

# Eliot-Pearson Newsletter

Issue No. 7-March 2019

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## FROM OUR CHAIR

You might not know him, but Sir Timothy John Berners-Lee is an English engineer and computer scientist who has a tremendous impact on my life and your life. He is best known as the inventor of the World Wide Web. It is said that, when asked about creating websites he responded, "I'm not a fan of giving a website a simple number like an IQ rating because like people they can vary in all kinds of different ways." Websites come in different colors and shapes, genres, and styles. But a unique feature of all websites, is that they are never complete. They are always work in progress. Just like learning, it is a life-long process.

For the last few months, many people in our Dept., but particularly Rachel Buff and Mary Ellen Santangelo, have been working closely with me and Cheryl Conte and colleagues from Tufts Technology Services (TTS) and the Arts & Science Communications team to re-design our Eliot-Person website. The task was not easy. A website is a homepage and many decisions need to be made about the content and pictures to display as well as the aesthetic look to match other departments at Tufts. There is a history displayed through our website and a future direction. It is a virtual home for our interdisciplinary intellectual approaches, our academic programs, and our relationships within a community that prides itself on its research and practice integration. A place where our identity is displayed. I am proud to invite you all to visit our new homepage <http://as.tufts.edu/epcshd/> and to send us feedback so we can improve it over time. Houses are built by professional architects and contractors, websites by designers and programmers, but building a home or homepage involves the people who inhabit the space to appropriate it, contribute to it, and ultimately make it their own.



Marina Umaschi Bers  
Professor and Chair

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## Featured Story

The “This is Me!” project seeks to bring the Eliot-Pearson community together by involving faculty, students, and families in an enriching multimedia experience. The aim of “This is Me!” is to provide an experience for participants that promotes well-being and culminates in an academic dialogue for the community. In this project, participants, ranging in age from 5-24, share their narratives about emotions through song. Participants will select a meaningful song that reflects self-expression and engage in a recording process that promotes positive technological development (PTD) and emotional well-being. The songs will be recorded and edited into a film that will be shared with the Eliot-Pearson community during a premier screening event. Following the screening, facilitators will host a post-screening conversation exploring the theoretical and clinical implications of the shared narratives.

The “This Is Me!” Project embraces the Eliot-Pearson mission to help make a difference in the lives of children, youth, and families. This strength-based project is specifically designed to bridge 21<sup>st</sup> century technology with children’s well-being to promote positive technological development (PTD). “This is Me!” provides a PTD platform for participants to find/listen to their unique voices through recorded song (self-expression), as well as to join voices together through an inclusive recorded song (community building), to support children’s well-being and to promote mental health awareness (community screening and post-screening conversation). The film screening and post screening conversation provides a mindful space for bringing the community together and creates an outlet for discussion of the bridging of PTD and promoting awareness of mental health and optimizing child, youth, and family well-being.

Organizers of this project are looking for participants between the ages of 5-24. Anyone interested in learning more, should contact E-P graduate student Christina Koo, at [yeeun.koo@tufts.edu](mailto:yeeun.koo@tufts.edu). Participants will receive a gift card for their time and creativity, as well as a digital copy of their music video.

## Student Spotlight



In her time at Eliot-Pearson, Ph.D. student, Xian Zhang, has embraced the department’s dual-emphasis on research and practice, while also taking advantage of the program’s opportunities to develop an individualized path of study. Xian

## E-P in the News

[Gay Dads and Stigmas](#)

## Publications

Perrin, E.C., Hurley, S.M., Mattern, K., Flavin, L., & [Pinderhughes, E. E.](#) (2019). [Barriers and](#)

employed a culture-centered approach in conducting research on children and families from diverse backgrounds and developed her own theoretical model for understanding transnational care among Chinese immigrant parents.

Research on transnational care, a term that refers to the practice of sending U.S.-born infants to live and be raised by grandparents in China for several years, is relatively recent. According to Xian, “although early childhood is viewed as a critical period for attachment formation and considered a foundation for healthy development, little is known about the reasons and outcomes of transnational early care.” Her doctoral thesis features a mixed-methods comparison of separated families to non-separated families and examines the developmental outcomes of transnational care as well as immigrant families’ meaning-making of their experience with transnational care.

In addition to her research experience, Xian has served as the program evaluator for a community-based non-profit agency since 2017. She has helped the organization develop logic models, revise and construct program assessment tools, and review the agency’s theory of change.

After her doctoral studies come to an end, Xian indicates that her plan is to pursue a career as an applied researcher. Xian hopes to continue working on projects with a focus on culture-centered research and apply her practical knowledge to helping immigrant families. As part of another opportunity, Xian will also be collaborating with a toy company and helping to design toy subscription boxes for young children.

[stigma experienced by gay fathers and their children](#). *Pediatrics*, 143 (2): e20180683

Shuey, E.A. & [Leventhal, T.](#) (2019) [Neighborhood and parenting](#). In M.H. Bornstein (Ed.), *Handbook of Parenting, 3rd edition, Volume 2: Biological and Ecology of Parenting*. New York: Taylor & Francis/Psychology Press.

Zhang, Z. & [Pinderhughes, E. E.](#) (2019). [Depth in cultural socialization in families with children adopted from China](#). *Family Process*, 58: 114-129

## Presentations

Anastasio, R., [Leventhal, T.](#), & Crosnoe, R. (2019, March). [Community institutions: Associations with Mexican-origin children’s middle school STEM outcomes](#). Paper presented as part of the symposium, “Beyond the Census: Understanding how neighborhoods matter for children by incorporating novel data sources” at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Baltimore, MD. March 21-March 23, 2019.

Anastasio, R., [Leventhal, T.](#), & Anderson, S. A. (2019, March). [Head Start and residentially mobile young children’s development](#). Paper presented as part of the symposium, “Educational and family contexts of residentially mobile children: Potential pathways for improving child outcomes” at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Baltimore, MD. March 21-March 23, 2019.

## Alumni Spotlight



If you are looking for an example of an Eliot-Pearson alumna who personifies Eliot-Pearson's mission of having a meaningful impact on children, youth, and families in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, you needn't look any further than 2017 E-P graduate, Judith Scott, Ph.D. Judith is an assistant professor in the School of Social Work at Boston University and teaches incoming clinical social work students about the fundamentals of social work and working with families. Her primary research interest focuses on the effects of trauma, especially physical maltreatment and racial discrimination, on the mental health of children and families across diverse cultures. Judith specifically attends to the parenting processes and coping processes related to experiences of trauma.

As part of her secondary interest in evaluating small and mid-sized community-based organizations, especially those serving children, Judith has spent the last year and a half conducting an evaluation of Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (BCNC), which is a community-based organization serving families in Chinatown and Quincy.

The role she has today would not have been possible if it were not for Eliot-Pearson and Judith says, "During my time in the department, I discovered a love of teaching and mentorship when I was a TA." While able to tap into her

Cuartas, J. R., & [Leventhal, T.](#) (2019, March). [The effect of chronic and acute exposure to local violent crime on children's mental health and PTSD.](#) Paper presented as part of the symposium, "Indirect effects of violence on human development: Lessons from diverse Latin American samples" at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Baltimore, MD. March 21-March 23, 2019.

[Hyun, S., & McWayne, C. M.](#) (2019, March). [Validation of Low-Income Chinese Immigrant Parents' Play Belief Behaviors and Parental Assessment of Peer Play.](#) Poster presentation at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Baltimore, MD. March 21-March 23, 2019.

[McWayne, C. M., & Melzi, G.](#) (2019, March). [Promoting Cultural Responsiveness of Early Childhood Curriculum and Professional Development: Funds of Knowledge Approaches](#) (Co-Chairs). Symposium presentation at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Baltimore, MD. March 21-March 23, 2019.

[McWayne, C. M., Mistry, J., Zan, B., Brenneman, K., Greenfield, D., & Hyun, S.](#) (2019, March). [An Innovative Home-School Collaboration Approach for Engaging Low-Income, Immigrant Families in Curriculum Co-Construction.](#) Paper presentation as part of the symposium, *Promoting Cultural Responsiveness of Early Childhood Curriculum and Professional Development: Funds of Knowledge Approaches* at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Baltimore, MD. March 21-March 23, 2019.

passions as a doctoral student, Judith also suggests that her E-P education enhanced her skills as a researcher and practitioner. "I gained theoretical frameworks, methodological techniques, and interdisciplinary perspectives which I combined with my clinical social work experiences to develop my current research agenda," she says. Lastly, Judith feels that, "the mentorship I received from faculty members prepared me to enter academic as a professor."

When asked if she had any advice for current E-P students, Judith recommends, "Take risks and create opportunities to help you achieve your goals!"

## Congratulations



Earlier this month, [Bergstrom Chair Professor and Director of the Institute for Applied Research in Youth Development, Richard M. Lerner](#), presented an invited address, [The 4-H Study of Positive Youth Development \(PYD\): Impacts, Extensions, and Next Steps](#), to the Board of Trustees of the National 4-H Council in Washington D.C.



This month, [Graduate Program Director and Director of the C3 Lab, Professor Tama Leventhal](#), gives an invited presentation, *Housing*

Melzi, G., [Wisnia, J.](#), & [McWayne, C. M.](#) (2019, March). [Por los Niños: Latino Caregivers' Reflections on Immigration and Parenting](#). Poster presentation at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Baltimore, MD. March 21-March 23, 2019.

Oh, S. & [Leventhal, T.](#) (2019, March). [Breaking down the STEM pathway: Community resource for improving Mexican-origin adolescents' life chances](#). Paper presented as part of the symposium, "Novel approaches for measuring neighborhoods and their influence on child outcomes" at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, (SRCD), Baltimore, MD. March 21-March 23, 2019.

Oh, S. & Zabel, J. (2019, March). [Discount Factor and Delay of Gratification: High School Dropouts in Contexts of Neighborhood Characteristics](#). Poster presented at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Baltimore, MD. March 21-March 23, 2019.

Oh, S. (2019, March). Delay of Gratification and the Discount Factor: How Neighborhood Characteristics Can Affect the Decision to Drop Out of High School. Individual paper presented at the [Eastern Economic Association Annual Meetings](#), New York, NY. February 28-March 3, 2019.

Zaika, N. & [Leventhal, T.](#) (2019, March). [More than academics: Family and neighborhood context and Mexican-origin children's achievement in STEM](#). Paper presented as part of the symposium, "Context matters for STEM outcomes: Factors that help or hinder

and children's development: Reflections and new directions, at Northwestern University.



[Evans Family Assistant Professor and Director of the Child Health Equity Research Lab, Sasha Fleary](#), is a member of the 2019 Cohort of the [Diversity Scholars Network, University of Michigan](#).



Ph.D. student, Xian Zhang successfully defended her proposal for a dissertation on Chinese immigrant families and the developmental outcomes of transnational care.



First-year master's student [Nick Woolf](#), has been named a 2019 [Rappaport Public Policy Fellow](#).

Nick plans to complete his summer fellowship working for the Department of Elementary Secondary Education (DESE) or the Governor's Office of Strategic Innovation.

**Recipients of the 2019 Eliot-Pearson Research-Practice Integration (RPI) Awards**

underrepresented students in K-college education" at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Baltimore, MD. March 21-March 23, 2019.

## Upcoming Events

[M.A. Thesis Defense for Jeremiah Powers](#)  
Relation of Empathy and Leadership Styles of Cadets at USMA  
**Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**2:00 pm (EDT)**  
[Institute for Applied Research in Youth Development](#)

[Doctoral Thesis Defense for Meera Menon](#)  
Trajectories of Adolescent Mothers' Parenting Stress Across Early Childhood: Exploring Relations with Children's Socio-Emotional Functioning  
**Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**10:00 am-12:00 pm (EDT)**  
[Eliot-Pearson's Steven's Library](#)

[Movie Night at Eliot-Pearson](#)  
Eliot-Pearson's Pitcher Curriculum Lab will be hosting a movie night on the Thursday following spring break and will feature the film Black Panther. All Tufts students and friends are welcome to attend!  
**Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**5:00 pm-7:30 pm (EDT)**  
[Evelyn Pitcher Curriculum Lab](#)

[Cultural-Developmental Theory for the 21st Century: Self and Social Science in a Global World](#)  
Lene Jensen, Ph.D.

**Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**  
**12:00 pm (EDT) Colloquium**  
**1:00 pm (EDT) Lunch with Dr. Jensen**  
[Eliot-Pearson's Steven's Library](#)

Presented by the Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Study and Human Development and the Institute for Applied Research on Youth Development (IARYD). For lunch attendance or to schedule a meeting with Dr. Jensen, please contact Lori Campbell at [lori.campbell@tufts.edu](mailto:lori.campbell@tufts.edu)



**Amanda Strawhacker-Eliot-Pearson Doctoral Program RPI Award**

For her dissertation project, "Bioengineering Education in Kindergarten," Amanda built a tangible technology for children called [CRISPEE](#), a storybook, and a curriculum to engage children in foundational concepts from [bioengineering](#).



**Jeremiah Powers-Eliot-Pearson Master's Program RPI Thesis Award**

Jeremiah's thesis focuses on leadership development of Cadets at the United States Military Academy (USMA) at West Point.



**Lily Samuel and Belinda Tanuwijaya Eliot-Pearson Master's Program RPI Application Award**

Lily's research focuses on the relationship between United States immigration policy and the development of immigrant children and families. Belinda is currently working to promote access to services for individuals with autism and participating in a research study on autism-specific sexual education at Eliot-Pearson's

[Early Childhood Technology \(ECT\) Graduate Certificate Program Virtual Open House](#)

**Saturday, March 30th  
4:00 pm (EDT)**

Learn more about Eliot-Pearson's Early Childhood Technology (ECT) Graduate Certificate program.

[Children and New Technologies: Mix & Match Panel Discussion](#)

Learn about the different ways you can mix and match your majors (and/or minors) with Child Study and Human Development.

**Wednesday, April 3rd**

**12:00 pm-1:30 pm (EDT)** Lunch will be provided

[Evelyn Pitcher Curriculum Lab](#)

RSVP by Tuesday, April 2nd to:

[Deborah.McGreevey@tufts.edu](mailto:Deborah.McGreevey@tufts.edu)

[26th Annual Fred Rothbaum Student Presentation Day](#)

**Friday, April 5th  
8:30 am (EDT)**

[Eliot-Pearson's Steven's Library](#)

[Children's Literature in Your Own Image: Power of reflecting diverse racial/ethnic and sociocultural perspectives](#)

**Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>-Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>**

A one-week event featuring children's book authors and illustrators whose work is focused on exposing young children (PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> grade) to literature that reflects diverse racial/ethnic and sociocultural narratives. Presented by Ph.D. students, Natalya Zaika, Julius Anastasio, and Amanda Strawhacker, and faculty supervisor, Ellen Pinderhughes, Tufts AS&E Diversity Fund and the Eliot-Pearson Student RFP Competition. Details to follow.

[Doctoral Dissertation Defense for Brian Burkhard](#)

Thriving through Outdoor Programming: Trajectories of Prosocial Attributes

**Thursday, April 11th**

**1:00 pm-3:00 pm (EDT)**

[Institute for Applied Research in Youth Development-Conference Room](#)

[Doctoral Defense of Mary Buckingham](#)

My Most Important Characteristic is "My Empathy." Exploring the Connection between

### [Crehan Lab.](#)

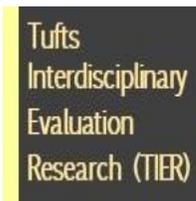


Anne Hall, an Interdisciplinary Studies student majoring in Community Health, Sociology, and Child Study and Human Development, has received a [2019 Senior Award](#). Anne is working under the advisement of E-P faculty member, [Jayanthi Mistry](#), to complete a Senior Thesis on young women from the Lakota community in South Dakota.



International Relations major, Ilana Goldberg, has been named recipient of the [Anne Borghesani Memorial Prize](#). The award will support Ilana's research in Jordan where she will collect narratives of Syrian refugees' educational journeys, that will be used to complete a Senior Thesis with mentoring from [Jayanthi Mistry](#).

## E-P Community News



This month, [TIER](#) is well-represented by students, staff, and faculty, at the [biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development](#) in Baltimore, Maryland. TIER

Empathy and Identity in Adolescence

**Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>**

**1:00 pm-3:00 pm (EDT)**

[Institute for Applied Research in Youth Development-Conference Room](#)

[Doctoral Defense of Danielle C. Stacey](#)

Media Measures Matter: Developing a Measure of Joint Media Engagement Among Youth

**Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>**

**10:00 am-12:00 pm (EDT)**

[Institute for Applied Research in Youth Development-Conference Room](#)

[Doctoral Defense of Sunah Hyun](#)

Examination of Chinese Immigrant Parents' Beliefs About Children's Social Development Through Play: A Mixed Methods Explanatory Sequential Study

**Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**11:00 am-1:00 pm (EDT)**

[Eliot-Pearson's Steven's Library](#)

[Celebrating the Evan's Family Professorship](#)

A lecture by the inaugural Evans Family Professor, E-P faculty member, Sasha Fleary, on "Reading Writing, Arithmetic...Health Literacy?: Laying the Foundation in Childhood for Good Personal Health and Community Advocacy"

**Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**4:30 pm (EDT)**

[Coolidge Room, Ballou Hall](#)

RSVP by April 15 to [rsvpevents@tufts.edu](mailto:rsvpevents@tufts.edu)

## Alumni News

### **Publications**

Collins, M. E., & [Scott, J. C.](#) (2019). [Intersection of race and religion for youth in foster care: Examining policy and practice](#). *Children and Youth Services Review*.

Salas-Wright, C.P., Oh, S., Vaughn, M.G., Cohen, M., [Scott, J.C.](#), & Amodeo, M. (2019). [Trends and drug-related correlates of residential mobility among young adults in the United](#)

presenters include: [Lauren Stargel](#), [Meera Menon](#), [Rachel Katz](#), [Chie Kotake](#), [Rachel Chazan Cohen](#), [Rebecca Fauth](#), [Jessica Goldberg](#), and [Ann Easterbrooks](#). Presentation topics focus on prevention programs, family support, parenting stress, child maltreatment, father involvement, and child care.



This March, several [DevTech](#) members traveled to Norfolk, VA to lead a professional development for teachers using [KIBO](#) and the [Coding As Literacy](#) curriculum. The [Coding As Literacy website](#) launched and includes curricula on integrating [KIBO](#) and [ScratchJr](#) with emergent and early literacy concepts. The website is a resource for teachers and educators using DevTech's technologies in their early childhood classrooms.

[States](#). *Addictive Behaviors*, 90, 146-150.

### **Grants**

[Judith Scott](#), alumna, received a [Doris Duke Fellowship Research-to-Action Grant for 2019-2020](#). The grant will fund the pilot study, "[Cultural and Contextual Influences on Parenting Among Low-Income Chinese Immigrant Caregivers Living in the Greater Boston Area](#)."

### **Congratulations**

[Judith Scott](#) received an [SRCD Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award](#) for her dissertation, "[Raising a Hand Against Young African American Children: The Effects on Mental Health Trajectories and Consideration of Moderating Cultural Factors](#)." Judith is a member of the 2019 cohort of the [Diversity Scholars Network, University of Michigan](#), and has been appointed to the [SRCD Black Caucus Social Policy Committee](#) and the Program Committee of the [Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center \(BCNC\)](#).

Please click one of the links below to make a donation to Eliot-Pearson.

[\*\*Eliot-Pearson's Greatest Needs Funds\*\*](#)

[\*\*Eliot-Pearson Children's School Scholarship Fund\*\*](#)

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Eliot-Pearson  
Department of Child Study  
and Human Development



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