

CURRICULUM VITAE

Catharine Sparks

Department of Psychology
University of Victoria
PO Box 3050 STN CSC
Victoria, BC V8W 3P5
Canada
Tel: (250)472-4862
E-mail: csparks@uvic.ca

EDUCATION

- 2008 B.S in Psychology, Summa cum Laude, Southern Oregon University, Ashland, Oregon.
- 2012 M.Sc. in Psychology, Lifespan Development, University of Victoria, Victoria, BC, Canada.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Developmental psychology, cognition and cognitive decline, early predictors of cognitive decline, interpersonal communication and communicative adaptability, social dynamics, health, active aging, longitudinal data analysis, and developmental research methodology.

MEMBERSHIPS HELD IN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

- 2010 – Adult Development & Aging, Division 20, APA
- 2010 – Evaluation, Measurement, Stats, Division 5, APA
- 2008 – Gerontological Society of America
- 2006 – Western Psychological Association
- 2006 – 2008 Oregon Academy of Science

SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

- 2010 – 2011 University of Victoria Fellowship – Department of Psychology: \$5,000
- 2010 – July Society of Multivariate Experimental Psychology Award: \$1,000
- 2009 – 2010 University of Victoria Fellowship – Department of Psychology: \$14,000
- 2008 – 2009 Graduate Diversity Recruitment Bonus – Oregon State University: \$5,000
- 2008 – 2009 Josephine Zimmerman Gerontology Fellowship – Oregon State University: \$1,500
- 2007 – 2008 Ronald E. McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement Program Research Grant: \$3,000
- 2006 - 2008 Ronald E. McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement Program Scholar

SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

a. Publications

- Toyokawa, N., Bontempo, D. E., Wray, L., **Sparks, C.**, Piccinin, A. M., & Hofer, S. M. (under review). Operationalizing morbidity in research on aging: Predictions of functional limitations by disease count and binary variables. *Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences*.
- Rast, P., Hofer, S. M., & **Sparks, C.** (2012). Modeling within-person variance in a mixed effects location scale model using BUGS/JAGS. *Behavior Research Methods*, 47(2), 177-200.
- Zahodne, L.B., Glymour, M.M., **Sparks, C.**, Bontempo, D., Dixon, R.A., MacDonald, S.W.S., & Manly, J.J. (2011). Education does not slow cognitive decline with aging: 12-year evidence from the Victoria Longitudinal Study. *Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society*, 17(6), 1039-1046.
- Piccinin, A. M., Muniz, G., **Sparks, C.**, & Bontempo, D. E. (2011). An evaluation of analytical approaches for understanding change in cognition in the context of aging and health. *Journals of Gerontology B: Psychological Sciences*, 66, i36-i49.

b. Conference Paper Presentations

- Sparks, C.**, Piccinin, A. M., Richards, M., & Hofer, S. M. (2011, November). *The impact of health on cognition: A cross-study comparative approach to understand cognitive change*. In S. M. Hofer (Chair), Life course influences on physical, cognitive, and emotional functioning: The HALCyon and IALSA collaboration. Paper symposium conducted at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, MA.
- Piccinin, A. M., Muniz, G., **Sparks, C.**, & Bontempo, D. E. (2011, October). *Analytical approaches for understanding change in cognition in the context of aging and health*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Canadian Association of Gerontology, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.
- Hofer, S. M., **Sparks, C.**, & MacDonald, S. W. S. (2011, October). *Educational benefits in adult cognition: International evidence from three birth cohort studies*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Multivariate Experimental Psychology, Norman, OK.
- Sparks, C.**, Piccinin, A. M., Johansson, B., & Hofer, S. M. (2011, June). *The impact of health on cognition: A cross-study comparative approach using indices of health to understand late-life cognitive change*. Paper presented at the IALSA/HALCyon joint conference, Nr Chichester, West Sussex, UK.
- Sparks, C.** & Hofer, S. M. (2011, February). *Health and cognition in aging research*. Paper presented at the Social Dimensions of Health Colloquium Series, University of Victoria, Victoria, BC, Canada.
- Hofer, S. M., & **Sparks, C.** (2010, October). *Too stressed to think? An undergraduate course on multivariate design, data collection and analysis*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Multivariate Experimental Psychology, Atlanta, GA.
- Hofer, S. M., Piccinin, A. M., Bontempo, D. E., **Sparks, C.**, & Hoffman, L. (2009, November). *Integrative Analysis of Longitudinal Studies of Aging (IALSA): Patterns of between-person age differences and within-person changes in cognitive capabilities with age*. In S. M. Hofer (Chair), Coordinated and pooled data analyses of longitudinal studies of aging: Aging and dementia-related change in cognition, affect, and physical functioning. Paper symposium conducted at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Atlanta, GA.

Bontempo, D. E., Piccinin, A. M., **Sparks, C.**, & Hofer, S. M. (2009, October). *Health, health trajectories, and “healthy” aging: Issues in the conceptualization and operationalization of health and healthy aging*. Paper presented at the conference on Cognition, Health and Aging, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA.

Sparks, C. (2008, February). *Dementia: Person-centered approach to communication*. Paper presented at the Oregon Academy of Science Annual Meeting, Portland, OR.

c. Conference Poster Presentations

Sparks, C., Piccinin, A. M., Hoffman, L., & Hofer, S. M. (2012, February). *Prediction of change under alternative codings of time*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development: Developmental Methodology, Tampa, FL.

Rush, J., **Sparks, C.**, & Hofer, S. M. (2012, February). *Within-and Between-Person Factor Structure of Positive and Negative Affect*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development: Developmental Methodology, Tampa, FL.

Sparks, C., Hofer, S. M., Piccinin, A. M., Alwin, D., & Wray, L., (2010, April). *Relationships between level, change, and variation in cognitive function and depressive symptoms within spousal dyads*. Poster presented at the annual Cognitive Aging Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Sparks, C., Bontempo, D. E., Piccinin, A. M., Spiro, A., Toyokawa, N., & Hofer, S. M., (2009, November). *Conceptualizing and operationalizing health in longitudinal research on aging*. Poster presented at the Gerontological Society of America Annual Scientific Meeting, Atlanta, GA.

Sparks, C. (2008, June). *The relationship between communicative adaptability and dementia care provider job satisfaction levels*. Poster presented at the Southern Oregon University Annual Arts and Research Celebration, Ashland, OR.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

2009 – 2012 *Integrative Analysis of Change in Cognition and Health*, National Institutes of Health AG AG026453, PI: S. M. Hofer, University of Victoria

2009 – 2010 *Health and Healthspan in Longitudinal Studies of Aging*, National Academies Keck Futures Initiative, PI: S. M. Hofer, Oregon State University

2008 – 2009 Center for Healthy Aging Research, Advisors: S. M. Hofer & K. Hooker, Oregon State University

2006 – 2008 Ronald E. McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement Program, Advisor: D. Southard, Southern Oregon University

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

2011 *Advanced Multivariate Statistical Methods* (4 weeks, July-August 2011). Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) Summer Institute, Advisor: J. Templen, University of Michigan

2011 *Multilevel Modeling using SAS, SPSS and STATA* (5 days, July 2011; 4 weeks, July-August 2011). Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) Summer Institute, Advisor: L. Hoffman, University of Michigan

- 2010 – 2011 *Integrative Analysis of Stress, Health, and Cognition (PSYC 492)*, Advisor: S. M. Hofer, University of Victoria
- 2007 *Personal and Social Adjustment (PSYC 317)*, Advisor: J. F. Pierson, Southern Oregon University

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2009 – Ad Hoc Reviewer:
 Developmental Psychology
 Journal of Gerontology: Biological Sciences
 Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences
 Psychology and Aging
- 2008 – November *Mentoring Consultancies for Emerging Scholars* volunteer, Gerontological Society of America Annual Scientific Meeting, Baltimore, MD

WORKSHOP ATTENDANCE

- 2011 – May *Statistical Methods in Aging, Analytical Research Training (SMAART)*, Victoria, BC
- 2010 – August *Advanced Psychometric Methods for Cognitive Aging Research*, Friday Harbor, WA
- 2010 – July *Summer Institute on Research Methodology*, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR
- 2010 – June *New Methods for the Integrative Analysis of Longitudinal Studies of Aging*, Victoria, BC
- 2009 – November *Introduction to the Health and Retirement Study*, Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting Pre-Conference Workshop, Atlanta, GA

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- 2007 – 2008 Internship: Grief and bereavement counseling, Ashland Community Hospice, Ashland, OR
- 2006 – 2007 Internship: Administrative training, Mountainview Retirement and Assisted Living, Ashland, OR
- 2005 – 2006 Practicum: Direct patient care, Northridge Assisted Living, Medford, OR