

Curriculum Vitae

Afton R. Kirk-Johnson, M.S., MSCP

University of Pittsburgh
Learning Research & Development Center
3939 O'Hara Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Email: ark87@pitt.edu
Email: afton.kirk@gmail.com
Mobile: 814-591-5112

Education

- 2011-present Applied Developmental Psychology, PhD Program Expected 2018
Coursework completed / Dissertation work in progress
University of Pittsburgh
Academic Advisor: Dr. Christina J. Groark
Research Advisor: Dr. Shannon B. Wanless
- 2011- 2015 M.S. Applied Developmental Psychology
University of Pittsburgh
Advisor: Dr. Christina J. Groark
- 2008-2010 M.S. Counseling Psychology (MSCP)
Concentration: Children, Adolescents, and Families
Chatham University
Advisor: Dr. Deanna Hamilton
- 2004-2008 B.S. Psychology and Sociology
Summa Cum Laude
University of Pittsburgh
Psychology Advisor: Dr. Cynthia Lausberg
Sociology Advisor: Dr. Daniel Romesberg

Professional Experience

- July 2016 - present *Graduate Student Researcher*
University of Pittsburgh Learning Research and Development Center
Motivation, Cognition, and Media Project
- Jan. 2016 - June 2016 *Research Coordinator*
University of Pittsburgh Office of Child Development
Evaluation and Research Team
- Jan. 2013 - Dec. 2015 *Graduate Student Researcher*
University of Pittsburgh Office of Child Development

- March 2011 - Dec. 2012 *Lab Manager/Research Specialist*
University of Pittsburgh Learning Research & Development Center
Wheeler Research Lab
- June 2008 - March 2011 *Group Supervisor (Early Care and Education Professional Caregiver)*
The Children's Center of Pittsburgh
- Jan. 2010 - April 2010 *Counseling Intern*
Magee-Womens Hospital - Neonatal Follow-Up Clinic
- Aug. 2009 - Dec. 2009 *Counseling Intern*
Abraxas Youth and Family Services - Center for Adolescent Females
- Sept. 2005 - Jan. 2007 *Federal Work Study Student - University of Pittsburgh*
Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, John Merck Program
- May 2006 - Aug 2006 *Directed Research Lab Assistant*
Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic
Family, Emotions, Neuroscience, and Development (FEND) Lab
Research for Adolescent Depression (RAD) Lab
- May 2006 - Aug 2006 *Field Placement Intern*
Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic - Child and Adolescent Unit

Current Lab Membership

Supporting Early Education and Development (SEED) Lab
PI Dr. Shannon B. Wanless
School of Education - Applied Developmental Psychology

Motivation & Self-Regulation Lab
PI Dr. Brian M. Galla
School of Education - Applied Developmental Psychology

Memory & Psycholinguistics in Learning and Education (MAPLE) Lab
PI Dr. Scott H. Fraundorf
Department of Psychology - Cognitive Psychology

Books/Chapters

Kirk, A. R., Groark, C. J., & McCall, R. B. (2017). Institutional care environments for infants and young children in Latin America and the Caribbean. In A. Rus, A. Parris, & E. Stativa (Eds.), *Child maltreatment in residential care* (401-418). Springer, Cham.

Groark, C. J., McCarthy, S. K., & Kirk, A. R. (2014). *Child Development: From Theory to Practice*. San Diego, CA: Bridgepoint Education.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Wilckens, K. A., Woo, S. G., Kirk, A. R., Erickson, K. I., & Wheeler, M. E. (2014). Role of sleep continuity and total sleep time in executive function across the adult lifespan. *Psychology and Aging, 29*(3), 658-665.

Unpublished Manuscripts

Warner, H. A., Kirk, A. R., McCall, R. B., Li, J., Groark, C. J., Zeng, F., & Johnson, D. E. (unpublished manuscript, 2015). The effects of a supplementary caregiver-child intervention for infants and young children in Chinese institutions.

Project Reports

Smith-Jones, J. E., Eichner, J., & Kirk, A. R. (2017.) *Young Children & Homelessness in Allegheny County: Opportunities to Make a Difference*. Office of Child Development, 1-5.

Smith-Jones, J. E., McCarthy, S. K., McCall, R. B., Kirk, A. R., Martin, K. M., & Groark, C. J. (2015). *Pennsylvania Project LAUNCH: Year One Evaluation Report*, 1-83.

McCall, R. B., Smith-Jones, J. E., Salaway, J. I., McCarthy, S. K., Groark, C. J., Kirk, A. K., & Martin, K. M. (2015). *Pennsylvania Project LAUNCH: Site-Specific Evaluation Plan*.

Mulvey, L. A., McCarthy, S. K., Martin, K. M., McCall, R. B., Kirk, A. R. (2015). *Pennsylvania Project LAUNCH: Strategic Plan*, 1-67.

Groark, C. J., Mulvey, L. A., McCall, R. B., Martin, K. M., Kirk, A. R., & McCarthy, S. K. (2015). *Pennsylvania Project LAUNCH: Environmental Scan*, 1-62.

Conference Posters and Presentations

Kirk-Johnson, A. R., Galla, B. M., & Fraundorf, S. H. (May & June, 2018). *Direct evidence that judgments of learning mediate the relationship between perceived difficulty and study strategy choice*. Poster to be presented at the Association for Psychological Science Annual Convention, May 2018, San Francisco, CA, and at the International Workshop on Advanced Learning Sciences (IWALS), June 2018, Pittsburgh, PA.

Kirk-Johnson, A. R., Wanless, S. B., & Groark, C. J. (2018, March). *Professional caregiver mental health and well-being: Associations with the early care and education workplace experience*. Poster presented at the Council of Graduate Students in Education (CGSE) Student Research Conference, Pittsburgh, PA.

Kirk-Johnson, A. R., Fraundorf, S., & Galla, B. (2017, November 10). *Cognitive and motivational appraisals of study strategies: The importance of experienced effort within self-regulated learning*. Poster presented at the Psychonomic Society Annual Meeting, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Kirk, A. R., Wanless, S. B., & Briggs, J.O. (2017, April 30). *Initial evidence for the utility of a multilevel assessment of a preschool's readiness for change*. Roundtable for the American Education Research Association (AERA) 2017 Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas.

Wanless, S., Scholl, L, Kirk, A., & Briggs, J. (2016, June). *Partnering to understanding psychological safety for learning: Readiness for change in early education programs in Pittsburgh*. Poster presented at the Re-Inventing Tomorrow's Schools: Innovations in Pennsylvania through Community-University Partnerships, State College, PA.

Kirk, A. R., Wanless, S. B., Briggs, & J.O. (2016, April). *Initial evidence for the utility of a multilevel assessment of a preschool's readiness for change*. Poster presented at the Council of Graduate Students in Education (CGSE) Student Research Conference, Pittsburgh, PA.

Kirk, A. R. & Warner, H. A. (2013, October). *The development of materials for a caregiver training program aimed at improving children's executive functioning skills and reducing child stress*. Workshop/Presentation at the Early Childhood Education Summit, Penn State University, State College, PA.

Teaching

Teaching Assistant (Teaching Practicum)

PSYED 2543 Evidence-Based Interventions in Real World Contexts, Part 2 (Spring 2015)

Professor: Dr. Shannon B. Wanless

Honors and Awards

Department of Psychology in Education Travel Award for First Author Presenters, March 2018
Association for Psychological Science Annual Convention, May 2018, San Francisco, CA
\$600

Department of Psychology in Education Research Travel Award, January 2017
American Educational Research Association (AERA) National Conference, San Antonio, TX
\$750

School of Education Faculty-Student Research Grant Award, Spring 2016
Priority-setting in early care and education contexts:
Exploring buy-in for theoretically and empirically supported features of quality
Submitted with Dr. Shannon Wanless
\$3,000

CGSE Travel Grant Award, November 2013
Early Childhood Education Summit, State College, PA
\$175

Summa Cum Laude Graduate - University of Pittsburgh, 2008

Proposals

Kirk-Johnson, A. R., Galla, B. M., & Fraundorf, S. H. (Submitted March, 2018). *Direct evidence that judgments of learning mediate the relationship between perceived difficulty and study strategy choice*. Poster proposal for the International Workshop on Advanced Learning Sciences (IWALS), June 2018, Pittsburgh, PA. (Accepted)

Kirk-Johnson, A. R., Wanless, S. B., & Groark, C. J. (Submitted February, 2018). *Professional caregiver mental health and well-being: Associations with the early care and education workplace experience*. Poster proposal for the Council of Graduate Students in Education (CGSE) Student Research Conference, Pittsburgh, PA. (Accepted)

Kirk-Johnson, A. R., Galla, B. M., & Fraundorf, S. H. (Submitted January 31, 2017). *Direct evidence that judgments of learning mediate the relationship between perceived difficulty and study strategy choice*. Poster proposal for the Association for Psychological Science Annual Convention. (Accepted)

Kirk-Johnson, A. R., Fraundorf, S. H., & Galla, B. M. (Submitted July, 2017). *Cognitive and motivational appraisals of study strategies: Perceived effort leads to ineffective self-regulated learning choices*. Poster/Roundtable proposal for the for the American Education Research Association (AERA) 2018 Annual Meeting. (Not Accepted)

Kirk A. R., Fraundorf, S., & Galla, B. (Submitted June, 2017). *Cognitive and motivational appraisals of study strategies: The importance of experienced effort within self-regulated learning*. Poster proposal for Psychonomic Society Annual Meeting, November, 2017. (Accepted)

Kirk, A. R., Wanless, S. B., Briggs, J.O. (Submitted July, 2016). *Initial evidence for the utility of a multilevel assessment of a preschool's readiness for change*. Poster proposal for the American Education Research Association (AERA) 2017 Annual Meeting. (Accepted as a Roundtable, AERA Conference - April 30, 2017)

Kirk, A. R. & Wanless, S. B. (Submitted March, 2016). *Priority-setting in early care and education contexts: Exploring buy-in for theoretically and empirically supported features of quality*. School of Education Student-Faculty Research Grant Proposal. (Accepted)

Kirk, A. R., Wanless, S. B., Briggs, J.O. (Submitted February, 2016). *Initial evidence for the utility of a multilevel assessment of a preschool's readiness for change*. Poster proposal for the Council of Graduate Students in Education (CGSE) Student Research Conference. (Accepted)

Kirk, A. R., Wanless, S. B., Briggs, J.O. (Submitted December, 2015). *Initial evidence for the utility of a multilevel assessment of a preschool's readiness for change*. Symposium Proposal: Administration for Children and Families - National Research Conference on Early Childhood. (Not Accepted)

Kirk, A. R., Groark, C. J., & McCall, R. B. (Submitted July, 2015). *Institutional care environments for infants and young children in Latin American countries*. Book Chapter Proposal. (Accepted)

Doctoral Milestones

Dissertation Overview Meeting

Professional caregiver mental health and well-being:
Associations with the early care and education workplace experience
January 30, 2018

Committee Members: Dr. Christina J. Groark
Dr. Shannon B. Wanless
Dr. Robert B. McCall
Dr. Tom Akiva

Oral Comprehensive Examination

The Multiple Perspectives of Quality in the Early Care and Education Context:
Exploring the Impact of Stakeholder Role
January 25, 2016

Committee Members: Dr. Christina J. Groark
Dr. Shannon B. Wanless

Written Comprehensive Examination

Exam completed September 11, 2015
Passed Exam Decision Letter sent October 9, 2015

Predissertation Defense

The Effects of a Supplementary Caregiver-Child Intervention for Infants and Young Children in Chinese Institutions
November 24, 2014

Committee Members: Dr. Christina J. Groark
Dr. Robert B. McCall
Dr. Shannon B. Wanless

Preliminary Examination (Honors Designation)

Concordance of Child Attachment Classifications with Parent and Child-Care Provider: Mixed Evidence and Implications
September 30, 2013

Committee Members: Dr. Christina J. Groark
Dr. Shannon B. Wanless
Dr. Amanda J. Hirsch

Certificates

Certificate in Organizational Leadership and Ethics - December, 2012
University of Pittsburgh - David Berg Center for Ethics and Leadership

Committee Membership

Undergraduate Honors Project Committee, Brenna Mauro
The Effect of Linguistic Disfluencies on Attention-Orientation and Academic Materials
Proposal Defense, April 2017
Completed Project Defense, November 2017

Professional Examinations

National Counselor Examination (NCE)
National Board for Certified Counselors, Inc.
Passed November 6, 2010

Volunteer Service

CGSE Service Event - Blessings in a Backpack - Kelly Elementary School
April 2017 - Wilkinsburg, PA

Youth Work Summit Student Volunteer
February 2015 - Pittsburgh, PA

Infant Mental Health Conference Student Volunteer
October 2015 - Monroeville, PA

Professional Associations

Pennsylvania Association for Infant Mental Health (PA-AIMH) - Student Member

Evaluation Presentations

Early Head Start Home Visiting Needs Assessment
Project Outcomes Presentation - Early Head Start Home Visiting Coordinator Meeting (May 2014)
University of Pittsburgh Office of Child Development
Project Supervisor: Donna Sarneso, EHS Early Childhood Education Coordinator