



Center for Human Environments

Annual Report: July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008

Professor Susan Saegert, Director through Spring 2008

Professor Tracey Revenson, Acting Director - Fall 2007

Professor Mary Clare Lennon, Incoming Director for 2008-2009

CENTER FOR HUMAN ENVIRONMENTS

ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008

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A. ACTIVITIES

This was a transitional year for the **Center for Human Environments (CHE)**, as long-time Director Susan Saegert stepped down in order to take a position in housing research and policy at Vanderbilt University. At the same time, Professor Mary Clare Lennon (Sociology), was selected to steer CHE's consortium of research groups and affiliates in the coming year. Since last year, Prof. Lennon has been a Co-Director of CHE's newly formed **Health & Society Research Group**, which joins the other research subgroups in the CHE portfolio: the **Children's Environments Research Group**, the **Housing Environments Research Group**, the **Public Space Research Group**, and the **Youth Studies Research Group**. In addition, CHE continues to partner with **ActKnowledge**, a research organization based at the Graduate Center that works with community groups, not-for-profits, foundations, and government agencies to analyze and evaluate their programs.

During the 2007-2008 fiscal year, CHE's portfolio of "Active Grants" (see Section D2) had a value of approximately \$1.25 million and generated about \$100,000 in overhead or facilities rental fees for the Graduate Center. In another measure of our Center's contribution to its home

institution, payments to CUNY students from CHE research projects (including both scholarships and compensation for services) amounted to more than \$300,000 over the same period. Also important for the long-term success of CHE, its affiliates last year devoted much time to preparing and submitting new applications for funding (see section D1, where ten pending or declined applications submitted in the last year are listed).

Here are some highlights from the various CHE research teams' activities during the past year:

- The United Nations offered a renewable institutional contract to the **Children's Environments Research Group** for work on UNICEF's "Child Friendly Cities Initiative," a global effort to promote children's rights and participation at the local level. CERG Co-Directors Prof. Roger Hart and Selim Iltus will lead this project with assistance from GC graduate students; the work is expected to continue for up to three years.
- The **Housing Environments Research Group** finished multi-year research projects on home mortgage foreclosure, funded by national and NYC agencies as well as by lending institutions, and continued to provide analysis of this pressing crisis to private sector stakeholders, the news media, not-for-profit agency staff and government officials.
- The **Public Space Research Group** focused on how certain "public facilities" (in particular, coop associations and a Brooklyn market) are used and valued; its Director, Prof. Setha Low, continued her service as President of the American Anthropological Association, and also laid plans for a major conference on qualitative methods in psychology and other social sciences, to be held under the auspices of CHE in May 2009.
- In **Youth Studies Research**, Prof. Michelle Fine developed proposals and began work on two major initiatives, a survey of the educational, health, and criminal justice experiences of 5000 NYC youth ("Youth Polling for Justice"), and an expansion of the Graduate Center-based "Participatory Action Research Collective," a group of CUNY graduate students and alumni (many now on faculty at other institutions) who have facilitated numerous community-based research projects in recent years.
- Also in **Youth Studies Research**, Prof. Colette Daiute continued her funded research on youth in post-conflict societies (such as the states of the former Yugoslavia), looking especially at how activities such as story-writing and student-developed online surveys can support the developmental processes these young people undergo within their recovering societies.
- During the past year CHE partner organization **ActKnowledge** conducted evaluations of educational, recreational, and healthcare programs, and also hosted staff members from its UK-based client HelmePark for a week-long training seminar on the application of "Theories of Change," a planning and evaluation tool for social change projects.
- The **CUNY Campaign Against Diabetes**, a five-year program supported by a grant from the New York State Health Foundation and by special funding from the CUNY

Chancellor's office, held workshops and piloted interventions for the prevention and management of the disease, with most of its project management centered at the Campaign Coordinator's office at CHE.

- Prof. Tracey Revenson, Co-Director of the **Health & Society Research Group**, continued her NIH-funded research on cancer survivorship, and also served as principal organizer for an American Psychological Association-supported festschrift conference honoring retiring GC faculty member and CHE affiliate Prof. Kay Deaux.

B. PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Below we list some of the plans for our Center's individual research groups or research teams:

- In the next three years the **Children's Environments Research Group** plans to coordinate its UNICEF-funded work on the "Child Friendly Cities Initiative" with the Childwatch International Research Network, a consortium of institutions stretching across five continents. This is a long-standing collaborative relationship for CERG, and the current project allows the partners to follow up on documents on children's rights and participation first produced for the United Nations two decades ago by CERG. A second major goal of CERG Director Roger Hart is to complete work on his study of children's free time activities in a small Vermont town. (Supplementary funding for this National Science Foundation project was awarded in Spring 2008.)
- Although **Housing Environments Research Group** Director Susan Saegert will be on leave from the Graduate Center and will take a position at Vanderbilt in Fall 2008, she plans to remain involved with housing research and other projects at CHE in the coming year. During Summer 2008, she and two Environmental Psychology graduate student Research Assistants have prepared manuscripts for publication based on earlier home mortgage foreclosure studies. Prof. Saegert also serves as PI on a Bowne Foundation grant funding research on the evaluation of not-for-profits, which continues through the end of 2008.
- Prof. Setha Low of the **Public Space Research Group** has begun planning with other CHE affiliates for a two-day conference scheduled for May 2009, entitled "Grounding Psychology: Qualitative Methods for the Future." As she finishes her term as President of the American Anthropological Association in the coming year, Prof. Low also looks forward to exploring new research opportunities with organizations such as the Project for Public Space, a leading consulting firm which has expressed interest in collaborating with PSRG.
- The **Youth Studies Research Group** led by Prof. Michelle Fine will continue work on its large-scale survey of the educational, health, and criminal justice experiences of NYC youth ("Youth Polling for Justice"). Depending on funding, the YSRG's "Participatory Action Research Collective" hopes to expand its research program in the next two years, committing two to four graduate fellowships per year for its community-based research

projects in the New York area. Lastly, Prof. Fine is also collaborating with the College Initiative program at Lehman College in proposing to the Ford Foundation a participatory study of CI's program, which annually helps about 250 formerly incarcerated individuals to enroll in college and succeed in their course work.

- Also in **Youth Studies Research**, Prof. Colette Daiute plans to re-submit a multi-year research project to the Department of Education. The project will focus on curriculum development to address the special needs of youth affected by conflict in their societies and will seek to extend previous research in the Balkans to other conflict zones such as Colombia.
- CHE partner organization **ActKnowledge** will continue its work in providing technical assistance and evaluation services to a wide variety of organizations, including NYC community schools, agencies that support early childhood development, and national foundations. Among AK clients are the California Endowment, Girl Scouts USA, the Lumina Foundation, the Trust for Public Land, and the British Helmpark UK.
- The **CUNY Campaign Against Diabetes**, now entering the third of its projected five years, will continue diabetes prevention and management programs throughout the CUNY system. The Campaign expects to receive renewed funding from the CUNY Chancellor's Office for 2008-2009, and also will support its activities with funds from its previously awarded New York State Health Foundation grant.
- During her upcoming sabbatical Prof. Tracey Revenson, Co-Director of the **Health & Society Research Group**, plans to edit proceedings of the festschrift conference dedicated to Prof. Kay Deaux, and will also lay the groundwork for further research on coping strategies of couples under stress, cancer survivorship, and pain management in arthritis.
- Prof. Mary Clare Lennon, Co-Director of the **Health & Society Research Group** (as well as incoming CHE Director for 2008-2009) is working on a longitudinal study of NYC residents experiencing housing insecurity. This includes, for example, those living doubled up or who pay a substantial portion of income for rent. At present, she and colleagues are conducting a pilot study at a Bronx drop-in center and an upper Manhattan food kitchen to test the questionnaire they have developed to assess housing history and current housing circumstances. Prof. Lennon is also continuing her investigation of the impact of housing market conditions on the well-being of children and families, using longitudinal data collected as part of the Fragile Families study. In the coming year she plans to prepare grant proposals to fund each of these projects.

C. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Below is a selection of recent publications deriving from research conducted by Center for Human Environments affiliates:

1. Books

Daiute, C., Beykont, Z., Nucci, L. (Eds.) (2006) *International Perspectives on Youth Conflict and Development*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Cammarota, J. and **Fine, M.** (Eds.) (2008) *Revolutionizing Education: Youth Participatory Action Research in Motion*. New York: Routledge.

Selcuk, Sirin and **Fine, Michelle.** (2008) *Understanding Muslim-American Youth: Understanding Hyphenated Identities through Multiple Methods*. New York: NYU Press.

Low, Setha, & Smith, Neil (Eds.) (2006). *The Politics of Public Space*. New York: Routledge.

DeFilippis, James, and **Saegert, Susan.** (Eds.) (2008) *The Community Development Reader*. New York: Routledge.

Freudenberg, N., **Saegert, S.**, & Klitzman, S., (in preparation) *Urban Health and Society: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Research and Practice*. Jossey Bass.

2. Book Chapters

McAllister, W., **Lennon, M.C.**, and Celimli, I. (2008) Prevention Strategies and Public Health: Homeless Prevention, Pp. 127-159 in The Contested Boundaries of American Public Health (J. Colgrove, D. Rosner, and J. Markowitz, eds) New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

Lennon, M.C. (2006) Women, work and depression: Conceptual and policy issues. Pp 309-327 in *The Handbook for the Study of Women and Depression*. (C.L.M. Keyes and S.H. Goodman, eds.), New York: Cambridge University Press.

Killen, M., Crystal, D., & **Ruck, M.** (2007). The social developmental benefits of heterogeneous school environments. In E. Frankenberg & G. Orfield (Eds.), *Lessons in integration: Realizing the promise of racial diversity in American schools*. Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press.

Lepore, S.J., & **Revenson, T.A.** (2006). Resilience and posttraumatic growth: Recovery, resistance, & reconfiguration. In L. Calhoun R. G. Tedeschi (Eds.), *The Handbook of Posttraumatic Growth: Research and Practice* (pp. 24-46). Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.

Danoff-Burg, S., & **Revenson, T.A.** (2006). Psychosocial aspects of rheumatic diseases. In S. A. Paget, A Gibofsky, J.F. Beary, III, & Sculco, T. (Eds.), *Manual of Rheumatology and Outpatient Orthopedic Disorders: Diagnosis and Therapy*, 5th edition (pp. 70-79). Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott, Williams, & Wilkins.

Stanton, A., & **Revenson, T.A.** (2006). Progress and promise in research on adaptation to chronic illness. In H.S. Friedman & R.C. Silver (Eds.), *Oxford Handbook of Health Psychology*. NY: Oxford

University Press.

Saegert, S. & Clark, H. (2006). Women and housing. In *Housing: Foundation of a New Social Agenda*. Bratt, R., Hartman, C., & Stone, M. (Eds.), (pp.296-315). Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

DeFilippis, J. & **Saegert, S.** (2007) Chapter 1: Communities Develop: The question is how (pp.1-8); Chapter 5: Introduction to community development institutions and practice (pp.43-45); Chapter 18: Introduction to understanding, building and organizing community (pp.159-162); Chapter 30: Introduction to theoretical conceptions and debates (pp.261-262); Chapter 39: Conclusions (pp. 327-332). In DeFilippis, J. & Saegert, S. (Eds) (2007). *The Community Development Reader*. New York: Routledge.

Saegert, S. & Libman, K. (in preparation) Health and Housing: An interdisciplinary and social ecological analysis of the US foreclosure crisis as it relates to health. in Freudeberg, N., Klitzman, S., & Saegert, S. *Urban Health and Society: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Research and Practice*. Jossey Bass.

Nelson, G. & **Saegert, S.** (in press) Housing, Health and Quality of Life. In *Handbook of Disease Burdens and Quality of Life*. London: Springer.

3. Articles

Fine, M. and McClelland, Sara I. (2007) "The Politics of Teen Women's Sexuality: Public Policy and the Adolescent Female Body." *Emory Law Journal*, 56, 4.

Wagmiller, R., **Lennon, M.C.**, and Kuang, L. (2008) Changes in parental health and children's economic well-being, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 49(1): 37-55.

Gershoff, E.T., Raver C.C. Aber, J.L., and **Lennon, M.C.** (2007) Income is not enough: Incorporating material hardship into models of income associations with parent mediators and child outcomes. *Child Development*, 78(1): 70-95.

Abraído-Lanza, A.F., & **Revenson, T.A.** (2006). Illness intrusion and psychological adjustment to rheumatic diseases: A social identity framework. *Arthritis and Rheumatism: Arthritis Care & Research*, 55 (2), 224-232.

Revenson, T.A., Lepore, S.J., Pranikoff, J.R., & Margola, D. (2008, in press). Expressive writing: Indicazioni, risultati di ricerca e applicazioni cliniche in psico-oncologia. In E. Saita (Ed.), *Psiconcologi: Elementi di psicologia della salute nella prospettiva relazionale*. Milano, Italia: Unicopli.

Lepore, S.J., & **Revenson, T.A.** (2007). Social constraints on disclosure and adjustment to cancer. *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*, 1 (1), 313–333.

Stanton, A., **Revenson, T.A.**, & Tennen, H. (2007). Health psychology: Psychological adjustment to

chronic disease. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 58, 13.1-13.28.

Lepore, S. J, **Revenson, T. A.**, Weinberger, S., Weston, P., Frisina, P. Robertson, R., Mentor-Portillo, M., Jones, H., & **Cross, W.** (2006). Effects of social stressors on cardiovascular reactivity in Black and White women. *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, 31(2), 120-127

Tenenbaum, H., & **Ruck, M. D.** (2007). Are Teachers' Expectations Different for Ethnic Minority than for European-American Students?: A Meta-Analysis. *Journal of Educational Psychology*, 99(2), 253-273.

Maton, K., Perkins, D. & **Saegert, S.** (2006) Community Psychology at the cross-roads: Prospects for interdisciplinary theory, research and action. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, special issue on Interdisciplinary research.

4. Presentations at conferences

Douglas, J. (April/08) Annual meeting, American Assoc. of Geographers. Inside Out: Children's Environmental Learning After-School.

Douglas, J. (April/08) Annual meeting, Urban Affairs Assoc. It's All Happening at the Zoo: Children's Environmental Learning After-School.

Junghaenel, D.U., **Revenson, T.A.** & Broderick, J.E. (March 2008). Partners' responses to patients' chronic pain: A dyadic-couple analysis. Poster accepted for presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, San Diego, CA.

Lennon, M.C., Kuang, L., and Wagmiller, R. 2008. Timing, duration, and sequencing of poverty: Family economic dynamics and child health and well-being. Presentation at the Eleventh International Conference on Social Stress Research, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Peoples, J., McClelland, S.I., and **Revenson, T.A.** (2008, March). Sexual Quality of Life after Cancer: Trends in Behavioral Medicine and Clinical Oncology 2002-2007. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, San Diego, CA.

Junghaenel, D., **Revenson, T.A.**, & Broderick, J. (2007, August). Something's gotta give: Partners' responses to patients' pain. Paper presented at the 4th International Meeting on Couples Coping with Stress: Close Relationships and Health, Vancouver, Canada.

McClelland, S.I. & **Revenson, T.A.** (2007, August). Understanding measurement issues in assessing female sexual quality of life. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association, San Francisco, CA.

Revenson, T.A. (2007, August). Invited Discussant. In C. Berg (Chair), Dyadic Processes In Dealing with Chronic Illness across the Life-Spa. Symposium presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association, San Francisco, CA.

Revenson, T.A. (2007, August). Invited Discussant. In A. Stanton (Chair), *Considering the couple in*

cancer survivorship research. Symposium presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association, San Francisco, CA

Saegert, S. Social Capital and Shared Equity Housing (with James DeFilippis). Presentation at Vanderbilt University Conference *Affordable Housing: What's next nationally and in Nashville*, Vanderbilt University, Nashville TN, March 13, 2008.

Saegert, S. Beyond Dreams and Nightmares: Low income homeowners reflect on the foreclosure crisis (with Desiree Fields and Kimberly Libman). Paper presentation at Urban Affairs Association Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, April 26, 2008.

Invited Plenary Presentation "The Built Environment: Implications for Health and Social Connection. Society for Prevention Research, 16th Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, May 29, 2008.

Saegert, S. Health and Housing: What the United States foreclosure crisis reveals (with Kimberly Libman and Desiree Fields) Presentation, European Network of Housing Researchers, Dublin, Ireland, July 7, 2008.

5. Conferences and meetings sponsored by CHE

Among the meetings sponsored or co-sponsored by CHE in 2007-8:

Workshops on Diabetes Prevention and Management

Forum on New York City Community Gardens

Kay Deaux Festschrift Conference, "Gender, Identity, and Immigration: A Cultural Dimension to Social Psychology"

6. Websites

*CHE's website: <http://web.gc.cuny.edu/che/>

*Participatory Action Research (PAR) website hosting work by Professor **Michelle Fine**, GC students, and alumni: <http://web.gc.cuny.edu/che/start.htm>

ActKnowledge, with the Aspen Institute Roundtable on Community Change. Theory of Change website: <http://www.theoryofchange.org>

*These two websites are maintained by the Center for Human Environments Office Manager. External funding is being sought for enhancements to the PAR website.

7. Reports, monographs and other media

Saegert, S. , Francine Justa, Desiree Fields and Kim Libman. (2007) *Understanding Responses to the Threat of Foreclosure among Low-Income Homeowners*. Prepared for Freddie Mac, NeighborWorks America and additional funders.

“Sheltered Lives: When did kids stop playing outside?” profile/interview with **Roger Hart** in *The Boston Globe* online, by Jenna Russell, Jan. 20, 2008.
http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/ideas/articles/2008/01/20/sheltered_lives?s_campaign=8315

Interview with **Roger Hart** by Kathleen Dunn on Wisconsin Public Radio, Monday, January 28, 2008 at 10:00 AM.

C. GRADUATE STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

During 2006-2007, 39 CUNY graduate students and 42 CUNY undergraduates received compensation or fellowship support from research projects administered by the Center for Human Environments. **Total payments to these students amounted to \$302,797.** CHE’s Student Employment report for 2007-2008 has been submitted to the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs.

D. GRANTS AND INCOME

1. Grants Proposed

Project Title: Experiences of Migration: Toward a Curriculum to Support Knowledge and Social-relational Development

Principal Investigator: Colette Daiute

Funding Agency: US Department of Education

Status: Resubmitted, 9/2008

Project Title: Dynamic Story-telling by Youth across Positions of Conflict in Colombia

Principal Investigator: Colette Daiute

Funding Agency: United States Institute of Peace

Status: Declined

Project Title: Participatory Action Research Collective

Principal Investigator: Michelle Fine

Funding Agency: Surdna Foundation

Status: Pending

Project Title: Youth Polling for Justice

Principal Investigator: Michelle Fine

Funding Agency: Carnegie Corp.

Status: Declined

Project Title: Youth Polling for Justice
Principal Investigator: Michelle Fine
Funding Agency: Make the Road New York
Status: Funded

Project Title: Evaluation of the College Initiative Program at Lehman College
Principal Investigator: Michelle Fine
Funding Agency: Ford Foundation (through Fund for the City of New York)
Status: Pending

Project Title: Children's Play Gardens
Principal Investigator: Roger Hart
Funding Agency: National Forum on Children and Nature
Status: Pending

Project Title: Trees and Shrubs in Young Children's Play and Informal Learning
Principal Investigator: Roger Hart
Funding Agency: NUCFAC
Status: Declined

Project Title: Psychosocial Influences on Tobacco use after Pregnancy
Principal Investigator: Cheryl Merzel and Mary Clare Lennon
Funding Agency: CUNY Collaborative Incentive
Status: Declined

Project Title: Youth Polling for Justice
Principal Investigator: Susan Opatow, Michelle Fine, Kathleen Cumiskey
Funding Agency: CUNY Collaborative Incentive
Status: Pending

Project Title: Home Mortgage Foreclosure Conference
Principal Investigator: Susan Saegert
Funding Agencies: Sterling National Bank
Status: Funded

Project Title: Home Mortgage Foreclosure Conference
Principal Investigator: Susan Saegert
Funding Agencies: M & T Charitable Trust
Status: Pending

2. Active Grants (2007-2008)

Project Title: Racism, Coping, and Ambulatory Blood Pressure/Minority Supplement
Principal Investigator: William Cross; Co-Investigator: Danielle Beatty
Funding Agency: NIH (parent grant at St Johns)

Project Title: Young People's Understandings of Conflict and Collective Action in the Former Yugoslavia: Case Study in Post-War Croatia
Principal Investigator: Colette Daiute
Funding Agency: United States Institute of Peace
Period: 11/1/2006-10/31/2007

Project Title: Dynamic Story-writing in Transitions from Conflict to Peace
Principal Investigator: Colette Daiute
Funding Agency: National Council of Teachers of English
Period: extended to 6/30/2008

Project Title: The Psychological Functions of Membership in Ethnically-Relevant Organizations
Principal Investigator: Kay Deaux
Funding Agency: Russell Sage Foundation
Period: 12/20/2007 – 1/31/2009

Project Title: Graduate Student Support: Studies in Critical Consciousness and Social Activism
Principal Investigator: Michelle Fine
Funding Agency: Leslie Glass Foundation
Period: extended to 6/30/2008

Project Title: Impact of the Special Assessment Review in New Jersey Secondary Education
Principal Investigator: Michelle Fine
Funding Agency: Schumann Fund for New Jersey
Period: 7/2007 - 10/2008

Project Title: Youth Polling for Justice
Principal Investigator: Michelle Fine
Funding Agency: Hazen Foundation
Period: 3/2008 – 12/2008

Project Title: Youth Polling for Justice
Principal Investigator: Michelle Fine
Funding Agency: Surdna Foundation
Period: 4/2008 - 12/2008

Project Title: CUNY Campaign Against Diabetes
Principal Investigator: Nicholas Freudenberg
Funding Agency: CUNY Chancellor's Office
Period: 1/2008 – 6/2008

Project Title: RTLP Summative Assessment/ New York City Sample
Principal Investigator: Joseph Glick
Funding Agency: Michael Cohen Group
Period: 1/2008 - 12/2008

Project Title: The Changing Geography of Childhood
Principal Investigator: Roger Hart
Funding Agency: NSF
Period: extended to 2/09

Project Title: Children's Environments Research Conference Funding
Principal Investigator: Roger Hart
Funding Agency: Overbrook Foundation
Period: 10/2007 – 12/2008

Project Title: Medical Mistrust and Perception of Discrimination among Ethnic Minorities with Type 2 Diabetes
Project Director: Hollie Jones
Funding Agency: American Psychological Association
Period: 7/2007 – 12/2008

Project Title: "It's All Happening at the Zoo": Children's Relationship to the Animal World as Experienced at Zoos
Principal Investigator: Cindi Katz
Funding Agency: Bowne Foundation
Period: 2/2007 – 12/2007

Project Title: Services Research Innovations for Homeless Mentally Ill
Project Director: Mary Clare Lennon
Funding Agency: NIH (parent grant at Columbia University)
Period: extended to 4/2009

Project Title: Start-Up Research Funds
Principal Investigator: Mary Clare Lennon
Funding Agency: CUNY Central (Dean Gillian Small, Co-PI)

Project Title: Private Governance in Coops and Gated Communities in New York
Principal Investigator: Setha Low
Funding Agency: National Coop Bank
Period: 5/2007 – 9/2007

Project Title: Systematic Review: Measures of Sexual Quality of Life for Female Cancer Survivors
Principal Investigator: Tracey Revenson
Funding Agency: National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute
Period: extended to 7/2009

Project Title: Expressive Writing & Adjustment to Colorectal Cancer
Co-Principal Investigator: Tracey Revenson
Funding Agency: National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute (parent grant at Temple)

Univ.; PI Steven Lepore)
Period; Extended to 8/2008

Project Title: Pain-Coping Profiles and Treatment Outcomes in Rheumatoid Arthritis.
Principal Investigator: Tracey Revenson
Funding Agency: PSC-CUNY

Project Title: The Ambassador and Mentoring/Outreach/Research Experience (MORE):
Programs for Ethnic Minority Recruitment, Retention and Training.
Principal Investigator: Tracey Revenson
Funding Agency: American Psychological Association
Period: 7/2007-12/2008

Project Title: Housing Affordability in Manhattan Community Board 9
Principal Investigator: Susan Saegert
Funding Agency: Parodneck Foundation
Period: extended to 6/2008

Project Title: Housing, Health and Society
Principal Investigator: Susan Saegert
Funding Agencies: Vanderbilt University
Period: 7/2008 – 6/2009

Project Title: Evaluation Research
Principal Investigator: Susan Saegert
Funding Agencies: Bowne Foundation
Period: 7/2008 – 12/2008

E. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

1. Business Office:

Fund # 216177
“Echoes”
Manager: Michelle Fine

Fund # 216166
“Glass Fellows”
Manager: Michelle Fine

Fund # 214012
“Genes and Gender”
Manager: Michelle Fine

Fund # 216033
“Housing Environments Research”
Manager: Susan Saegert

Fund # 216098
“Community Psychology”
Manager: Tracey Revenson

Jocelyn Solis Memorial Fund.
Managers: Colette Daiute and Joe Glick

F. OTHER FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Center for Human Environments affiliate organization **ActKnowledge** contributes to facilities and administration costs at the Graduate Center through a rental agreement negotiated with the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. Effective Jan. 1, 2008, this agreement has been renewed for a 5-year period.

G. ADVISORY BOARD

The Center for Human Environments as a whole does not have its own Advisory Board. However, long-running projects such as the Participatory Action Research Collective often have steering committees or advisory boards.

H. BROCHURE (see attached)



THE CENTER FOR HUMAN ENVIRONMENTS

The **Center for Human Environments** (CHE), located at the CUNY Graduate Center, brings together psychologists, anthropologists, geographers, health professionals, designers and planners whose research addresses the relationship between people and their physical settings. CHE offers a forum for environmental research where the primary emphasis is on examining the problems faced by neighborhoods, schools, community organizations, not-for-profits, policy-makers, and government agencies.

CHE is comprised of five research groups, representing the major areas of expertise and interest of its Graduate School faculty affiliates: the **Children's Environments Research Group**, the **Health & Society Research Group**, the **Housing Environments Research Group**, the **Public Space Research Group**, and the **Youth Studies Research Group**. CHE also partners with **ActKnowledge**, an organization that works with community groups, not-for-profits, foundations, and government agencies to understand, evaluate, and transform programs and policies and to disseminate research findings.

Sponsors of recent CHE research projects have included: the United Nations/UNICEF, the National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute; the National Science Foundation; the US Department of the Interior; the Ford, Rockefeller, Spencer, Overbrook, W. T. Grant, and Russell Sage Foundations, and several corporate funders. In the period 2006-2008, CHE projects provided salaries and/or stipends for more than 60 students from the Graduate Center (or occasionally from elsewhere in the CUNY system). Eight faculty members from the Graduate Center or other CUNY divisions were engaged as Principal Investigators on CHE projects over the same period.

Here are some of the areas of interest addressed by CHE-affiliated researchers in recent years: providing local governments around the world with instruments to implement to UN/UNICEF principles on children's rights and participation; story-writing as an intervention and educational device for youth in nations emerging from conflict (such as the states of the former Yugoslavia); changing use of free time among children in a Vermont town; urban youth programs in the US and their relationship to community and social justice; ethnographies of Fire Island National Seashore and the Statue of Liberty National Monument; public policy and teen women's sexuality; sexual quality of life for female cancer survivors; trajectories of disadvantage for the homeless mentally ill; the impact of foreclosure on low-income homeowners and the nonprofits that assist them.

THE CENTER FOR HUMAN ENVIRONMENTS

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CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTS RESEARCH GROUP

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HEALTH & SOCIETY RESEARCH GROUP

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HOUSING ENVIRONMENTS RESEARCH GROUP

DIRECTOR: Susan Saegert
(See information above)

PUBLIC SPACE RESEARCH GROUP

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YOUTH STUDIES RESEARCH GROUP

DIRECTORS: Michelle Fine and Colette Daiute
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