Amherst
Center for Research on Families

February 7, 2020

AT&T Hotel and Conference Center

1900 University Ave
Austin, TX 78705
On-Site Registration
8:00 am

Opening Remarks
8:45 am – 9:00 am
Jennifer Glass, University of Texas at Austin

Morning Keynote Address: “Gender Development in the 21st Century: Parents, Schools, Technology, and Culture”
9:00 am – 10:15 am
Christia Spears Brown, Professor, Department of Developmental Psychology, and Director of the Center for Equality and Social Justice, University of Kentucky
Presider: Robert Crosnoe, University of Texas at Austin
Discussant: Barbara J. Risman, University of Illinois at Chicago & Council on Contemporary Families

Abstract. In 2020, gender equality is at an all-time high, with boys and girls having more equitable access to opportunities, experiences, and recognition than ever before. Despite this important progress, children and adolescents face persistent, as well as quickly evolving new challenges based on their gender and gender identity, challenges exacerbated by rapid technological changes and near-constant social media use. Parents and schools are well-positioned to help promote greater equality and help youth cope with these challenges.

Research to Practice: Discussion Roundtable
10:20 am – 11:20 am
Presider: Jennifer Glass, University of Texas at Austin
◆ Cynthia Osborne, University of Texas at Austin: “Building a Policy Roadmap to Strengthen the Prenatal-to-Three System of Care”
◆ Julie Maslowsky, University of Texas at Austin: “Family Planning Among Teenage Mothers”
◆ David Yeager, University of Texas at Austin: “The New Era of Mindset Research”
◆ Delida Sanchez, University of Texas at Austin: “Utilizing Youth Based Participatory Action Research Methodology in the Schools to Address Health Disparities among Latinx Youth”

Media Workshop
11:25 am – 12:15 pm
Presider: Barbara J. Risman, University of Illinois at Chicago
◆ Rachel White, The University of Texas at Austin: “Talk Nerdy to Me: Translating Research for the Public”

Lunch and Flash Session
12:20 pm – 1:20 pm
Presider: Michael Garcia, University of Texas at Austin
◆ Heidi Williams, Virginia Tech: “Not by Bread Alone: Mothers’ Strategic Pursuit of Education to Meet Basic Needs”
◆ Yesenia Vargas, University of Illinois at Chicago: “Parenting in the Experience Economy: How Middle-Class Families Finesse a Changing Consumer Culture”
◆ Jennifer A. Pace, Midwestern State University: “‘These Boys’ Lives Are Too Easy’: Reconciling Masculinity and Privilege among Parents of Youth Football Players”
Afternoon Keynote Address: “Immigrant Families, Law, and Enforcement: Central American Parents and Children Living in Legal Limbo”
1:30 pm – 2:45 pm
Dr. Cecilia Menjívar, Professor and Dorothy L. Meier Social Equities Chair, Department of Sociology, University of California, Los Angeles
Presider: Tama Leventhal, Tufts University
Discussant: Luis H. Zayas, University of Texas at Austin

Abstract. Immigrant children suffering under family separation policies have received significant media and policy attention. However, this is only one aspect of how the immigration system today negatively affects children in immigrant families. Drawing on qualitative and ethnographic fieldwork among Central American immigrants, this presentation focuses on how seemingly benign aspects of immigration law, particularly reunification laws and temporary statuses, can produce equally negative effects by leaving families in permanent legal limbo.

Panel: Raising Children Under Threat
2:50 pm – 3:55 pm
Presider: Robert Crosnoe, University of Texas at Austin

◆ Kathleen M. Roche, George Washington University: “The Perils Facing U.S. Latinx Adolescents in an Increasingly Restrictive Immigrant Environment”
◆ Lori Holleran Steiker, University of Texas at Austin: “Preventing and Responding to Youth Substance Misuse and Substance Use Disorders”
◆ Germine Awad, University of Texas at Austin: “Prejudice Towards Arab/MENA Americans”

Panel: Launching Children into and Through Adulthood
4:00 pm – 5:05 pm
Presider: Frank Furstenberg, University of Pennsylvania

◆ Karen Fingerman, University of Texas at Austin: “How the New Young Adulthood Shapes Parenting in Midlife”
◆ Stephen Russell, University of Texas at Austin: “What LGBTQ Youth and Families Teach us About 21st Century Parenting”
◆ Ellen Wartella, Northwestern University: “Social Media and Adolescence”

Networking Reception and Media Awards
Gabriel’s Café, AT&T Hotel and Conference Center
5:15 pm – 6:15 pm
◆ Welcome from the CCF Board Co-Chairs
◆ Presentation of 2020 Media Award for Outstanding Coverage of Family Issues
◆ Book Silent Auction
About CCF

The Council on Contemporary Families is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to providing the press and public with the latest research and best-practice findings about American families. Our members include demographers, economists, family therapists, historians, political scientists, psychologists, social workers, sociologists, as well as other family social scientists and practitioners.

Founded in 1996 and based at the University of Illinois at Chicago, the Council’s mission is to enhance the national understanding of how and why contemporary families are changing, what needs and challenges they face, and how these needs can best be met. To fulfill that mission, the Council holds annual conferences, open to the public, and issues periodic briefing papers and fact sheets, which journalists can sign up to receive by writing to Stephanie Coontz, Director of Research and Public Education, at coontzs@msn.com.

Additional Details

CCF Membership

Professionals who study or work with families or are engaged in public policy about family issues are eligible to become CCF members. We also welcome others to become Friends of CCF.

For more information, visit:
www.contemporaryfamilies.org

CCF Membership (annual membership fee), $100
CCF Friend (annual membership fee), $50
CCF Student (annual membership fee), $50

Conference Program Co-Chairs

Tama Leventhal, Professor, Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Study and Human Development, and Director of Graduate Studies, Tufts University
Robert Crosnoe, Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies, College of Liberal Arts, and Rapoport Centennial Professor of Sociology, University of Texas at Austin

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CCF Media Awards

The CCF Media Awards were established in 2002 as part of the Council’s commitment to enhancing the public understanding of trends in American family life.

“All too often, changes in U.S. family patterns are painted in stark, better-or-worse terms that ignore the complex realities of family life today. The Awards Committee looked for work that put individual family issues in larger social context. This kind of coverage offers the public a balanced picture of the trade-offs, strengths and weaknesses in many different family arrangements and structures,” explained Stephanie Coontz, CCF’s Director of Research and Public Education.

2020 Award for Outstanding Media Coverage of Family Issues

Alia E. Dastagir, Charisse Jones, Courtney Crowder, and Swapna Venugopal Ramaswamy for their piece “America’s parents want paid family leave and affordable child care. Why can’t they get it?” published in USA TODAY, an article that deftly investigates the toll of childcare costs on families. This article humanizes the issue and looks at the myriad of ways childcare costs impact parents, while also considering the existing barriers to paid leave and childcare costs relief. Visual aids, video clips, and interviews with a variety of people involved in decision-making, this article nicely details the concerns and realities of the high cost of childcare.

CCF Pamela Smock Travel Award

Council on Contemporary Families member Pamela Smock has donated a biennial award for travel to a CCF conference for an early career scholar to present work broadly related to the conference theme. This Pamela Smock Travel Award is open to graduate students, and scholars up to five years after the terminal degree. The criterion for the award includes both the quality of the work presented, broadly defined fit with the conference theme, and a documented interest to bringing research expertise beyond the academy by becoming an active member of CCF. The Award will cover travel expenses and hotel expenses up to $750.

2020 Pamela Smock Travel Award Winner

Melissa D. Day, University of New Hampshire

Melissa D. Day, Ph.D. is a Lecturer in the Sociology Department at the University of New Hampshire. Her research brings a more nuanced understanding to the reproduction of social stratification in society and theorizes peoples’ experiences as they navigate and reconcile conflicts in their identities and social roles - especially those at the intersection of gender, family, work, and health. Her current project investigates the implications of the difficulties stepmothers face as they become part of complex stepfamily dynamics. Other example research projects have examined how public-school sex education teachers navigate curriculum restrictions in their daily work and how breastfeeding duration among low-income mothers is impacted by their access to paid family leave and return to the labor force. Her research on gender differences in depression outcomes for aging spousal caregivers who also work for pay is published in the Journal of Marriage and Family. She is also published in Teaching Sociology and through UNH’s Carsey School of Public Policy. She is a contributing author to Stepmom Magazine and an award-winning teacher.