

early childhood development

Advances

the Culture of Peace



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*How we nurture
and care for, teach & protect
all our children matters,
from generation to generation.*

Nov 29, 2018

9:30 am - 3:30 pm

Conference PROGRAM

OMNI HOTEL

NEW HAVEN, CT US



LINKS



Yale

Early Childhood Development Advances the Culture of Peace
Open House Conference

Thursday, November 29, 2018

Omni New Haven Hotel at Yale

New Haven, CT US

Hosted by Yale University and the Early Childhood Peace Consortium

Co-sponsored by Queen's University Belfast, Yale University
and UNICEF

Program

09:00 –	REGISTRATION	
09:30 – 09:40	Welcome Remarks	<p>James F. Leckman, MD, PhD, Neison Harris Professor in the Yale Child Study Center and Professor of Pediatrics; Member Early Childhood Peace Consortium (ECPC) Executive Committee</p> <p>Will Kneerim, Director of Employment & Education, IRIS - Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services</p>
09:40 – 09:55	Building a World of Peace: The Promise of the Early Childhood Peace Consortium	<p>Rima Salah, PhD, Chair, ECPC; Assistant Clinical Professor in the Yale Child Study Center; Former Deputy Executive Director UNICEF</p> <p><i>Today millions of children are trapped in situations of war, conflict, violence and displacement. Science shows that violence has a detrimental effect on the development of young children. It also heralds in a new era, with opportunities to contribute to sustaining Peace and prevention of violence, through investment in early childhood development.</i></p> <p><i>The promise of the Early Childhood Peace Consortium is to join forces by creating a global movement to build more peaceful homes and societies, drawing on the transformative power of early childhood development.</i></p>
09:55 – 10:25	<p>What is the most important phase of life?</p> <p>OPENING KEYNOTE</p>	<p>Pia Rebello Britto, PhD, Chief and Senior Advisor Early Childhood Development, UNICEF; Vice Chair, ECPC</p> <p><i>In this presentation, Dr. Britto explains that in the first years of life, when the brain is developing the fastest, children need nutritious food, play time, lots of love and security to grow up healthy, strong and reach their full potential. The first 1,000 days have a significant effect on a child's future. We have one chance to get it right. For every child, early moments matter.</i></p> <p><i>Dr. Britto will explain why the ECPC made it its mandate to advocate that early childhood development (ECD) is a vehicle for peace.</i></p> <p><i>Q & A (10 mins)</i></p>
10:25 – 11:40	Supporting the Development of ECD Programs for Peacebuilding: Experiences from the NIHR Global Health Research Group on Early Childhood Development for Peacebuilding	<p>Paul Connolly, PhD, Professor of Education and Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Enterprise at Queen's University Belfast; Member, ECPC Executive Committee</p> <p>Laura Dunne, PhD, Associate Professor of Education at Queen's University Belfast</p> <p>Sarah Miller, PhD, Associate Professor of Education at Queen's University Belfast</p> <p>Panel, Delegation representing Egypt, Kyrgyzstan Mali, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste and Vietnam</p> <p><i>The NIHR Global Health Research Group is led by Queen's University Belfast and is an associate program of the Early Childhood Peace Consortium (ECPC).</i></p>

The Group represents a strategic partnership with UNICEF and is supported by researchers from Yale, Harvard, NYU and Early Years (and ECD NGO from Northern Ireland). The Group is supporting the development and evaluation of ECD programs seeking to promote sustainable development and peacebuilding in six low- and middle-income countries impacted by divisions and conflict: Egypt, Kyrgyzstan, Mali, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste and Vietnam.

The research team from Queen's will provide an outline of the work of the Group and its underpinning theory of change. Through conversations with some of the researchers from the six partner countries, the team will identify a number of key issues and challenges faced in translating theory into practice.

11:40 – 11:45

A Special Word from the Yale Child Study Center

Linda Mayes, MD, Arnold Gesell Professor of Child Psychiatry, Pediatrics and Psychology in the Yale Child Study Center; Chair, Yale Child Study Center; Special Advisor, Dean, Yale School of Medicine

11:45 – 12:45

LUNCH

12:45 – 01:15

Sesame Street in Refugee and Host Communities: The Promise of Early Childhood Development

Sherrie Rollins Westin, President Global Impact & Philanthropy, Sesame Workshop; Graduate of the University of Virginia and holds an Honorary Doctorate from Concordia College in New York; Member ECPC Advisory Board

FEATURED KEYNOTE

In December 2017, Sesame Workshop and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) were awarded the MacArthur Foundation's first-ever \$100 million 100&Change grant for their evidence-based program to bring early education and nurturing care to a generation of children affected by the Syrian conflict. Through a new, locally produced TV program and direct, in-person services for the most vulnerable children and caregivers, this transformative early childhood development initiative will address immediate needs and help build a strong foundation for future well-being. The program will be the largest early childhood intervention in the history of humanitarian response, reaching both displaced and host community children and families across Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria, and serving as a scalable, sustainable model that can be replicated in other crisis contexts.

Sherrie will discuss how this groundbreaking program is not only delivering vital early education, but also fostering the values of mutual respect and inclusion—putting children, and their communities, on the path to a more hopeful and peaceful future.

Q&A

01:15 – 01:30

Paving a Road to Hope: Time for Action to Protect Migrant and Refugee Children's Rights, Particularly the Right to Early Childhood Development

Maria Pia Belloni Mignatti, MA, Chair of the NGO Committee on Migration (2016-) and UN main representative of the World Organization for Early Childhood Education (2010-); Former Professor of European Union Law, Faculty of Political Science, at the University of Pavia (Italy); Member, ECPC Advisory Board

This presentation will stress the urgent need to protect migrant and refugee children's rights, mainly the right to education and ECD and discuss how the

Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration could represent an important opportunity for this purpose.

Particularly, the “Initiative for the Child Right in the Global Compacts” and the projects of the Committee on Migration indicate a new way of looking at refugees and migrants children, paving a road to a more peaceful and inclusive society.

01:30 – 01:45

Biosocial Research on Stress and Resilience

Catherine Panter-Brick, PhD, Professor of Anthropology, Health, and Global Affairs, Yale MacMillan Center; Director of the Program on Conflict, Resilience, and Health, and the Program on Stress and Family Resilience, Yale University

This presentation exemplifies a biocultural framework for measuring stress and resilience amongst populations living under challenging circumstances. It also builds the evidence regarding efforts to evaluate program effectiveness - ‘putting interventions to the test’ - with examples drawn from humanitarian work with Syrian refugees in Jordan. It concludes on the importance of partnerships.

01:45 – 02:15

Knowledge Brokering: Translating Research into Policy and Practice

Angelica Ponguta, PhD, MPH, Associate Research Scientist at the Yale Child Study Center

Chelsea Donaldson, MS, Data and Research Manager at Empatico

Friedrich Affolter, EdD, Education Expert for Risk-Informed Programming at UNICEF NY Programme Division; Secretary, ECPC

Suna Hanoz Penny, MA, Director of International Programs at ACEV—Mother Child Education Foundation; Member ECPC Executive Committee

This presentation will feature key publications sponsored by the ECPC, as well as published research that has been mobilized/inspired by the ECPC agenda. Speakers will discuss the scope of a few selected publications and the way in which agencies may translate the outcomes of the research into practice. The discussion will include the conceptualization and evolution of the theory of change for the ECPC and will feature mechanisms for its framing and dissemination.

02:15 – 02:30

Some Thoughts from the “Front Lines” of Early Childhood

Carla Horwitz, MS; Dip.Ed; EdD, Lecturer in Education Studies, Yale College; Director Emerita, Calvin Hill Day Care and Kitty Lustman-Findling Kindergarten

Dr. Horwitz will share real stories about how early prejudice and “bullying” begins (even in toddlers), the impact that good early childhood programs can have on the development of empathy and moral reasoning and they ways teachers and caregivers can influence curriculum and development in even the youngest children across diverse settings and cultures while also supporting families.

02:30 – 02:45

**Leveraging the Web to
Harness the Energies of Love**

Franz Joseph Hartl, JD, University Webmaster for Yale; Member, ECPC Executive Committee

The past few years have seen the Internet used to divide and alienate. In this presentation, Franz Joseph Hartl will talk about the importance of ECDpeace.org and will show how to use technology to help build bridges across the globe. He will also discuss why we should remain hopeful about the Internet’s ultimate impact on the future.

Franz in concert with Early Years of N. Ireland, will officially launch the new ECPC communications platform.

02:45 – 03:15

**Building ‘The Culture of
Peace’: Call for
Transformative Action**

H.E. Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, Founder of The Global Movement for The Culture of Peace, Former Under-Secretary General and High Representative of the United Nations; Member ECPC Executive Committee

This presentation will focus on ‘The Culture of Peace’ at the United Nations, and why a focus on early childhood development creates a much-needed opportunity to transform from a culture of violence to the culture of peace.

Ambassador Chowdhury will announce the proposed UN resolution on early childhood development as a path to peace, which he is leading, and other actions. He will launch the ECPC Pledge to Action campaign and share other advocacy opportunities.

CLOSING KEYNOTE

Q & A




03:15 – 03:30




Q & A





Panel, Conference speakers





Speaker Biographies




In order of presentation:

	<p>James F. Leckman, MD, PhD is the Neison Harris Professor of Child Psychiatry, Psychiatry, Pediatrics and Psychology at Yale. For more than 20 years he served as the Director of Research for the Yale Child Study Center. One of Dr. Leckman's longstanding research interests has been the interaction of genes and environment in the pathogenesis of Tourette syndrome and Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD). His research on these disorders is well known and multifaceted from phenomenology and natural history, to neurobiology (neuroimaging, neuroendocrinology, neuroimmunology) to genetics, to risk factor research (perinatal factors are important), to treatment studies. Based on his work on OCD, Dr. Leckman has also been drawn to study normal patterns of evolutionarily conserved obsessive-compulsive behavior. A major focus has been on parenting behaviors and the role of the bio-behavioral systems that closely interconnect our stress response system with the neural and hormonal pathways that underlie attachment and bonding. Studies have included longitudinal brain imaging and neuroendocrine studies of new parents.</p> <p>Most recently, in partnership with colleagues at UNICEF and the Mother-Child Education Foundation based in Turkey, he has begun to explore the question whether strengthening families and enhancing child development is a path to peace and violence prevention. Related efforts include the Early Childhood Peace Consortium that was launched (September 2013) in New York in at the United Nations and the 15th Ernst Strüngmann Forum that took place in Frankfurt, Germany in October 2013. The deliberations of 40 international experts from a broad range of scientific disciplines are summarized in volume entitled, <i>Formative Childhoods: The Transformative Power of Children and Families</i>, published by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Press in 2014.</p>
	<p>William Byers Kneerim is Director of Employment & Education, IRIS - Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services.</p> <p>After college Will Kneerim embarked on a career in international trade. During his three years in Singapore he managed Asian/European commodities trade. During a four-year stint in the Netherlands Antilles he co-founded a real estate development company and managed the Caribbean office for an import company. While raising a family in San Francisco and Seattle, Will worked in international logistics with global Fortune 500 companies and software innovators. Based in Connecticut in recent years, Will was a logistics consultant before transitioning to the non-profit sector where he directs multiple programs in the field of refugee resettlement in New Haven. He has been a speaker, presenter and panelist at national forums and conferences. Will is also an experienced teacher, youth coach and board member. He's multilingual and is an avid traveler, reader, and weekend athlete.</p>
	<p>Rima Salah, PhD served as a Member of the United Nations High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (link is external) (2014-15), and as the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, U.N. Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT). In addition, Dr. Salah has had a distinguished career with UNICEF. Her service includes: Deputy Executive Director for UNICEF (2004-2007, 2011-2012), Regional Director</p>

	<p>for West and Central Africa (1999-2004), and UNICEF representative in several countries including Vietnam, Burkina Faso as well as head of office in Queta, Pakistan.</p> <p>As a highly effective advocate for the rights of children and women in armed conflict and post-conflict situations, she contributed to Security Council (SC) Resolution 1612 on child rights violations and Security Council (SC) resolution 1325 Women, Peace, and Security. Dr. Salah has received many awards of distinction from several non-governmental organizations and U.N. Member States, including the French Legion of Honor.</p> <p>In October 2015, Dr. Salah was elected to Chair the newly formed Early Childhood Peace Consortium (ECPC) of which Yale is a founding member. The ECPC, launched at UNICEF HQ in September 2013, brought together leaders from international organizations, academia, practice, philanthropy, networks media and development.</p> <p>Dr. Salah is Assistant Clinical Professor at the Child Study Center, Yale School of Medicine. She is co-editor of the volume at MIT Press, Pathways to Peace: The Transformative Power of Children and Families.</p>
	<p>Pia Rebello Britto, PhD joined UNICEF in 2014 as Chief of Early Childhood Development (ECD), bringing with her many years of expertise in early childhood policy and programs. Prior to joining UNICEF she was an Assistant Professor at Yale University and is internationally renowned for her work on developing, implementing and evaluating early childhood programs and policies around the world. This includes providing evidence for the role of governance and finance in national systems in achieving equity; developing models for quality early childhood services; promoting women’s economic empowerment, and the role of parents and caregivers.</p> <p>Dr Britto has been the recipient of various awards and grants; has published articles, books and reports; and made numerous presentations at both academic and non-academic conferences and seminars. She obtained her doctoral degree in Developmental Psychology from Columbia University.</p>
	<p>Paul Connolly, PhD is Professor of Education and Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Enterprise at Queen’s University Belfast. He is Director of the NIHR Global Health Research Group on Early Childhood Development for Peacebuilding. He is Founding Director of the Centre for Evidence and Social Innovation at Queen’s and has particular expertise in the evaluation of educational programs. He is a sociologist and has been researching issues of diversity and inclusion in early childhood for over 25 years.</p>
	<p>Laura Dunne, PhD is an Associate Professor of Education at Queen’s University Belfast. She is a member of the Core Delivery Team of the NIHR Global Health Research Group on Early Childhood Development for Peacebuilding and is responsible for leading the Group’s work in Egypt Timor-Leste. Laura is a Developmental Psychologist with particular expertise in program design and evaluation.</p>

	<p>Sarah Miller, PhD is an Associate Professor of Education at Queen’s University Belfast. She is a member of the Core Delivery Team of the NIHR Global Health Research Group on Early Childhood Development for Peacebuilding and is responsible for leading the Group’s work in Mali and Vietnam. Sarah is also the Deputy Director of the Campbell UK & Ireland center. She is a Developmental Psychologist with expertise in program evaluation and evidence synthesis.</p>
	<p>Linda Mayes, MD is the Arnold Gesell Professor of Child Psychiatry, Pediatrics, and Psychology and Director of the Yale Child Study Center. She is also Special Advisor to the Dean in the Yale School of Medicine. Trained as a pediatrician, Dr. Mayes’s research focuses on stress-response and regulatory mechanisms in young children at both biological and psychosocial risk. She has especially focused on the impact of prenatal substance use on children’s long-term outcomes. She has made contributions to understanding the mechanisms of effect of prenatal stimulant exposure on the ontogeny of arousal regulatory systems and the relation between dysfunctional emotional regulation and impaired prefrontal cortical function in young children. She has published widely in the developmental psychology, pediatrics, and child psychiatry literature.</p>
	<p>Sherrie Rollins Westin is President of Global Impact and Philanthropy for Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit educational organization behind Sesame Street. She leads the Workshop’s efforts to serve vulnerable children through mass media and targeted initiatives in the United States and around the world.</p> <p>Westin spearheaded a partnership to create the largest early childhood intervention in the history of humanitarian response, bringing critical education and nurturing care to refugee children in the Syrian response region. Working with the International Rescue Committee, she led Sesame Workshop’s efforts to compete for and win a historic \$100 million grant from the MacArthur Foundation to fund this work. Westin serves on the board of directors of the U.S. Fund for UNICEF, the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, and Communities in Schools. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the U.S. Afghan Women’s Council, and the Early Childhood Peace Consortium (ECPC) Advisory Board. Westin was named a “Leading Global Thinker” by Foreign Policy Magazine and one of Fast Company’s “100 Most Creative People in Business” and was recognized with the Smithsonian’s “American Ingenuity Award”.</p>
	<p>Maria Pia Belloni Mignatti, MA is Chair of the NGO Committee on Migration (2016-) and UN main representative of the World Organization for Early Childhood Education (2010-).</p> <p>As member of the Steering Committee of the “Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts” (2017-) and of the Advisory group of the Early Childhood Peace Consortium (2016-), she advocates for the protection of migrant and refugee rights, mainly for children’s rights to education, with specific reference to ECD.</p> <p>As former Professor of European Union Law at the Faculty of Political Science of the University of Pavia (Italy), Alumna of the College of Europe (Bruges, Belgium), she published books and articles on different aspects of the European Union, mainly about migration policy.</p>

	<p>Her current interest is in supporting the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, with particular attention on the protection of the human rights and fundamental freedom of all refugee and migrant children, regardless of their migration status.</p>
	<p>Catherine Panter-Brick, PhD is a medical anthropologist, trained in human biology and the social sciences. At Yale University, she directs the Program on Conflict, Resilience, and Health, and the Program on Stress and Family Resilience. Her current research addresses issues of risk and resilience in contexts of war, displacement, famine, and poverty. She works to develop effective partnerships between scholars, policy-makers, and humanitarian practitioners, and teaches on health equity and humanitarian interventions. Her publications include articles such as What strong partnerships achieve: Innovations in research and practice (Humanitarian Exchange, 2018), Culture and Resilience: Next Steps for Theory and Practice (In: Youth Resilience and Culture, Springer, 2015), and Health, Risk, and Resilience: Interdisciplinary Concepts and Applications (Annual Review of Anthropology, 2014), and edited books such as Medical Humanitarianism: Ethnographies of Practice (Pennsylvania Press 2015) and Pathways to Peace (MIT Press, 2014). For her work in humanitarian areas, she received the Lucy Mair Medal, awarded by the Royal Anthropology Institute of Great Britain and Ireland to honor excellence in the application of anthropology to the active recognition of human dignity.</p>
	<p>Angelica Ponguta, PhD, MPH is Associate Research Scientist at the Yale Child Study Center. Her research focuses on the development and analysis of Early Childhood Development policies and has worked alongside UNICEF and governments in East and West Africa, South East Asia, Eastern and Central Europe and Latin America. Her work also focuses on impact and process evaluations of early childhood and parenting programs, as well as the development of measures to assess the quality of services for young children at scale.</p>
	<p>Chelsea Donaldson, MS is the Data and Research Manager at Empatico, an education platform aiming to build meaningful relationships among children around the world, and the signature initiative of The KIND Foundation. Donaldson also works with UNICEF and the Early Childhood Peace Consortium (ECPC) to synthesize research and produce advocacy materials that link early childhood development programs, conflict prevention, and peacebuilding. Before this, she was a Fulbright scholar in the Netherlands conducting research on autism spectrum disorders.</p>
	<p>Friedrich Affolter, EdD is an Education Expert for Risk-Informed Programming at UNICEF NY Program Division. He also serves as Secretary of the Early Childhood Peace Consortium (ECPC). Until June 2016, Friedrich Affolter served as the manager of UNICEF’s Peacebuilding, Education and Advocacy Program (PBEA), which designed education programs that contribute to the mitigation of drivers of conflict in 14 fragile and post-conflict countries. Earlier UN assignments include Sudan, South Africa, Angola and Afghanistan.</p>

	<p>Suna Hanoz Penny, MA currently works as the Director of International Programs at ACEV—Mother Child Education Foundation. Her work involves building and maintaining collaborative partnerships, while she manages the transfer and implementation of ACEV's educational programs through partnerships with local organizations in numerous countries in Middle East, South East Asia and Central America. Her work focuses on both designing and supervising the early intervention programs for children and families implemented at both the national and international fields. Suna, has co-authored ACEV's Preschool Education Program and the Mother Support Program. She provides key technical expertise to international partners in education program design, management, implementation, field research assessment, and parent training and development. Suna is a Fulbright Scholar and received her dual M.A. degree in Early Childhood Education from Teachers College, Columbia University and holds a B.A. degree in Early Childhood Education and Psychological Guidance and Counseling from Boğaziçi (Bosphorus) University, Istanbul.</p>
	<p>Carla Horwitz, MS, Dip.Ed, EdD is a member of the Yale Education Studies faculty, as well as a member of the faculties of the Yale Child Study Center and Psychology Department.</p> <p>Carla was the Director of Yale University's Calvin Hill Day Care Center for forty years. She retired in 2016 and is currently Director Emerita. The Center, a nationally accredited, model educational preschool and kindergarten program, provides high quality, developmentally informed, affordable child care and education for the children of Yale and community families; it is also the site of early childhood practicum placements for Yale and other area colleges.</p> <p>Carla's research interests include the creation and implementation of progressive, culturally sensitive curriculum, play and its role in developmentally appropriate early care and education, supervision, mentoring and the professional development of teachers, and educational leadership.</p> <p>Carla serves on the boards of several professional organizations including the New Haven Chapter of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, All Our Kin, Read to Grow, and the Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance, as well as the advisory committee of the Gesell Institute of Human Development. She is also a consultant to early childhood programs and other educational settings.</p>
	<p>Franz Joseph Hartl, JD is a board member of the Early Childhood Peace Consortium and is currently University Webmaster for Yale, where he and his team of software engineers and content strategists build, support, and maintain over 1,000 distinct Yale properties, including Yale.edu. Prior to Yale, Franz was the Digital Manager for Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service.</p> <p>For the past 15 years, Franz has advocated for open-source software and methodologies and has built digital infrastructure for NGOs and United States Congressional and Presidential campaigns. He holds a Law Degree from Fordham University.</p>



H.E. Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury has devoted many years as an inspirational champion for sustainable peace and development ardently advancing the culture of peace and women’s equality. His determined leadership led to the UN General Assembly’s adoption in 1999 of the landmark Declaration and Program of Action on Culture of Peace and to the UN Security Council’s adoption of its groundbreaking Resolution 1325 on women’s contributions to peace and security. He was Bangladesh’s Permanent Representative to the UN (1996–2001) and served as Under-Secretary-General of the UN for the world’s most vulnerable nations from 2002 to 2007. His awards include: Recipient of Honorary Doctorates from the Saint Peter’s University, USA and the Soka University of Japan; UNESCO Gandhi Gold Medal for Culture of Peace; 2018 Global Women’s Peace Award; and the University of Massachusetts Boston Chancellor’s Medal for Global Leadership for Peace. He is the Founder of the Global Movement for The Culture of Peace (GMCoP).

We would like to thank our friends, colleagues and the students of the Yale UNICEF chapter for their assistance in helping bring this open house conference to the New Haven community and beyond.

To learn more about the Early Childhood Peace Consortium (ECPC) and to join the **ECPC Pledge to Action**, please visit ecdpeace.org.

Notes:

