

Faculty Research

| Faculty Name | Research Lab, Program, or Organized Research & Training Unit (ORTU) | Areas of Research | Developmental Periods |
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| Janet Bang, Ph.D. (she/her) Assistant Professor | Diverse Interactions Around Language (DIAL) lab | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Communication development ● Multilingualism ● Language development ● Word learning ● Caregiver-child engagement | Early childhood Middle Childhood |
| Maria Fusaro, Ed.D. (she/her) Associate Professor | Co-Founder, Early Childhood Institute (ECI) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Imagination and Inquisitiveness ● Verbal and non-verbal adult/child interactions ● Teaching Competencies for Early Childhood Educators | Early Childhood Adulthood (current/future early educators) |
| Dina Izenstark, Ph.D. (she/her) Assistant Professor | Humans in Nature (HIN) Lab | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Family-based nature activities ● Parent-child relationships ● Youth development programs ● Family leisure | Middle Childhood Adolescence Emerging adulthood |
| Robin Love, Ph.D. (she/her) Associate Professor | Cilker Conference | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Arts education ● Motivation | Early Childhood Middle Childhood |
| Cara Maffini, Ph.D. (she/her) Associate Professor | Co-Founder and Faculty Director, Healthy Development Community Clinic (HDCC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Race, ethnicity, and culture ● Trauma and healing ● Bicultural/biracial identity development ● Mental health | Adolescence Emerging adulthood |

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| <p>Robert Marx, Ph.D. (<i>they/them</i>) Assistant Professor</p> | <p>Queer Educators and Counselors Network</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gender and sexuality ● Adolescent development ● Familial, school, and community sources of support and strength | <p>Adolescence</p> <p>Emerging adulthood</p> |
| <p>Ravisha Mathur, Ph.D. (<i>she/her</i>) Associate Professor</p> | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Friendships ● Children's imagination ● Teaching pedagogy | <p>Early childhood</p> <p>Adolescence</p> <p>Emerging adulthood</p> |
| <p>Danielle Mead-Nytko, Ph.D. (<i>she/her</i>) Associate Professor</p> | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Language development ● Research methods ● Bilingualism ● Children with special needs | <p>Early childhood</p> <p>Middle childhood</p> |
| <p>Ellen Middaugh, Ph.D. (<i>she/her</i>) Associate Professor</p> | <p>Civic Literacy, Action and Reasoning in Online Networks (CLARION) Project</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Civic engagement ● Civic education ● Adolescent development ● Digital media literacy ● Social media | <p>Adolescence</p> <p>Emerging adulthood</p> |
| <p>Emily Slusser, Ph.D. (<i>she/her</i>) Associate Professor & Department Chair</p> | <p>Co-Founder, Early Childhood Institute (ECI)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Early childhood ● Cognitive development ● Language development ● Number and math concepts | <p>Early Childhood</p> <p>Adulthood (Future/Current workforce)</p> |
| <p>Maureen Smith, Ph.D. (<i>she/her</i>) Professor</p> | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reading for pleasure ● Imagination/fantasy ● Social and emotional development | <p>Middle Childhood</p> <p>Adolescence</p> |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk and resilience | Emerging adulthood |
| Nadia Sorkhabi, Ph.D. (<i>she/her</i>) Professor | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parenting and Cultural Variations ● Academic Achievement ● Mental Health ● Family Conflict | Childhood Adolescence Emerging adulthood |
| Kim Tsai, Ph.D. (<i>she/her</i>) Associate Professor | TsaiKicks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Family dynamics ● Cultural socialization ● Ethnic identity development ● Health and Well-being | Adolescence Emerging adulthood |