



2021 *Virtual* BIENNIAL MEETING

APRIL 7-9, 2021

About the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)

In 1925, the National Research Council of the National Academies of Science founded the Committee on Child Development which, in 1933, became the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD). At the time, the Committee and the Society identified as SRCD's goals "to stimulate and support research, to encourage cooperation among individuals engaged in the scientific study of child development, and to encourage applications of research findings."

Over the intervening decades, these goals have persisted, with the Society's Strategic Plan now framed more concisely:

The Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) advances developmental science and promotes its use to improve human lives.

Today, SRCD is an international, multidisciplinary, nonprofit professional association whose goal is to promote the understanding of child development through research and dissemination. Members conduct theoretical studies, basic and applied research, and policy analyses to understand and enhance child development. Through its biennial meetings—which draw attendees from 60 countries throughout the world— and publishing efforts, SRCD strives to meet the goal of understanding child development through research while serving as a network and forum for its members and attendees. Members and attendees include professionals and graduate students in psychology, human development, family studies, education, public policy, sociology, social work, psychiatry, pediatrics, and public health.

Strategic Goals

In 2015, SRCD's Governing Council released its 10-year Strategic Plan, which identified five overarching goals intended to fulfill the mission of SRCD. Each goal is being developed further into specific strategies and action plans that include guidelines for ongoing assessment and revision.

The goals include:

- **Goal 1: Advance Developmental Science** — will advance cutting-edge and integrative developmental science research.
- **Goal 2: Communicate, Exchange, and Translate** — will be a respected source of scientific knowledge about human development and about the application of this knowledge to policies and practices for improving human well-being.
- **Goal 3: Integrate Diversity** — will integrate racial, cultural, economic, national, and contextual diversity in all spheres of developmental science.
- **Goal 4: Build Capacity** — will build capacity, infrastructure, resources, and human capital for developmental science and its application, both in the U.S. and internationally.
- **Goal 5: Engage Members** — will seek to fully engage members at all career levels and across disciplinary and methodological traditions so that SRCD is experienced as an essential organization for all developmental scientists.





Research

The Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) publishes three journals, *Child Development*, *Child Development Perspectives*, *the Monographs of the Society for Research in Child Development*, as well as the *Social Policy Report*. SRCD also coordinates with experts in the field to summarize key research findings to promote shareability and clarity of message through timely briefs and fact sheets.

Diversity and Inclusion

SRCD embraces a commitment to and support for diversity in all its forms through research and publications and inclusivity initiatives at SRCD meetings. SRCD seeks to foster diversity and inclusion through these groups and programs:

Caucuses:

- **Asian Caucus:** founded in 2007 to support the career development of Asian researchers, and to promote research with Asian children, youth, and families.
- **Black Caucus:** founded in 1973 as an organization of multidisciplinary professionals who are dedicated to promoting the development and well-being of Black children and families.
- **Latinx Caucus:** organized in 2004 to promote conceptually and methodologically rigorous research conducted with Latinx children, youth, and families that represents their diversity, normative development, and inherent strengths.
- **Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity/Expression (SOGIE) Caucus:** established in 2019 with scholars and researchers committed to SOGIE research and supporting the development and well-being of sexual and gender minority (SGM) populations and researchers.

Committees:

- The **Ethnic and Racial Issues Committee** is responsible for the development and oversight of activities pertaining to the participation of minority scholars in SRCD and for promoting developmental research on ethnic minority children and adolescents.
- The **Equity and Justice Committee** is responsible for addressing issues of equity and justice in child development, particularly in an increasingly heterogenous global community.
- The **International Affairs Committee** advocates for an international perspective on child development research and theory within the Society and its work.
- The **Interdisciplinary Committee** expands outreach and collaborations with other professional organizations representing related disciplines.



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Professional Advancement with a focus on underrepresented minorities:

- **“Hidden Figures” in Developmental Science:** is a project to increase the visibility of leading developmental scientists of color who have made critical research contributions and paved the way, through mentoring and advocacy, for younger scholars of color. Four videos, featuring 12 scholars, outline the narratives of these leaders’ professional trajectories, the challenges they have faced along the way, and their perspective on how diversity enhances the contributions of developmental science.
- **Millennium Scholars Program:** was developed as a vehicle to encourage and support scholars from under-represented ethnic/racial groups from North America in pursuing graduate work in developmental science. The program convenes scholars and mentors at the SRCD Biennial Meetings and continues with a yearlong program of mentoring and professional development.
- **Scholar Development Program:** aims to bolster opportunities for both research funding and professional leadership among early- to mid-career Black/African American faculty. The program provides a set of targeted mentoring activities addressing academic leadership and NIH research funding.

Policy Engagement

SRCD understands developmental science has the potential to improve human lives and can help inform policy and practice. As a key source of scientific knowledge, SRCD translates and communicates research into meaningful and useful recommendations for policymakers and practitioners. SRCD’s policy engagement activities include:

- **Science Advocacy Activities:** posts comments, submits responses to draft policies, signs-on to multi-organization letters, and shares updates regarding policies and practices impacting our scientific community's ability to fund, conduct, publish, and disseminate its research.
- **U.S. Policy Fellowship Programs:** offers two policy fellowship programs: Federal and State. Both the Federal and State Fellowships offer immersive opportunities for researchers to learn about policy development, implementation, and evaluation, and how to use developmental science to inform public policy at either the federal or state level in the United States.
- **Policy Update:** monitors policy developments in Washington, D.C., including federal priorities for developmental science, and legislation and programs relevant to child development. It also contains information on conferences, training opportunities, new reports, requests for comment and highlights the work and experiences of SRCD Policy Fellows.
- **Child Evidence Briefs:** seek to summarize evidence in a timely manner that is relevant to current policy initiatives in the U.S. congress and executive branch.