

# Claire D. Vallotton, PhD

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## EDUCATION

- Doctor of Philosophy of Human Development, University of California, Davis 2005  
Dissertation: *Effects of Symbolic Gestures as a Caregiving Tool: Children's Social and Language Development and Mothers' Perceptions and Behavior*  
Mentors: *Lawrence Harper, Linda Acredolo, and Catherine Conger*
- Bachelor of Arts in Psychology (summa cum laude), Simpson College, Redding, CA 1997

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- Assistant Professor of Early Child Development and Education, 2009 - Present  
Department of Human Development & Family Studies, Michigan State University
- Principle Investigator, Literacy Achievement Research Center, Michigan State University 2009 - Present
- Senior Research Coordinator, Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital 2008 - 2009
- NIH Postdoctoral Fellow, Harvard Graduate School of Education 2005 - 2008  
Research: *Symbol and Social Skills in At-Risk Children*  
Mentors: *Kurt Fischer and Catherine Ayoub*
- Faculty Fellow, Human & Community Development, University of California, Davis 2004 - 2006  
Research: *Insight into Infants Internal Worlds*  
Mentors: *Ross Thompson and Ann Mastergeorge*

## RESEARCH FUNDING

- Collaborator & Consultant (PI: Chamarrita Farkas), "Análisis desde una perspectiva evolutiva y cultural del uso de la comunicación gestual en infantes y pre-escolares, en la expresión y comprensión de los estados internos y su impacto en el desarrollo socio-emocional de los niños(as)." (Analysis from a cultural evolutionary perspective of the use of gestural communication in infants and preschoolers in the expression and understanding of internal states and its impact on socio-emotional development of children.), Fondo del Desarrollo Científico y Tecnológico, funded by *Comisión Nacional de Investigación Científica y Tecnológica, Chile*, 2011 -2014 \$117,330
- Principal Investigator, Undergraduate Mentoring in the IIIW Lab, Provost's Undergraduate Research Initiative (PURI), *College of Social Sciences, MSU*, 2010-2011 \$8,000
- Principal Investigator, Undergraduate Mentoring in the IIIW Lab, Provost's Undergraduate Research Initiative (PURI), *College of Social Sciences, MSU*, Summer 2010 \$5,000
- Co-Principal Investigator (PI: Miles McNall), "Project LAUNCH Michigan," contract \$650,298

with Michigan Department of Community Health, funded by the *Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration* and the *Administration for Children & Families*, 2009 – 2014

Co-Author (PI: Catherine Ayoub), “Longitudinal Mechanisms of EHS Program Impact: High-risk Parenting and Child’s Self-Regulation and Language Development to Pre-Kindergarten,” <i>DHHS, Administration for Children and Families</i> , 2007-2009	\$100,000
Principal Investigator (Co-PI: Kurt Fischer), “Symbol and Social Skills in At-Risk Children,” <i>National Institute of Child Health and Human Development</i> , 2005 - 2008	\$136,840
Principal Investigator, “Insight into Infants’ Internal Worlds,” <i>Eichhorn Family Trust</i> , 2004 - 2006	\$32,000
Graduate Student Investigator, “Effects of Symbolic Gestures as a Caregiving Tool,” <i>Jastro-Shields Graduate Research Grant</i> , 2001 - 2003	\$3,500
Graduate Student Investigator, “Gesturing as a Caregiving Tool: Effects on Caregivers,” <i>Jastro-Shields Graduate Research Grant</i> , 1999 - 2000	\$2,500

**RESEARCH FUNDING APPLICATIONS IN PREPARATION OR UNDER REVIEW**

Principal Investigator, “Parenting the Preverbal Child: Effects of enhancing symbolic gesture use on the relationships and development of preverbal children,” <i>NIH R21 Exploratory grant</i> . Submitted February 16, 2011.	\$275,000
Principal Investigator, “Ethnoracial Variations in Mother-Child Internal State Language,” <i>NIH R03 Small grant</i> . Submitted February 16, 2011.	\$100,000

**HONORS & AWARDS**

2010 Award of Distinction, <i>College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, University of California, Davis</i> , October 8, 2010	
Clinical Research Fellow, Loan Repayment Program, 2009-2011 <i>National Institute of Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, NIH</i>	\$16,000
MSU Extension Summer Fellowship for Family Research, 2009	\$7,800
Postdoctoral Fellow Travel Award, <i>International Conference on Infant Studies</i> , 2008	\$400
Young Investigator Award for Early Contributions to the Field of Infant Mental Health, <i>World Association of Infant Mental Health</i> , 2006	\$500
Clinical Research Fellow, Loan Repayment Program, 2006-2009 <i>National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, NIH</i>	\$35,862
Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award, 2005-2008 <i>National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, NIH</i>	(\$136,840)
Faculty Fellowship, University of California, Davis, 2004 <i>Office of the President, University of California</i> ,	\$45,600
Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award, <i>University of California, Davis</i> , 2004	\$250
Community Service Award, <i>Human Corps of UC Davis</i> , 1998, 2002, 2004	

Dissertation Year Fellowship, <i>Office of the President, University of California</i> , 2003	\$24,500
Professors for the Future Fellowship and Honors Program, 2002 <i>Office of Graduate Studies, University of California, Davis</i> ,	\$3,000
Frank & Carolan Walker Fellowship, <i>University of California, Davis</i> , 2002	\$15,000
Child Development Scholars Fellowship, <i>National Institute of Drug Abuse, NIH</i> , 2001	\$750
Honor in Recognition of Commitment to the Children of California, 1998 <i>Child Development Policy Advisory Committee of the California State Legislature</i> ,	
UC DC Graduate Research Fellow, <i>University of California, Davis in Washington D.C.</i> , 1998	\$3,000
Frank & Grace Benedix Fellowship, <i>University of California, Davis</i> , 1997	\$4,500
President's Cup, for greatest contribution by a graduating senior, <i>Simpson College</i> , 1997	
Leadership Award and Scholarship, <i>Simpson College</i> , 1996	\$750
Dean's List Honors Scholarship, <i>Simpson College</i> , also 1993, 1995, 1996	\$4,500

#### PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

##### \* Graduate students

##### \*\* Undergraduate students

**Vallotton, C.D.**, \*Harewood, T., Ayoub, C.C., Pan, B., Mastergeorge, A.M., & Brophy-Herb, H. (*in press*). Buffering boys and boosting girls: The protective and promotive effects of Early Head Start for children's expressive language skills in the context of parenting stress. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*. 10.1016/j.ecresq.2011.03.001

Ayoub, C.A., **Vallotton, C.D.**, & Mastergeorge, A.M. (2011). Developmental pathways to integrated social skills: The roles of parenting and early intervention. *Child Development*, 82, 331-345.

**Vallotton, C.D.** (2011). Sentences and conversations before speech? Gestures of preverbal children reveal cognitive and social skills that do not wait for words. In G. Stam and M. Ishino (Eds.), *Integrating Gestures: The Interdisciplinary Nature of Gesture* (pp. 105-120). Amsterdam, The Netherlands: John Benjamins

\*Fusaro, M. & **Vallotton, C.D.** (2011). Giving a nod to social cognition: Developmental constraints on the emergence of conventional gestures and infant signs. In G. Stam and M. Ishino (Eds.), *Integrating Gestures: The Interdisciplinary Nature of Gesture* (pp. 121-136). Amsterdam, The Netherlands: John Benjamins

**Vallotton, C.D.** (2011). Babies open our minds to their minds: How "listening" to infant signs complements and extends our knowledge of infants and their development. Accepted for publication in the *Infant Mental Health Journal*, 32, 1-20. doi: 10.1002/imhj.20286

**Vallotton, C.D.** & Ayoub, C.A. (2011). Use your words: The role of language in the development of toddlers' self-regulation. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 26, 169-181. doi: 10.1016/j.ecresq.2010.09.002, NIHMS[235616]

**Vallotton, C.D.** (2010). Support or competition? Dynamic development of the relationship between pointing and symbolic gestures from 6 to 18 months of age. *Gesture*, 10:2-3, *Special Issue on Gesture and Multimodal Development*, 150-171. doi: 10.1075/gest.10.2-3.03val

**Vallotton, C.D.** & Ayoub, C.A. (2009). Symbols build communication and thought: The role of gestures and words in the development of engagement skills and social-emotional concepts during toddlerhood. *Social Development, 19*, 601-626.

NIHMSID: NIHMS132788; doi: 10.1111/j.1467-9507.2009.00549.x

Ayoub, C.A., O'Conner, E., Rappolt-Schlichtmann, G., **Vallotton, C.**, Raikes, H., & Chazan-Cohen, R. (2009). Cognitive skill performance among young children living in poverty: Risk, change, and the promotive effects of Early Head Start. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly, 24*, 289-305. doi:10.1016/j.ecresq.2009.04.001

**Vallotton, C.D.** (2009). Do infants influence their quality of care? Infants' communicative gestures predict caregivers' responsiveness. *Infant Behavior and Development, 32*, 351-365. doi: 10.1016/j.infbeh.2009.06.001

**Vallotton, C.D.** (2008). Signs of emotion: What can preverbal children "say" about internal states? *Infant Mental Health Journal, 29*, 234-258. DOI: 10.1002/imhj.20175

**Vallotton, C.D.** & Harper, L.V. (2006). Why don't they just let it go? *Journal of Infant Behavior and Development, 29*, 373-385. doi:10.1016/j.infbeh.2006.01.003

#### CHAPTERS IN EDITED VOLUMES

**Vallotton, C.D.** & Fischer, K.W. (2009). Cognitive Development. In M. M. Haith & J. B. Benson (Eds.), *Language, Memory, and Cognition in Infancy and Early Childhood*. Oxford: Elsevier. ISBN 978-0-12-375069-3

**Vallotton, C.D.** & Fischer, K.W. (2008). Cognitive Development. In M. M. Haith & J. B. Benson (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of Infant and Early Childhood Development, Volume 1*, pp. 286-298. Oxford: Elsevier.

#### NON PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

**Vallotton, C.D.** (2008). Infants take self-regulation into their own hands, *Zero To Three, 29*, 29-34.

**Vallotton, C.D.** (2005). Effects of symbolic gestures as a caregiving tool: Children's social and language development and mothers' perceptions and behavior. *Dissertation Abstract International*, Section B: The Sciences and Engineering, Vol 65(9-B), 2005. pp. 4877.

Groves, B.M., Bassuk, E., Lurie-Hurvitz, E., **Vallotton, C.D.** (1998). Home is a base for living. *Zero to Three, 19*, 1-5.

**Vallotton, C.D.** (1998). Homes for families with infants and toddlers: Promising approaches. *Zero to Three, 19*, 40-45.

#### MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION AND UNDER REVIEW

\*Grimm, F., **Vallotton, C.D.**, & Ayoub, C.A. (*under review*). Deficit or difference? Language development and use of grammatical negations by maltreated children reflect their experiences. Submitted to *Child Abuse and Neglect, the International Journal*, April 13, 2010.

**Vallotton, C.D.** (*under review*). Infant signs as intervention? Promoting symbolic gestures for preverbal children in low-income families supports responsive parent-child relationships. Submitted to *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, May 6, 2011.

- Vallotton, C. D.**, Karsten, A., Decker, K. B., Harewood, T. (*in preparation*). Infant signs reveal infant minds to early childhood educators. In L. Harrison & J. Sumsion (Eds) *The Lived Spaces of Infant and Toddler Education and Care Settings*.
- Stansbury, K., **Vallotton, C.D.**, \*Decker, K.B., & \*Topor, J. (*in preparation*). The language of self-regulation in toddlerhood. In preparation for *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*.
- Mastergeorge, A.M., & Masyn, K., **Vallotton, C.D.**, & Ayoub, C. (*in preparation*). Parents' strategies to support toddlers' language development: A comparison of quantitative methods for measuring parenting behaviors. In preparation for *Evaluation Review*.
- Vallotton, C.D.**, \*Decker, K.B., & Fusaro, M. (*in preparation*). A concrete bridge to abstract representation: A case study of the development of symbolic gestures and words in an enriched gestural environment. In preparation for *Journal of Infant Behavior and Development*.
- Ayoub, C., **Vallotton, C. D.**, & \*VonEnde, A. (*in preparation*). Longitudinal trajectory of maternal depression during the first 10 years: Child effects and their mechanisms.
- Vallotton, C.D.**, Farkas, C., Kiegelmann, M., Kirk, E., & Hughes Wilhelm, K. (*in preparation*). Timing and trajectories of acquiring and using infant signs across samples in five countries. In preparation for *Journal of Infant Behavior and Development*.
- Farkas, C. & Vallotton, C. D. (*in preparation*). Infant signs: What we know and what we don't.

#### **PEER-REVIEWED RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS**

##### **\*Graduate Students**

##### **\*\* Undergraduate Students**

- Vallotton, C.D., \*Decker, K.B., \*Karsten, A., \*Topor, J., & \*\*Scott, M. (July, 2011). Preverbal Pragmatists: The Developmental Trajectory of Preverbal Children's Symbolic Gestures in Enriched Gesturing Environments. In E. Nicoladis (Chair) *Development of Children's Symbolic Gestures*. XII International Congress for the Study of Child Language, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
- \*Topor, J.A., \*Grimm, F., Vallotton, C., Ayoub, C., & \*Decker, K.B. (April 2, 2011). The content of speech of maltreated and non-maltreated children during peer interaction. *Michigan Association of Marriage and Family Therapy*, East Lansing, Michigan.
- \*Decker, K., \*Zientek, A., \*\*Bentley, S., & Vallotton, C.D. (April 2, 2011). *Understanding Parental Communication Decisions for Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing*. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
- Mastergeorge, A., Ayoub, C., Masyn, K., Vallotton, C.D., \*Decker, K.B., \*Thompson, D., \*Su, C., \*Saneski, E., \*Zientek, A., & \*\*Scott, M. (April 2, 2011). *Comparison of Quantitative Methods for Measuring Effects of Parental Sensitivity and Cognitive Stimulation on Toddlers' Vocabulary*. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
- \*Harewood, T., Brophy-Herb, H., & **Vallotton, C.D.** (April 1, 2011). *The Effects of Fathers' Parenting Stress on Children's Developmental Outcomes at 36 Months in a Low Income Sample*. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

- \*Zientek, A., \*Topor, J.A., \*Decker, K.B., \*\*Bentley, S., \*\*Gutowski, E., & **Vallotton, C.D.** (April 1, 2011). *Trajectories of Symbolic Gesture Acquisition and Use in Infants and Toddlers*. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
- Vallotton, C.D.**, Fusaro, M., \*Hayden, J., \*Decker, K., & \*\*Gutowski, E. (March 31, 2011). Parents' Gestures Make Strategies More Handy for Children's Puzzle Solving. In C. Vallotton (Chair). *How Adults' Gestures Lend a Helping Hand (and Head) in Young Children's Learning in Different Domains*. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
- Fusaro, M. & **Vallotton, C.D.** (March 31, 2011). Getting "a Head" in Pragmatic Development: Nodding and Shaking Gestures May Facilitate Infants' Communicative Competence. In C. Vallotton (Chair). *How Adults' Gestures Lend a Helping Hand (and Head) in Young Children's Learning in Different Domains*. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
- \*Harewood, T., **Vallotton, C.D.**, Ayoub, C., Pan, B., Mastergeorge, A., & Brophy-Herb, H. (March 31, 2011). *Boosting Girls and Buffering Boys: Protective and Promotive Effects of Early Head Start for Child Language*. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
- Ayoub, C., Beardslee, W., & **Vallotton, C.** (July 3, 2010). Promoting teacher-child relationships through preventive mental health consultation: The family connections model. In *Promoting Infant and Early Childhood Development in the Contexts of Child and Parental Risk Factors*. 12<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the World Association for Infant Mental Health, Leipzig, Germany, June 29 – July 3, 2010.
- Ayoub, C., **Vallotton, C.**, & Chazan-Cohen, R. & \*VonEnde, A. (July 3, 2010). Longitudinal examination of maternal depression in low income women from pregnancy through the first ten years of parenthood. In L. Boyce (Chair) *Transitions in Primary Relationships: Children's early language and regulatory development over time in the contexts of Maternal Depression and Parenting*. 12<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the World Association for Infant Mental Health, Leipzig, Germany, June 29 – July 3, 2010.
- \*Bocknek, E.L., Brophy-Herb, H., & **Vallotton, C.** (July 3, 2010). Associations between maternal detachment and early regulatory development over toddlerhood. In L. Boyce (Chair) *Transitions in Primary Relationships: Children's early language and regulatory development over time in the contexts of Maternal Depression and Parenting*. 12<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the World Association for Infant Mental Health, Leipzig, Germany, June 29 – July 3, 2010.
- Vallotton, C.D.**, Ayoub, C., Masyn, K., & Mastergeorge, A.M. (July 2, 2010). *Parents' strategies to support toddlers' language development: A comparison of measurement tools for quantifying parent-child interaction qualities*. 12<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the World Association for Infant Mental Health, Leipzig, Germany, June 29 – July 3, 2010.
- Vallotton, C.D.**, Mastergeorge, A.M., & Ayoub, C. (July 2, 2010). *Effects of maternal sensitivity and intentional teaching on entwined developmental domains: Differences in mechanisms in an early intervention context*. 12<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the World Association for Infant Mental Health, Leipzig, Germany, June 29 – July 3, 2010.
- Mastergeorge, A.M., Ayoub, C. & **Vallotton, C.D.** (July 2, 2010). *Differential Effects of General and Parenting-Related Stress on Parent-Child Interaction in Early Head Start and a Comparison*

Group. 12<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the World Association for Infant Mental Health, Leipzig, Germany, June 29 – July 3, 2010.

\*Grimm, F., **Vallotton, C.D.**, & Ayoub, C. (July 1, 2010). *Delay or difference? Maltreated children's use of grammatical negations*. 12<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the World Association for Infant Mental Health, Leipzig, Germany, June 29 – July 3, 2010.

**Vallotton, C.D.**, \*Grimm, F., & Ayoub, C. (July 1, 2010). *Delay or difference? The effects of maltreatment mirrored in the content and purpose of children's speech and gesture*. 12<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the World Association for Infant Mental Health, Leipzig, Germany, June 29 – July 3, 2010.

Farkas, C., & **Vallotton, C.D.** (June 30, 2010). *Infant signing as intervention: Applications in different contexts and cultures*. 12<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the World Association for Infant Mental Health, Leipzig, Germany, June 29 – July 3, 2010.

Ayoub, C., **Vallotton, C.D.**, & Chazan-Cohen (June, 2010). Maternal Depression: A longitudinal examination of low income women from pregnancy through the first four and a half years of parenthood. In R. Chazan-Cohen & C. Ayoub (Chairs), *Mental Health and Parenting*. 10<sup>th</sup> National Head Start Research Conference, June 21-23, 2010.

Mastergeorge, A.M., Ayoub, C. & **Vallotton, C.D.** (June, 2010). Differential Effects of General and Parenting-Related Stress on Parent-Child Interaction in Early Head Start and a Comparison Group. In R. Chazan-Cohen & C. Ayoub (Chairs), *Mental Health and Parenting*. 10<sup>th</sup> National Head Start Research Conference, June 21-23, 2010.

**Vallotton, C.D.**, Mastergeorge, A.M., & Ayoub, C. (June, 2010). Parenting strategies to support early development: Early sensitivity and later cognitive stimulation support toddlers' language. In T. Cristofaro & A. Guerra (Chairs), *Family Supports for Language, Literacy, and Narratives*. 10<sup>th</sup> National Head Start Research Conference, June 21-23, 2010.

Ayoub, C., Avery, M., Beerdslee, W., & **Vallotton, C.** (June, 2010). Family Connections: Evaluation of a systems-based preventive intervention for mental health consultation. In R. Chazan-Cohen and C. Ayoub (Chairs), *Family Supports for Language, Literacy, and Narratives*. 10<sup>th</sup> National Head Start Research Conference, June 21-23, 2010.

**Vallotton, C.D.**, & Nadeau, L. (March, 2010). *From the scientist and the teacher: What infants tell us about their own development through their use of symbolic gestures*. XVIIth Biennial International Conference on Infant Studies, Baltimore, MD, March 10-14, 2010.

**Vallotton, C.D.**, \*Decker, K., & Fusaro, M. (March, 2010). *A bridge to somewhere: Symbolic gestures as concrete representations that build towards abstract ones*. XVIIth Biennial International Conference on Infant Studies, Baltimore, MD, March 10-14, 2010.

**Vallotton, C.D.** (July, 2009). Is Three Modes Too Many? The Effects of an Infant Sign Intervention on the Communicative Behaviors of Children in Monolingual and Bilingual Families. In K. Pine (Chair), *Evaluating the impact of Baby Sign on the linguistic, social and cognitive development of infants in the UK, USA and Germany*. MultiMod 2009: Multimodality of communication in children: gestures, emotions, language, and cognition. Toulouse, France, July 9-11, 2009.

\*Grimm, F., **Vallotton, C.D.**, & Ayoub, C. (July, 2009). Experience mirrored in language and gesture: Maltreated children's use of grammatical negations and head shakes. MultiMod 2009:

Multimodality of communication in children: gestures, emotions, language, and cognition.  
Toulouse, France, July 9-11, 2009.

- Cristofaro, T.N., Guerra, A.G., Tamis-Lemonda, C.S., Pan, B., Ayoub, C.A., **Vallotton, C.D.**, Raikes, H.H., & Howes, C. (April, 2009). *An Examination of Mother-Child Personal Narratives in Families From the National Early Head Start Research and Evaluation Project*. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Denver, Colorado, 2009.
- \*Grimm, F., Ayoub, C.C., & **Vallotton, C.D.** (April, 2009). *Language mirrors experience: Maltreated children's use of grammatical negations*. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Denver, Colorado, 2009.
- Vallotton, C.D.** (April, 2009). *Support or competition? Dynamic development of the relationship between pointing and infant signing from 6 to 18 months of age*. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Denver, Colorado, 2009.
- Vallotton, C.D.** & \*Fusaro, M. (August, 2008). *Effects of maternal stress and depression on mother-toddler play*. Presented at the Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, Boston, MA.
- Ayoub, C.A., & **Vallotton, C.D.** (August, 2008). *The multiple impacts of parenting distress on children's self-regulation and language development*. The 11<sup>th</sup> Congress of the World Association of Infant Mental Health, Yokohama, Japan.
- Farkas, C. & **Vallotton, C.D.** (August, 2008). *The Baby Signs Program: Applications in child care settings across cultures*. The 11<sup>th</sup> Congress of the World Association of Infant Mental Health, Yokohama, Japan.
- \*Virmani, E.A., **Vallotton, C.D.**, & Bohne, E.B. (August, 2008). *Promising Practices to Promote Responsive Caregiving: Three Studies on the Effects of Reflective Caregiver Training Tools*. The 11<sup>th</sup> Congress of the World Association of Infant Mental Health, Yokohama, Japan.
- Vallotton, C.D.** Chair, (August, 2008). *Babies signing around the world: Four studies of the effects of infant sign language as a parent-child intervention*. The 11<sup>th</sup> Congress of the World Association of Infant Mental Health, Yokohama, Japan.
- Vallotton, C.D.** (August, 2008). Overcoming the Terrible Two's: Babies change their caregivers' minds and behaviors by using symbolic gestures to communicate. In C. Vallotton (Chair), *Babies signing around the world: Four studies of the effects of infant sign language as a parent-child intervention*. The 11<sup>th</sup> Congress of the World Association of Infant Mental Health, Yokohama, Japan.
- Vallotton, C.D.** & Ayoub, C.A. (June, 2008). *Children's language development as a mediator between parenting stress and children's self-regulation*. Head Start's Ninth National Research Conference, Washington, D.C.
- Vallotton, C.D.** (June, 2008). *Helping Caregivers Attune to Individual Infants: Infants' and Caregivers' Use of Infant Sign Language Enhances Caregiver Responsiveness*. Head Start's Ninth National Research Conference, Washington, D.C.
- Vallotton, C.D.** (March, 2008). *Child Effects on Caregiver Responsiveness: Infants' Use of Gestures to Respond TO Caregivers Elicits Responsiveness FROM Caregivers*. The 16<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Infant Studies, Vancouver, Canada.



- \*Fusaro, M. & **Vallotton, C.D.** (March, 2008). *Is it all about imitation? The development of culturally conventional gestures and modeled infant signs in 10 infants*. The 16<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Infant Studies, Vancouver, Canada.
- Vallotton, C.D.** (June, 2007). *Sentences and conversations before speech? Use of communicative and symbolic gestures by preverbal children*. Integrating Gesture, the Third International Conference of the International Society for Gesture Studies, Evanston, IL.
- Vallotton, C.D.**, Chair, (March, 2007). *The role of gesture in early social interactions and development*. The Biennial Conference of the Society for Research in Child Development, Boston, MA.
- Vallotton, C.D.** & Ayoub, C.C. (March, 2007). *Gesture as communication and thought? Predicting development of engagement skills and social-emotional concepts in young children*. In C. Vallotton (Chair) *The role of gesture in early social interactions and development*. The Biennial Conference of the Society for Research in Child Development, Boston, MA.
- Vallotton, C.D.** & Ayoub, C.C. (March, 2007). *Symbols as coping tools: Both words and gestures support toddlers' development of self-regulation*. The Biennial Conference of the Society for Research in Child Development, Boston, MA.
- \*Fusaro, M. & **Vallotton, C.D.** (August, 2006). *Modeling the developmental dynamics of infant and caregiver pointing*. The Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, New Orleans, LA.
- Vallotton, C.D.** (August, 2006). *Behavior problems and language: Internalizers develop faster, externalizers talk more*. The Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, New Orleans, LA.
- Vallotton, C.D.** (July, 2006). *Signs of emotion: What can preverbal children "say" about internal states?* The 10<sup>th</sup> Congress of the World Association for Infant Mental Health, Paris, France.
- Vallotton, C.D.** (July, 2006). *Listening To Preverbal Children: Symbolic gestures as an intervention to enhance the caregiver-child relationship*. The 10<sup>th</sup> Congress of the World Association for Infant Mental Health, Paris, France.
- Vallotton, C.D.** (November, 2005). *Can we change maternal representations and responsiveness to children?: With the Baby Signs Program, children show us how*. The Annual Zero To Three National Training Institute, Washington, D.C.
- Vallotton, C.D.**, & Grinbaum, L. (January, 2004). *Infants tell us about their internal worlds: Early emotional understanding revealed through symbolic gesture*. The 9<sup>th</sup> Congress of the World Association for Infant Mental Health, Melbourne, Australia.
- Vallotton, C.D.**, & Harper, L.V. (October, 2003). *Why don't they just let it go? Insights into infant Cognition and intentional behavior*. The Annual Conference of the Cognitive Development Society, Park City, UT.
- Vallotton, C.D.**, Weinbaum, Z., & Modolewski-Link, C. (September, 2001) *The Breadth of Impact of Domestic Violence on California's Children: Characteristics of Children In Battered Women's Shelters*. The International Family Violence Conference, San Diego, CA.
- Vallotton, C.D.**, Weinbaum, Z., & Modolewski-Link, C. (May, 2001). *What Do we Know about California's Children in Domestic Violence Shelters?* The California Maternal and Child Health Conference, San Francisco, CA

## RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS IN PREPARATION AND UNDER REVIEW

- \*Decker, K., Stansbury, K., **Vallotton, C.D.**, \*Topor, J., \*Su, C., \*Zientek, A., \*Harewood, T., \*Wong, K., \*\*Scott, M., & \*\*Bentley, S. (in preparation). *The Language of Self-Regulation in Toddlerhood: Content of Mothers' Speech Affects Child Self-Regulation Strategies.*
- \*Topor, J., \*Grimm, F., **Vallotton, C.D.**, Ayoub, C., & \*Decker, K.B. (in preparation). *The Content of Speech of Maltreated and Non-Maltreated Children During Peer-Interaction.*

## INVITED ADDRESSES

- Vallotton, C.D.** (May 15, 2011). *Infant Signs as Intervention: A Tool for Promoting Healthy Communication, Relationships and Development for Preverbal Children and their Parents.* Biennial Meeting of the Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health, Ann Arbor, MI.
- Vallotton, C.D.** (February 24, 2011). *Infant signs change minds: What infants' symbolic gestures reveal about the cognitive and social capacities of the preverbal mind.* Merrill Palmer-Skillman Institute Colloquium and Professional Development Series. Wayne State University, Detroit, MI.
- Vallotton, C.D.**, Mastergeorge, A.M., & Ayoub, C.A. (October 29, 2009). *Intersecting domains of development in and out of the Early Head Start context.* Presented at the Consortium of the National Early Head Start Research and Evaluation Team, Silver Springs, MD.
- Vallotton, C.D.** (October 21, 2009). *Using infant signs with infants and toddlers: Promoting healthy communication, relationships, and development* (tribute to John Reid). 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Tuuri Day Conference, Mott Children's Health Center, Flint, MI.
- Vallotton, C.D.** (October 12, 2009). *In the mind of the beholder, and of the gesturer: Effects of infants' symbolic gestures on their own and others' minds.* Developmental Brown Bag Seminar Series, University of Chicago.
- Vallotton, C.D.** (August, 2008). *Opening our Minds to the Baby's Mind.* In H. Fitzgerland (Chair) *WAIMH President's Symposium*, to be conducted at the 11<sup>th</sup> Congress of the World Association of Infant Mental Health, Yokohama, Japan.
- Vallotton, C.D.** (April, 2007). *Symbol skills as tools to build social skills in early childhood.* Paper presented at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.
- Vallotton, C.D.** (December, 2006). *Learning about Minds: Concurrent Learning Processes for Children, Teachers, Parents, & Scientists.* Presented for *Take 5: Five Takes on Mind, Brain, & Education*, Harvard Graduate School of Education, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.
- Vallotton, C.D.** (March, 2005). *Changing maternal representations indirectly ~ Through the child.* Paper presented at the Departments of Psychology and Human Development, University of California, Davis.
- Vallotton, C.D.** (June, 2004). *Symbolic gesture and emotional development of young children: A window into the integration of cognition and emotion.* Invited lecture sponsored by the Eichhorn Family House speaker series, presented at the Eichhorn Family House, Center for Child and Family Studies, University of California at Davis.
- Vallotton, C.D.** & Harper, L.V. (October, 2003). *Why don't they just let it go? Differences between what infants "know" and what they can do with it.* Paper presented at the Department of Human and

Community Development, University of California, Davis.

**Vallotton, C.D.,** Grinbaum, L., & Acredolo, L.P. (December, 2003). *Useful Tools for Helping Infants & Toddlers Cope with Distress*. Research-to-practice workshop presented at The Annual Zero To Three National Training Institute, New Orleans, LA.

**Vallotton, C.D.** (May, 2001). *Symbolic gesturing as a caregiving tool*. Paper presented at the Department of Human and Community Development, University of California, Davis.

#### **INVITED ADDRESSES AT MSU**

**Vallotton, C.D.,** & \*Harewood, T. (October, 2010). *More than just biology: Gender differences in children's responses to early environments*. Human Development Initiative Brownbag Lecture Series, Michigan State University.

**Vallotton, C.D.** (November 17, 2009). *A bridge to somewhere: The development of gesture and language in one infant*. Presented at the Literacy Achievement Research Center Principal Investigator's Meeting, MSU.

**Vallotton, C.D.** (September 24, 2009). *The development of gesture and the effects of gesture on development*. Presented at the Brownbag Seminar Series in Family & Child Ecology, MSU.

**Vallotton, C.D.** (February, 2009). *Opening our minds to the baby's mind: How "Listening" to infant signs complements and extends our knowledge of infants and their development*. Presented to a meeting of the students in the Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Infancy and Early Childhood, MSU.

#### **CHILD DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND PROGRAM EVALUATION REPORTS**

**Vallotton, C.D.** (June, 2009). *Community Action Program for Children Impact Evaluation Report, Alberta Region*, prepared on behalf of Zetetic Associates, Inc. for the Public Health Agency of Canada, Edmonton, Alberta.

**Vallotton, C.D.** (June, 2008). *Community Action Program for Children Impact Evaluation Plan, Alberta Region*, prepared on behalf of Zetetic Associates, Inc. for the Public Health Agency of Canada, Edmonton, Alberta.

**Vallotton, C.D.** (May, 2008). *The Community Action Program for Children, Alberta Regional Summary Report 2006-2007*, prepared on behalf of Zetetic Associates, Inc. for the Public Health Agency of Canada, Edmonton, Alberta.

**Vallotton, C.D.** (May, 2007). *The Community Action Program for Children, Alberta Regional Summary Report 2005-2006*, prepared on behalf of Zetetic Associates, Inc. for the Public Health Agency of Canada, Edmonton, Alberta.

**Vallotton, C.D.** (May, 2006). *The Community Action Program for Children, Alberta Regional Summary Report 2004-2005*, prepared on behalf of Zetetic Associates, Inc. for the Public Health Agency of Canada, Edmonton, Alberta.

**Vallotton, C.D.** (July, 2003). *First 5 San Diego Commission Operations Evaluation*, prepared on behalf of Zetetic Associates, Inc. for First 5 San Diego, San Diego County, California.

Acredolo, K., Huddlestone, J., **Vallotton, C.**, Berman, S., Harder, P., James, J., Dabby, N., & Yip, D. (May, 2000). *FFA/FFH Phase II Study*. Presented to the Governor of California on behalf of the

Foster Care Program Development Bureau, Foster Care Branch, California Department of Social Services.

## **GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS**

*California's Children in Domestic Violence Shelters*, Domestic Violence Section, Maternal and Child Health Branch, California Department of Health Services, August, 2001 (primary author).

*Caring Connections: Relationship Building with Infants Through Gesturing*, Child Development Policy Advisory Committee, December, 1998 (primary author).

*Cal-Learn*, Child Development Policy Advisory Committee, June, 1998 (co-author).

*California Early Childhood Mentor Program*, Child Development Policy Advisory Committee, May, 1998 (primary author).

*A Summary of the 1988 Report of the School Readiness Task Force: Here They Come: Ready or Not!* Child Development Policy Advisory Committee, March, 1998 (revision author).

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Assistant Professor, Human Development & Family Studies, Michigan State University

*Social-Emotional Development Birth to 5: Biology, Relationship, & Culture*, HDFS 892, Spring 2012. Designed and delivered graduate course on early social-emotional development, integrating historical perspectives and current research across disciplines including biology, psychology, and anthropology.

*Applications in Child Development*, HDFS 892, Spring 2012. Designed and delivered capstone graduate course for professionally oriented child development Master's students, designed to create a sense of professionalism, professional community, and enhance the ability of graduates to utilize quantitative data in their work and to write for professional audiences.

*Assessment of Young Children*, HDFS 421, Fall 2010. Designed and delivered upper-division undergraduate course on assessment of young children and their environments, designed and facilitated course objectives to meet MI state standards for early child educators.

*Infant Development and Program Planning*, HDFS 322, Spring 2009, 2010, 2011. Designed and delivered upper-division undergraduate course to translate research to practice in infant development, education, and intervention.

*Quantitative Observational Methods for Studying Behavior and Development: Build Your Own Coding System from Concept to Reliability*, HDFS 892, Fall 2009. Developed course concept and curriculum to support graduate students' individual research projects while building core methods skills.

Teaching Fellow, Harvard Graduate School of Education

*Emotional Development: Biology, Relationships, & Culture*, H-137, Fall 2006. Co-Instructor with Kurt Fischer for large graduate seminar course, responsible for co-designing course content and assignments, delivering lectures, facilitating class discussion, using web-based course management, and grading student assignments.

*Applied Data Analysis, S-052*, Fall 2006. Held office hours and graded student assignments for large graduate statistics course on statistical analyses including building and comparing taxonomies of regression models, multilevel modeling, nonlinear regression analysis, binomial and multinomial logistic regression analysis, and others.

Instructor, Human & Community Development, University of California, Davis

*Social and Personality Development, PSC 142/HDE 102*, Summer 2004, Winter 2005, Summer 2005. Designed and delivered upper division course fulfilling GE writing requirements, supervised Teaching Assistants.

*Internship in Child Development Research, PSC 192/HDE 192*, Fall 2004, Winter 2005, Spring 2005. Trained and supervised research assistants in applied child development research.

*Introductory Research Conference, HDE 190C*, Fall 2004, Winter 2005, Spring 2005. Facilitated small discussion course required for research assistants focused on theory and methods in child development research.

*Contemporary American Family, HDE 110*, Summer 2002, Spring 2005. Designed curriculum and delivered lecture course required for Human Development majors; 150 to 200 students, used web-based course management, supervised Teaching Assistants.

*Field Experiences with Children and Adolescents, HDE 141*, Winter 2003. Designed curriculum and delivered supervisory course fulfilling internship requirement for Human Development majors, supervised Teaching Assistant.

*Family and the Life Cycle, HDE 15*, Summer 2000. Designed and delivered lower-division lecture course.

Teaching Assistant, Human Development, University of California, Davis

*Field Experiences with Children and Adolescents, HDE 141*, Spring 2000, Fall 2000, Winter 2001, Fall 2001.

*Contemporary American Family, HDE 110*, Spring 1998, Winter 2002.

*Human Sexuality, HDE 12*, Summer 2003.

Teaching Assistant, Psychology and Philosophy Departments, Simpson College

*Introduction to Psychology*, Fall 1995, Fall 1996.

*Introduction to Western Philosophy*, Spring 1996, Spring 1997.

*Marriage and Family*, Spring 1996.

*Human Sexuality*, Spring 1997.

Invited Lectures

*Signs of Emotion: What can preverbal children “say” about emotion? And what can we learn from what they say?* Methods and Concepts in Research on Development of Emotion and Cognition, Harvard Graduate School of Education, October, 2005.

*Child Development and Public Policy*, Contemporary American Family, UC Davis, June, 1998, March, 2002, June, 2004.

*Symbolic Gesturing in Language Development*, Cognitive Development, Sacramento State University, February, 2003.

*Domestic Violence in the American Family*, Contemporary American Family, UC Davis, February 2002.

*Symbolic Gesturing as a Caregiving Tool*, Field Experiences with Infants and Toddlers, UC Davis, January, 2001.

*Integration of Theory and Research in Child Development*, Research Methods, Simpson College, March, 2000.

*Cognitive Development in the Infant Garden*, Field Experiences with Infants and Toddlers, UC Davis, April, 2000.

Peer-Tutoring Program Director, Simpson College, Fall 1995 – Spring 1996. Managed peer-tutoring program required for 50+ students on academic probation. Recruited and trained peer-mentors; paired mentors and mentees; implemented weekly accountability system for mentors and mentees; tutored 3 mentees.

#### **GRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

Graduate Student Investigator, *Effects of Symbolic Gestures as a Caregiving Tool*, 2001 - 2004  
Yolo County Early Head Start and University of California, Davis.

Research Assistant, (PI: Lawrence Harper), *The Infant Garden Study*, 1997 - 2004  
Center for Child and Family Studies, University of California, Davis.

Post-Graduate Researcher, (PI: Curt Acredolo), *FFA/FFH Phase II Study*, UC Davis 2001 - 2002  
for the California Department of Social Services, Foster Care Branch,

Pre-doctoral Student Investigator, *Gesturing as a Caregiving Tool*, 1999 - 2001  
Center for Child and Family Studies Infant Program, University of California, Davis.

#### **SPECIALIZED TRAINING**

*Insightfulness Assessment Interview and Coding*, conducted by David Oppenheim and Nina Koren-Karie of the Center for the Study of Child Development of the University of Haifa, Israel. Reliability achieved December, 2005.

*Community Assessment 2: Problem Prioritization & Analysis*, conducted by Family Health Outcomes Project, University of California, San Francisco, February, 2004.

*Promoting Maternal Mental Health During Pregnancy*, conducted by NCAST-AVENUW, June, 2004.

#### **CHILD DEVELOPMENT POLICY & PROGRAM EVALUATION EXPERIENCE**

Senior Research Associate, Zetetic Associates, Inc., projects and clients, 2002 – Present  
*Community Action Program for Children (CAPC)*, 2005 - 2009  
Public Health Agency of Canada, Alberta  
*Project ADVANCE*, UC Davis Extension, Center for Human Services 2004 - 2005  
*Methods and Statistics in Health Research*, Health Net Federal Services 2003 - 2004  
*First 5 Commission of San Diego*, San Diego County 2002 - 2003

Graduate Intern in Program Evaluation, California Department of Health Services, Maternal and Child Health Branch, Domestic Violence and Program Evaluation Sections, Sacramento, CA	1999 - 2001
Graduate Intern, Child Development Policy Advisory Committee, Sacramento, CA	1998 - 1999
Graduate Intern, Zero To Three: National Center for Infants, Toddlers, and Families, Washington, DC	1998
Psychology Intern, Redding Specialty Hospital, Intake & Assessment, Redding, CA	1996 - 1997

**ACADEMIC SERVICE**

**Peer-Review**

Consulting Editor, Infant Mental Health Journal	2009 –
Ad-Hoc Reviewer for Infant Development Text, Pearson Publishing	2010
Ad-Hoc Reviewer, Child Development Perspectives	2010 –
Ad-Hoc Reviewer, Cognition and Emotion	2010 –
Ad-Hoc Reviewer, Early Childhood Research Quarterly	2010 –
Ad-Hoc Reviewer, Child Development	2009 –
Ad-Hoc Reviewer, Infant Mental Health Journal	2009 –
Ad-Hoc Reviewer, Social Development	2008 –
Ad-Hoc Reviewer, American Evaluation Association Conference	2009 -
Ad-Hoc Reviewer, Developmental Psychology	2006, 2009
Ad-Hoc Reviewer, Educational Research and Reviews	2008

**Student Mentoring & Committees**

Mentor and Chair for Tamesha Harewood, PhD Student, HDFS: Child Development, Michigan State University	2010 –
Mentor and Chair for Kalli Decker, PhD Student, HDFS: Child Development, Michigan State University	2009 –
Mentor and Co-Chair for Jessica Topor, PhD Student, HDFS: Marriage & Family Therapy, Michigan State University	2009 –
Member at large, Doctoral Dissertation Committee for Lori House-Hewitt HDFS: Family & Child Ecology, Michigan State University	2009 –
Member at large, Doctoral Committee for JungAh Lee, PhD Student, HDFS: Child Development, Michigan State University	2010 –
Advisor for Sarah Martin, Master's Student, HDFS: Child Development, Michigan State University	2010 –

Member at large, Master's Thesis Committee for JooHyun Kim HDFS: Child Development, Michigan State University	2010 –
Member at large, Master's Thesis Committee for Chang Su HDFS: Child Development, Michigan State University	2010 –
Chair, Master's Thesis Committee for Kalli Decker HDFS: Child Development, Michigan State University	2009 –2010
Member at large, Master's Thesis Committee for Tamesha Harewood HDFS: Child Development, Michigan State University	2009 –2010
Member at large, Doctoral Dissertation Committee for Maria Fusaro, Harvard Graduate School of Education	2007 – 2009
<b>Academic Committees</b>	
Member at large, Advisory Committee, Human Development Initiative College of Social Sciences, Michigan State University	2010 -
Member at large, Planning Committee, Kellogg-Paolucci Lecture Series Human Development & Family Studies, Michigan State University	2010 -
Member at large, Department Advisory Committee, Human Development & Family Studies, Michigan State University	2010 -
Member at large, Infant Program Curriculum Committee, Human Development & Family Studies, Michigan State University	2010 -
Symposium Judge, Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum, Michigan State University	2010
Member at large, Technology Committee, Family & Child Ecology, Michigan State University	2009 -
Member at large, Child Development Graduate Admissions Committee, Family & Child Ecology, Michigan State University	2009 -
Member at large, Studying Early Education & Development Faculty Interest Group, Family & Child Ecology, Michigan State University	2008 -
Child Development Advisor, Pre-K to Grade 6 Curriculum Design Committee, UC Davis, Center for Biophotonics Education, Science, and Technology (CBEST)	2003 - 2005
Child Development Advisor, Pre-K to Grade 6 Curriculum Evaluation Committee, UC Davis, Center for Biophotonics Education, Science, and Technology (CBEST)	2003 - 2005
HDE Graduate Students Representative, Graduate Student Association, UC Davis	2002 - 2003
Graduate Student Representative, HDE Faculty Executive Committee, UC Davis	2001 - 2003
Graduate Student Representative, HDE Faculty Curriculum Committee, UC Davis	2001 - 2003
Chair, Graduate Student Association, UC Davis	2001 - 2002
Graduate Student Representative, Graduate Council, UC Davis	2001 - 2002



Graduate Student Representative, Campus Council for Community & Diversity, UC Davis	2001 - 2002
Student Body President, Associated Students of Simpson College	1996 - 1997
Academic Committee Chairperson, Student Senate, Simpson College	1995 - 1996
Student Representative, Faculty Academic Council, Simpson College	1995 - 1996
Student Representative, Core Curriculum Revision Committee, Simpson College	1995 - 1996

## **OUTREACH SERVICE**

### **Presentations and Trainings**

- Vallotton, C. D. (September, 2010). Baby signs: Communicating with your baby before your baby can talk. Presented at Shared Parenting, Lansing, MI.
- Vallotton, C.D. (May, 2009). *Introduction to early childhood screening, assessment, & evaluation*, Saginaw Early Childhood Coalition, Saginaw, MI.

### **Consulting and Advising**

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Member, Educational Advisory Board, Two Little Hands Productions, Midvale, Utah                                                               | 2010 - |
| Consultant on Evaluation Methodology, Community Action Program for Children, Public Health Agency of Canada: Alberta, Ontario, and BC Regions | 2009 - |

### **International Mentoring**

- |                                                                                                            |        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Advisor for Ivana Prochazkova, PhD Student, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic                       | 2010 - |
| Advisor for thesis topic for Ajay Saini, MS Student, Department of Social Work, University of Delhi, India | 2010 - |
| Advisor and mentor for Franziska Grimm, PhD Student, Max Planck Institute, Leipzig, Germany                | 2008 - |

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

- |                                                                                                                                              |             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Therapist and Dog Handler, Hug-a-Pet Program for emotionally and physically challenged children, Caring Canines Visiting Pet Therapy Program | 2007 - 2008 |
| Chair, Yolo County Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health (MCAH) Advisory Board                                                                 | 2003 - 2005 |
| MCAH Representative, Yolo County Children's Alliance Policy Council,                                                                         | 2004 - 2005 |
| Child Development Representative, Yolo County MCAH Local Planning Group                                                                      | 2004 - 2005 |
| Child Development Representative & Vice-Chair, Yolo County MCAH Advisory Board                                                               | 2000 - 2003 |
| Evaluation Consultant, United Way's Sacramento "Success by Six" Initiative                                                                   | 1999 - 2000 |

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

- Founder, International Infant Sign Researchers
- Principal Investigator, Literacy Achievement Research Center, MSU

- Member, Society for Research in Child Development
- Member, World Association of Infant Mental Health
- Member, International Society for Infant Studies
- Member, International Society for Gesture Studies