



Pathways to a More Peaceful World: The Transformative Power of Children and Families



Presenting a monthly lecture series, sponsored by
the Early Childhood Peace Consortium (ECPC)

Thursday, 27 April, 2023

10:00 AM to 11:00 EST

**Yale Child Study Center
Cohen Auditorium
230 S. Frontage Road, New Haven, CT
Hybrid, On Zoom**

The Early Childhood Peace Consortium (ECPC)

The [Early Childhood Peace Consortium \(ECPC\)](#) is a global movement of United Nations agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations, academia, practitioners, and the private sector focused on sharing scientific and practice-based evidence on how investment in early childhood development (ECD) can contribute to sustainable peace, social cohesion, and social justice. We recognize that investing in ECD is a powerful and cost-effective strategy for reducing violence, poverty, and exclusion and for building peaceful societies.

Launch of the ECPC Lecture Series “Raising Children of Peace”

Speakers / Agenda

► **James F. Leckman, M.D., Ph.D.** *ECPC Chair Research Division, Neison Harris Professor in the Yale Child Study Center and Professor of Pediatrics*

Talk: Welcome and Introduction to Lecture Series “Raising Children of Peace: Pathways to a More Peaceful World - The Transformative Power of Children and Families”

The leadership of the ECPC seeks to engage members of the Yale Child Study Center, the larger Yale community, and beyond to explore the evidence that how we raise our children can be a pathway to a more peaceful world. For the past two decades, members of the ECPC have worked with other members of the international community to create a global movement to build more peaceful homes and societies.

► **Rima Salah, Ph.D.** *ECPC Chairperson, Former Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations*

Talk: Building a World of Peace: The Promise of the Early Childhood Peace Consortium

Millions of children are trapped in situations of war, conflict, displacement, occupation, and violence. Science shows that adversity has a detrimental effect on the physical and emotional development of young children. It also heralds a new era asserting that Early Childhood Development (ECD) is a vital opportunity to promote a Culture of Peace, building a strong foundation for Resilience, Social Justice, and Social Cohesion. The Presentation demonstrates that we have every opportunity to make a transformative shift and raise the voice of science to join the voice of “We the People”. The Promise of the Early Childhood Peace Consortium (ECPC) is to join forces with the International Community to advance Global and National efforts to prevent Violence and build a World of Peace.

► **Eduardo Garcia Rolland, M.B.A., M.Sc., C.B.E.** *ECPC Secretariat, Early Childhood Development in Emergencies Specialist, UNICEF HQ*

Talk: Evidence to Give Priority to ECD in Emergencies: Towards a More Peaceful World, One Child at a Time, for Every Child

In the last years, a paramount shift has happily happened in the humanitarian world. The wrong assumption that the youngest children are resilient and, therefore, not a priority in emergencies, does not stand the examination of science and reality. In this presentation, we will examine the summary of hundreds of years of research pointing at the cruciality of the early years of life. Moreover, we will examine how this evidence has been translated in the field to create frameworks to give priority to the youngest children systematically in every emergency.

► **Siobhán Fitzpatrick, M.B.A., M.Sc., C.B.E.** *ECPC Regional Vice-Chairperson, Director International Network on Peacebuilding for Young Children, Northern Ireland*

Talk: The Power of ECD in Conflict and Post-Conflict Societies: An Example from Northern Ireland

The positive impact that high quality early childhood care and education can have on families and communities impacted by conflict. ECD should not be restricted to the sole focus of the child, but the international community must also adopt a “community development perspective” as well. This approach, particularly among communities impacted by conflict, can lead to greater cohesion and prosocial behavior among families and foster more nurturing environments and improve parenting practices. This presentation will explain how “Early childhood services operating from this community development perspective can also support and build resilience, promote social cohesion, and build and sustain connections between families and the wider communities,” especially in divided conflict affected societies, e.g., case study N. Ireland.

► **Q & A Session (20 mins) Moderated by Dr. James F. Leckman**

Speaker Bios

James F. Leckman (Chair, ECPC Research Division)



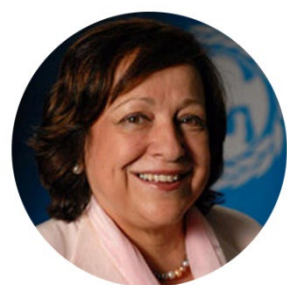
James F. Leckman, M.D., Ph.D., is the Neison Harris Professor of Child Psychiatry, Psychiatry, Pediatrics and Psychology at Yale. For more than 20 years he served as the Director of Research for the Yale Child Study Center. His peers have regularly selected him as one of the Best Doctors in America. Dr. Leckman is the author or co-author of over 500 original scientific articles published in peer-reviewed journals. Dr. Leckman has a longstanding interest in Tourette syndrome and Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder. His research on these disorders is multifaceted from phenomenology, and natural history, to neurobiology to genetics, to risk factor research and treatment studies. Dr. Leckman has also been drawn to study normal patterns of evolutionarily

conserved obsessive-compulsive behavior. A major focus has been on parenting and the role of the bio-behavioral systems that interconnect our affiliative and stress response systems. In October 2013, he chaired with Rima Salah and Catherine Panter-Brick the 15th Ernst Strüngmann Forum in Frankfurt, Germany. More than 40 international scholars explored the relevance of early child development to the pursuit of peace. Their deliberations are summarized in volume entitled, *Pathways to Peace: The Transformative Power of Children and Families*, published by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Press in 2014.

Recommended reading:

- Leckman, J.F., Ponguta, L.A., Pavarini, G., Hein, S.D., McCarthy, M.F., Staiti, H., Hanöz-Penney, S., Rubinstein, J., Pruett, K.D., Yazgan, M.Y., Fallon, N.S., Hartl, F.J., Ziv, M., Salah, R., Britto, P.R., Fitzpatrick, S., & Panter-Brick, C. (2021). [Love and peace across generations: Biobehavioral systems and global partnerships](#). *Compr Psychoneuroendocrinol*. Oct 9;8:100092.
- Britto, P., Hanöz-Penney, S., Ponguta, L., Sunar, D., Issa, G., Hein, S., . . . Leckman, J. (2021). [Pathways to a more peaceful and sustainable world: The transformative power of children in families](#). *Development and Psychopathology*, 33(2), 409-420.
- Leckman, J. F., Britto, P.R. (Eds.). (2018). [Towards a more peaceful world: The promise of early child development programmes](#). *Special Issue New Directions in Child & Adolescent Development*. Vol. 2018(159).
- Leckman, J.F., & Britto, P.R. (2018). [Steps toward peace and violence prevention across generations: The potential of early child development in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals](#). *New Dir Child Adolesc Dev*. 2018(159):5-12.
- Donaldson, C., Affolter, F., Salah, R., Britto, P.R., Leckman, J.F., Connolly, P., Fitzpatrick, S., & Walmsley, P. (2018). ECPC background paper ["Contributions of Early Childhood Development programming to sustainable peace and development"](#). New York, NY: Early Childhood Peace Consortium (ECPC).
- Leckman, J.F., Panter-Brick, C., & Salah, R. (2014). [Pathways to Peace: The Transformative Power of Children and Families](#). Vol. 15. Cambridge MA US / London UK: MIT Press, 2014.

Rima Salah, Ph.D. (ECPC Chairperson)



Rima Salah, Ph.D., served as a Former Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations, Served on the United Nations High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations, Former Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the U.N. mission in Central African Republic and Chad, and Volunteer Faculty Yale Child Study Center. 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 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.

As a highly effective advocate for the rights of children and women in armed conflict and post-conflict situations, Dr. Salah contributed to Security Council (SC) Resolution 1612 on child rights violations and Security Council (SC), and 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. On September 23, 2021, Salah was awarded the 2021 Peacemaker Award from the Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution (CPCR) at the J. Reuben Clark Law School at Brigham Young University.

In October 2015, Dr. Salah was elected to Chair the newly formed Early Childhood Peace Consortium (ECPC) of which Yale and UNICEF are founding members. The ECPC, launched at UNICEF HQ in September 2013, brought together leaders from international organizations, academia, practice, philanthropy, networks media and development.

Dr. Salah is co-editor of the volume at MIT Press, "[Pathways to Peace: The Transformative Power of Children and Families](#)".

Recommended reading:

- Britto, P. R., I. Gordon, W. Hodges, D. Sunar, C. Kagitcibasi, and J. Leckman. "[Ecology of peace](#)." In Pathways to peace: The transformative power of children and families, edited by J. Leckman, C. Panter-Brick and R. Salah, 27-39. Vol. 15. MIT Press, 2014.
- Britto, P. R., S. J. Lye, K. Proulx, A. K. Yousafzai, S. G. Matthews, T. Vaivada, R. Perez-Escamilla, N. Rao, P. Ip, L. C. H. Fernald et al. "[Nurturing care: promoting early childhood development](#)." *The Lancet* 389, no. 10064 (2017): 91-102.

Eduardo Garcia Rolland (ECPC Secretariat)



[Eduardo Garcia Rolland](#) is a humanitarian worker with experience in child protection, water and sanitation, gender, HIV/AIDs, education and early childhood development in emergencies and development settings in technical programs and management. He holds a law degree and a masters on international humanitarian aid from Spain and Germany. He started working in Perú in 1995. Since then, he has been involved in different emergencies, civil wars and natural disasters in Burundi, Rwanda, DRC, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Haiti, Sri Lanka, Montenegro, Kosovo, etc. Eduardo worked in the Middle East as UNICEF Early Childhood Development (ECD) and Early Childhood Education (ECE) Specialist, since 2017 based in Amman, Jordan. He is a multilingual resourceful team-player

based nowadays in New York, working as Early Childhood Development in Emergencies Specialist.

Recommended reading:

- [Early Childhood Development in Emergencies: Integrated Programme Guide | UNICEF](#)
- [Stress and Resilience: How Toxic Stress Affects Us, and What We Can Do About It \(harvard.edu\)](#)
- [Still Face Experiment Dr Edward Tronick - Bing video](#)
- [Three Early Childhood Development Principles to Improve Child Outcomes \(harvard.edu\)](#)
- [Most vulnerable to most valuable: A scoping study to put young children at the heart of climate actions and environmental protection | Arnec](#)
- [Most Vulnerable and Most Valuable - Young Children and Climate Change - YouTube](#)
- [Core Commitments for Children. Promoting predictable, effective and timely collective humanitarian action.](#)

Siobhán Fitzpatrick (ECPC Regional Vice-Chairperson)



[Dr. Siobhán Fitzpatrick M.B.A. M.Sc., C.B.E.](#), Former Chief Executive of Early Years – the organisation for young children from 1989-2019.

She currently chairs the International Network on Peace Building with Young Children (2004-NOW) bringing the learning from the work in Early Years on inclusion, respecting differences, and peacebuilding to areas affected by conflict around the world. She is a founder, Vice Chair, Executive Board member of the Early Childhood Peace Consortia, an initiative led by UNICEF and Yale. She is an International Board Member of the Palestinian Child Institute. She is

currently supporting a Global Health Initiative Project led by Queens University Belfast and Lancaster University in Africa, Southeast and Central Asia. She is a Board member of the New Ireland Commission, an organisation aimed at creating an inclusive dialogue about the possible unification of Ireland.

Siobhan has written extensively on issues of inclusion and peacebuilding and has spoken at many local, national and international conferences on the subject. Publications include *From Conflict to Peace Building*, *The Power of Early Childhood Services, Education and Social Change*, the International Journal of Early Education. She has been responsible for the development of a new Master's Programme in Applied Peace Building and Early Education in partnership with the INCORE at the University of Ulster, Northern Ireland.

Siobhán was awarded a CBE for services to Education and Community Development in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2010. She was awarded a Doctorate in Laws by Queens University Belfast in 2018 for services to public policy. She received a Lifetime Leadership Award in 2017 from the Chief Officers of the Third Sector. (See: [INPB Publications and Resources](#))