

Curriculum Vitae: Shamila K Lekka

Department of Psychological Sciences
University of Vermont
Burlington, VT 05401

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EDUCATION

University of Vermont (UVM), Burlington, VT
Experimental/Developmental Psychology, Advisor Susan Crockenberg, Ph.D.

Ph.D. (2012)

Dissertation Title: *Pathways explaining the development of parenting behaviors in fathers*

University of Vermont

M.A. (2007)

Thesis Title: *Pathways by which marital conflict, maternal and paternal behavior affect infant emotion regulation to frustration at 6 months*

University of Vermont

B.S. in Psychology (1999). University of Aberdeen, United Kingdom.

TEACHING EXPEREINCE

2011- Present **Lecturer, Department of Psychological Sciences,
University of Vermont**
Teach six course equivalents plus one summer course per academic year.

2011- present Department of Psychological Sciences

PSYS 279- Introduction to Health Psychology
PSYS 259- Psychology of Families

Fall- 2014
Co-instructor PSYS 150- Developmental Psychology: Childhood

Fall- 2011
Co-instructor PSYS 001- Introduction to Psychological Sciences

Fall- 2014
Spring 2015 Department of Human Development and Family Studies
Contemporary Issues in Parenting
Infancy

Summary of Course Evaluations

<i>Semester</i>	<i>Course</i>	<i>Enrollment</i>	<i>Overall Course Rating</i> <i>(1= poor to 5 = excellent)</i>	<i>Overall Instructor Rating</i> <i>(1= poor to 5 = excellent)</i>
Fall 2017	Introduction to Health Psychology	Section A (25)	4.55	4.77
	Psychology of Families	Section A (25)	4.67	4.83
		Section B (25)	4.96	4.96
Spring 2017	Introduction to Health Psychology	Section A (25)	4.72	4.95
		Section B (25)	4.72	4.76
	Psychology of Families	Section A (25)	4.73	4.77
Fall 2016	Introduction to Health Psychology	Section A (26)	4.9	5.00
	Psychology of Families	Section A (25)	4.78	4.96
		Section B (27)	4.84	4.92
Spring 2016	Introduction to Health Psychology	Section A (24)	4.6	5.0
	Psychology of Families	Section A (24)	4.9	4.9
		Section B (25)	4.9	4.9
Fall 2015	Introduction to Health Psychology	Section A (25)	4.7	4.9
	Psychology of Families	Section A (25)	5.0	5.0
		Section B (25)	4.9	5.0
Spring 2015	Introduction to Health Psychology	Section A (28)	4.6	4.9
	Psychology of Families	Section A (29)	4.9	5.0
		Section B (28)	4.7	5.0
Fall 2014	Introduction to Health Psychology	Section A (24)	4.9	4.9
		Section B (27)	4.9	4.6
	Developmental Psychology: Childhood	(170)	4.0	4.3
Spring 2014	Introduction to Health Psychology	Section A (28)	4.9	4.9
		Section B (26)	4.7	4.9
	Psychology of Families	Section A (26)	4.9	5.0
		Section B (22)	4.9	5.0
Fall 2013	Introduction to Health Psychology	Section A (28)	4.5	4.9
		Section B (29)	4.5	4.8
	Psychology of Families	Section A (25)	4.8	5
		Section B (26)	4.3	4.5
Fall 2012	Introduction to Health Psychology	Section A (29)	4.8	5
		Section B (28)	4.3	4.5
	Psychology of Families	Section A (24)	4.6	4.9
		Section B (24)	4.9	5
Spring 2012	Introduction to Health Psychology	Section A (28)	4.7	4.8
		Section B (26)	4.6	4.7
	Psychology of Families	Section A (28)	4.6	4.8
		Section B (28)	4.5	4.6
Fall 2011	Introduction to Health Psychology	Section A (29)	4.7	4.8
		Section B (28)	4.5	4.7

Guest Lectures

Fall -2010	Infant and Child Development <i>Professor Susan Crockenberg</i>
2010 Spring	Developmental Psychology: Childhood <i>Professor Annie Murry-Close</i>
2009 Fall	Developmental Psychology: Childhood <i>Professor Annie Murry-Close</i>

2015- Present Advising Liaison – Department of Psychological Sciences

I am the secondary advisor to all the psychological science majors. I meet with students on a daily basis to help them navigate through course selection and academic planning.

Graduate Teaching Fellow

Department of Psychological Sciences, University of Vermont
Prepared and delivered a lecture each semester; graded exams, written assignments and oral presentations; advised students during weekly office hours.

2002- 2008	Research Methods I Research Methods II Infant and Child Development
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Program Evaluator

2009-2011	Vermont Child Health Improvement Program, College of Medicine, UVM. <i><u>ASD Evaluation</u></i> Lead Evaluator Evaluate efficacy of State implemented ASD programs for Primary Care Physicians, Parents and Communities. <i><u>Chronic Care Initiative.</u></i> Lead Evaluator. VCHIP was working with three of the Children’s Hospital Specialty Center clinics (Diabetes, Nephrology, and Cystic
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Fibrosis) assessing their quality improvement on clinic specific outcomes.

Integrated Health Care Evaluation Project.

Co-Evaluator.

Initiatives to integrate behavioral healthcare into primary care for children, adolescents and their families.

Child Mental Health Initiative

Co-Evaluator.

Project assessing the knowledge and skill of pediatricians in identifying child mental health problems.

Statistical Consultant

2008-2009

VNA F.A.C.T. program

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My primary research interest is the origins and outcomes of parent-child relations in early childhood. Specific areas include: 1) identifying predictors of maternal and paternal sensitivity with an emphasis on parents' emotional responses to infant cues; 2) examining the intergenerational transmission of fathers' emotion relevant parenting practices with an emphasis on identifying factors that contribute to discontinuity; and 3) identify factors that contribute to psychological, behavioral, social, and spiritual fitness associated with effective reintegration of military parents.

GRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2000-2002

Baby Lab

Research assistant for Professor Susan Crockenberg
Was trained in infant and maternal behavioral coding schemes to assess infant reactivity and regulation, and maternal sensitivity by Professor Susan Crockenberg.

2002-2009

Fathers and Infants Project

Department of Psychology, University of Vermont
Worked with Professor Susan Crockenberg in designing and running the Father Toddle Project, analyzing data we had gathered, preparing presentations and publications, and supervised undergraduate research assistants.

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Crockenberg, S. C., Leerkes, E. M., & Lekka, S. (2007). Pathways from marital aggression to infant emotion regulation: The development of withdrawal in infancy. *Infant Behavior and Development, 30*, 97-113. (Special section: Emergent family systems).

POSTER PRESENTATION

Lekka, S.K., Crockenberg, S. C., & Burt, K. (April, 2011). *Pathways explaining the development of parenting behaviors in fathers*. Poster presented at the 22nd Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Montreal, Canada.

Crockenberg, S.C., Leerkes, E.M., Lekka, S.K. (2010, July). *Predicting pre- and post-partum depressive symptoms in fathers*. Poster presented at the 21st Biennial Congress of the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development, Lusaka, Zambia

Crockenberg, S. C., Leerkes, E. M., & Lekka, S.K. (April, 2005). *Marital conflict and maternal behavior: Predictors of infant emotion regulation*. Poster presented at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Atlanta.

FUNDED INTERNAL RESEARCH GRANTS

Research grant from *Child and Adolescent Psychology Training and Research, Inc.*, (2005). Burlington, Vermont, (\$500).

Undergraduate Honors Committees

University of Vermont

Craig Pastel <i>Senior Honors Thesis</i> Role: Committee member	Fall 2015
Molly Gromley <i>Senior Honors Thesis</i> Role: Committee member	Spring 2016
Samuel Raszka <i>Senior Honors Thesis</i> Role: Chair	Spring 2016
Maddie Portnoy <i>Senior Honors Thesis</i> Role: Committee member	Spring 2017

Colin Price
Senior Honors Thesis
Role: Committee member

Spring 2017

Sophia Parker
Senior Honors Thesis
Role: Committee member

Fall 2017

LANGUAGES

In addition to English, I also speak the following languages
Greek- spoken (beginner) and written
Sinhala- native

SPECIAL SKILLS AND TRAINING

Computer based behavior coding of infant and maternal behavior.
Multiple Imputation using NORM
Microsoft Access –query design and analysis.
Web Design
Data Analysis using SPSS and Excel

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Psychological Association
Association for Psychological Sciences

Revised: 3/4/2018