

Curriculum Vitae

Kira S. Birditt

Office

Life Course Development Program
 Institute for Social Research
 426 Thompson St.
 Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1248
 Phone: 734-647-4855
 Email: kirasb@isr.umich.edu

Current Position

2008- present Research Assistant Professor, Life Course Development Program
 Institute for Social Research

Education

2002 Ph.D., Human Development and Family Studies, Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA.

Dissertation: Age and gender differences in reactions to interpersonal tensions: The daily experience of arguments and the avoidance of arguments. Chair: Karen Fingerman, Ph.D.

1998 M.S., Psychology, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA.

Deborah Thesis: Gender differences in indirect aggression: Self-report vs. behavior. Chair: Forgays, Ph.D.

1996 B.A., Psychology (magna cum laude), Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA.

Honors

2001-2002 Albert and Lorraine Kligman Fellow
 Kligman Graduate Fellowship Endowment
 The Pennsylvania State University

1998-2001 Predoctoral Fellow
 National Institute on Aging Interdisciplinary Training Grant in Gerontology
 The Pennsylvania State University

Research Experience

- 2004-2008 Elizabeth Douvan Research Fellow, Institute for Social Research
University of Michigan
- 2002-2004 NIA Postdoctoral Research Fellow, School of Social Work
National Institute on Aging Training in Social Research on Applied Issues of Aging
University of Michigan
- 1998-2002 Research Assistant, Karen L. Fingerman
The Pennsylvania State University
- 1995-1996 Research Assistant, Deborah Kirby Forgays
Western Washington University

Teaching Experience

- 2007-2008 Adjunct lecturer, Methods of Social Program Evaluation (SOCL 678)
Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology
Eastern Michigan University
- 2003-present Mentor for Undergraduate Research Opportunity and Summer Research Institute interns
University of Michigan
- 1999 Graduate Assistant, Graduate Proseminar in Individual Development
The Pennsylvania State University
- 1999 Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Human Development
The Pennsylvania State University
- 1998 Teaching Assistant, Values and Ethics in Health and Human Development
The Pennsylvania State University
- 1997-1998 Teaching Assistant, Experimental Psychology and Statistics II
Western Washington University
- 1996-1997 Teaching Assistant, Experimental Psychology and Statistics I
Western Washington University
Responsibility for teaching lab twice a week, teaching statistics and how to write research papers using APA format, and grading research papers.

Publications

- Birditt, K. S., Jackey, L. M. H., & Antonucci, T. C. (in press). Longitudinal patterns of negative relationship quality across adulthood. *Journals of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences*.

- Fingerman, K. L., Pitzer, L., Lefkowitz, E. S., Birditt, K. S., & Mroczek, D. (in press). Ambivalent relationship qualities between adults and their parents: Implications for both parties' well-being. *Journals of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences*
- Birditt, K.S., Miller, L.M., Fingerman, K. L., & Lefkowitz, E. S. (conditional accept). Tensions in the parent and adult child relationship: Links to solidarity and ambivalence. *Psychology and Aging*
- Birditt, K. S., & Forgays, D. (in press). Gender and indirect aggression: Does self-report predict behavior? *Adolescence*.
- Birditt, K. S. (in press). Ambivalence. In Harry T. Reis & Susan Sprecher (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of Human Relationships*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Birditt, K. S., & Antonucci, T. C. (2008). Life sustaining irritations? Relationship quality and mortality in the context of severe illness. *Social Science & Medicine*, 67, 1291–1299
- Birditt, K. S., Fingerman, K. L., Lefkowitz, E. S., & Kamp Dush, C. (2008). Parents perceived as peers: Filial maturity in adulthood. *Journal of Adult Development*
- Birditt, K. S., & Antonucci, T. C. (2007). Relationship quality profiles and well-being among married adults. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 21, 595-604.
- Antonucci, T. C., Ajrouch, K. J., & Birditt, K. S. (2006). Social relations in the third age: Assessing strengths and challenges using the convoy model. In J. B. James & P. Wink (Eds.), *The Crown of Life: Dynamics of the Early Post-retirement Period. Annual review of Gerontology and Geriatrics Vol. 26* (pp. 193- 210). New York: Springer Publishing Company.
- Birditt, K. S., Fingerman, K. L., & Almeida, D. (2005). Age differences in exposure and reactions to interpersonal tensions: A daily diary study. *Psychology and Aging*, 20, 330-340.
- Birditt, K. S., & Fingerman, K. L. (2005). Do we get better at picking our battles? Age differences in descriptions of behavioral reactions to interpersonal tensions. *Journals of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences*, 60B, P121-P128.
- Fingerman, K. L., Hay, E. L., & Birditt, K. S. (2004). The best of ties, the worst of ties: Close, problematic, and ambivalent social relationships. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 66, 792-808.
- Antonucci, T. C., Akiyama, H., & Birditt, K. S. (2004). Intergenerational exchange in the United States and Japan. In M. Silverstein, R. Giarrusso and V. L. Bengtson (Eds.), *Intergenerational Relations Across Time and Place. Springer Annual Review of Gerontology and Geriatrics Vol. 24* (pp. 224-248). New York: Springer Publishing Company.
- Birditt, K. S., & Fingerman, K. L. (2003). Age and gender differences in adults' descriptions of emotional reactions to interpersonal problems. *Journals of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences*, 58, P237-P245.
- Fingerman, K. L., & Birditt, K. S. (2003). Does variation in close and problematic family ties reflect the pool of living relatives? *Journals of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences*, 58, P80-P87.
- Fingerman, K. L., Nussbaum, J., & Birditt, K. S. (2003). Keeping all five balls in the air: Juggling family

communication at midlife. In A. L. Vangelisti (Ed.), *Handbook of Family Communication* (pp. 135-152). New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum.

Manuscripts in Preparation

Wimsatt, M.A., Birditt, K.S., Antonucci, T.C., & Takahashi, K. (under review). Social relations and stress among children: A gender and cultural comparison.

Birditt, K.S., Brown, E., McIlvane, J., Orbuch, T. (under review). Keeping Quiet or Fighting it Out: A Longitudinal Study of Martial Conflict

Birditt, K. S., Fingerman, K. L., & Miller, L. M. (under review). If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all: Conflict strategies in the parent and adult child relationship.

Antonucci, T. C., Birditt, K. S., & Akiyama, H. (in preparation). Deadly irritations? Associations between social relationship quality, life threatening conditions, and mortality.

Birditt, K. S., & Akiyama, H. (in preparation). Implications of irritating relationships among men and women across the lifespan.

Presentations

Tighe, L., Birditt, K. S., Antonucci, T. (2009, April). *It's a Love/Hate Relationship: Adolescents' Ambivalence towards their Parents*. Poster submitted to the annual meeting of the Society for Research on Child Development, Denver, CO.

Birditt, K.S., & Jacky, L.M.H. (2008, November). *Loving the problem child: Parental reports of ambivalence toward adult children*. Symposium paper submitted to the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, National Harbor, MD.

Jackey, L.M. H., Birditt, K. S., Antonucci, T. C. (2008, August). *Age and gender differences in longitudinal patterns of negativity*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Boston, MA.

Birditt, K. S. (2008, July). *Avoidance in marriage: Dyadic perspectives and implications for well-being*. Symposium paper presented in T. Orbuch (chair), Relationships in the context of race and gender: Update on the early years of marriage project, annual meeting of the International Association of Relationships Research, Providence, RI.

Birditt, K. S., Jackey, L. M. H., Iglesias, H. F., & Antonucci, T. C. (2007, November). *Older but not necessarily nicer: Longitudinal patterns of negativity in adulthood*. Symposium paper presented at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, San Francisco, CA.

Fingerman, K. L., Pitzer, L. M., Miller, L. M., & Birditt, K. S. (2007, November). *Parents' and offspring's perceptions of irritations*. Symposium paper presented at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, San Francisco, CA.

- Miller, L. M., Seidel, A. J., Fingerman, K. L., Zarit, S. H., & Birditt, K. S. (2007, November). *Beliefs about helping grown offspring and parents*. Poster presented at the Gerontological Society of America Conference, San Francisco, CA.
- Birditt, K. S., Miller, L., Fingerman, K. L., & Lefkowitz, E. S. (2007, October). *Feeling conflicted: Interpersonal tensions and ambivalence in the parent adult-child relationship*. Symposium paper presented in K. S. Birditt (chair), Crossing relationship boundaries: Social ties and stress across the lifespan, biennial meeting of the Society for the Study of Human Development, University Park, PA.
- Pitzer, L., Miller, L., Fingerman, K. L., Birditt, K., & Mroczek, D. (2007, October). *Moderators of the association between relationship quality and well-being in the adult child and parent tie*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for the Study of Human Development, University Park, PA.
- Antonucci, T. C., Fuller-Iglesias, H., Birditt, K. S. (2007, August). *Are socially connected children happy in young adulthood?* Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association, San Francisco, CA.
- Sellars, B., Birditt, K.S., & Antonucci, T. (2007, April). *Social relations and health across nations and cultures*. Poster presented at the Society for Adult Development meeting, Boston, MA.
- Birditt, K. S., Miller, L., Fingerman, K. L., & Lefkowitz, E. S. (2006, November). *If you only knew how irritating you are: Perceptions of tensions in the adult parent-child relationship*. Symposium paper presented in K. S. Birditt (chair), "Sometimes love don't feel like it should": Irritations in close relations across the lifespan, annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Dallas, TX.
- Fiori, K. L., & Birditt, K. S. (2006, August). *Social integration and health: Understanding micro-level mechanisms in a lifespan context*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association, New Orleans, LA.
- Antonucci, T. C., Akiyama, H., & Birditt, K. S. (2006, May). *Multigenerational relations of the older worker: Pathways to productivity*. In *Why workplace flexibility matters: A global perspective*. Presentation at the Sloan International Conference, Chicago, IL.
- Skup, M., Birditt, K. S., & Antonucci, T. C. (2006, March). *The effect of negative interpersonal relationship on depressive symptoms: a comparison of pre-adolescents, adolescents, and young adults*. Poster presentation at the Society for Research on Adolescence conference, San Francisco, CA.
- Birditt, K. S., & Antonucci, T. C. (2005, November). *Deadly Irritations? Associations between interpersonal hassles and mortality*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Orlando, FL.
- Skup, M., Birditt, K. S., & Antonucci, T. C. (2005, October). *The effect of negative interpersonal relationships on children's depression: a cross-cultural comparison*. Poster presented at the Society for Human Development conference, Asilomar, CA.

- Antonucci, T. C., Birditt, K. S., & Fuller, H. (2005, August). *Do stressed mothers have unhappy children?* Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Washington, DC.
- Antonucci, T. C., & Birditt, K. S. (2005, April). *Social relationships and well-being among 8 to 12 year old Caucasian and African American children in the United States.* Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Research on Child Development, Atlanta, GA.
- Birditt, K. S., & Akiyama, H. (2004, November). *Interpersonal stress across the lifespan: Implications of irritating relationships for psychological well-being.* Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Washington, DC.
- Antonucci, T. C., & Birditt, K. S. (2004, August). *Lack of close social relationships and well-being across the lifespan.* Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Honolulu, HI.
- Birditt, K. S., & Antonucci, T. C. (2003, November). *Social relationship profiles and well-being among married people.* Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, San Diego, CA.
- Antonucci, T. C., Birditt, K. S., & Akiyama, H. (2003, September). *The effects of social relationships on health.* Paper presented at the Dynamic Processes of Aging Conference, Canberra, Australia.
- Birditt, K. S., Antonucci, T. C., & Akiyama, H. (2003, August). *An examination of the associations between socioeconomic status, relationships, and mortality.* Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Toronto, Canada.
- Birditt, K. S., Fingerman, K. L., & Almeida, D. M. (2002, November). *Do we get better at picking our battles? Age differences in reactions to daily interpersonal tensions.* Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, MA.
- Hay, E. L., Birditt, K. S., Cichy, K. E., & Fingerman, K. L. (2001, November). *The best of ties, the worst of ties: Age differences in close, problematic and ambivalent social ties.* Symposium paper presented in K. L. Fingerman (chair), Complexities in Socioemotional Experiences across Adulthood, annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America Chicago, IL.
- Birditt, K. S., & Fingerman, K. L. (2001, August). *Age and gender differences in behavioral reactions to interpersonal problems.* Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, San Francisco, CA.
- Birditt, K. S., Fingerman, K. L., Kamp, C., & Lefkowitz, E. (2000, November). *When parents become peers: An assessment of filial maturity.* Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Washington DC.
- Birditt, K. S., & Fingerman, K. L. (1999, November). *Age and gender differences in negative emotions in interpersonal relationships.* Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, San Francisco, CA.

- Fingerman, K. L., Hay, E. L., Porfeli, E., Mayger, H., & Birditt, K. S. (1999, November). *Searching under the streetlight: Layperson's and researcher's conceptions of important social ties*. Symposium paper presented in K. L. Fingerman (chair), Under researched topics in social support, annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, San Francisco, CA.
- Fingerman, K. L., & Birditt, K. S. (1999, November). *Age differences in the pool of living relatives and size of close and problematic social networks*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, San Francisco, CA.
- Forgays, D. K., & Birditt, K. S. (1999, July). *Getting even: Is indirect aggression the preferred approach for women?* Presentation at the Stress and Anxiety Research Annual Conference, Krakow, Poland.
- Forgays, D. K., & Birditt, K. S. (1999, April). *The influence of gender and family context on parent-adolescent conflict*. Poster presented at the Society for Research on Child Development meeting, Albuquerque, NM.
- Fingerman, K. L., Kleinbaum, S. M., & Birditt, K. S. (1998, November). *The downside of women's family relationships*. Symposium paper presented in V. H. Bedford (chair), Women and emotions: Interdisciplinary perspectives, annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Philadelphia, PA.
- Forgays, D. K., & Birditt, K. S. (1997, April). *What makes girls angry?* Poster presented at the Western Psychological Association Conference, Seattle, WA.

Editorial Experience

- 2007-present Ad hoc reviewer, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*
- 2007-present Ad hoc reviewer, *Journal of Aging and Human Development*
- 2005-present Ad hoc reviewer, *International Journal of Behavioral Development*
- 2004-present Ad hoc reviewer, *Journal of Family Issues*
- 2004-present Ad hoc reviewer, *Journals of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences*
- 2004-present Ad hoc reviewer, *Journals of Gerontology: Social Sciences*
- 2004-present Ad hoc reviewer, *Psychology and Aging*
- 2004-present Ad hoc reviewer, *Developmental Psychology*
- 2000-2001 Student Editorial Board, *Psychology of Women Quarterly*
- 1998 Ad hoc reviewer, *Journal of Personal and Social Relationships*

Invited Lectures

Applied Psychosocial Aspects of Aging, Gerontology Program at Eastern Michigan University, Invited Guest Lecturer, Fall, 2004.

Age differences in conflict behaviors. Kligman Scholars Conference at Pennsylvania State University, Invited Guest Lecturer, July, 2004.

Research Support

Funded

Principal Investigator *Promoting Well Being Across Adulthood: The Role of Conflict Avoidance*, National Institute on Aging, 8/15/08 – 3/31/12, Direct: \$215,153, Indirect: \$111,879.

Co-Investigator (PI: Toni C. Antonucci) *Social Relations and Mental Health: Competing Renewal*, National Institute of Mental Health, 8/1/06 – 7/31/08, Direct: \$118,601, Indirect: \$61,672.

Co-Investigator (PI: Karen L. Fingerman) *The Psychology of Intergenerational Transfers*, National Institute on Aging, 9/1/06 – 8/31/10, Direct: \$29,494, Indirect: \$15,337.

Co-Investigator (PI: Toni C. Antonucci) *Social Relations, Age, and Health*, National Institute on Aging, 04/01/2008 - 3/31/2010, Direct: \$497,264, Indirect: \$258,577.