

The University of Massachusetts Amherst
Center for Research on Families
"How do you present your research to the media?"
panel presentation for scholars of family research
Wednesday, October 3, 2007
12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m.
Campus Center - Room 803

Panelist

Edward F Blaguszewski is the Director of News & Information for the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Blaguszewski joined UMass Amherst in March 2004, coming from Penn State Erie where he served as director of university relations. He has spent time as a national media relations consultant, campus communicator, and journalist (including positions at *The Republican* in Springfield and *The Recorder* in Greenfield), and he is a past president of the College and University Public Relations Association of Pennsylvania. He is a 1977 graduate of Boston University with a B.S. in journalism.

Panelist

M. V. Lee Badgett is an associate professor of economics at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Her primary field of study is labor economics, with a focus on employment discrimination based on sexual orientation, race, and gender. Her work on her other major research interest, family policy, includes the economic and fiscal impact of marriage rights for same-sex couples, and on the European experience with opening marriage or marriage-like rights to gay couples. She was a visiting scholar with the Williams Institute on Sexual Orientation Law and Public Policy at UCLA School of Law for the 2005-2007 academic years. Dr. Badgett has previously taught at Yale University and the School of Public Affairs at the University of Maryland. She also continues to serve as research director of the Williams Institute, and will serve as Director of the Center for Public Policy and Administration beginning in the fall of 2007.

She is the author of *Money, Myths, and Change: The Economic Lives of Lesbians and Gay Men* (University of Chicago Press, 2001), as well as numerous journal articles and book chapters on a wide array of topics relating to her areas of study.

Panelist

Kyle D. Pruett, M.D., is Clinical Professor of Child Psychiatry at the Yale School of Medicine and Director of Medical Studies at the Yale Child Study Center. He is an international expert and forensic consultant on child, parental and family development, paternal involvement, children's mental health, creativity and the effects of trauma, media and divorce on young and very young children. Founder of the Yale Conference on Fatherhood, and the Harris Professional Development Network for Training in Early Intervention and Research, and was co-chair of the Child Custody Conflict Placement Committee of the Child Study Center and the Yale Law School.

He is past President of *Zero to Three: National Center of Infants, Toddlers and Families*, and serves on the Board of Trustees of Sesame Workshop, Yale Program for Humanities in Medicine, and The Alliance for Childhood. He is a regular consultant and contributor to ABC and CBS News, Newsweek Magazine, NPR, the New York Times and sits on the editorial boards of *Medical Problems of the Performing Artist, Parents, and Child*.

Dr. Pruett served as principal investigator of the pioneering Longitudinal Study of Children of Primary Nurturing Fathers in Intact Families 1982-1998. He was co-principal investigator with Marsha Kline Pruett of *Divorce in Legal Context: Outcomes for, and Perceptions by, Young Children of the Process of Divorce*, 1998-2000. He conducted the first investigation of the effects of a collaborative divorce model on child outcomes, again teaming up with his wife, 2000-2002. His current research focuses on the Supporting Fatherhood Initiative, State of California Department of Social Service, Office of Child Abuse Prevention. It is a major, multi-site randomized clinical trial of a parent-focused intervention designed to reduce abuse and neglect in a primarily Latino population of poor families by engaging fathers positively and early in the lives of their children.

Panelist

Marsha Kline Pruett is the Maconda Brown Professor of Psychology and Social Work at Smith College. Previously, Dr. Kline Pruett was Associate Professor in the Law and Psychiatry Division at the Yale University School of Medicine and the Yale Child Study Center. She is best known for the development, implementation, and evaluation of preventive interventions in schools and courts. Her writings include numerous scholarly articles, chapters, and a co-authored book, *Your Divorce Advisor: An Attorney and Psychologist Lead You Through the Legal and Emotional Landscape of Divorce* (2001 by Simon and Schuster). Dr. Kline Pruett's research interests revolve around family issues specific to family and juvenile law. The unifying theme across the research is the promotion of healthy family development during life transitions, particularly those transitions related to adverse events or circumstances.

Among other topics, she has created and evaluated a model continuum of effective and cost-efficient co-parenting services in the Connecticut courts to assist in the preservation of each family's long-term well-being through the development of developmentally appropriate parenting plans. Her findings are providing new connections of great interest to psychologists, lawyers, and policy makers at the edge of the psychology-law interface. As a result of this project, Dr. Kline Pruett was awarded the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts Stanley Cohen Award for Distinguished Research. These results have been used to inform judges and attorneys throughout North America. Currently, Dr. Kline Pruett is part of an intervention and evaluation team for the California Supporting Fatherhood Involvement (SFI) Initiative, a pilot program aimed at promoting father involvement in Family Resource Centers to reduce incidence of child abuse and neglect. Dr. Kline Pruett disseminates her scholarly work through clinical consultations, media consultations, and speaking engagements across North America and abroad.

Moderator

Amy Schalet is an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology and a faculty affiliate at the Center for Research on Families. Her research focuses on sexuality, family, culture, personhood, and the welfare state, and she has authored several publications on comparative adolescent sexuality. Her doctoral thesis examined the different constructions of adolescent sexuality and "the modern individual" in American and Dutch white middle-class families; a book based on this research will be published by the University Chicago Press.

Before coming to the University of Massachusetts, Dr. Schalet held a three-year postdoctoral fellowship at the School of Medicine at the University of California-San Francisco, where she pursued the public health and policy implications of her research. Her article "Must We Fear Adolescent Sexuality?" was named *Medscape General Medicine's* Best Article in Women's Health in 2004 and is used as an educational tool in the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia. Dr. Schalet was a plenary speaker at the CDC 2006 National STD Prevention Conference and a keynote speaker at the Western Canadian Conference on Sexual Health. She will give the keynote address at the 2006 meetings of the National Coalition of STD Clinic Directors. She has been awarded a three-year grant from the Ford Foundation to continue research at the intersection of sociology and reproductive health.