
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

NAME: Karen L. Fingerman

eRA COMMONS USER NAME: FINGERMANKL

POSITION TITLE: Professor, Department of Human Development and Family Sciences

EDUCATION/TRAINING

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA	BA	06/1987	Psychology
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI	MA	05/1990	Psychology
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI	PhD	05/1993	Psychology
Stanford University, Stanford, CA	PhD	1993-1994	School of Medicine

A. Personal Statement

I bring extensive experience to the study of socioemotional development and health across adulthood with a research agenda spanning nearly two decades of research. My prior studies have involved a variety of methodological perspectives including open-ended, observational, quantitative analyses, and diary studies. Over the past ten years I have conducted multiple studies examining emotional qualities of relationships, social support, and ties to a variety of social network partners. I have an extensive publication record using a variety of analytic techniques to examine social networks, observed data and the social input model. My research fits into the PRC's primary research areas of Family Demography and Intergenerational Relationships, and Population Health. I also have a strong record of research productivity. I have published over 120 scientific papers, chapters, and books using a variety of theoretical perspectives and statistical analytic techniques to examine family ties, daily experiences, and complex nested data involving multiple social partners. I am currently the Principal Investigator of two NIA-funded projects. In the next five years, I plan to make contributions toward my Family Exchanges Study with a third renewal (proposal submitted July 2016). We will also be collecting data for the Daily Experiences in Late Life Study, coding the raw data, conducting statistical analyses, and writing reports and publications from that study. We have a particular focus on health disparities in the Daily Experiences study.

I serve as the Director of the Portfolio in Aging & Health and the Aging Network at The University of Texas at Austin. Thus I have frequent contact with researchers and doctoral students across campus regarding cutting edge research on aging and health as well as strong ties to agencies and communities serving older adults in the greater Austin area. I attend the weekly brownbag seminars to keep abreast of cutting edge research topics regarding populations, aging, and families. I consult regularly with scholars and students at the PRC regarding development of the battery for her Family Exchanges Study 3 and the Daily Experiences and Well-being Study as well as using support for new publications written from the data. The Population Research Center has been influential in my research agenda. The PRC has been instrumental in communication with the multiple sites involved in my studies, establishing budgets and subcontracts, and in securing equipment, computer hardware and software, and other essential elements necessary to implement the research projects. As a research associate of the PRC, I will rely on the array of research infrastructural resources provided through the center, including grants administration support for the preparation of grant applications and project management. My current R01s draw heavily on the core for desktop management and hardware and software support of the project team.

B. Positions and Honors**Positions and Employment**

1993-1994	Stanford University School of Medicine, Post-doctoral Fellow
1994-1995	University of San Francisco, Assistant Professor
1995-2003	Pennsylvania State University, Assistant to Associate Professor
2003-2008	Purdue University, Associate Professor
2008-2011	Purdue University, Berner-Hanley Professor in Gerontology

- 2011-present The University of Texas at Austin, Professor, Human Development and Family Sciences
 2011-present The University of Texas at Austin, Faculty Research Associate, Population Research Center

Other Experience and Professional Memberships

- 2007-present Member, Editorial Board, *Journal of Marriage and Family*
 2009-present Member, Editorial Board, *Journal of Family Theory & Review*
 2011-present Member, Editorial Board, *Developmental Psychology*
 2012-present Member, Editorial Board, *The Gerontologist*
 2015, 2016 Ad hoc reviewer, Behavioral Genetics and Epidemiology Study Section, National Institutes of Health
 Present Member: Association for Psychology Science; American Psychological Association, Gerontological Society of America; National Council on Family Relations; and Society for the Study of Human Development

Honors

- 1998 Springer Award for Early Career Achievement in Research on Adult Development and Aging, American Psychological Association
 1999 Margret Baltes Award for Early Career Achievement in Behavioral and Social Gerontology, Gerontological Society of America
 2000-2002 Brookdale National Fellow, Brookdale Foundation
 2002 Gerontological Society of America, elected Fellow
 2003-2008 Berner Hanley University Scholar, Purdue University
 2005 Harshman Visiting Lecturer in Family Studies, Guelph, Canada
 2005 Association for Psychological Science, elected Fellow
 2006 Star Gerontologist Award, Purdue University Gerontology Center
 2006-2008 Member, NIH Study Section: Psychosocial Development Risk Prevention
 2008-2009 Member, NIH Study Section: Social Psychology and Interpersonal Processes
 2012 American Psychological Association Division 20, elected Fellow

C. Contributions to Science

C1. Intergenerational Support

The Family Exchanges Study, R01AG027769 has focused considerable attention on exchanges of support among middle-aged adults, their spouses, multiple grown children, and aging parents across two waves of data. The Family Exchanges Study has received supplementary funding from the MacArthur Foundation Network on Transitions to Adulthood, and the MacArthur Foundation Network on an Aging Society. This study has generated over 35 publications with collaborators at institutions at many major universities (e.g., University of Texas at Austin, Penn State, University of Michigan, Purdue University, University of Pennsylvania, Brigham Young University), as well as serving as a source of data for doctoral dissertation, Master's theses, and senior honors theses. The data from Family Exchanges Study 1 are currently available at the University of Michigan's ICPSR for public use. <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/studies/36360>. Example publications regarding intergenerational support include the following:

- Fingerman, K. L., Miller, L. M., Birditt, K. S., & Zarit, S. (2009). Giving to the good and the needy: Parental support of grown children. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 71, 1220-1233. doi: 10.1111/j.1741-3737.2009.00665.x. PMID: 167414
- Fingerman, K. L., Chan, W., Pitzer, L. M., Birditt, K. S., Franks, M. M., & Zarit, S. (2010). Who gets what and why: Help middle-aged adults provide to parents and grown children. *Journal of Gerontology: Social Science*. doi: 10.1093/geronb/gbq009 PMID: 3031309
- Fingerman, K. L., Kim, K., Davis, E. M., Furstenberg, F. F., Jr., Birditt, K. S., & Zarit, S. H. (2015). "I'll give you the world": Parental socioeconomic background and assistance to young adult children. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 77, 844-865. doi: 10.1111/jomf.12204 PMID: Journal - In Process
- Kim, K., Birditt, K. S., Zarit, S. H. & Fingerman, K. L., (in press). Capturing between- and within- family differences in parental support to adult children: A typology approach. *The Journals of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences*. doi:10.1093/geronb/gbv029

C2. Parent/Child Relationships and Well-being

In recent decades, rates of marriage in the US have plummeted dramatically, with young adults entering marriage at increasingly later ages. Moreover, many older adults outlive a spouse or enter old age alone after divorce. For unmarried adults, a tie to a parent or grown child may be the most important relationship in that individual's life. As such, parents and grown children have a strong influence on the other party. Dr. Fingerman's research has shown that emotional qualities of the relationship, demands for support, or receipt of support between adults and their parents shape both party's well-being.

Fingerman, K. L., Pitzer, L., Lefkowitz, E. S., Birditt, K. S., & Mroczek, D. (2008). Ambivalent relationship qualities between adults and their parents: Implications for both parties' well-being. *The Journals of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences*, 63B, P362-P371. PMID: 2749877

Fingerman, K. L., Cheng, Y. P., Birditt, K. S., & Zarit, S. (2012). Only as happy as the least happy child: Multiple grown children's problems and successes and middle-aged parents' well-being. *Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences*, 67, 184-193. doi:10.1093/geronb/gbr086

Fingerman, K. L., Cheng, Y. P., Wesselman, E. D., Zarit, S., Furstenberg, F. F., & Birditt, K. S., (2012). Helicopter parents and landing pad kids: Intense parental support of grown children. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 74, 880-896.

Fingerman, K. L., Kim, K., Birditt, K. S., & Zarit, S. H. (2016). The ties that bind: Middle-aged parents' daily experiences with grown children. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 78, 430-450. doi:10.1111/jomf.12273 PMID: PMC4807606

C3. Relationship Qualities and Intergenerational Ambivalence

Building on research addressing social relationships and psychological well-being, we have examined emotional relationship qualities of intergenerational ties. Unlike relationships involving a spouse or a friend, parents and grown children cannot easily dissolve their relationships when they are upset with the other party. Instead, the parties often navigate feelings of "ambivalence" (i.e, mixed positive and negative emotions) towards the other party. The ambivalence model has become a dominant paradigm in the study of parent/child ties in adulthood, and Dr. Fingerman's research team has been at the forefront of discoveries in this area.

Birditt, K. S., Hartnett, C.* Zarit, S. H., Fingerman, K. L., & Antonucci, T. C. (2015). Extending the Intergenerational Stake Hypothesis: Evidence of an intra-individual stake and implications for well-being. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 77, 877-888. doi: 10.1111/jomf.12203 PMID: Journal - In Process

Birditt, K. S., Miller, L. M., Fingerman, K. L., & Lefkowitz, E. S. (2009). Tensions in the parent and adult child relationship: Links to solidarity and ambivalence. *Psychology and Aging*, 24, 287-295. doi: 10.1037/a0015196. PMID: 2690709

Fingerman, K. L., Chen, P. C., Hay, E. L., Cichy, K. E., & Lefkowitz, E. S. (2006). Ambivalent reactions in the parent and offspring relationship. *Journals of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences*, 61B, 152-160.

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 Family*, 66, 792-808. doi: 10.1111/j.0022-2445.2004.00053.x

C4. Daily Experiences and Interpersonal Relationships

This research team has extensive experience conducting studies of daily experiences. We have conducted studies with younger and older adults on a daily basis focusing on: emotional experiences, behavioral interactions, and supportive exchanges with social partners. This work has broken new ground regarding social stressors in late life. Moreover, the Family Exchanges Study is the only study to date to examine daily processes in an intergenerational setting (most prior diary studies examine marital ties or daily stress in general) as well as salivary hormones associated with stress throughout the day. The diary data has revealed intriguing findings regarding positive interactions such as laughter on a daily basis. Thus, our prior work has established a basis for examination of daily life in family ties over time. These studies set a basis for understanding how microlevel behaviors and experiences in families contribute to daily mood and to well-being over time.

Birditt, K. S., Fingerman, K. L., & Almeida, D. (2005). Age and gender differences in reported reactions to interpersonal tensions: A daily diary study. *Psychology & Aging*, 20, 330-340.

Birditt, K. S., Kim, K., Zarit, S. H., Fingerman, K. L., & Loving, T. J. (2016). Daily interactions in the parent-adult child tie: Links between children's problems and parents' diurnal cortisol rhythms.

Psychoneuroendocrinology, 63, 208-216. doi:10.1016/j.psyneuen.2015.09.027 PMID: PMC4768756

Fingerman, K. L., Kim, K., Birditt, K. S., & Zarit, S. H. (2016). The ties that bind: Middle-aged parents' daily experiences with grown children. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 78, 430–450. doi:10.1111/jomf.12273
PMCID: PMC4807606

Fingerman, K. L., Kim, K., Tennant, P. S., Birditt, K. S., & Zarit, S. H. (in press). Intergenerational support in a daily context. *The Gerontologist*.

C5. Emotional Qualities of Social Relationships

Dr. Fingerman and collaborators have developed the “Social Input Model” to explain age differences in interpersonal conflicts. Individuals who experience high levels of conflict and interpersonal tension with their social partners report higher rates of mental health problems, poorer physical health, and are greater risk or mortality, but as a strength of aging, older adults typically experience few interpersonal problems and very little conflict in their relationships. The Social Input Model considers how individual maturation, accumulated experiences, changes in social networks, changes in social context (e.g, retirement) contribute to improved relationship qualities. This model also considers the way that social partners treat older adults, often offering more positive social feedback, forgiveness, and overlooking transgressions.

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. *Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences*, 60B, 121-128.

Fingerman, K. L., Miller, L., & Charles, S. T. (2008). Saving the best for last: How adults treat social partners of different ages. *Psychology and Aging*, 23, 399-409.

Fingerman, K. L., & Charles, S. T. (2010). It takes two to tango: Why older people have the best relationships. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 19, 172-176. doi: 10.1177/0963721410370297

Sherman, S. M., Cheng, Y.-P., Fingerman, K. L., & Schnyer, D. M. (2015). Social support, stress, and the aging brain. *Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience*. doi: 10.1093/scan/nsv071

Link to List of Published Journal Articles in MyBibliography:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/myncbi/browse/collection/43262820/?sort=date&direction=descending>

D. Research Support

Ongoing Research Support

R01AG046460 (K. Fingerman, PI)

09/01/16-06/01/20

National Institute on Aging

Social Networks and Well-being in Late Life: A Study of Daily Mechanisms

This study examines adults over age 70 and their daily experiences. Participants first complete a survey about their global social network along with tests of cognitive and physical functioning. They then participate in a 5 day data collection involving experience sampling surveys 5 times a day, actigraphs, and electronically activated recorders (EAR).

Role: Principal Investigator

Responsibilities: I am in charge of directing the multi consortium project, designing the research battery, selecting and overseeing the implementation of the technical devices involved, and other aspects of oversight pertaining to data collection, data coding, data management, and publication of the findings.

R01AG027769 (K. Fingerman, PI)

09/01/11-06/01/17

National Institute on Aging

The Family Exchanges Study II

This study provides a second wave of data collection for the families who participated in the Family Exchanges Study 1 (aka Psychology of Intergenerational Exchanges) in 2008. Interviews were conducted with 3 generations of families who participated in FES wave 1. Multiple family members of each generation participated (e.g, middle aged target, target spouse, grown children, and aging spouses). In addition, a subset of targets, parents, and children participated in a daily diary study and the targets and grown children also provided salivary samples to assay for stress hormones.

Role: Principal Investigator

Responsibilities: I am in charge of directing the multi consortium project, designing the research battery, selecting and overseeing the implementation of the technical devices involved, and other aspects of oversight pertaining to data collection, data coding, data management, and publication of the findings.

R03AG048879 (K. Kim, PI)

09/01/14-06/01/17

National Institute on Aging

Generational Family Patterns and Well-being

This study applies a secondary analysis of data from the Family Exchanges Study using Latent Class Analysis to understand how families differ in patterns of relationship quality and support exchanges as perceived by multiple family members over time

Role: Co-investigator

Responsibilities: My principal role is that of a collaborator- I assist with information regarding the conceptualization of findings, theory, methodology from the study, and coauthoring publications.

BCS-1451492 (L. Neff, PI)

01/01/15-12/31/18

Understanding Age-related Changes in Relationship Maintenance Strategies

This study examines age differences in dating relationships and long term marriages. The study seeks to differentiate whether prior observed age differences in romantic relationship qualities reflect relationship duration rather than changes associated with age.

Role: Consultant

Responsibilities: My role is that of a consultant with regard to sampling and with regard to theory.

R21AG044585 (D. Umberson, PI)

09/01/13-07/31/17

National Institute on Aging

Relationships and Health: Comparing Union Types

This study examines married and unmarried couples' regulation of health problems in late life, with particular attention to gay and lesbian couples.

Role: Consultant

Responsibilities: My role is that of a consultant with regard to sampling and to a small extent survey design.

Completed Research Support

(L. Napolitano, PI)

09/01/14 -06/30/15

MacArthur Foundation Research Network on an Aging Society (J. Rowe, network director)

Qualitative Interviews in the Family Exchanges Study II

This grant supplements the NIH grant by contributing a qualitative study of 30 families

Role: Co-investigator

Responsibilities: I have served as an active coinvestigator with regard to the sampling and the transcription of data. I will also coauthor publications from this study.

(K. Fingerman, PI)

06/01/12-11/30/13

MacArthur Foundation Research Network on an Aging Society (J. Rowe, network director)

Supplement to The Family Exchanges Study II

This grant supplemented the NIH grant examining family exchange patterns by allowing us to include the assessment of aging parents in the daily diary study. The middle-aged offspring and young adult grandchildren also completed diary studies as part of the NIH funded component of this study.

Role: Principal Investigator

Responsibilities: My role was that of directing and overseeing the data collection, coding the data, analyzing the data, and coauthoring publications regarding the parent diary study.