

Lorraine Maxwell

Web Bio

Information

Biography

Biographical Statement

I joined the faculty in Design and Environmental Analysis in 1993 as my first full time academic appointment. Prior to coming to Cornell I was a facility planner and programmer for an architectural firm in New York City. After obtaining a masters degree in city and regional planning worked I worked as a city planner for a large city in New Jersey. My PhD is in psychology, specifically environmental psychology. My research interests have always been, and continue to be, related to the ways in which the physical environment relates to children's and adolescents' development, behavior, and well being. Noise and crowding are of particular interest to me, especially when children are exposed to these potential sources of stress in more than one setting as well as the role of the environment in children's development of competency and self-efficacy and self-esteem.

More recently my research interests include the role of the physical environment of home, school, and neighborhood in the development of identity, self-esteem, and self-efficacy in children and adolescents. My initial appointment at Cornell included responsibilities in Cooperative Extension. My primary program was to work with the child care industry in New York State providing training and educational materials for child care providers and parents. As of the spring semester 2005 my appointment was changed to research and teaching. I teach the department's programming methods in design course (DEA 4590/6500) as well as DEA 4100 Diversity and Facility Design. I also teach a graduate course, DEA 6200, Studies in Human-Environment Relations.

Department Website Summary

Lorraine E. Maxwell is an environmental psychologist. Her research is related to the role of the physical environment in child and adolescent development. She teaches courses in facility programming and the role of facility design in a diverse society and a graduate course in Human-Environment Relations.

Professional

Current Professional Activities

- Member, Environmental Design Research Association
- Member, International Association of People-Environment Studies
- Member, Society for Research in Child Development

- Member, Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues

Research

Current Research Activities

I investigate the role of the physical environment in children's and adolescents' behavior, health, and development. I am interested in residential settings, school and childcare settings, playgrounds and outdoor settings, museums, and public spaces. In particular, I am interested in the cumulative effects of noise and crowding when young people are exposed in more than one setting and in the role of the physical environment in children's and adolescents' development of competency, self-efficacy, and self-esteem.

Extension

Education

Education

- Ph.D. 1990 Graduate Center of the City University of New York
Major - Psychology
- Masters in City and Regional Planning 1974 - Rutgers University
Major - City and Regional Planning
- B.A. 1968 - Queens College of the City University of New York
Major - History/Political Science

Courses

Courses Taught

- DEA 4590/6500 - Programming Methods in Design
- HE 3100 - Human Ecology Mentoring Program
- DEA 4100 - Diversity and Facility Design
- DEA 6200 - Studies in Human-Environment Relations

Websites

Administration

Publications

Selected Publications

Sepanski, S. Evans, G.W., Barry, R.L., Maxwell, L.E. (2010). An ecological perspective on cumulative school and neighborhood risk factors related to academic achievement. *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology, 31*, 422-427.

Maxwell, L. E. (2009). Chaos outside the home: The school environment (pp.83-96). In G.W. Evans & T.D. Wachs (Eds). *Chaos and its influence on children's development: An ecological perspective*. Washington DC: American Psychological Association.

Maxwell, L.E., Mitchell, M.R., & Evans, G.W. (2008). Effects of play equipment and loose parts on preschool children's outdoor play behavior: An observational study and design intervention. *Children, Youth and Environments, 18* (2), 37-63.

Maxwell, L.E. & Chmielewski, E. J. (2008). Environmental personalization and elementary school children's self-esteem. *Journal of Environmental Psychology, 28*, 143-153.

Maxwell, L.E. (2007). Competency in child care settings: The role of the physical environment. *Environment and Behavior, 39*(2), 229-245.

Maxwell, L.E. (2007). Preschool and day care environments. In R. Lueder & V. Rice (Eds). *Child Ergonomics* (pp. 653-688). New York: Taylor and Francis.

Maxwell, L.E. (2006). Crowding, class size, and school size. In H. Frumkin, R. Geller, I. L. Rubin, & J. Nodvin (Eds.), *Safe and Healthy School Environments* (pp. 13-19). Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

Maxwell, L.E. (2006). Noise. In H. Frumkin, R. Geller, I.L. Rubin, & J. Nodvin (Eds.), *Safe and Healthy School Environments* (pp. 34-45). Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

Laquatra, J., Maxwell, L.E. & Pierce, M. (2005). Indoor air pollutants: Limited-resource households and childcare facilities. *Journal of Environmental Health, 67*(7), 39-43

Miller, A.S. & Maxwell, L.E. (2003). Exploring the role of home design in fostering family interaction: The use of programming methods in research. *Journal of Interior Design, 29*, 50-65.

Maxwell, L.E. (2003). Home and School density effects on elementary school children. *Environmental Behavior, 35*(4), 566-578

Maxwell, L.E. & Killeen, J.P. (2002). Museum Visits: Experiences of special education and typically developing children. *Journal of Museum Education, 27* (1), 18-21.

Maxwell, Lorraine & Evans, G.W. (2000). The effects of noise on preschool children's prereading skills. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 20, 91-97.

Evans, G.W., Maxwell, Lorraine, & Hart, B. (1999). Parental language and verbal responsiveness to children in crowded homes. *Developmental Psychology*, 35(4), 1020-1023.

Maxwell, Lorraine (1998). *Designing childcare settings: A child centered approach*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Maxwell, L.E. (1996). Multiple effects of home and daycare crowding. *Environment & Behavior*, 28 (4), 494-511