

Professor Frances Gardner funded research projects:

Current projects:

Building evidence for prevention of child maltreatment through Skillful Parenting combined with farming skills strengthening in rural Tanzania.

Funder: UBS Optimus Foundation. CHF 299 820. Co-PI's, **Jamie Lachman**, Frances Gardner, Oxford, Danny Wight, Glasgow, Joyce Wamoyi, NIMR, Tanzania.

A cluster-randomised trial of a rural village intervention combining parenting with economic strengthening. We assess the effects of a parenting group programme (*Skillful Parenting* by Dutch NGO, ICS) for prevention of child maltreatment, separately and in combination with a group-based farming skills strengthening, in rural Tanzania.

Link to video of project: <https://vimeo.com/225970597>

Evaluation of Parenting for Lifelong Health in the Philippines.

Funder: UBS Optimus Foundation. CHF 199 945. Co-PI's **Jamie Lachman**, Frances Gardner, Oxford, Cathy Ward, Cape Town, Cecilia Gan, PAPA, Liane Alampay, Ateneo de Manila University.

Cultural and contextual adaptation, early stage testing, and a randomised controlled trial of a parenting programme, 'Parenting for Lifelong Health' for Children, embedded in a cash transfer system in low-income urban areas in the Philippines.

What are the essential components of parenting interventions for reducing child maltreatment and child behavioural problems?

Funder: UBS Optimus Foundation. CHF 100 000. PI Frances Gardner (10%), with **Patty Leijten** & GJ Melendez-Torres, Oxford, Chris Mikton, WHO, Judy Hutchings, Bangor.

A series of systematic and narrative reviews of different approaches to understanding and analysing the essential components of parenting interventions. It aims to identify which parenting content and delivery components are actually effective for reducing disruptive child behaviour and child maltreatment.

Publications:

Vlahovicova, K., Melendez-Torres, G.J., **Leijten**, P. Knerr, W & **Gardner**, F. (2017) Parenting programs for the prevention of child physical abuse recurrence: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Clinical Child & Family Psychology Review*. Open access: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10567-017-0232-7>

Leijten, P., **Gardner**, F., Melendez-Torres, G.J., Knerr, W., & Overbeek, G. (2017). Why children comply: multilevel meta-analysis of how parenting behavior shapes child compliance. *Under review*.

Leijten, P., Melendez-Torres, **Gardner**, F., van Aar, J., Schulz, S., & Overbeek, G. (2017). Are relationship building and behavior management skills the 'golden couple' for modifying disruptive child behavior? *Child Development*. Invited submission, under review.

Could scale-up of parenting programmes improve child disruptive behaviour and reduce social inequalities? Using individual participant data meta-analysis to establish for whom programmes are effective and cost-effective

Funder: NIHR – Public Health Research: £340,075. PI Frances Gardner, with Professors Stephen Scott, Sabine Landau, KCL- Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience; Judy Hutchings, Bangor; Jeni Beecham LSE.

Publications:

Leijten, P., **Gardner**, F., Landau, S., Harris, V., Mann, J., Hutchings, J., Beecham, J., Bonin, E.M. and Scott, S. (2017). Harnessing the power of individual participant data in a meta-analysis of the benefits and harms of the Incredible Years parenting program. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*.

Gardner, F., **Leijten**, P., Melendez-Torres, G.J., Harris, V., Landau, S., Mann, J., Beecham, J., Hutchings, J., & Scott, S. (2017). The earlier the better? Individual participant data and traditional meta-analysis of age effects of parenting interventions. *Child Development*. Invited submission for special issue, under review.

Optimising Parenting Interventions through Methodological and Programmatic Innovation to Reduce the Risk of Child Maltreatment and Improve Child Wellbeing in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

Funder: **John Fell Oxford University Press Research Fund**. £50,000. PI's Frances Gardner, Jamie **Lachman**, Oxford.

This project aims to support an innovative and interdisciplinary programme of research on the optimisation of parenting interventions in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC). Parenting interventions are effective in reducing the risk of child maltreatment and improving child wellbeing, with promising evidence emerging from LMIC. Despite increasing calls for the dissemination of interventions that combine violence prevention and early childhood development in LMIC, parenting interventions delivered in low resource settings face a number of constraints including cost, time, and local capacity. It is therefore important to optimise parenting interventions by testing which components are most effective, cost efficient, and scalable. This project includes three linked studies that together will provide a strong foundation for a large-scale optimisation experiment. First, it will update a recent systematic review of parenting interventions in LMIC to include analysis of effective components that reduce harsh parenting, improve positive parenting, and improve early childhood development outcomes. Second, it will convene an interdisciplinary workshop to identify the essential components necessary to optimise the

effectiveness and scalability of parenting interventions in LMIC. Third, it will test the feasibility of an optimisation study using a factorial experiment design in South Africa.

Parenting for Lifelong Health: A suite of parenting programmes to prevent violence

http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/child/plh/en/

Funders: various, including UNICEF, WHO, UBS Optimus Foundation, Ilifa Labantwana.

Our aim is to develop and test a suite of affordable, sustainable evidence-based parenting programmes to prevent violence for low-resource settings. This suite of programmes for different ages of children is called *Parenting for Lifelong Health* (PLH) and represents a collaboration between WHO, Stellenbosch University and the University of Cape Town, South Africa, Bangor University in Wales, the Universities of Oxford and Reading in England, and UNICEF.

Key people in Oxford include Lucie Cluver, Jamie Lachman, Franziska Meinck and Frances Gardner. Lachman and Gardner have research projects evaluating PLH for Children in South Africa, Thailand, and the Philippines, with further work planned in middle-income countries of Eastern Europe.

Example publications:

Dowdall, N, Cooper, P, Tomlinson M, Skeen, S, **Gardner**, F, & Murray, L. (2017). Benefits of Early Book Sharing (BEBS) for child cognitive and socio-emotional development in South Africa: study protocol for a randomised controlled trial. *Trials*, 18, 118.

Cluver, L, Meinck, F, Yakubovich, A., Doubt, J., Redfern, A., Sherr, L, Kaplan, L, **Gardner**, F. (2016). Reducing child abuse amongst adolescents in low- and middle-income countries: A pre-post trial in South Africa. *BMC Public Health*, 16 (1), 567

Ward, C. L, Sanders, M., **Gardner**, F, Mikton, C. & Dawes, A. (2015). Effective implementation of parenting programmes in low- and middle-income countries: A public health research agenda. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 54, 97-107

Ward, C. L, Mikton, C., Cluver, L., Cooper, P., **Gardner**, F., Hutchings, J., Lachman, J., Murray, L., Tomlinson, M.& . Wessels, I. (2014). Parenting for Lifelong Health: from South Africa to other low-and middle-income countries. *Early Childhood Matters*, 212, 49-54.

Completed projects:

Parenting interventions in low income communities in South Africa: Randomised Controlled Trial.

02/ 2013- 06/ 2016. Ilifa Labantwana: ZAR 379 545 PIs Cathy Ward (UCT) and Lucie Cluver, with Gardner (5%), Hutchings (Bangor), Lachman.

Cultural and contextual adaptation, early stage testing, and a randomised controlled trial of a parenting programme, 'Parenting for Lifelong Health' for Children, in an NGO in low income urban areas in Cape Town.

Publications:

Lachman, J.M., Kelly, J., Cluver, L.C., Ward, C.W., L., Hutchings, J., Gardner, F. (2016). Process evaluation of a parenting program for low-income families in South Africa. *Research on Social Work Practice*. DOI: 10.49731516645665

Lachman, JM, Sherr, L, Cluver, L, Ward, C, Hutchings, J, Gardner, F (2016). Integrating Evidence and Context to Develop a Parenting Program for Low-Income Families in South Africa. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 25 (7), 2337-2352

Transportability of parenting programmes across cultures and countries: two systematic reviews.

2010-2014 Swedish Board of Health and Welfare £62,000, PI Gardner.

Publications:

Gardner, F. (2017). *Parenting Interventions: How well do they transport from one country to another?* Florence: UNICEF Innocenti Research Brief. https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/IRB_2017_10.pdf

Leijten, P., Melendez-Torres, GJ., Knerr, W., Gardner, F. (2016). Transported versus homegrown parenting interventions for reducing disruptive child behavior: a multilevel meta-regression study. *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*. 55, 610-617.

<file:///C:/Users/fgardner/Downloads/Leijten%20et%20al%20accepted%20pdf%20May%2018th%202016.pdf>

Gardner, F., Knerr, W., Montgomery, P. (2016). Transporting evidence-based parenting programs for child problem behavior (age 3-10) between countries: Systematic review and meta-analysis. *Journal of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology*. 45 (6), 749-762.

Open access: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15374416.2015.1015134>

Psychosocial resilience in adolescent offspring of mothers with depression: testing causal mechanisms. 01/ 2013- 03/ 2015 **ESRC:** £5,035 PI Collishaw, Cardiff, with co-I's Professors Gardner, Maughan, Pickles, Araya, Harrold.

Risk factors for antisocial behaviour in low-income youth in South Africa.

12/ 2012- 12/ 2013 John Fell OUP Research Fund, UK. £7,476 PI Gardner.

Publications:

Waller, R., Gardner, F., Cluver, L. (2014). Shared and unique predictors of antisocial and substance use behavior in a national study of South African youth. Invited to Special Issue of *Aggression & Violent Behavior*, 19, 629-636.

Gardner, F., Waller, R., Cluver, L., Boyes, M., & Maughan, B. (2015). What are the risk factors for antisocial behavior among low-income youth in Cape Town? *Social Development*, 24, 798-814

Reducing harsh and abusive parenting and increasing positive parenting in low- and middle-income countries: a systematic review.

2010- 2011 Oak Foundation/ MRC South Africa/ SVRI. £9,091 PI Gardner, & Cluver.

Publication:

Knerr, W., **Gardner**, F., & **Cluver**, L. (2013). Improving Positive Parenting Skills and Reducing Harsh and Abusive Parenting in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: A Systematic Review. *Prevention Science*, 14 (4), 352-363

Resilience in young people orphaned by AIDS and other causes: predictors and mechanisms

12/ 2008- 11/ 2011. Nuffield Foundation. £299,064 PI Gardner, with Dr. Lucie **Cluver**, University of Oxford, Dr. Stephan Collishaw, Institute of Psychiatry, Professor Larry Aber, New York University and University of Oxford.

Publications:

Collishaw, S., **Gardner**, F., **Cluver**, L., Aber L. (2016). Predictors of mental health resilience in children parentally bereaved by AIDS in urban South Africa. *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology*, 44 (4), 719-730.

Cluver, L., Bowes, L. & **Gardner**, F. (2010). Risk and Protective Factors for Bullying victimisation amongst orphans and vulnerable children in South Africa. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 34, 793-803.

Time trends in parenting and in adolescent problem behaviour: Can one help explain the other?

06/ 2007- 12/ 2010. Nuffield Foundation. £94,536. PI Gardner, with Barbara Maughan, Stephan Collishaw Institute of Psychiatry, Jackie Scott, University of Cambridge.

Publications:

Gardner, F., Collishaw, S., Maughan, B, Scott, J., Schepman, K. & Hagell., A. (2012). Trends in parenting: Can they help explain time trends in problem behaviour? In A. Hagell (ed) *Changing adolescence: Social trends and mental health*. Bristol: Policy Press.

Collishaw, S., **Gardner**, F., Maughan, B, Scott, J & Pickles, A. (2011). Historical change in parenting of adolescents: Can it explain the rise in youth problem behavior? *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology*, 40, 119-132

Schepman, K., Collishaw, S., **Gardner**, F., Maughan, B, & Pickles, A. (2011). Do changes in parent mental health explain trends in youth emotional problems? *Social Science and Medicine*, 73(2), 293-300.

Gardner, F., Maughan, B, Collishaw, S. Scott, J (2009). Has parenting changed over recent decades? Can changes in parenting explain the rise in adolescent problem behaviour? The Nuffield Foundation.

<http://www.nuffieldfoundation.org/sites/default/files/Time%20trends%20in%20parenting%20and%20outcomes%20for%20young%20people%20vFINAL.pdf>

Economist article: <https://www.economist.com/news/briefing/21606795-todays-young-people-are-held-be-alienated-unhappy-violent-failures-they-are-proving>

Understanding and preventing childhood drug abuse risk through early family-based prevention.

05/ 2008- 03/ 2013 NIH / NIDA- National Institutes of Health: US National Institute on Drug Abuse, £122,924 to Oxford. Co-PI with Professors Tom Dishion, University of Oregon, Daniel Shaw, University of Pittsburgh, Melvin Wilson, University of Virginia. PI Gardner, Oxford site. Randomised trial of an early family-based intervention for low income families, beginning in the toddler years, the Family Check Up.

Publications:

Waller, R., Dishion, T.J., Shaw, D.S., **Gardner**, F., Wilson, M.N., & Hyde, L.W. (2015). Does early childhood callous-unemotional behavior uniquely predict behavior problems or callous-unemotional behavior in late childhood? *Developmental Psychology* 52, 1805.

Dishion, T. J., Mun, C. J., Tein, J. Y., Kim, H., Shaw, D. S., **Gardner**, F., ... & Peterson, J. (2016). The Validation of Macro and Micro Observations of Parent–Child Dynamics Using the Relationship Affect Coding System in Early Childhood. *Prevention Science*, 1-13.

Shaw, D. S., Sitnick, S. L., Brennan, L, Choe, D., Dishion, T. J., Wilson, M., & **Gardner**, F. (2016). The long-term effectiveness of the Family Check-Up on school-age conduct problems: Moderation by neighborhood deprivation. *Development and Psychopathology*, 28, 1471-1486.

Waller, R., **Gardner**, F., Sitnick, S., Shaw, D. S., Dishion, T. J. and Wilson, M. N. (2015). Does early positive parenting matter for children’s adjustment at 7.5 years: addressing enduring questions with new methods. *Social Development*, 24, 304–322 .

Chang, H., Shaw, D. S., Dishion, T. J., **Gardner**, F., & Wilson, M. N. (2015). Proactive parenting and children’s effortful control: Mediating role of language and indirect intervention effects. *Social Development*, 24, 206-223.

Waller, R, **Gardner**, F, Shaw, D, Dishion, T, Wilson, M, Hyde, L. (2015). Callous-unemotional behavior and early-childhood onset of behavior problems: the role of parental harshness and warmth. *Journal of Clinical Child & Adolescent Psychology*, 44, 655-667.

Leijten, P., Shaw, D. S., **Gardner**, F., Wilson, M. N., Raaijmakers, M. A. J., de Castro, B. O., Matthys, W., & Dishion, T. J. (2015). The Family Check-Up and service use in high-risk families of young children: A prevention strategy with a bridge to community-based treatment. In press, *Prevention Science*, 16, 397-406

Waller, R., Wright, A.G.C., Shaw, D.S., **Gardner**, F., Dishion, T.W., Wilson, M.N., & Hyde, L.W. (2015). Factor structure and construct validity of the parent-reported Inventory of Callous-Unemotional Traits among high-risk 9 year olds. *Assessment*, 22, 561-580.

Shelleby, Votruba-Drzal, E., Shaw, D. S., Dishion, T. J., **Gardner**, F., & Wilson, M. N et al (2014). Income and Children's Behavioral Functioning: A Sequential Mediation Analysis. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 28, 936-942.

Sitnick, S, Shaw, D. S., Gill, A., Dishion, T., Winter, C., Waller, R., **Gardner**, F., Wilson, M. Parenting and the Family Check-Up: Developments and changes in observed parent-child interaction during early childhood. *Journal of Clinical Child & Adolescent Psychology*, 44, 970-984.

Waller, R., **Gardner**, F., & Hyde, L. (2013). Parenting as predictor of callous unemotional traits in young people: a systematic review. *Clinical Psychology Review*, 33, 593–608.

Hyde, L., Shaw, D., **Gardner**, F., Cheong, J., Dishion, T., & Wilson, M (2013). Dimensions of callousness in early childhood: Links to problem behavior and family intervention effectiveness. *Development and Psychopathology* 25, 347-363.

Brennan, L. M., Shelleby, E., Shaw, D. S., Dishion, T. J., **Gardner**, F., & Wilson, M. N. (2013). Improvements in early positive parenting linked to children's school-age achievement. *Journal of Educational Psychology*, *105*, 762-773.

Waller, R., **Gardner**, F., Dishion, T. J., Shaw, D. S., & Wilson, M. N. (2012). Validity of a brief measure of parental affective attitudes in high-risk preschoolers. *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology*, *40*, 945-955.

Waller, R., **Gardner**, F., Hyde, L. W., Shaw, D. S., Dishion, T. J. and Wilson, M. N. (2012), Do harsh and positive parenting predict parent reports of deceitful-calling behavior in early childhood? *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, *53*: 946–953.

McEachern, A., Dishion, T. J., Shaw, D. S., Wilson, M. N., & **Gardner**, F. (2012). Parenting Young Children (PARYC): Validation of a self-report parenting measure. *Journal of Family Studies*, *21*(3), 498–511.

Young carers for AIDS-ill parents: social, health and educational impacts.

02/ 2010- 09/ 2013 ESRC. £516,938 for 'PI **Cluver**, with co-Is Gardner, Oxford, Dawes, UCT, **Operario**, Brown University, Wild UCT.

011 – 2013 **John Fell Oxford University Press Research Fund**, UK. £98,826.00

'Development of an AIDS-related Child Abuse Prevention Programme at the Centre for AIDS Interdisciplinary Research at Oxford. PI **Cluver**- with Co-I Gardner

2006 -2009 **Department for Education and Skills, Safeguarding Children Initiative.**

£105,000 for 'A series of systematic reviews of the effectiveness of interventions following physical abuse'. PIs: Paul **Montgomery**, Frances Gardner, Paul Ramchandani

2002 – 2007 **NIH- NIDA National Institutes of Health: National Institute on Drug**

Abuse, USA, \$10,114,352, 'Early family-based prevention of risk for drug abuse'. Co-Principal Investigator jointly with Professors Thomas Dishion, University of Oregon, Daniel Shaw, University of Pittsburgh, Melvin Wilson, University of Virginia