

Rachel Dunifon

Web Bio

Information

Biography

Biographical Statement

Rachel Dunifon is a Professor in the Department of Policy Analysis and Management. She is also the Associate Dean for Research and Outreach for the College of Human Ecology. She received her PhD in Human Development and Social Policy from Northwestern University in 1999. Her research focuses on child and family policy.

Department Website Summary

Rachel studies child and family policy, with a focus on factors influencing the development of less-advantaged children. Specific research topics include examining the relationship between maternal employment conditions and children's health and development; considering the well-being of children in various family living arrangements, such as single-parenthood and cohabitation; and the role of grandparents in the lives of youth.

Her work has been supported by a wide range of sources, including the NIH and the William T. Grant Foundation, through a Scholars Award. Rachel's research has been published in *Demography*, *Child Development*, *Developmental Psychology*, and *Journal of Marriage and Family*. She is a consulting editor for *Developmental Psychology*.

Teaching

Teaching and Advising Statement

PAM 6900: Proseminar in Policy Analysis and Management

Professional

Current Professional Activities

Dunifon is an active member of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, the Population Association of America, and the Cornell Population Center. She is a consulting editor for *Developmental Psychology*.

Research

Current Research Activities

Dunifon studies child and family policy, with a focus on factors influencing the development of less-advantaged children. Specific research topics include the relationship between maternal employment conditions and children's health and development; the well-being of children in various family living arrangements, such as single-parenthood and cohabitation; and the role of grandparents in the lives of youth.

Her work has been supported by a wide range of sources. Rachel was awarded a 5-year grant from the William T. Grant Foundation's Scholar's program to study the role of grandparents in the lives of youth. Under this grant, she is examining whether and how grandparents influence youth; whether living with a grandparent benefits youth living in a single-parent family; and how children fare when they are raised by their grandparents.

Dunifon was also awarded an R01 grant from the Eunice Kennedy Schriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development to study the influence on children of maternal employment patterns. Many mothers working low-wage jobs must work evenings or weekends, have little control over their schedules, or have long commutes. Dunifon's work examines how these factors influence children's health and development, parents and family routines.

Rachel's research has been published in *Demography*, *Child Development*, *Developmental Psychology*, and *Journal of Marriage and Family*.

Extension

Current Extension Activities

As Associate Dean for Research and Outreach, Rachel provides leadership for the College of Human Ecology's Outreach and Extension activities.

Rachel Dunifon provides campus leadership to Cornell Cooperative Extension parent educators throughout the state through the Parenting in Context Project. Information about this project can be found online at:

<http://www.human.cornell.edu/pam/outreach/parenting/index.cfm>

Education

Education

Ph.D. 1999 - Northwestern University, Human Development & Social Policy
M.A. 1998 - Northwestern University, Human Development & Social Policy
B.A. 1994 - Davidson College, Psychology

Courses

Courses Taught

PAM 6900--Proseminar in Policy Analysis and Management

Websites

Related Websites

Parenting in Context Project:

www.human.cornell.edu/pam/outreach/parenting/index.cfm

“Welfare Reform and Intergenerational Mobility”. A report for the Pew Charitable Trusts Economic Mobility Project.

http://www.economicmobility.org/assets/pdfs/EMP_TANF%2015.pdf

[Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research](#)

[Google Scholar Page](#)

Administration

Administrative Responsibilities

Associate Dean for Research and Outreach, College of Human Ecology

Publications

Selected Publications

Kalil, Ariel, Rachel Dunifon, Danielle Crosby and Jessica Su (2014). “Work Hours, Work Schedules and Sleep Duration Among Mothers and their Young Children”. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 76(5): 891-904.

Healy, Olivia and Rachel Dunifon (2014). “Child Care Subsidies and Family Well-Being”. *Social Service Review*, 88(3): 493-528.

Dunifon, Rachel, Kathleen Ziolk-Guest and Kimberly Kopko (2014). “Grandparental Co-Residence and Family Well-Being: Implications for Research and Policy”. *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 654: 110-126.

Dunifon, Rachel, Ariel Kalil, Danielle Crosby and Jessica Su (2013). “Mothers’ Night Work and Children’s Behavior Problems”. *Developmental Psychology*, 49(10): 1874-1885.

Dunifon, Rachel (2013). “The Influence of Grandparents in the Lives of Children and Adolescents”, *Child Development Perspectives*, 7(1): 55-60.

Ziol-Guest, Kathleen, Rachel Dunifon and Ariel Kalil (2013). "Parental Employment and Children's Body Weight: Mothers, Others, and Mechanisms", *Social Science and Medicine*, 95: 52-59.

Johnson, Rucker, Ariel Kalil and Rachel Dunifon (2012). "Employment Patterns of Less-Skilled Workers: Links to Children's Behavior and Academic Progress". *Demography*, 49(2): 747-772.

Morrissey, Taryn, Rachel Dunifon and Ariel Kalil (2011). "Maternal Employment, Work Schedules, and Children's Body Mass Index". *Child Development*, 82(1): 66-81.

Dunifon, Rachel, Kathryn Hynes and H. Elizabeth Peters. (2009) "State Welfare Policies and Children's Living Arrangements". *Social Service Review*, 83(3):351-388.
Hynes, Kathryn and Rachel Dunifon. (2007). "Children in No-Parent Households: The Continuity of Arrangements and the Composition of Households". *Children and Youth Services Review*, 29 (7): 912-932.

Kalil, Ariel and Rachel Dunifon (2007). "Maternal Work and Welfare Use and Child Well-Being: Evidence from Six Years of Data from the Women's Employment Study". *Children and Youth Services Review*, 29(6): 742-761.

Dunifon, Rachel and Lori Kowaleski-Jones. (2007) "The Influence of Grandparents in Single-Mother Families". *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 69: 465-481.

Dunifon, Rachel, Kathryn Hynes, and H. Elizabeth Peters (2006). "Welfare Reform and Child Well-Being". *Children and Youth Services Review*, 28(11): 1273-1292.

Dunifon, Rachel, Ariel Kalil and Ashish Bajracharya (2005). "Maternal Working Conditions and Child Well-Being in Welfare-leaving Families." *Developmental Psychology*, 41(6): 851-859.