

Kalani M. Palmer

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Developmental Psychology, April 2013

University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

Dissertation: Increases in Educational Attainment for Black Women: Implications for Parenting Practices and Beliefs Related to Children's Academic Success

Master of Science in Applied Developmental Psychology (*with honors*), April 2006

University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

Concentration: Program Design and Evaluation

Major Paper: A Developmental Approach to Preventing Risky Sexual Behavior with African American Adolescent Females

Bachelor of Art in Art/Art Education (*magna cum laude*), May 2003

Carlow College, Pittsburgh, PA May 2003

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2014-Present **Assistant Professor**

Human Development and Environmental Studies, School of Health and Human Services, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

- Teach four courses each semester (25-64 students each class)
- Academic Advisor 25-35 undergraduate students
- Child Development and Family Relations Curriculum Committee Member
- Internship Coordinator
- Department Scholarship Committee Chair
- Health and Human Services Enrollment and Recruitment Management Committee Member

YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVING NON-PROFIT PROJECTS

2016-Present *Indiana County Needs Assessment*

Principal Investigator

Overview: Needs assessment intended to determine community needs and strengths of a rural county in PA (Indiana County) that will guide United Way of Indiana County to fund organizations that would best meet identified needs. The needs assessment will also communicate the type and magnitude of needs within the communities to potential donors and volunteers.

Responsibilities: All project duties (e.g., work scope negotiation, evaluation design, data collection, data analysis, report writing, student mentoring/supervision).

Funded by: United Way of Indiana County (\$9,614)

- 2013-2013 *Familylinks Mentoring Initiative Evaluation*
Evaluation Researcher: Kalani M. Palmer, PhD
 Overview: Mixed method evaluation of a mentoring program for young adults (18-21 years of age) currently residing in a shelter for homeless, transient, and “at risk” youth. Mentoring program intended to improve future attitudes and support education and employment exploration.
 Responsibilities: All project duties (e.g., work scope negotiation evaluation design, data collection, data analysis, report writing, student mentoring/supervision).
 Funded by: Familylinks (\$30,000)
- 2012-2013 *The Communication Alliance*
Evaluation Researcher: Kalani M. Palmer, PhD
 Overview: Mixed method developmental evaluation of a workshop series that promotes effective communication strategies for non-profit organizations serving families. The workshop series was created by an interdisciplinary team (psychologists, communication experts, and business professionals). Evaluator embedded in the project and provided real time feedback to assist in project development.
 Responsibilities: All project duties (e.g., evaluation design, data collection, data analysis, report writing).
 Funded by: The Mellon Foundation
- 2012-2013 *Fred Rogers Center Early Learning Environment Website Evaluation*
Evaluation Researchers: Kalani M. Palmer, PhD, Stephanie McCarthy, MBA, & Amie Matson, MSW
 Overview: Mixed method evaluation of a website intended to provide literacy supporting resources for caregivers of young children (birth to 5 years of age) and build caregiver efficacy in engaging in literacy promoting activities.
 Responsibilities: All project duties (e.g., evaluation design, data collection, data analysis, report writing, student mentoring/supervision).
 Funded by: Saint Vincent College Fred Rogers Center (\$50,000)
- 2008-2010 *Play a Day Curriculum with “At-Risk” Families*
 Evaluation Researcher: **Kalani M. Palmer, MS**
 Overview: Mixed method evaluation of a project that utilized a curriculum entitled *Play a Day* to promote parent-child interaction with “at-risk” families.
 Responsibilities: All project duties (e.g., technical assistance, evaluation design, data collection, data analysis, report writing).
 Funded by: Allegheny County Department of Human Services
- 2008-2010 *Promoting Economic Self-Sufficiency in Families*
 Evaluation Researcher: **Kalani M. Palmer, MS**
 Overview: Mixed method evaluation of a project that focused on training parents and preparing them to enter a permanent employment position. This project also intended to assist with skills that would help the trainees maintain permanent employment.
 Responsibilities: All project duties (e.g., technical assistance, evaluation design, data collection, data analysis, report writing).
 Funded by: Allegheny County Department of Human Services

PK-12 EDUCATION PROJECTS

- 2013-2014 *Pittsburgh Public Schools Empowering Effective Teachers*
Human Capital Manager
Overview: An initiative to maximize teacher effectiveness and improve student achievement.
Responsibilities: Support principals in staffing schools, monitor and analyze school staffing data, design and evaluate formal new teacher mentoring program.
Funded by: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- 2012-2014 *Consortium for Public Education My Action Plan for Success (MAPS) Formative Evaluation*
Evaluation Researchers: Janell Smith-Jones, PhD & Kalani M. Palmer, PhD
Overview: Qualitative evaluation of a program intended to support the personalization of education in Southwestern Pennsylvania public junior and senior high schools.
Responsibilities: All project duties (e.g., evaluation design, measurement development, data collection, data analysis, report writing).
Funded by: Consortium for Public Education (\$90,000)
- 2013-2013 *Propel Schools Fund My Future Program Evaluation*
Evaluation Researchers: **Kalani M. Palmer, PhD**, Joan Eichner, MPH, MPA
Overview: Mixed method evaluation of a college savings program for families with children enrolled in a public charter school (grades K-12). The college savings program is intended to promote family saving for college, parent-child conversations around college attendance, high future education expectations, and “grit”/persistence in students.
Responsibilities: All project duties (e.g., work scope negotiation, evaluation design, data collection, data analysis, report writing, student mentoring/supervision).
Funded by: Propel Schools (\$50,000)
- 2012-2013 *Something Worth Giving*
Applied/Evaluation Researchers: Junlei Li, PhD, Kalani M. Palmer, PhD, & Kelly Martin, MS
Overview: Qualitative evaluation of the active ingredients in youth serving organizations. Key characterizations of quality and development supporting programs are identified, captured through video, and then organized to tell a thematic story. The intended use of each story varied for each community partner. Some uses included professional development, fundraising, and advocacy. Community partners include homeless shelters, grant funders, afterschool programs, early childhood home visiting programs, and K-12 schools.
Responsibilities: Develop the project structure and system for production, develop relationships with community organizations, data collection, data analysis, and create supplemental materials (e.g., text for websites, newsletters, blogs).
Funded by: The Grable Foundation

- 2011-2012 *Parents and Education: Examining Decision Making in School Choice and Parent Self-Perceived Role in Education*
Co-Investigators: Kalani M. Palmer, MS & Heather J. Bachman, PhD
Overview: Mixed methods study of the factors that contribute to African American parents' early childhood and elementary school selection, as well as how parents support children's education after they begin elementary school.
Responsibilities: Supervised students, managed budget, prepared Institutional Review Board documents and grant reports, created and maintained an administrative database, organized and managed recruitment, organized trainings, coordinated project activities.
Funded by: The School of Education, University of Pittsburgh Faculty and Student Research Award, University of Pittsburgh Student Research Award, & Council of Graduate Students in Education Research Award
- 2010-2011 *Family and Community Influences on Parents' Child Care and School Selection*
Research Coordinator
Principal Investigator: Heather J. Bachman, PhD
Overview: Mixed methods study of the factors that contribute to parents' early childhood and elementary school selection, as well as how parents support children's education after they begin elementary school.
Responsibilities: Supervised students, prepared Institutional Review Board documents and grant reports, created and maintained an administrative database, organized and managed recruitment, organized trainings, interviewed participants, coded and analyzed qualitative data, coordinated project activities.
Funded by: The University of Pittsburgh Provost's Office, Central Research Development Fund
- 2008-2010 *Pitt School Readiness Study*
Research Coordinator
Principal Investigator: Heather J. Bachman, PhD
Overview: Quantitative study of child characteristics, parenting practices, and child care activities that most directly enhance low-income children's early reading, mathematics, vocabulary, and social skills.
Responsibilities: Supervised students, managed budget, prepared Institutional Review Board documents and grant reports, created and maintained an administrative database, organized and managed recruitment, organized trainings, coordinated project activities.
Funded by: The Spencer Foundation
- 2006 - 2006 *Work Discretion and Job Crafting in the Child Care Industry*
Research Consultant
Principal Investigator: Carrie R. Leana, PhD
Overview: Study of how childcare workers use their discretion to "craft" their jobs with a goal of understanding the conditions or contexts that permit or stifle this individual and collaborative "job crafting".
Responsibilities: Conducted site observations using the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale – Revised (ECERS-R), program evaluation, and teacher-child relationship assessments.
Funded by: The University Research Council

2005 – 2005 *CreAting Relationships for Education (CARE)*
Graduate Student Researcher
Principal Investigator: Joan Vondra, PhD
Overview: Intervention study that intended to create relationships between teachers and parents of children enrolled in kindergarten in the Clairton School District.
Responsibilities: Assisted with home visits, child & parent data collection, and data entry.

CLINICAL RESEARCH PROJECTS

- 2007- 2008 *Identification and Therapy of Postpartum Depression*
Assessor and Case Manager
Principal Investigator: Katherine L. Wisner, M.D.
Overview: Study of postpartum depression with females ages 18 and older as well as the cost, obstacles, and effectiveness of a depression care management model.
Responsibilities: Conducted in home and office clinical assessments and case management services.
Funded by: The National Institute of Mental Health
- 2005 – 2007 *Fluoxetine in Depressed Adolescents and Young Adults with Alcohol Abuse: Long-term Outcomes*
Assessor and Counselor
Principle Investigator: Jack R. Cornelius, MD, MPH
Overview: Study of the long-term effects of fluoxetine in adolescents diagnosed with Major Depressive Disorder and Substance Use Disorders.
Responsibilities: Conducted diagnostic assessments, data collection, and clinical progress reports.
Funded by: The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
- 2005 – 2006 *Fluoxetine in Depressed Adolescents and Young Adults with Alcohol Abuse*
Fluoxetine for Major Depressive Disorder/Cannabis Disorder in Young
Assessor and Counselor
Principal Investigator: Jack R. Cornelius, MD, MPH
Overview: Study of the effects of fluoxetine in adolescents diagnosed with Major Depressive Disorder and Substance Use Disorders.
Responsibilities: Conducted diagnostic assessments, weekly treatment visits, data collection, and clinical progress reports.
Funded by: The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism & National Institute on Drug Abuse
- 2005 – 2006 *Fluoxetine in Depressed Adolescents and Young Adults with Alcohol Abuse: Long-term Outcomes*
Project Coordinator
Principal Investigator: Jack R. Cornelius MD, MPH
Overview: Study of the long-term effects of fluoxetine in adolescents diagnosed with Major Depressive Disorder and Substance Use Disorders.
Responsibilities: Completed diagnostic assessments, recruitment, scheduled, prepared and submitted Institutional Review Board (IRB) & National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) renewal grant documents, data collection, maintained administrative database, analyzed administrative data, and created reports for team review.
Funded by: The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

- 2001 – 2004 *Family and Peer Risk Factors for Preadolescent Drinking*
Research Associate
Principal Investigator: John Donovan, PhD
Overview: Study of risk factors associated with initiation of alcohol use, and the influence of family during middle childhood on the development of personality and peer risk factors associated with later alcohol use.
Responsibilities: Conducted home, office, and phone interviews with families, monitored recruitment and retention, data entry, data collection, maintained administrative database, analyzed administrative data, and created financial/budget reports.
Funded by: The National Institute of Mental Health
- 2003 – 2003 *Alcohol and Mental Disorders in ED-Treated Adolescents*
Research Consultant
Principal Investigator: Thomas Kelly, PhD
Overview: Study of the relationships between substance use and other mental disorders to injury in high-risk adolescents, to develop screening instruments for problematic alcohol use with this at-risk population, and to investigate health care and social service use in adolescents treated in emergency departments.
Responsibilities: Recruited participants, consented participants, administered breathalyzer, and assisted with interview questionnaires.
Funded by: The National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

TEACHING

CDFR 218: Child Development

Indiana University of Pennsylvania (Fall 2014- Present)

Assistant Professor

Teach two sections of an undergraduate course that follows the developing person from conception until middle childhood across multiple cultures. The course combines theory, research, and practical applications from developmental psychology.

CDFR 425: Adolescence: Risk and Resiliency

Indiana University of Pennsylvania (Fall 2014 - Present)

Assistant Professor

Teach an undergraduate course that focuses on adolescent development, risk factors, protective factors, and building resilience in adolescence.

CDFR 426: Techniques of Parent Education

Indiana University of Pennsylvania (Fall 2015 - Present)

Assistant Professor

Teach an undergraduate course that focuses on the history, purpose, and strategies for implementing parent education.

CDFR 427: Administration of Human Service Programs

Indiana University of Pennsylvania (Spring 2016 - Present)

Assistant Professor

Teach an undergraduate course that focuses on skills and competencies needed to lead and manage a human service organization. Topics include but are not limited to leadership style, needs assessment, logic models, staff development, budgeting, and grant proposal writing.

CDFR 310: Observation and Assessment
Indiana University of Pennsylvania (Spring 2015)

Assistant Professor

Taught an undergraduate course that focused on observation and assessment techniques utilized by professionals working with children and families.

CDFR 321: Preschool Education: Play and Developmentally Appropriate Practice
Indiana University of Pennsylvania (Fall 2014-Spring 2015)

Assistant Professor

Taught an undergraduate course that focused on preschool education, early childhood practitioner's professional development, and developmentally appropriate practice in an early childhood setting.

PSYED 0005: Lifespan Development
University of Pittsburgh (Spring 2012)

Teaching Fellow

Taught an undergraduate course that followed the developing person from conception until the end of life. The course combines theory, research, and practical applications from developmental psychology.

PSYED 1001: Introduction to Educational Psychology
University of Pittsburgh (Fall 2011-Spring 2012)

Teaching Fellow

Taught an undergraduate course that focused on issues in education that psychological theory and research can address.

ECD 211: Family Systems
Community College of Allegheny County (Fall 2011)

Adjunct Faculty

Taught an undergraduate course specified for students in an early childhood associate degree program and those planning to transfer into a 4 year elementary education program. Course discussed the influence of family on development and issues of professionalism in working with diverse groups.

EDUC 2000: Psychology of Learning and Development for Education
University of Pittsburgh (Summer 2011)

Teaching Fellow

Taught a graduate course specified for students in masters of art in education (MAT) program. Course discussed life span development and learning and its relevance for educators. Partnered with Schenley Heights Community Development Program and had MAT students implement programming with summer camp students.

PSYED 1036: Developmental Meaning of Cultural Distinction
University of Pittsburgh (Spring 2008)

Adjunct Faculty

Taught an undergraduate course specified for early childhood educators in the TEACH program. Course discussed culture and the influence of culture on development and professional practice.

PSYED 1036: Developmental Meaning of Cultural Distinction
University of Pittsburgh (Fall 2007)

Teaching Fellow

Taught an undergraduate course on culture and the influence of culture on development and professional practice.

PSYED 2588: Methods and Practice in Applied Developmental Psychology Research
University of Pittsburgh (Fall 2007)

Teaching Assistant

Co-taught a graduate course on research methods and practices in the field of applied developmental psychology: assisted in teaching and grading of student assignments.

PSYED 2504: Development in Middle Childhood & Adolescence
University of Pittsburgh (Spring 2007)

Teaching Assistant

Co-taught a graduate course on development in middle childhood & adolescence: assisted in course planning, teaching, and grading of student assignments

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Palmer, K.M. & Bachman, H.J. (2015). The role of education in the parenting practices of Black parents of preschoolers. *Dialog 17*(4), 66-82.

Groark, C.J., McCall, R.B., McCarthy, S.K., Eichner, J.C., Warner, H.A., Salaway, J., **Palmer, K.**, & Lopez, M. (2013). The effects of a social-emotional intervention on caregivers and children with disabilities in two Central American institutions. *Infants and Young Children, 26*(4), 286-305.

ADDITIONAL PUBLICATIONS

Palmer, K.M. & Bachman, H.J. (2015). Black parents of preschoolers educational attainment: Implications for parenting practices. *Dialog 17*(4), 138-143.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Palmer, K. (2016, April). *Boost learning with technology*. Proposal accepted at the annual conference of the Pennsylvania Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, Indiana, PA.

Palmer, K., & Salaway, J. (2015, November). *Evaluating a mentoring program for at risk and transient youth*. Poster presented at the annual conference of the American Evaluation Association, Chicago, IL.

Palmer, K. (2014, October). *Maximizing and enhancing interactions with STEAM*. Workshop presented at the biennial PAEYC and Allegheny County Family Support Conference, Pittsburgh, PA.

Palmer, K. & Bachman, H. J. (2013, November). *Increases in education for Black women: Implications for parent beliefs and expectations*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the National Council on Family Relations, San Antonio, Texas.

Bachman, H.J., Saafir, A., Crews, S., & **Palmer, K.** (2013, November). *Unpacking child care center selection in low-income families*. Poster presented at the annual Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Conference, Washington, DC.

Matson, A., **Palmer, K.**, & Salaway, J. (2013, October). *Interdisciplinary approach to evaluation: Beyond professional training and expertise*. Poster presented at the annual conference of the American Evaluation Association, Washington, D.C.

Palmer, K. & Bachman, H. (2011, March). *The role of parental education in the home literacy environment of African American preschoolers*. Poster presented at the Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Pizzolato, J. & **Palmer, K.** (2007, August). *Inside and outside subject knowledge: Theorizing about integrated epistemological domains*. Poster presented at the American Psychological Association Conference, San Francisco, CA.

Palmer, K. & Pizzolato J. (2007, February). *Health Risk Behaviors and Self-Compassion in Emerging Adult Mothers*. Poster presented at the Society for the Study of Emerging Adulthood Biennial Conference, Tucson, Arizona.

PUBLIC TALKS & INVITED PRESENTATIONS

2013, January Invited guest speaker (Topic: *Social Science Research*) for undergraduate course on sociology, Center for Urban Biblical Ministries, Pittsburgh, PA.

2011, November Invited guest speaker (Topic: *Qualitative Interviewing*) for graduate course on qualitative research methods, Department of Administrative and Policy Studies, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA.

2011, February Invited guest speaker (Topic: *Socioeconomic Status and Families*) for undergraduate course on lifespan development for nursing students, Department of Psychology in Education, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA.

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2008 - 2010 ***Child Care Coach***, University of Pittsburgh Office of Child Development, Pittsburgh, PA

- Provided support and coaching to early childhood education (ECE) providers enrolled or considering enrollment in the PA Keystone Stars quality assurance program.
- Also assisted ECE providers in forming community networking groups.

2004 – 2005 ***Child Development Specialist***, Family Care Connection, Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh

- Conducted developmental assessments (Birth-6 years) and reviewed all center activities to ensure developmental appropriateness, implemented intervention based on research assessments, parenting classes, afterschool programs, and assisted in the design of a needs assessment tool/piloted the tool used for all county funded family support agency’s in Allegheny County. (LEAP tool – in conjunction with the University of Pittsburgh, Office of Child Development).

2003 – 2003 ***Therapeutic Staff Support***, Southwestern Human Services, Pittsburgh, PA

- Provided treatment services for a child diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD) during out of school time.
- Assisted parents with behavior plan implementation and utilized applied behavior analysis techniques to assist the child with social interactions.

- 1998 – 1999 **Tutor/Mentor**, Site: Institute for the Development of African American Youth, Temple University Get Smart Program, Philadelphia, PA
- Mentored African American and Latino males 16-21 years old convicted of firearm violations and provided tutoring in job, life and computer skills.
 - Tutored African American females in preparation for the GED exam

UNIVERSITY SERVICE (Indiana University of PA)

Child Development and Family Relations (CDFR) Curriculum Committee Member (2014-Present)

- Proposed a joint graduate program with Criminology for professionals working with children and families involved in the court system
- Designed 4 graduate courses, designed 1 undergraduate course, and revised 1 undergraduate course

CDFR Internship Coordinator (2015-Present)

- Supervise 1-6 student interns each semester
- Maintain relationships with internship sites
- Attend and encourage student attendance at career/job/internship fairs

Department of Human Development and Environmental Studies Scholarship Committee Chair (2015-Present)

- Manage the application process
- Manage the scoring/selection process
- Coordinate a scholarship reception

Health and Human Services Enrollment and Recruitment Management Committee Member (2015-Present)

- Attend meetings and support implementation of strategies within the department of HDES
- Coordinated with the Admissions Office an IUP visit for 5 Pittsburgh Public Schools (2014)

IUP Undergraduate Scholars Forum (2015)

- Served as a judge

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Manuscript Reviewer (2013-Present)

- Early Education and Development (2013-Present)
- Journal of Family Issues (2013-2014)

Grant Reviewer (2013-Present)

- United States Department of Education Investing in Innovation i3 Development & Validation Grants (Parent and Family Engagement & Evaluation Reviewer)

Undergraduate and Graduate Student Mentor (2013)

- National Council on Family Relations 2013 Annual Conference Speed Mentoring for Students, San Antonio, TX

Conference Proposal Reviewer (2008)

- American Educational Research Association 2008 Annual Meeting and Exhibition, New York, NY

COMMUNITY SERVICE

United Way of Indiana County (UWIC), 2016, Indiana, PA

- Indiana County Needs Assessment

Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair, 2013, Pittsburgh, PA

- Social and Behavioral Science Middle School Judge

United Way of Pittsburgh, 2008-2013

- Grant Proposal Reviewer
- Annual Assessment Reviewer
- Tax Season Tax Preparation Volunteer
- Annual Day of Caring Volunteer

South Side Athletic Association, 2012, Pittsburgh, PA

- Baseball Team “Mom”
 - Communicate with parents, created and maintain social networking sites to keep parents informed and engaged in training and the baseball season.

A Plus Schools, 2010, Pittsburgh, PA

- School Works Volunteer
 - Completed qualitative interviews with School Counselors and Principals in K-12 public schools.

Schenley Heights Community Development Program, 2010, Pittsburgh, PA

- Fourth and Fifth grade After School Science Instructor
 - Designed and implemented science curriculum for Afterschool Tutorial Enrichment Program (ASTEP)

African American Alumni Council, 2007, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

- Apple Seed Volunteer (Site: Schenley High School - Pittsburgh Public Schools)

Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center (COTRAIC) Head Start Program, Pittsburgh, PA
2003-2006

- Policy Council Board Member
- Family Services Committee Member