Greg Duncan

Child Poverty: Next Steps for Research and Policy

Friday, March 29, 2019
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Reception immediately following lecture, 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Blackwell Inn
Pfahl Hall, Room 140
280 W. Woodruff Ave.

Greg Duncan is Distinguished Professor, School of Education, UC-Irvine

ABSTRACT: Although child poverty rates have fallen by half in the past 50 years, 13% of U.S. children (9.7 million in all) live in families with incomes below the poverty line. Drawing from a recently released National Academy report on child poverty, I briefly summarize causal evidence on the consequences of poverty for children's development as well as research on the impacts of anti-poverty programs such as food stamps and the Earned Income Tax Credit on development. Addressing a gap in evidence on the impact of poverty on very young children, I describe an ongoing experiment in which low-income mothers with newborns are randomly assigned to receive either smaller or larger monthly cash gifts over the first forty months of their children's lives. Impacts on children's cognitive and socioemotional development and on family processes thought to mediate the impacts of poverty on child well-being are both assessed. Finally, drawing again on the National Academy report, I review the success in reducing child poverty of twenty programs and policy approaches.

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Dr. Joan Huber
Professor Emeritus, Department of Sociology
The Ohio State University

Joan Huber received a BA from Penn State in 1945, an MA from Western Michigan in 1962, and a PhD from Michigan State University in 1967. She was assistant professor of sociology at Notre Dame for four years. In 1971, she moved to Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She was Director of Women’s Studies 1978-80, and Head of the Sociology Department 1979-83. In January of 1984, she came to Ohio State as Dean of the College of Social and behavioral Sciences. She also served as Coordinating Dean for the Arts and Sciences, 1984-92, and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost, 1992-93. Dr. Huber retired in 1994 but remains active in research and academia.