2015-16 Independent Study Opportunities

Please contact the faculty member/researcher directly to discuss.

Dr. Ken Dodge, William McDougall professor of public policy and professor of psychology and neuroscience and director of the Center for Child and Family Policy, would like to work with a student who has ambitions to complete an honors thesis. Possible topics include prevention of child abuse and how chronic violence develops across the life span. Professor Dodge can provide access to several large, funded research studies that link social science to clinical practice and public policy.

Dr. Clara Muschkin is an associate research professor of public policy and director of the North Carolina Education Research Data Center. Current research focuses: how characteristics of schools influence educational outcomes; challenges for immigrant students; school transitions; and long-term effects of early childhood education for performance in school. Contact: muschkin@duke.edu

Dr. Katie Rosanbalm is a research scholar with the Center for Child and Family Policy. Trained as a child clinical and quantitative psychologist, her work at the Center has focused on program evaluation in the areas of child maltreatment prevention, social-emotional development, and early childhood systems. Current research topics include: evaluation of a preschool social-emotional curriculum, creation of early childhood Systems of Care, coordination of child mental health and child welfare systems, and provision of evaluation technical assistance to programs studying educational welfare interventions. Contact: katie.rosanbalm@duke.edu

Dr. Liz Snyder, a research scientist with the Center for Child and Family Policy, is trained as an experimental psychologist, with a focus on cognitive development. Since joining the Center in 2006, her work has focused on program evaluation within the child welfare and mental health systems. Currently, she serves as the principal investigator for a five-year grant that will develop, implement, and evaluate a comprehensive family assessment to improve child welfare outcomes in Alamance County. Snyder also serves as the evaluation co-director for the SAMHSA child mental health initiative in Durham, North Carolina. This grant will build upon Durham’s System of Care by targeting transition-age youth (16-21) who are exiting out of foster care and/or group home institutions. A third project includes the evaluation of the East Durham Children’s Initiative (EDCI), which is modeled after the acclaimed Harlem Children’s Zone (HCZ), and seeks to provide a pipeline of services and supports that allows children to become high academic achievers and successfully complete college or vocational training. Contact: liz.snyder@duke.edu