

The Long Reach of Early Childhood: Biological and Environmental Influences

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This presentation addresses the premises that early childhood has long-term effects and that intervention during early childhood are a good investment. Professor Brooks-Gunn's longitudinal research examines questions having to do with the effects of early adversities experienced in the family and community upon children and adolescents as well as exploring how the timing, intensity, type and/or accumulation of adversities result in negative trajectories in health and development; these questions, for the most part, have not been well addressed. In addition, whether and when adversities are associated with biological weathering (changes in telomere length and methylation over time) as well as biological sensitivity to adversities are also examined. Finally, whether positive experiences (i.e., home visiting programs, early childhood education, change in

parental education, work, or income) alter trajectories also are considered. These issues are discussed with a special focus on the Fragile Families Child Wellbeing Study, the Early Head Start and Head Start impact Studies, and other early interventions.

Date: Thursday, October 8th, 2015

Place: Gerson Hall (room 126), University of Florida

Time: 4:30 pm – 5:30pm

For more information, contact Dr. Chris L. Gibson (clgibson@ufl.edu)

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