



**Center for Human Environments**

**Annual Report: July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009**

**Professor Mary Clare Lennon, Director for 2008-2009**

**Professor Roger Hart, Incoming Director, 2009**

# CENTER FOR HUMAN ENVIRONMENTS

## ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009

**DIRECTOR FOR 2008-2009: Mary Clare Lennon**

**PHONE: (212) 817-8779**

**EMAIL: Mlennon@gc.cuny.edu**

**INCOMING DIRECTOR, 2009 : Roger Hart**

**PHONE: (212) 817-1887**

**EMAIL: Rhart@gc.cuny.edu; roghart@gmail.com**

**OFFICE MANAGER: Jared Becker**

**PHONE: (212) 817-1905**

**FAX: (212) 817-1564**

**E-MAIL: Jbecker@gc.cuny.edu**

### **A. ACTIVITIES**

In 2008-2009, Professor Mary Clare Lennon (Sociology) served as the Director of the **Center for Human Environments (CHE)**; as of July 2009, Professor Roger Hart (Environmental Psychology) assumes the office. As in the past, CHE continues to operate as a consortium of research groups that share many interests, approaches and goals: 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**. The Center also partners with **ActKnowledge**, a Graduate Center-based organization that works with community groups, not-for-profits, foundations, and government agencies to evaluate and improve their programs. In the past year, moreover, CHE's steering committee voted to recognize four additional research subgroups as a way of encouraging project partnerships and sharing of resources and expertise: **Video Documentation Research Group**; **Immigration Research Group**; **Children's Rights Research Group**; and **Studio on Participatory Evaluation**. These new subgroups will expand the disciplinary base of CHE by bringing in more research associates with expertise in fields such as public health and film. It is also expected that the new groups of researchers will collaborate in developing proposals, and in offering new training opportunities for doctoral students and other CHE associates.

During the 2008-2009 fiscal year, CHE's portfolio of "Active Grants" (see Section D2) had a value totaling \$1.65 million and generated more than \$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 \$160,000 over the same period.

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

- Carrying out work under its contract with UNICEF, the **Children's Environments Research Group** organized a meeting in Rio de Janeiro with government representatives from Brasil and The Philippines who are working to implement UNICEF's "Child Friendly Cities Initiative," a global effort to promote children's rights and participation at the local level. The second year of the UNICEF contract is expected to widen the scope of activity further, with an eleven-nation meeting in Rome, Italy.
- Prof. Mary Clare Lennon, Co-Director of the **Health & Society Research Group**, continued work on a pilot project on housing insecurity in New York City. She also serves as Principal Investigator for a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation-funded evaluation of the effectiveness of tobacco policy change campaigns across the US (conducted in partnership with **ActKnowledge**, Prof. Cheryl Merzel of Lehman College, and consultant Andrea Anderson). Also in 2008-2009, Prof. Tracey Revenson, Co-Director of HSRG, completed work on her NIH-funded study of cancer survivorship, presented at several national and international scholarly meetings, and contracted with the American Psychological Association to edit a book entitled *Social Categories in Everyday Experience*. In another health-related project at CHE, the **CUNY Campaign Against Diabetes**, directed by Prof. Nick Freudenberg and coordinated by Lorraine Mongiello, completed the third of its planned five years with a significant expansion of its workshop and outreach programs. In January and again in June of 2009, CUNY CAD ran five-day, comprehensive workshops on preventing and managing diabetes, each of which attracted 50 registrants from across more than a dozen CUNY campuses. In March, the Campaign also sponsored "Diabetes Alert Day," during which approximately 40 trained CUNY student volunteers engaged more than 2,000 CUNY staff, faculty and students, showing them how to assess their risk of diabetes and make the diet and lifestyle changes that can help prevent or manage the disease.
- The **Housing Environments Research Group** presented aspects of its mortgage foreclosure research at the New York Academy of Medicine's "Working Group on Serial Displacement." HERG Director Susan Saegert, together with graduate student research assistants Kim Libman and Desiree Fields, also presented mortgage foreclosure research at the Association of American Geographers annual meeting, and at the 12<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference for Community Research and Action.
- Professor Setha Low, Director of the **Public Space Research Group**, was a co-organizer of a two-day conference at the Graduate Center, "Qualitative Methods for Social Critique," which brought together anthropologists, psychologists, geographers and other social scientists to examine topics such as ethnographic research and activism; the power of place in writing/rewriting histories; and the ethical dilemmas of participatory action research. This well-attended conference argued for the richness and power of qualitative methods in the social sciences, highlighting a methodological point of view for which a number of CHE researchers are well known.

- In **Youth Studies Research**, Prof. Colette Daiute continued her study of 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 particular developmental processes these young people undergo within their recovering societies.
- In 2008-2009, Prof. Michelle Fine guided an expansion of the Participatory Action Research (PAR) Collective, a group of graduate students and faculty at CUNY (and now at other institutions as well, following the graduation of several actively involved GC doctoral students). Current PAR projects include: Polling for Justice, a NYC-wide survey of youth experiences with educational, health care and criminal justice institutions; an assessment of alternative routes to high school graduation in New Jersey; “Rebuilding Urban Communities and Families,” documenting and evaluating the College Initiative program at Lehman College, which helps formerly incarcerated New Yorkers enroll and succeed in college; and a SURDNA Foundation grant to further develop the PAR Collective itself.
- During the past year CHE partner organization **ActKnowledge** was engaged to evaluate the California Health Incentives Improvement Project, a federally funded, statewide, effort to bring adults with disabilities into gainful employment at a rate that is as close as possible to that of the general population. Also in 2009, **ActKnowledge** held a workshop on program evaluation for members of the Funding Exchange in Knoxville, TN, a national membership organization of community foundations working to build sustainable institutional and financial support for progressive social change. On the international front, **ActKnowledge** continues to partner with Helmpark, a participatory research organization in the UK that evaluates social service and volunteer programs.

## **B. PLANS FOR THE FUTURE**

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

- As the **Children’s Environments Research Group** starts the second of an expected three years of UNICEF-funded work on the “Child Friendly Cities Initiative,” it also plans to continue working with Childwatch International Research Network, a consortium of institutions linking experts and policy makers on five continents. By Summer 2009, additional project funding had also been obtained by CERG from US UNICEF. In addition, CERG Director Roger Hart and colleagues are collaborating on the new CHE group that brings together researchers involved with the issue of children’s rights.
- As Incoming Director of CHE, Prof. Hart has also scheduled for 2009-2010 a series of presentations aimed at bringing together CHE researchers and outside investigators to discuss current projects, methodological questions and the future direction of research.

- **Housing Environments Research Group** Director Susan Saegert will be on leave from the Graduate Center in 2009-2010 as she continues her appointment at Vanderbilt University, where her research focuses especially on limited-equity co-ops, a form of low and moderate income housing that has attracted new interest in the US in the wake of the mortgage market crisis. She will also give a presentation on her experiences of working with faith-based social change organizations at a panel discussion organized at CHE by the Participatory Action Research Collective in Fall 2009.
- Prof. Setha Low of the **Public Space Research Group** has laid plans for a conference on the “securitization of public space,” to be held at the Graduate Center in Spring 2010, with participation from several US and international contributors to the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers. After completion this year of her term as President of the American Anthropological Association, Prof. Low will also explore new research possibilities available through the National Science Foundation or other sponsors interested in public space issues related to co-op housing or gated communities.
- In the coming year, Prof. Michelle Fine and other members of the Participatory Action Research Collective project a further expansion of their activities, thanks to renewed funding from the SURDNA Foundation. As of Summer 2009, the PAR Collective was also engaged in seeking sponsors for an assessment of youth-led “Student Success Centers” located at public high schools in underserved areas of NYC; and a seminar series bringing together leaders in education to examine the role of “racial justice” in US secondary schooling policy and practice in the era of the Obama presidency.
- In 2009-2010 **Youth Studies Research** Co-Director Prof. Colette Daiute plans to submit for publication manuscripts based on her recent funded research on youth affected by conflict in their societies; her main area of study in the past few years has been the countries formerly known as Yugoslavia.
- In the coming year, CHE partner organization **ActKnowledge** will complete a series of trainings at the NYC-based Partnership for After-school Education, which are designed to help after-school program staff articulate their expected outcomes, design indicators to track progress, and implement evaluation procedures through which programs can better understand their successes and failures. Another ongoing project for the organization is beta-testing of the “Theory of Change Online,” a web-based tool to aid social change initiatives in understanding and evaluating their progress. In 2009-2010, **Actknowledge** staff will also contribute their expertise in evaluation to CHE’s two-year Robert Wood Johnson Foundation project assessing the effectiveness of tobacco policy change campaigns across the US.
- The **CUNY Campaign Against Diabetes**, now entering the fourth of its projected five years, will continue diabetes education programs throughout the CUNY system. The Campaign will explore the possibility of renewed or additional funding from the CUNY Chancellor’s Office as well as from external sources, and also will support its activities with funds from its previously awarded New York State Health Foundation grant. Further

publications deriving from CUNY CAD are in progress, notably proceedings of an April 2009 conference on “A Tale of Two Cities: Municipal Approaches to the Childhood Obesity Epidemic in NYC and London,” a collaboration between CUNY researchers and their counterparts at London Metropolitan University in the UK.

- Prof. Mary Clare Lennon, Co-Director of the **Health & Society Research Group**, is continuing work 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). Prof. Lennon is also proceeding with 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 apply for an NIH grant under a program aimed at developing capacity in institutions that have not had high levels of NIH funding in the past.

## **C. BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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

### *1. Books*

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.

Shaun Wiley, Gina Philogène, and **Tracey Revenson.** (in contract; scheduled for publication in 2011) *Social Categories in Everyday Experience*. American Psychological Assoc.

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

Freudenberg, N., **Saegert, S.,** & Klitzman, S. (2009) *Urban Health and Society: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Research and Practice*. Jossey Bass.

### *2. Book Chapters*

McClelland, S. and **Fine, M.** (2008) Writing on cellophane: Studying teen women’s sexual desires, Inventing methodological release points. In K. Gallagher, *The Methodological Dilemma: Critical and Creative Approaches to Qualitative Research*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

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.

**Revenson, T.A.**, Lepore, S.J., Pranikoff, J.R., & Margola, D. (2009). 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* (pp. 121-154). Milano, Italia: Unicopli.

**Saegert, S.** & Libman, K. (2009) Health and Housing: An interdisciplinary and social ecological analysis of the US foreclosure crisis as it relates to health. In Freudenberg, 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 Ruglis, J. (2008) Circuits of dispossession: The racialized and classed realignment of the public sphere for youth in the U.S. *Transforming Anthropology*, 17, 1.

Sirin, S., Bikmen, N., Mir, **M.**, **Fine, M.**, Zaal, M. and Katsiaficas, D. (2008) Exploring dual identities among Muslim-American emerging adults: A mixed methods study. *Journal of Adolescence*, 31, 2, 259 – 279.

McClelland, S. and **Fine, M.** (2008) Embedded science: The production of consensus in evaluation of abstinence-only curricula. *Qualitative Inquiry*, 8, 2.

McClelland, S.I. and **Fine, M.** (2009) “Embedded science: Critical analysis of abstinence-only evaluation research.” *Cultural Studies, Critical Methodologies*. 8(2).

**Douglas, J.** and **Katz, Cindi.** (2009) “It’s All Happening at the Zoo: Children’s Environmental learning after School,” *Afterschool Matters*. Number 8: 36-45.

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.

**Revenson, T.A.**, Lepore, S.J., Pranikoff, J.R., & Margola, D. (2008). 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.

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.

#### 4. Presentations at conferences

**Douglas, J.** (2008) Inside Out: Children's Environmental Learning After-School. Annual meeting, American Assoc. of Geographers.

**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.

**Revenson, T.A.,** & McClelland, S.I. (2009, August). Female sexual quality of life after cancer treatment: What do we know? In T.A. Revenson (Chair), *Sex and intimacy after cancer: The state of the science*. Symposium to be presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association, Toronto, CA.

**Revenson, T.A.,** & Greenwood, R.M. (2009, April). Does it get easier? Age, life stage and time since diagnosis as predictors of fear of recurrence trajectories among breast cancer survivors. In S.J. Lepore (Chair), *Aging and Cancer: Psychological Responses to Diagnosis, Treatment, Recovery, and What Lies Ahead*. Symposium presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Behavioral Medicine, Montreal, CA.

Peoples, J., McClelland, S.I., & **Revenson, T.A.** (2009, April). Effectiveness of psychosocial interventions on sexual quality of life in female cancer survivors. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Behavioral Medicine, Montreal, CA. (*Chosen as a Citation Abstract by the Program Committee.*)

**Revenson, T.,** Lepore S., Roberts, K., Pranicoff, J., Davis, S., Godino, J., Park, G., Malhotra, K., Cooper, N., & Woodburn, R. (2009, April). Acceptability of and adherence to an expressive writing intervention in colorectal cancer patients. Paper presented the Annual Meeting of the Society for Behavioral Medicine, Montreal, CA.

Badr, H., Carmack Taylor, C., Cristofanilli, M., & **Revenson, T.A.** (2009, April). Dyadic coping in metastatic breast cancer. Paper presented the Annual Meeting of the Society for Behavioral Medicine, Montreal, CA.

**Revenson, T.A.,** & Greenwood, R.M. (2008, August). Fear of recurrence trajectories among breast cancer survivors. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the International Society of Behavioral Medicine, Tokyo, Japan.

**Revenson, T.A.,** Newman, S., Greenwood, R.M., Thuné-Boyle, I., Stygall, J., Keshtgar, M., & Davidson, T. (2008, August). Benefit-finding, religious coping and psychological distress among USA and UK breast cancer survivors. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the International Society of Behavioral Medicine, Tokyo, Japan.

**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.

**Saegert, S.** 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.

**Saegert, S.,** Fields, D. & Libman, K. (2009). Beyond Bodies: Mortgage Foreclosure as Serial Displacement. Conference on "Housing, Health and Serial Displacement". New York Academy of Medicine Working Group on Serial Displacement. New York, NY.  
<http://www.rootshock.org/serial-displacement-conference>

Fields, D. & **Saegert, S.** (2009). Upsetting Ontology: How Foreclosure is Reshaping the American Dream. Paper session at the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers. Las Vegas, NV.

Fields, D., **Saegert, S.** & Libman, K. (2009). The Legacy of Foreclosure. Symposium: "Beyond Foreclosure and Homelessness: New Approaches to Policy and Practice" at the 12th Biennial Conference of the Society for Community Research and Action. Montclair, NJ.

Libman, K, **Saegert, S.** & Fields, D. (2009). Housing and Health in the Foreclosure Crisis: Policy Implications. Symposium: "Beyond Foreclosure and Homelessness: New Approaches to Policy and Practice" at the 12th Biennial Conference of the Society for Community Research and Action. Montclair, NJ.

##### 5. *Conferences and meetings sponsored by CHE*

Among the meetings sponsored or co-sponsored by CHE in 2008-2009:

"The Assessment and Monitoring of Child-Friendly Communities and Cities." Meeting with government officials from Brasil and The Philippines held in Rio de Janeiro. Organized by Roger Hart, Children's Environments Research Group/CHE at CUNY Graduate Center, and Selim Iltus, van Leer Foundation (The Netherlands); supported by UNICEF and Childwatch International Research Network. March 2009.

"A Tale of Two Cities: Municipal Approaches to the Childhood Obesity Epidemic" co-sponsored by the CUNY Campaign Against Diabetes at the Graduate Center and London Metropolitan University (UK), April 7-8, 2009

“Qualitative Methods for Social Critique”: a two-day conference at the Graduate Center, May 7-8, 2009

## 6. Websites

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

The Participatory Action Research (PAR) Collective website, hosting work by Prof. Michelle Fine and colleagues: <http://web.gc.cuny.edu/che/start.htm>

**ActKnowledge**, an affiliated CHE research group, maintains a website at <http://www.actknowledge.org/>

CUNY Campaign Against Diabetes: <http://web.cuny.edu/academics/centers-and-institutes/urban-health/campaign-against-diabetes.html>

## 7. Reports, monographs and other media

“New Jersey’s Special Review Assessment: Loophole or Lifeline?” Fine, M., Pappas, L., Karp, S., Hirsch, L., Sadovnik, A., Keeton, A. and Bennett, M. The Graduate Center/CUNY and the Education Law Center of Newark, New Jersey. (2007)

“Reversing Obesity in New York City: An Action Plan for Reducing the Promotion and Accessibility of Unhealthy Food.” Report prepared by CUNY Campaign Against Diabetes in collaboration with the Public Health Assoc. of New York. (2008)

“Considering Evaluation: Thoughts for Social Change and Movement-Building Organizations.” Catherine Borgman-Arboleda and Helene Clark. (2008)  
<http://www.actknowledge.org/documents/ConsideringEvalSocialChangereport6-09.pdf>

“Children’s Aid Society 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers - After-school Programs at Six Middle Schools.” Final report of a Three-Year Evaluation 2004-2007. Prepared for The Children’s Aid Society by ActKnowledge. (2008)  
<http://www.actknowledge.org/resources/documents/CASreportfinalJuly2008.pdf>

“Stepping Up the Fight Against a Deadly Epidemic” in *CUNY Matters*. News report on the CUNY Campaign Against Diabetes. (May 2009)  
<http://web.cuny.edu/news/cm-archive/may09/stepping-up-the-fight.html>

“School Setting May Impact Racial Exclusion Among Children: Mixed Ethnicity Surroundings Foster Greater Acceptance, Research Suggests.” By Melanie Killen, David Crystal and **Martin Ruck**. ABC News story reporting on NIH-funded research at Univ. of Maryland and CHE/Graduate Center, CUNY.  
<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/Story?id=3200868&page=1>

### **C. GRADUATE STUDENT EMPLOYMENT**

During 2008-2009, 22 CUNY graduate students and 140 CUNY undergraduates received compensation or fellowship support from research projects administered by the Center for Human Environments. **Total payments to these students amounted to \$162,000.**

### **D. GRANTS AND INCOME**

#### **1. Grants Proposed**

Project Title: Participatory Action Research Collective  
Principal Investigator: Michelle Fine  
Funding Agency: Surdna Foundation  
Period: 9/2009 – 10/2010  
Status: Pending

Project Title: Student Success Centers - Evaluation  
Principal Investigator: Michelle Fine  
Funding Agency: New York Community Trust  
Period: 9/2009 – 10/2010  
Status: In process

Project Title: Seminars on Secondary Schooling  
Principal Investigator: Michelle Fine  
Funding Agency: Ford Foundation  
Period: 10/2009 – 10/2011  
Status: In process

Project Title: Comparative Effectiveness of Diabetes Management Protocols  
Principal Investigator: Nicholas Freudenberg  
Funding Agency: American Family Practice Medical Assoc.  
Period: 7/2009 - 6/2011  
Status: Declined

Project Title: Child Friendly Cities – Year Two  
Principal Investigator: Roger Hart  
Funding Agency: UNICEF  
Period: 10/2009 – 9/2011  
Status: Funded

#### **2. Active Grants (2008-2009)**

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: 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 - 3/2009

Project Title: Youth Polling for Justice  
Principal Investigator: Michelle Fine  
Funding Agency: Make the Road New York  
Period: 7/2008 - 8/2009

Project Title: Participatory Action Research Collective  
Principal Investigator: Michelle Fine  
Funding Agency: Surdna Foundation  
Period: 10/2008 - 9/2009

Project Title: Rebuilding Urban Communities and Families  
Principal Investigator: Michelle Fine  
Funding Agency: Ford Foundation  
Period: 2/2009 - 1/2010

Project Title: CUNY Campaign Against Diabetes  
Principal Investigator: Nicholas Freudenberg  
Funding Agency: CUNY Chancellor's Office  
Period: 1/2009 – 6/2009

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

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

Project Title: Children's Environments Research Conference Funding  
Principal Investigator: Roger Hart  
Funding Agency: Overbrook Foundation  
Period: 11/2007 – 10/2009

Project Title: Child Friendly Cities – Year One  
Principal Investigator: Roger Hart  
Funding Agency: UNICEF  
Period: 7/2008 – 9/2010

Project Title: Child Friendly Cities and Communities in the US  
Principal Investigator: Roger Hart  
Funding Agency: United States UNICEF  
Period: 6/2009 – 6/2010

Project Title: Medical Mistrust and Perception of Discrimination among Ethnic Minorities with Type 2 Diabetes  
Project Director: Hollie Jones  
Funding Agency: American Psychological Association

Project Title: Tobacco Policy Change Evaluation  
PI: Mary Clare Lennon (in collaboration with Cheryl merzel at Lehman Coll., ActKnowledge at CHE, and Andrea Anderson)  
Funding Agency: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation  
Period: 3/2009-2/2011

Project Title: Proceedings of the Conference on Childhood Obesity  
Project Director: Mary Clare Lennon  
Funding Agency: London Metropolitan University  
Period: 6/2009 – 9/2009

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: 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: Gender, Identity and Immigration: A Festschrift for Kay Deaux  
Principal Investigator: Tracey Revenson  
Funding Agency: Science Directorate of the American Psychological Association  
Period: 6/2008 - 2/2009

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: Home Mortgage Foreclosure Studies  
Principal Investigator: Susan Saegert  
Funding Agency: Sterling National Bank  
Period: 6/2008 -12/2008

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 # 214012  
“Genes and Gender”  
Manager: Michelle Fine

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

Fund # 216098  
“Community Psychology”  
Manager: Tracey Revenson

#### **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 Program.

#### **G. ADVISORY BOARD**

The Center for Human Environments has a steering committee consisting of Principal Investigators, Project Directors and Project Associates. Long-running projects such as the Participatory Action Research Collective also 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. As of 2009, new CHE research subgroups on video documentation, children's rights, immigration, and participatory research have been launched.

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 2006-2009, CHE projects provided salaries and/or stipends for more than 80 students from the Graduate Center (or in some cases from elsewhere in the CUNY system). Ten 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

CUNY Graduate Center • 365 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue • New York, NY 10016

<http://web.gc.cuny.edu/che/>

DIRECTOR: Roger Hart  
OFFICE: 6203.13  
PHONE: (212) 817-1886  
EMAIL: Rhart@gc.cuny.edu

OFFICE MANAGER: Jared Becker  
OFFICE: 6203.04  
PHONE: (212) 817-1905  
EMAIL: Jbecker@gc.cuny.edu  
FAX: (212) 817-1564

## CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTS RESEARCH GROUP

DIRECTOR: Roger Hart  
OFFICE: 6203.13  
PHONE: (212) 817-1887  
EMAIL: Rhart@gc.cuny.edu

## HEALTH & SOCIETY RESEARCH GROUP

DIRECTORS: Tracey A. Revenson and Mary Clare Lennon  
OFFICE: 6304.18 (TAR); 6112.13 (MCL)  
PHONE: (212) 817-8709 (TAR); (212) 817-8779 (MCL)  
EMAIL: Trevenson@gc.cuny.edu; Mlennon@gc.cuny.edu

## HOUSING ENVIRONMENTS RESEARCH GROUP

DIRECTOR: Susan Saegert  
(on leave)

## PUBLIC SPACE RESEARCH GROUP

DIRECTOR: Setha Low  
OFFICE: 6203.16  
PHONE: (212) 817-8725  
EMAIL: Slow@gc.cuny.edu

## YOUTH STUDIES RESEARCH GROUP

DIRECTORS: Michelle Fine and Colette Daiute  
OFFICES: 6304.17 (MF); 6304.14 (CD)  
PHONE: (212) 817-8710 (MF); (212) 817-8711 (CD)  
EMAIL: [Mfine@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:Mfine@gc.cuny.edu); [Cdaiute@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:Cdaiute@gc.cuny.edu)

## ACTKNOWLDGE

DIRECTOR: Heléne Clark  
OFFICE: 6203.05  
PHONE: (212) 817-1906  
EMAIL: Hclark@gc.cuny.edu