

Alicia Cam Merline

University of Michigan
Developmental Psychology
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Academic History

- June 2004 Ph.D. Developmental Psychology, University of Michigan
Changes in Substance Use with Marriage:
Selection, Role Socialization and Interpersonal Influence
Chair: John Schulenberg
- 1999 M.A. Developmental Psychology, University of Michigan
The Role of Social Relations in Successful Later Life Transitions:
Retirement as an Example
Chair: Toni Antonucci
- 1996 B.A., Psychology, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
- 1996 B.A. Women's Studies, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

Awards and Honors:

- 2004 Rackham One Term Dissertation Fellowship
- 2002-03 Institute for Social Research Founders Fellowship
- 2001-02 Developmental Psychology Training Grant
- 2000 Summer Fellow, Institute for Research on Women & Gender
- 1999 Summer Research Partnership, University of Michigan
- 1997-99 Psychology Fellowship, University of Michigan
- 1998 Summer Research Partnership, University of Michigan
- 1996 Phi Beta Kappa, Wayne State University
- 1996 Summa Cum Laude, Wayne State University

Research and Professional Positions:

- 2005-2006 University of Michigan Alcohol Research Center, Ann Arbor, MI
Supervised by Robert Zucker
Analyzing trajectories of alcohol and drug use during young adulthood, and
marital dissolution among alcoholic and non-alcoholic families

- 2000-2004 Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research, Ann Arbor, MI
Monitoring the Future
Supervised by Dr. John Schulenberg
Used a large nationally representative data set to examine patterns of change and predictors of change in heavy drinking and other substance use over the course of young adulthood.
- 1997-2000 Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research, Ann Arbor, MI
Life Course Development
Supervised by Dr. Toni Antonucci
Investigated the association between social relations, mental health and physical health in a series of studies. Assisted in grant preparation and report writing.
- 1994-1997 Adult Development Laboratory, Wayne State University
Supervised by Dr. Gisela Labouvie-Vief
Examined personality across the adult life span from the United States and China. Collected, entered, managed and analyzed data. Performed qualitative coding, trained and supervised undergraduate assistants.
- 1996-1997 Cognitive Dependency Project, Wayne State University
Supervised by Dr. Marlyne Kilbey
Managed day-to-day operation of a laboratory studying cognitive change and nicotine dependence. Trained and supervised research assistants. Oversaw participant recruitment and data collection.
- 1993-1994 Children's Hospital of Michigan, Psychiatry/Psychology Division
Supervised by Dr. Arthur Robin and Dr. Marquita Bedway
Performed intake interviews for parents of prospective clients.

Teaching and Mentorship Positions:

- Fall 1999, Winter 2000 Graduate Student Instructor, Research Methods in Developmental Psychology, University of Michigan
Led a section of 20 students. Responsible for assigning grades and evaluating written assignments. Guided students through process of conducting and reporting on psychological research. Presented a guest lecture on reading and interpreting statistical results to larger class.
- Fall 1999-Winter 2000 Advisor of Undergraduate Honors Thesis
- Fall 1999 Completed Course: Teaching Undergraduate Writing
- Fall 1998 Graduate Student Instructor, Developmental Psychology, University of Michigan.
Led two sections of 30 students each in discussing life-span development. Responsible for assigning grades, devising instructional activities and evaluating written assignments.

Publications:

Zucker, R. A., Wong, M.M., Clark, D.B., Leonard, K.E., Schulenberg, J.E., Cornelius, J.R., Fitzgerald, H.E., Homish, G. G., Merline, A., Nigg, J.T., O'Malley, P.M., & Puttler, L.I. (In press, 2006) Predicting risky drinking outcomes longitudinally: what kind of advance notice can we get? Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research.

Schulenberg, J. E., Merline, A. C., Johnston, L. D., O'Malley, P. M., Bachman, J. G., & Laetz, V. B. (2005). Trajectories of marijuana use during the transition to adulthood: The big picture based on national panel data. Journal of Drug Issues, 35, 255-279.

Merline, A.C., O'Malley, P.M., Schulenberg, J., Bachman, J.B. & Johnston, L. (2004). Substance use at age 35: National data on prevalence, adulthood predictors, and impact of substance use at age 18. American Journal of Public Health, 91, 96-102.

Bachman, J. B., O'Malley, P.M., Schulenberg, J., Johnston, L., Bryant, A. & Merline, A.C. (2001). The decline of substance use in young adulthood: Changes in social activities, roles and beliefs. Newark, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum.

Antonucci, T.C., Akiyama, H. & Merline, A.C. (2001). Dynamics of social relationships in midlife. In M.E. Lachman (Ed.), Handbook of midlife development, pp. 571-598. New York: Wiley.

Janevic, M., Ajrouch, K., Merline, A.C., & Antonucci, T.C. (2000). The social relations—physical health connection: A comparison of elderly samples from the United States and Japan. Journal of Health Psychology, 5, 413-429.

Labouvie-Vief, G., Diehl, M., Tarnowski, A.C., & Shen, J. (2000). Age differences in adult personality: Findings from the United States and China. Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences, 55B, P4-P17.

Presentations:

Merline, A.C. & Schulenberg, J.S. (2005). Multiple trajectories of drug use over the transition to marriage. Paper presented at the Emerging Adulthood Conference in Miami, FL.

Schulenberg, J.S. & Merline, A. (2005). Developmental Transitions as Mechanisms of Continuity and Discontinuity of Adjustment during Emerging Adulthood. Paper presented at the Emerging Adulthood Conference in Miami, FL.

Schulenberg, J.S. & Merline, A. (2005). Maturing out or partying on: National prospective data on how the course of heavy drinking during late adolescence relates to difficulties with alcohol and other drugs in middle adulthood. Paper presented at the Research Society on Alcoholism Santa Barbara, CA.

Merline, A.C., Schulenberg, J., Bachman, J.B., O'Malley, P.M. & Johnston, L. (2004). Substance Use and Marriage: Assortative Mating and Interpersonal Influence. Poster presented at the 112th Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association in Honolulu, HI.

Merline, A.C., Schulenberg, J., Bachman, J.B., O'Malley, P.M. & Johnston, L. (2002). Spousal Influence on Substance Use over Marital Transitions. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America in Boston, MA.

Merline, A.C., Schulenberg, J., Bachman, J.B., O'Malley, P.M. & Johnston, L. (2001). Partner and Spousal Influence on the Course of Substance Use: A View of Midlife From a National Panel Study. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America in Chicago, IL.

Merline, A.C., Schulenberg, J., & O'Malley, P.M., (2001). Parental substance use and parenting practices: A national panel study. Poster presented at the 13th Annual Convention of the American Psychological Society, Toronto, Canada.

Merline, A.C. & Akiyama, H. (2000). Depression Across the Lifespan: Historical Patterns in Aging Across a 35-Year Period. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America in Washington, DC.

Merline, A.C. & Akiyama, H. (2000). How Social Relations Affect the Association Between Resource Deficits and Depression in Four Nations. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America in Washington, DC.

Merline, A.C., Stover, E.L. & Akiyama, H. (2000). Adults' Relationships with their Fathers: A Family Life Cycle Perspective. Paper presented at the 108th Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association in Washington, DC.

Merline, A.C. & Antonucci, T.C. (1999). Social Relationships in the United States: Historical Patterns in Aging Across a 35-Year Period. Paper presented at the Gerontological Society of America convention in San Francisco, CA.

Tarnowski, A.C. & Fredrickson, B.L. (1999). Aging-related Appearance Concerns in Women at Midlife. Paper presented at the 107th Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association in Boston, MA.

Tarnowski, A.C. & Akiyama, H. (1998). Work Status and Close Relationships as Predictors of Self-esteem in Japan and the United States. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America in Philadelphia, PA.

Tarnowski, A.C. & Antonucci, T.C. (1998). Adjustment to Retirement: The Influence of Social Support. Paper presented at the SPSSI conference in Ann Arbor, MI.

Tarnowski, A.C., Labouvie-Vief, G., Diehl, M. & Shen, J. (1996). Adult Age Differences in Personality Similarity of US and Chinese Patterns. Paper presented at the Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

Romano, L., Nigro, E.D., Tarnowski, A.C., Labouvie-Vief, G., & Gougeon, L. (1996) Self- and Other-Directedness: Their Relation to Adult Development. Poster presented at the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development Conference in Quebec City.

Research Interests

I am interested in change over the adult life course as it relates to social roles and substance abuse. I am interested in how events like marriage or retirement impact psychological health and well-being, and how individual factors shape the ways in which individuals change following life events. I see social role transitions as important potential turning points for mental health and behaviors like substance abuse that may adversely affect physical health. My research has focused on the association between transitions, interpersonal relationships, and mental health, and abuse of alcohol and other substances.

Professional Organization Memberships:

1994-present American Psychological Association

1996-2002 Gerontological Society of America

Teaching Interests

I am most interested in teaching advanced introductory courses such as Developmental Psychology and Psychological Research Methods as well as more specialized seminars in Psychology of Aging, Psychology of Substance Use and the Psychology of Gender. I am also willing and able to teach additional courses with a broader focus on psychology including Introductory Psychological Statistics and Introductory Psychology.