Developmental Psychology
Research areas include creativity, social concepts, social relationships, and learning processes involving non-verbal communication (i.e., drawing & gesture).

Christopher Merchant, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Northeastern Illinois University

Research areas include ecological predictors of depression and suicide among adolescents and young adults.

Masami Takahashi, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Northeastern Illinois University

Lifespan Developmental Psychology
Research areas include development of wisdom in old age, meaning of spirituality and religiosity; documentary film maker (“Last Kamikaze: Testimonials from WWII suicide pilots”).

International Symposium of Life-Span Developmental Psychology

July 15, 2011
SU-214
Breakfast (9:00-10:00 AM)

Introduction (9:45 AM)
Masami Takahashi, Ph.D., Associate Professor, NEIU

Opening Remark: Janet P. Fredericks, Ph.D., Director of International Programs, NEIU

Session I (10:00 AM – 12:00 PM)
Death and Culture

10:00 The Social Context of Adolescent Suicidality
Christopher Merchant, Ph.D. (Assistant Professor, NEIU)

11:00 Meaning Reconstruction and the Aftermath of Suicide
Daisuke Kawashima, Ph.D. (Associate Professor, Hokkaido University of Education)

Lunch (12:00 – 2:00 PM)

Session II (2:00 – 4:30 PM)
Visual Image and Narrative

2:00 How Do Children’s Drawings Measure Their Implicit Theories of Social Roles?
Saba Ayman-Nolley, Ph.D. (Chair, Psychology Department, NEIU)

2:50 Visual Narrative of Intergenerational Relationship
Naoko Nishiyama (JSPS Research Fellow, Kyoto University)

3:40 Children’s Narratives and Literature Socialization Across Developmental Contexts in Spain
David Poveda, Universidad Autonoma de Madrid

Closing Remarks (4:45 PM)
Saba Ayman-Nolley, Ph.D. (Chair, Psychology Department, NEIU)

Presenters

Daisuke Kawashima, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Hokkaido University of Education

My main research interest is to examine the ways of living with loss and death. Recently, I have conducted suicide prevention research including the topics of suicide intervention skills, suicide prevention in school setting, and suicide survivor’s grief process.

Naoko Nishiyama
JSPS Research Fellow / Graduate student
Kyoto University

My research inquires how women imagine and visually represent their relationships among three generations: grandmother-mother-daughter. Using the Image Drawing Method (IDM), I’m also exploring possibilities of folk image as a visual narrative.

David Poveda, Ph.D.
Professor
Universidad Autonoma de Madrid

My research interests center around social diversity in education and socialization and children’s linguistic practices across developmental contexts. My work draws, broadly speaking, from a socio-cultural perspective on education and development and is based on qualitative/ethnographic forms of inquiry.