

December 16th 2020

Dear Human Development Researchers and Members of the Australasian Human Development Association (AHDA),

Welcome to the final AHDA Newsletter of 2020! In this issue, we have a message from our President Annette Henderson, a summary and highlights from our 2020 Online Conference, our first Member Spotlight, job alerts, and information about how you can get involved with AHDA.

A message from AHDA's President, Associate Professor Annette Henderson

While this year has been a difficult time for many, and the impact of COVID-19 pandemic continues to be felt across the globe, the year has also brought examples of strength and resilience that provide glimmers of hope as we move into 2021.

As a researcher interested in cooperation, I have been particularly amazed at the multitude of examples of people effectively working together, even from afar, to solve the complex problems that this year has thrown at us. AHDA has been no different, we have grown and flourished amidst such uncertainty, providing further evidence of the important role our society can play in connecting human development researchers within Australasia. I feel extremely fortunate to represent you all as President of AHDA and to be in a position where I can reflect on 2020 while also spending the holiday season enjoying the summer with nearby family and friends. It is my hope that you enjoy reading this Newsletter, which offers a brief summary of AHDA's 2020, as you too are unwinding and getting ready for a much-needed and well-deserved holiday season.

2020 was a busy year for AHDA with a number of exciting ventures, which I outlined in our [AGM](#) held October 22, 2020. The year began with the Executive Committee undertaking two big projects: updating of our [Website](#) and developing a set of [Guidelines for our Executive Committee Membership, Regional Representative Roles, and AHDA AGM timing](#). These substantial changes happened as most of us were in our first COVID-19 lockdowns. I was incredibly grateful for the time and contributions made by the Executive during this time despite the increased demands brought on by the lockdowns. I hope you enjoy reading the Guidelines and perusing our updated website. You may also note that the website continues to be a work-in-progress, and we plan to provide a more detailed history of AHDA and an enhanced Membership Portal. If you are interested in contributing to our Website development, please contact me as we always appreciate additional input and assistance

The next highlight is our **second online conference** organised by: Jess Aitken, Nichole Breeland, Sina Gibhardt, Alecia Moser, Riley Scott, Sue Walker and myself. The Executive Committee felt that our members needed to reconnect with our colleagues in human

development and as a result, we were determined to hold our second online conference. I am sure you would agree that this was a fantastic decision as the conference was a huge success! It provided a welcomed opportunity to share our research with our colleagues in a year during which most of the regularly scheduled conferences that we had planned on attending had been cancelled. Please see below to review the key highlights of our second online conference.

This year also brought some **changes in our Executive** with Susan Walker reaching the end of her second term as our Secretary. Fortunately, we will not be losing Sue as she has agreed to stay on as an Australian Regional Representative. However, we do also welcome long-time AHDA member and past Secretary, Cassy Dittman as our new Secretary. We also developed two new Junior Member-at-Large positions on our Executive Committee which have been filled by Nichole Breeland and Juliane Pariz. One of our long-standing New Zealand Regional Representatives, Vanessa Green, has stepped down in her role and Nic Badcock has joined as a new Australian Regional Representative. On behalf of the membership, I would like to extend ongoing gratitude to past and present Executive Committee Members and Regional Representatives.

We held our **2020 AGM** as part of the online conference. Please see minutes [here](#). Here are a few highlights from our discussion:

- Our Treasurer, Jaimee Stuart, has been working hard to set up AHDA's accounts in digital format. This is an important step for AHDA's future and our ability to keep track of the finances digitally is a product of Jaimee's perseverance and dedication to our society. On behalf of AHDA, I would like to thank you, Jaimee, for your never-ending commitment to future-proofing our finances and financial processes.
- Our **online presence** continues to grow with thanks to Riley Scott, Nichole Breeland and Juliane Pariz. Please help us in growing our society by liking us on our [AHDA Facebook Page](#)!
- Our **upcoming conferences** were also discussed. However, the plan moving unclear due to COVID-19 and the impact that in-person conferences have on efforts to tackle climate change. It is proposed that another online conference will occur in 2021 and we are looking for anyone who is interested in hosting this with our help and support. We have many resources, templates and guides available and so **please reach out if you would consider being a part of an organising committee for an online conference in 2021.**
- As was announced at the AGM 2019, AHDA has moved to a **new Membership Fee structure** to help with the sustainability of our society. While students and postdoctoral fellows are not required to pay a membership fee, we are asking other members to pay an annual AHDA membership fee of \$20. AHDA now has 141 members who have joined under this new structure (our membership doubled in 2020) with many opting to become members as part of their online conference registration. While the Executive Committee continues to identify new initiatives for AHDA members, it was determined at the AGM that **this will be the final newsletter that will be sent out to our entire listserv**, which contains the email addresses of hundreds of inactive past members. **If you have not joined AHDA under the new membership structure but would like to continue to be a part of AHDA and**

receive AHDA related information, please go to our website and elect to join as a member. If you are a student or postdoctoral fellow, please email us at AHDAmembers@gmail.com so that we can verify your student status. Your membership will help support our ongoing activities and is greatly appreciated.

I hope that you agree that AHDA has achieved much in a year that has been filled with uncertainty and that you have enjoyed this opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments this year as much as I have. I am extremely grateful to be a member of AHDA and for the opportunity to work alongside the wonderful Executive Committee and Regional Representatives. I would like to thank you for being a part of AHDA and wish you a very happy and safe holiday season and new year.

Sincerely,

Annette Henderson, on behalf of the 2020 AHDA Executive Committee

AHDA's 2020 Online Conference

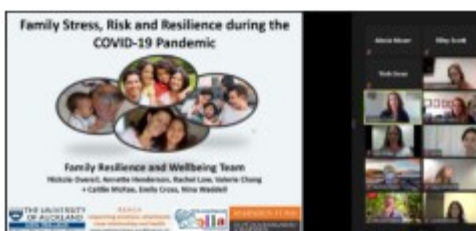
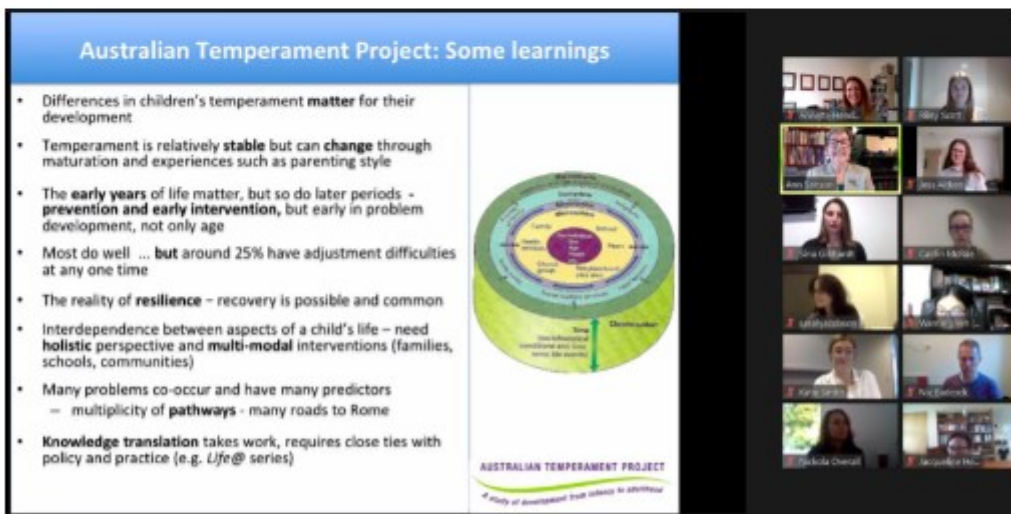
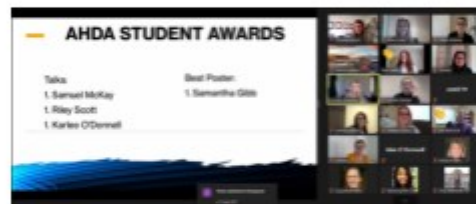
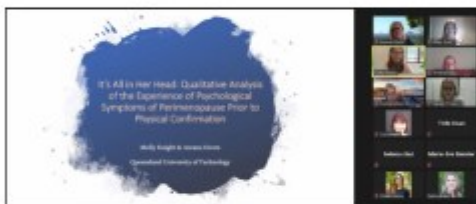
The devastating effects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in the cancellation or postponement of many face-to-face conferences this year. However, our 2020 Online Conference offered a great opportunity to break the isolation barrier and reconnect through research on human development across the lifespan. Our 2020 conference was held across two days: October 22nd and 23rd, and was a great success with 45 presenters, 3 keynote presentations, and 116 registrations from 10 institutions across New Zealand and Australia.

We received some much appreciated feedback on the conference, which was rated almost **5 stars across all aspects** including the programme, ease of using Zoom, opportunities for interaction, connectedness, and overall success. Our attendees loved the variety and range of presentations as well as the opportunity to connect with researchers in Australasia:

What did you like best about the conference?

- "It was nice to be connected with New Zealand more strongly than I have been before. There was a broad mix of topics - something for everyone."
- "Collegial and supportive environment. It was great to see presenters from all career stages. Nice mix of topics and sessions that were organised in logical groupings."
- "The AHDA conference has always been very collegial and student-friendly. I wish to thank the conference organising committee for their support and excellent efforts."
- "An opportunity to learn about research projects going on in such an important field."

Some snapshots of the conference presentations and networking can be seen below:



We would again like to congratulate Samuel McKay, Riley Scott, and Karlee O'Donnell for receiving first place in our Individual Presentation Category, and Samantha Gibb who received the highest score in the Poster Presentation Category. View the oral presentation winners and poster winner [here](#).

We would also like to extend huge thanks to our 2020 Online Conference Organising Committee members, who worked alongside members of the Executive Committee: Jess Aitken, Alecia Moser, and Sina Gibhardt.

If you attended or presented at our 2020 online conference and have not yet provided feedback, you may do so by following [this link](#).

AHDA 2021 Conference

Please reach out to us at AHDAmembers@gmail.com if you would consider hosting or joining an organising committee for another online conference in 2021. International Conference hosting is an extremely valued contribution to the field. Our 2019 and 2020 online conferences have allowed us to build networks with like-minded researchers and to learn more about valuable human development research being conducted in Australasia.

AHDA Member Spotlight

We are excited to share a new initiative with you that will be presented in our newsletters and on our Facebook Page each month. Our Member Spotlight is designed to introduce our members to one another and to highlight information about research, interests and opportunities in this space. We begin this series by introducing you to our President, Annette Henderson, and the other members of our Executive Committee and Regional Representatives. For more information on who is involved in the Executive Committee and our Regional Representatives, please visit our [People page](#).



Annette Henderson, Associate Professor
School of Psychology, University of Auckland, Director of the Early Learning Lab
(www.earlylearning.ac.nz)

1. What does your research explore/investigate?

I often find this question difficult to answer as my research spans several areas of

interest. In general, I am interested in research questions that address the development of cooperation across early childhood and how cooperation influences children's perceptions of goals and fairness. Cooperative activities are those in which individuals coordinate their actions with others to attain a shared goal and are critical to most of the things that we do in our everyday lives. Communication requires cooperation because for it to be effective we must take turns with our communication partners and use the words that will be shared by them. Getting to work, acquiring the things we need to survive, and meeting our timelines all require cooperation. Indeed, people who are better at cooperating with others tend to have more positive life outcomes. The research conducted by my team examines children's cooperation in various contexts (e.g., family, peer, and child-experimenter interactions), identifies the factors that shape effective cooperation (e.g., social cognition, parenting), and tests how various aspects of cooperative competence shape key outcomes (e.g., relationship functioning, emotional competence). It is my hope that the work that we do will help identify ways in which we can enhance the ways that individuals can work together to solve problems that we face in our everyday lives.

2. What is your most recent publication?

Cross, E. J., Overall, N. C., Low, R. S. T., & Henderson, A. M. E. (2020). Relationship problems, agreement and bias in perceptions of partners' parental responsiveness, and family functioning. *Journal of Family Psychology*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1037/fam0000812>

3. What do you love best about being a researcher?

I love the fact that being a researcher is never boring and I love (almost) every stage of the research process!! Developing methods to answer questions that pique my interest, which ultimately results in more questions to explore... it may seem daunting, but the entire process is actually quite exciting. I also enjoy the collegial aspects of being a researcher – working with enthusiastic, curious and excellent students is challenging and fun, as is discussing research in diverse topics with my colleagues. I learn something new every day and I love it!

[Please visit and like our Facebook page to see Annette's full highlight!](#)

Call for Involvement

We are dedicated to connecting researchers together and promoting the work of our members. If you would like to share information about your recent research publications, upcoming or ongoing projects, job opportunities, or to be included in our Member Spotlight, please email us at AHDAmembers@gmail.com.

We have also created an [AHDA Facebook Page](#) where we will continue to highlight current advances in our field and to the work done by our members. We hope that our members will engage with our content and take the time to suggest exciting and interesting information to post via our email. If you would like to contribute material for our Facebook page, please get in touch with us at AHDAmembers@gmail.com.

Society for Research on Adolescence: Global Study of COVID-19 Pandemic Effects on Adolescents

The Society for Research on Adolescence has announced an invitation to participate in a global collaborative effort to understand the impact of COVID-19 on children and adolescents around the world. Please see and complete the following link if you are interested in getting involved:

“We strongly encourage you to be part of this first step by completing [this five-minute survey](#) that will capture what researchers around the world are already doing to document the impact of COVID-19 on children, adolescents, and young adults (from age 0-24).”

Job Alerts

Please click the following links to find out more information on job vacancies in areas of human development:

Position: University Assistant (post doc)

University: University of Vienna

Department: Developmental and Educational Psychology

Position Description: One post-doc position is vacant at the Department of Developmental and Educational Psychology at the Faculty of Psychology (40 hours/week, for 6 years). The position is assigned to the area of “Psychology of Aging” (Chair Prof. Dr. Jana Nikitin).

We are searching for collaborators with a Magister/ Master in Psychology, an outstanding PhD or doctoral degree in psychology, a genuine interest in psychology of aging and adult development as well as experience in research and teaching in at least one of the following fields: (1) motivational development, (2) social development, (3) health, and (4) statistical approaches to longitudinal data analysis.

Reference number: 11599

Application Deadline: 31 December, 2020

Apply: [Visit this link.](#)

Position: Postdoctoral Researcher

University: Western University, Canada

Department: Department of Psychology *and* the Brain and Mind Institute

Position Description: Western University’s Sensory Perception Research Lab (Dr. Ryan Stevenson) and the Developmental Social and Cognitive Neuroscience group (Dr. Bobby Stojanoski) are seeking an ambitious postdoctoral associate interested in the study of functional and structural changes to the brain in childhood and adolescence in typically developing populations and neurodevelopmental disorders, such as autism, with links to clinical metrics, and behavioural and cognitive development.

Application Deadline: 3 January, 2021.

Apply: More information at <https://sensorylab.ca/participate/postdoctoral/>

Position: Postdoctoral Research Fellow

University: University of Exeter

Department: College of Life and Environmental Sciences

Position Description: The College wishes to recruit a Postdoctoral Research Fellow to participate in a research project to investigate when and why British children and adolescents as bystanders challenge or support the social exclusion of immigrant peers. The project is funded by the ESRC and was awarded to Professor Adam Rutland at Department of Psychology, University of Exeter. The post is available immediately to the end of June 2021, with the possibility of a six to nine months extension to the position. The successful applicant will be responsible for liaising with primary and secondary schools, data collection, data entry, data analysis, grant writing, publications, dissemination and the overall day-to-day running of the project.

Application Deadline: 20 December, 2020

Apply: [Visit this link.](#)

As noted above, future newsletters and communications will only be sent to our members from 2021, rather than our full listserv. If you are unsure of your member status, please email us at AHDAmembers@gmail.com. To become a member, please visit [this webpage](#).

Finally, please email us with any comments, questions or suggestions for future newsletters, such as job alerts, calls for papers, and opportunities for AHDA members.

Sincerely,
Riley Scott, on behalf of the 2020 AHDA Executive

Annette Henderson, President, AHDA
Paul Jose, Outgoing President, AHDA
Jaimee Stuart, Treasurer, AHDA
Cassy Dittman, Secretary, AHDA
Riley Scott, Communications Director, AHDA
Nichole Breeland, Junior Member, AHDA
Juliane Pariz, Junior Member, AHDA