Prevention Implementation in Diverse International Contexts

Speakers’ Bios

Day 1: Monday April 28, 2014
Ford Alumni Center, University of Oregon

Conference Framing
8:30am-9:30 am

Charles R. Martinez, Jr., PhD, Conference Co-Chair
Faculty, Department Head and Associate Professor, Educational Methodology, Policy, and Leadership, University of Oregon

Dr. Charles R. Martinez, Jr. is a Clinical Psychologist, Associate Professor, and department head in the Department of Educational Methodology, Policy, and Leadership at the University of Oregon, where he also directs the Center for Equity Promotion. He served as the University of Oregon Vice President for Institutional Equity and Diversity from 2005 to 2011, and also served as a senior scientist at the non-profit Oregon Social Learning Center where he founded and directed the center’s Latino Research Team beginning in 1999. He has served as a publicly elected member of the Eugene District 4J School Board and is currently serving as a Governor-appointed member of the Oregon State Board of Education representing Oregon’s 4th congressional district.

Martinez’s substantive interests center on identifying factors that promote healthy adjustment for families and children following stressful life events (e.g. changes in family structure, socioeconomic status, physical and/or emotional health, acculturation, and immigration status), taking into consideration the cultural contexts in which families operate. He has led numerous NIH and internationally funded research projects designed to examine risk and protective factors involved in linking acculturation to behavioral health outcomes for Latino families and to develop and test culturally specific interventions for Latino families at risk of behavioral health problems in the U.S. and in Latin America. His main areas of published work include substantive and methodological topics related to cultural issues in prevention science, Latino educational and behavioral health disparities, links between acculturation and discrimination on substance use and academic failure prevention, culturally specific parenting interventions, the role of biosocial stress markers on family outcomes, and family processes. He is a nationally known consultant on organizational diversity issues, cross-cultural research, and community engagement. He teaches courses in equity, multicultural education, leading for diversity, prevention science, and Latino family health and education. Dr. Martinez has received numerous national, state, and local awards for his work, including the ‘Community, Culture, and Prevention Science Award’ from the Society for Prevention Research.

John Mark Eddy, PhD, Conference Co-Chair
Director of Research for Partners for Our Children, School of Social Work, University of Washington

Dr. Mark Eddy is part of the School of Social Work at the University of Washington where he serves as Director of Research for Partners for Our Children, a research, practice, and policy center focused on child and family wellbeing within the context of the child welfare system. He specializes in conducting rigorous longitudinal research studies of prevention and intervention programs intended to benefit children and families. Previously, Eddy served as Senior Scientist and a licensed psychologist at the Oregon Social Learning Center in Eugene for 25 years, where he was a member of the Oregon Prevention Research Center and the Latino Research Team. In recent years, his work has centered on the conduct of randomized controlled trials (RCTs) within school systems, the juvenile justice system, and the adult corrections system, as well as with non-profits working as partners with these and other social service systems.

Eddy received a bachelor’s degree in psychology at Texas A&M University. During and following college, he worked with his wife, Carol, as a counselor in summer camps for youth and as a group home parent with developmentally disabled adults. He then pursued a master’s and doctorate in clinical psychology at the University of Oregon, completed a clinical internship at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, and served as a senior research principal at the Attention Deficit Disorders Clinic, Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.
Eddy is an Associate Editor of the professional journal Prevention Science, and serves on the editorial boards of the Journal of Family Psychology and Psychological Services. He is charter member of the Community Level Health Promotion Study Section, National Institutes of Health, and a principal member of the Social and Behavioral Education Research Scientific Review Panel, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. He co-edited the book, “Children of Incarcerated Parents: A Handbook for Researchers and Practitioners” (Urban Institute Press), and the monograph “Relationship Processes and Resilience in Children of Incarcerated Parents” (in press, Monographs for the Society for Research on Child Development). He serves on several nonprofit Boards and on the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission. He is committed to forging relationships between the research community and practitioners and policy makers with the shared goal of improving outcomes for children and families.

Opening Keynote
9:30am-10:45am

Anthony Biglan, PhD, Senior Scientist at Oregon Research Institute (ORI)
Co-Director of the Promise Neighborhood Research Consortium
Former President, Society for Prevention Research

Presentation Title: Promoting Prevention Science in International Policy and Practice Contexts

Dr. Anthony Biglan is a Senior Scientist at Oregon Research Institute and the Co-Director of the Promise Neighborhood Research Consortium. He has been conducting research on the development and prevention of child and adolescent problem behavior for the past 30 years. His work includes studies of the risk and protective factors associated with tobacco, alcohol, and other drug use; high-risk sexual behavior; and antisocial behavior. He has conducted numerous experimental evaluations of interventions to prevent tobacco use through school-based programs and community-wide intervention and he has evaluated interventions to prevent high-risk sexual behavior, antisocial behavior, and reading failure.

In recent years, Biglan’s work has shifted to more comprehensive interventions that have the potential to prevent the entire range of child and adolescent problems. He and colleagues at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences published a book summarizing the epidemiology, cost, etiology, prevention, and treatment of youth with multiple problems (Biglan et al., 2004). He is a former president of the Society for Prevention Research and also was a member of the Institute of Medicine Committee on Prevention, which recently released its report documenting numerous evidence-based preventive interventions that can prevent multiple problems. As a member of Oregon’s Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission, he has helped to develop a strategic plan for implementing comprehensive evidence-based interventions throughout Oregon.

Plenary Session I
Implementing Prevention Service Delivery Systems around the World
11:00am-1:00pm

Eric C. Brown, PhD, Conference Plenary Chair
Research Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, University of Washington

Dr. Ric Brown is a Research Assistant Professor with the Social Development Research Group, School of Social Work, University of Washington, where he focuses on the development and testing of community- and school-based preventive interventions. Currently, Brown is the Principal Investigator of a U.S. National Institute on Drug Abuse-funded study examining risk factors for adolescent drug use between the United States and Colombia. He also works on several other international studies including examinations of risk and protective factors for youth behavior problems in the United States, Australia, Brazil, and the Netherlands; development of prevention service delivery systems in Central America (PREVENIR) and Colombia (Comunidades Que se Cuidan). He also is currently an Investigator on the Community Youth Development Study, which is a long-term national randomized controlled trial testing the efficacy and sustainability of the Communities That Care prevention system in the United States. His research interests include the evaluation, development, and implementation of prevention programs, policies, and service delivery systems within the United States and abroad.
Panel Speaker: **Rubeena Esmail-Arndt, MPH, MSc, GIZ, Germany - Central America**

**Rubeena Esmail** was born in 1961 in Rawalpindi, Pakistan and received her education in Pakistan and England. Ms. Esmail has a MSc degree in Political Science and a Masters in Public Health. She has worked for more than 25 years in the field of adolescent health in a number of countries including Germany, Pakistan, Tanzania, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Presently Ms. Esmail serves as program manager for GIZ’s regional program on youth violence prevention in Central America, PREVENIR. She is located in San Salvador, El Salvador, but travels and works throughout Central and South America.

Panel Speaker: **Juliana Mejía Trujillo, MSW, Nuevos Rumbos, Colombia**

**Juliana Mejía Trujillo**, a Social Worker, currently serves as National Coordinator of Community Activities at **Nuevos Rumbos Corporation** (Colombia), a private organization focused on research and prevention of social problems such as drugs and alcohol abuse among minors, and juvenile delinquency. Mejía Trujillo heads the implementation in eight municipalities of **Comunidades Que se Cuidan**, an adaptation of Communities That Care, and oversees the Colombian contract with the University of Washington (funded by NIDA), that compares risk factors among US and Colombian adolescents.

**Plenary Session II**  
**Working with Families, Schools, and Communities**  
2:00pm-4:00pm

**Jeffrey Sprague, PhD**, Conference Plenary Chair  
Professor, Special Education, University of Oregon  
Co-Director, Institute on Violence and Destructive Behavior

**Dr. Jeffrey Sprague** is a Professor of Special Education and Director of the UO Institute on Violence and Destructive Behavior. He directs federal, state, and local research and demonstration projects related to positive behavior supports, response to intervention, youth violence prevention, alternative education, juvenile delinquency prevention and treatment, and school safety. His research activities encompass applied behavior analysis, positive behavior supports, functional behavioral assessment, school safety, youth violence prevention, and juvenile delinquency prevention.


Panel Speaker: **Catalina Mertz, MSc, Paz, Chile**

**Catalina Mertz** earned her Master’s in Economics from the London School of Economics. She was Research Director and Project Manager for the Citizen’s Peace Foundation. She also participated in the Experts’ Forum on Citizen Security in 2003 and in the modernization process for the penal and alternative criminal systems. Her studies have included a focus on homicide, school violence and police organizations. She is a founding member of the Chilean Society of Public Policy and later served as a professor at the University of Adolfo Ibanez and the University of Development. She also served as Assistant Minister of the Interior and Public Security in 2010 and as the first Subsecretary of Crime Prevention in 2011-2012. In 2012 she returned to the Citizen’s Peace Foundation as Executive Director.
Panel Speaker: **Alejandro Christ, MA, GIZ - Germany/Central America**

**Alejandro Christ** is a Social Educator and holds an MA in Development Aid Policies. He worked for GIZ for 14 years in Ecuador, in projects related to educational reform proposals such as an environmental education curriculum for indigenous schools and peace education training for teachers. Christ currently serves as program coordinator for Prevention in Education, PREVENIR, the regional program for youth violence prevention in Central America implemented by the German Cooperation Agency GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit). Headquartered in Guatemala, Christ is also responsible for PREVENIR in Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua. His focus is on the development and implementation of a school- and family-based violence prevention model called Miles de Manos (Thousands of Hands) in these four countries.

Panel Speaker: **Lucy Figueroa, MA, GIZ –Central America**

**Lucy Figueroa** is the National Consultant in Honduras for the German Cooperation Agency’s (GIZ) PREVENIR program. Figueroa has been a community educator based in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, for over 15 years. Her master’s degree is in Non-formal Adult Education with the Center for International Education at the University of Massachusetts - Amherst as a Fellow of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. She has served as a consultant for non-profit institutions, writing and designing materials for community development programs as well as facilitating group learning processes. She co-founded Arca Associates, a consulting group that produces multimedia training programs on diverse social topics, including emergency and disaster response, early childhood care and development, and increasing violence awareness in Central America.

Panel Speaker: **Ligia Díaz Pentzke, M.Ed, GIZ –Central America**

**Ligia Díaz Pentzke** holds a Bachelor’s degree in International Relations (Universidad Americana, Nicaragua), a Master’s in Social and Comparative Analysis in Education (University of Pittsburgh, PA), and a Graduate Certificate in Latin American Studies. Díaz Pentzke has worked to improve social justice through education in Central America since 2006. She has lived and worked in Nicaragua and Guatemala, building and implementing education projects and research focused on underserved populations. Currently she is the National Consultant in Nicaragua with the German Cooperation Agency’s (GIZ) PREVENIR program. She collaborates closely with GIZ to adapt and contextualize US methodologies to prevent youth violence and to strengthen communities, resulting in alternatives for at-risk children and youth. Díaz Pentzke is also a researcher at Universidad Centroamericana in Managua, collaborating on State of the Art of Education in Nicaragua.

**Ballet Folklórico Alma de México**

4:00pm – 4:20pm

**Monica and Erubey Olvera** began Ballet Folklórico Alma de México (Soul of Mexico) in 2004 so her daughter could learn folkloric Mexican dance as Erubey had done in primary school in his native Mexico. The group includes children ages 6 - 17 and performs regional folkloric Mexican dances at celebrations and events such as Fiesta Latina, Eugene Celebration, the Oregon State Fair, the Day of the Child/Literacy Day, and the Annual Day of the Dead Art Exhibit. Through learning and performing the folkloric dances, the children develop an appreciation for the richness of their Mexican culture and heritage.

**Poster Session & Evening Social Reception**

Emerging Themes and Findings in International Prevention Research

4:30pm-6:30pm

**Jean Small, PhD, Poster Session Chair**
Center of Equity Promotion, University of Oregon

Dr. **Jean Small’s** research bridges behavioral sciences and health services research, with a specific focus on social determinants of substance use disorders and HIV/AIDS. She is interested in work that has direct public health and policy relevance, aimed especially toward improving outcomes in underprivileged communities. Her current work is based in rural communities in the United States as well as in South Africa, Kenya, and Haiti.
Keynote Address
8:30am-9:30am

Keynote Speaker: Rob Saxton, MA, Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, State of Oregon

Presentation Title: Prevention Implementation in Public Education

Rob Saxton was appointed Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction by Governor John Kitzhaber in 2012 and is serving as Oregon’s first appointed head of the Oregon Department of Education following 2011 legislation that made the Governor the Superintendent of Schools with the authority to appoint a Deputy to run the Department. Saxton oversees the education of more than a half-million students in over 1,200 public and charter schools. He works to implement changes to the state’s education system to better align services, supports, and funding from pre-kindergarten through higher education.

Saxton worked for years in Oregon schools and districts. For seven years, he served as the superintendent of the Tigard-Tualatin School District which is recognized as a state leader in student success in reading, math, science, and graduation rates. The district provided leadership to other districts in the state in areas such as Response to Intervention (RTI) and an intentional focus on closing the achievement gap. Saxton also served as superintendent of the Sherwood School District, as principal of McMinnville High School, and as an assistant principal, teacher, and coach in the Greater Albany School District.

A native Oregonian, Saxton has been active in state-level education policy for the past 12 years. He served as an advisor to the State Board of Education, as an Executive Board Member with the OSAA, was involved in shaping Oregon’s recently approved No Child Left Behind waiver proposal, and served on state panels and workgroups including the Oregon report card re-design, the School Accountability Task Force, and the Superintendents Vision and Policy Advisory Committee. Saxton earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in education from Linfield College and his administrative/superintendent’s credentials from Portland State University.

Plenary Session III
Positive Youth Engagement: Improving Educational and Career Outcomes
9:45am-11:45am

Charlotte Alverson, PhD, Conference Plenary Co-Chair
Research Associate,
Tech Assistant for the National Post-School Outcomes Center

Dr. Charlotte Alverson is a Research Associate in the Secondary Special Education and Transition research unit in College of Education at the University of Oregon and provides technical assistance for the National Post-School Outcomes Center. Since 2006, she has worked with state departments of education across the United States to collect, report, and use post-school outcome data to improve outcomes for youth with disabilities. She is Co-PI on the STEPSS PD Project, an Institute of Education Sciences grant to develop and test professional development in data-based decision making, predictors of post-school success, and action planning. Recently, Alverson accepted the position of Director of Technical Assistance and Training for the Oregon Youth Transition Program. Her research areas include post-school outcomes, transition to college for young adults with high functioning autism, and transition programming for students with a significant intellectual disability.
Lauren Lindstrom, PhD, Conference Plenary Co-Chair  
Faculty, Counseling Psychology and Human Services,  
Associate Dean of Research and Outreach

Dr. Lauren Lindstrom is the Associate Dean of Research and Outreach and an Associate Professor in Counseling Psychology and Human Services at the University of Oregon. Her research interests include career development, gender equity, and access to employment for youth with disabilities. She has served as Principal Investigator or Project Director for a number of federally funded studies designed to understand contextual variables influencing career development for youth with disabilities and has developed school and community based programs to improve post school outcomes. Lindstrom recently completed an Institute of Educational Sciences funded research study (Project PATHS) to develop and test a gender specific career curriculum for high school girls with disabilities. She is also the former Director of the Oregon Youth Transition Program (YTP) Technical Assistance team that has provided transition services for over 24,000 high school students with disabilities in Oregon. This model was replicated in Arizona and Alabama and recently recognized as an “Innovative Practice” by the European Association of Service Providers for People with Disabilities. Lindstrom was an invited contributor to “Disability and Equity at Work,” a 2013 volume that describes evidence-based recommendations for global employment equity (Oxford University Press) and an invited speaker at the 2013 International Conference on Employment Rights: Innovative Policies and Practices for Persons with Disabilities. In 2008, she received the University of Oregon’s "Research Innovation Award" recognizing faculty achievements in fostering new knowledge, creative endeavors, and connections of scholarship to the larger community.

Panel Speaker: Mr. Keith Ozols, Oregon Vocational Rehabilitation

Keith Ozols is the Statewide Coordinator for Oregon’s Youth Transitions Programs with Oregon Vocational Rehabilitation. Before joining the State of Oregon, Ozols was the Executive Director of Incight, a nonprofit based in Portland, Oregon that serves individuals with disabilities by helping them gain greater access to postsecondary education and employment. Ozols managed a college access program for at-risk youth and English language learners at the Oregon Council for Hispanic Advancement; he also managed international college access programs in Spain called Asesoría with the educational group Club Ivy, providing students greater access to colleges in the United States and Great Britain.

Panel Speaker: Heather Lindsey, MA, Oregon Department of Education

Heather Lindsey is the Secondary Transition Liaison for the Oregon Department of Education. She provides technical assistance to school districts, parent organizations, and participating agencies to ensure a solid understanding of secondary special education, transition regulations, and implementation of evidence-based transition services. Before joining the Department of Education, Lindsey was a Counselor Specialist for Oregon Vocational Rehabilitation where she assisted transition-aged students in developing vocational goals and making a successful transition from secondary education to postsecondary training and employment.

Panel Speaker: Benedict McWhirter, PhD, University of Oregon

Benedict McWhirter is Department Head for the Counseling Psychology and Human Services Department and is a Professor in the Counseling Psychology program. His research focuses on investigating the factors that contribute to adolescent risky behaviors; factors that enhance adolescent resilience and effective preventive interventions; and emerging adulthood and college student development, retention, and support, with particular emphasis on students of diverse ethnicultural backgrounds and first-generation college students. He is especially interested in the role of connectedness to others (e.g., peers, parents, teachers), to environments (e.g., schools, neighborhoods) and to self as factors that contribute to outcomes among adolescents and emerging adults.

McWhirter’s scholarship interests have led to the implementation of community- and school-based research with adolescents, families, and college students in the United States and internationally. His research has been funded by the Spencer Foundation, he is an affiliated
Panel Speaker: Bayron Flores, MA, GIZ/Honduras

Bayron Flores holds a degree in Business Administration and a Master’s degree in Project Management. He has studied project management, methodologies such as Competency-based economies through the Formation of Entrepreneurs (CEFE), business seminars, and participatory methods in the employment and business development. He is a member of CEFE and of the Alumni Network of GIZ’s Global Campus. Since 2005, Flores has worked to promote youth development through comprehensive training initiatives, violence prevention programs, and programs that teach youth life and personal skills to increase their employability and entrepreneurship. For the past six years he has worked with the German Cooperation Agency’s (GIZ) PREVENIR program as a Technical Advisor on issues of employability and entrepreneurship for socially disadvantaged young people. Flores is based in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Lunch and Keynote Address
12:00pm-1:00pm

Tracy Harachi, PhD, Associate Professor
School of Social Work, University of Washington

Dr. Tracy Harachi is a social work scholar whose projects and publications seek to understand the familial and environmental processes that influence and impact youth, particularly the impacts of migration. She also works to develop or evaluate preventive interventions that support the healthy development of youth within an ecological and global context.

In addition to studies examining youth development, her interests in migration have evolved into a study focused on Cambodia where she presently serves as partnership director to establish the first social work education program in that country. This focus area has engendered a number of learning opportunities that include study abroad courses, global field learning, independent coursework, and research with colleagues at the Royal University of Phnom Penh. Harachi has also been involved extensively as a scholar-advocate regarding criminal deportations, particularly the removals of Cambodian Americans.

Harachi is a former NIDA Services Research Review Committee-F member and Society for Prevention Research board member. She co-developed a summer internship program that sought to increase prevention science research opportunities for under-represented undergraduates and is keen to mentor graduate students who will support diversification of the academy. She was awarded the Community, Culture, and Prevention Science Award in 2005 by Society for Prevention Research (SPR), the Friend of Early Career Preventionist Network Award in 2006 by SPR, and in 2011 received the University of Washington Outstanding Public Service Award. In addition to her position with the School of Social Work, Harachi is an Adjunct Associate Professor for the University of Washington Department of Global Health.

Plenary Session IV
Measuring and Monitoring Outcomes, Fidelity, and Adaptation Process in International Implementation Efforts
1:00pm-3:00pm

Heather McClure, PhD, Conference Plenary Chair
Research Associate, Center for Equity Promotion; Faculty, University of Oregon

Dr. Heather McClure has conducted community-partnered basic and policy research focused on health, human rights, social networks, and cultural assets in Guatemala and with Latino communities in the U.S. In her current role, she investigates the effects of Latino immigrants’
processes of adaptation to U.S. society (acculturation) on behavioral, emotional, and physical health outcomes. This work draws on her previous human rights work and anthropological research into the effects of environmental factors (e.g., sociocultural, political, economic) and social networks on immigrant acculturation and health within and outside of established Latino communities in Chicago, Washington DC, Los Angeles, and Oregon, as well as on her international work.

**Panel Speaker: Charles Martinez, Jr., PhD, University of Oregon (bio in first page)**

**Panel Speaker: Nicole Eisenberg, PhD, University of Washington**

**Dr. Nicole Eisenberg** is a Research Scientist at the Social Development Research Group (SDRG) at the University of Washington. At SDRG she has focused on the development, implementation, and evaluation of the Evidence2Success prevention system where she has led the assessment of child and adolescent wellbeing. She is also involved in the study of risk factors for adolescent drug use and antisocial behavior in the United States and Colombia, and has provided technical assistance for the implementation of the *Comunidades Que Se Cuidan* prevention model in Colombia. Eisenberg has extensive experience evaluating social and educational programs for low-income populations in the USA and in Chile, using qualitative and quantitative methods, and working with stakeholders to foster utilization of evaluation findings. She has also done applied research in the areas of child development, early childhood education, and teacher effectiveness in Chile.

**Panel Speaker: Bienvenido Argueta, PhD, GIZ/Central America consultant**

**Dr. Bienvenido Argueta** earned his PhD in Cultural and Education Studies from the University of Ohio. He also has a Master’s in Education from the Universidad del Valle in Guatemala and a Bachelor’s degree in Philosophy from the Universidad de San Carlos in Guatemala. Argueta served as the Ministry of Education for Guatemala, as a consultant for educational reform initiatives, as the founder of a teacher training program for the Ministry of Education, as a Research Director and a university Professor. He has also coordinated studies focused on childhood labor in Central America and its effects on educational rights and has worked with the United Nations on studies focused on youth interests, employability, intimate relationships and workplace relations.

Currently, Argueta serves as Director of Nueva Modernidad Consultants, as well as a National Consultant for the German Cooperation Agency’s (GIZ) PREVENIR program focused on youth violence prevention and youth employability in Central America.

**Closing Remarks**

3:00pm-3:30pm

**Charles R. Martinez, Jr., PhD, Conference Co-Chair**
Faculty, Department Head and Associate Professor, Educational Methodology, Policy, and Leadership, University of Oregon