Interdisciplinary Committee

Mission Statement

The mission of the interdisciplinary committee is to enhance quality, promote visibility, and support capacity building related to interdisciplinary research in the developmental sciences. Through this, we aim to facilitate bold but thoughtful boundary crossings between disciplines to address scientific questions and identify multi-system factors that contribute to innovation and impact on child development. However, the diversity of theory, methods, and language across disciplines often results in a siloing of knowledge that impedes progress toward an integrated understanding of developmental phenomena. Our goal is to help build equitable interdisciplinary bridges that break down these silos, and to inspire as well as foster a culture that rewards the next generation of scientists to address complex human development questions with an interdisciplinary frame.

Recent Committee Initiatives (as of 2026):

Advancing Research on AI and Child Development: Interactive Discussion of Priority Questions, Methods, Safety, and Policy -- Webinar: This interdisciplinary webinar convenes scholars across fields to examine the implications of artificial intelligence for child development. Panelists identify key research priorities, methodological challenges, and ethical considerations, while also exploring issues of safety, governance, and policy. The discussion highlights opportunities for cross-sector collaboration and outlines directions for advancing research in this rapidly evolving area.

Early Career Interdisciplinary Scholars Fellowship (ECISF) Program: Supports early-career scholars within five years of earning a terminal degree in a field outside psychology or human development who are conducting interdisciplinary work in developmental science.

Is Technology Good or Bad for Child Development – Webinar: This interdisciplinary webinar explores the evolving role of technology in child development, highlighting both its potential benefits and emerging concerns. Panelists share insights across fields and outline a forward-looking research agenda for the next decade.

Committee Roster

Samantha Brown, Co-Chair	2023-2027	Colorado State University
Pilyoung Kim, Co-Chair	2023-2027	University of Denver
Erinn Duprey	2023-2027	Children's Institute, University of Rochester
Jennifer Locasale-Crouch	2023-2027	Virginia Commonwealth University
Sonya Negriff	2023-2027	Kaiser Permanente Southern California
Camie Tomlinson	2025-2029	University of Louisville
Sen Wang	2025-2029	Boston University
Briana Williams, SECC Representative	2025-2027	Brown University
Stephen Asatsa, Governing Council Representative	2025-2027	Catholic University of Eastern Africa, Kenya
Roman McNeil, Staff Liaison	2022-	Society for Research in Child Development

Resources to Support Interdisciplinary Research

Learn More about Interdisciplinary research:

- **NSF: Learn About Interdisciplinary Research**
- **Why, with whom, and how to conduct interdisciplinary research? A review from a researcher's perspective**

Interdisciplinary-focused journal articles:

- **Interdisciplinarity, special issue in Nature**
- ***Towards Truly Interdisciplinary Research on Human Development by Ursula M. Staudinger (2015) in Research in Human Development***

- *Teams Do It Better! By Toni C. Antonucci in the book The Study of Human Development*
- *Let's Work Together: Towards Interdisciplinary Collaboration by Ingrid Schoon (2015) in Research in Human Development*

Awards and Funding Opportunities

- **Jacobs Foundation**
- **Jeffress Trust Awards Program in Interdisciplinary Research**
- **Monroe G. Sirken Award in Interdisciplinary Survey Methods Research**
- **Interdisciplinary Behavioral and Social Science Research (IBSS)**
- **Jeffres Trust Awards Program in Interdisciplinary Research**
- **Welcome Trust: The Hub Award**

Programs

In this page, we include some suggestions of interdisciplinary programs of potential interest for graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and faculty. The list of programs is not comprehensive, so you can contact the Committee co-chairs to ask for the consideration of other programs.

- **Early Career Interdisciplinary Scholars Fellowship Program (Society for Research in Child Development)**
- **Behavioral Health Programs (Arizona State University)**
- **Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Study and Human Development (Tufts University)**
- **Learner Centered Curricula (University of Southern California)**
- **LIFE Course: Evolutionary and Ontogenetic Dynamics (University of Michigan)**
- **Interdisciplinary Program in Biomedical Sciences (University of Florida at Gainesville)**
- **Center for Interdisciplinary Studies (Davidson College)**
- **The Department of Biobehavioral Health (Penn State)**
- **Interdisciplinary Studies in Child Development Concentration (California State University)**
- **PhD in Human Development and Social Policy (Northwestern University)**
- **Doctoral Program in Behavioral and Social Health Sciences (Brown University)**
- **Mind, Brain and Education Program (Harvard University)**
- **Interdisciplinary Studies (Institute for Advanced Study)**
- **Interdisciplinary honors seminars (Rutgers)**

Interdisciplinary Journals

- The journal Research in Human Development has just published a new special issue calls **"Just one wish for the study of human development"** edited by Richard A. Stetterston and Megan McClelland (Oregon State University). The issue includes the section "Interdisciplinary collaboration and playing well with others" which contains the following papers:
- **Research in Human Development**
- **Early Child Development and Care**
- **Child Abuse & Neglect**
- **Infant Behavior and Development**
- **Development and Psychopathology**
- **Sustainable humanity, sustainable nature: Our responsibility, Pontifical Academy of Sciences**
- **The Study That Got Away**, *Frank F. Furstenberg*
- **Understanding Human Development: Toward a Comprehensive Framework,** *Frederick J. Morrison*

Events

- **Biennial 2027**