

## Caroline Heaton Christopher

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### Education

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2015	T32 NIMH Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Prevention Research Center, Arizona State University
2013	Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin, Human Development and Family Science
2009	M.Ed., Human Development Counseling, Vanderbilt University
2006	B.A., Psychology, Duke University

### Professional Experience

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2018-present	<i>Research Assistant Professor</i> Department of Teaching and Learning, Vanderbilt University Department of Human and Organizational Development (dual appointment)
2015-2018	<i>Research Associate</i> Peabody Research Institute, Vanderbilt University

### Peer Reviewed Publications

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1. Wolchick, S., Tein, J., **Christopher, C.**, & Rhodes, A. (2018). Long-term effects of a parenting preventive intervention on young adults' attitudes toward divorce and marriage. *Journal of Divorce and Remarriage*, in press.
2. **Christopher, C.**, Wolchick, S., Tien, J., Carr, C., Mahrer, N., & Sandler, I. (2017). Long-term effects of a parenting-focused preventive intervention on emerging adults' painful feelings about divorce. *Journal of Family Psychology*, *31*(7), 799-809. doi: 10.1037/fam0000325
3. Farran, D., Meador, D., **Christopher, C.**, Nesbitt, K. & Bilbrey, L. (2017). Data driven quality in prekindergarten classrooms: A partnership between developmental scientists and an urban district. *Child Development*, *88*, 1466-1479. doi: 10.1111/cdev.12906
4. Needham, A., Wiesen, S., Gibson, J., Libertus, K., & **Christopher, C.** (2017). Characteristics of brief sticky mittens experience that lead to increases in object exploration. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, in press. doi: 10.1016/j.jecp.2017.04.009
5. Ha, T., Kim, H., **Christopher, C.**, Caruthers, A., & Dishion, T. (2016). Predicting sexual coercion in early adulthood: The transaction between maltreatment, gang affiliation, and adolescent socialization of coercive relationship norms. *Development & Psychopathology*, *28*, 707-719. doi:10.1017/S0954579416000262
6. **Christopher, C.**, Umemura, T., Mann, T., Jacobvitz, D. & Hazen, N. (2015). Marital quality across the transition to parenthood as a predictor of coparenting. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, *24*, 3636-3651. doi: 10.1007/s10826-015-0172-0
7. Umemura, T., **Christopher, C.**, Mann, T., Jacobvitz, D., & Hazen, N. (2015). Coparenting problems with toddlers predict children's symptoms of psychological problems at age 7. *Child Psychiatry and Human Development*, *46*, 981-996. doi: 10.1007/s10578-015-0536-0

8. Hazen, N., Allen, S., **Christopher, C.**, Umemura, T., & Jacobvitz, D. (2014). Very extensive nonmaternal care predicts infant attachment disorganization: Convergent evidence from two samples. *Development & Psychopathology*, 27, 649-661. doi:10.1017/S0954579414000893
9. **Christopher, C.**, Saunders, R., Jacobvitz, D. Burton, R. & Hazen, N. (2013). Maternal empathy and changes in mothers' permissiveness as predictors of toddlers' early social competence with peers: A parenting intervention study. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 22, 769-778. doi: 10.1007/s10826-012-9631-z
10. **Christopher, C.**, & Farran, D. (2020). Measuring quality in pre-k and kindergarten classrooms: A replication of the “Magic 8”. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*. Accepted pending revisions.
11. Coelho, V., Åström, F., **Christopher, C.**,...Grande, C. (2020). An international comparison of preschool classroom practices. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*. Revise and resubmit.

### Presentations

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1. **Christopher, C.** & Meador, D. (December 2019). Development and validation of a progressive web app coaching tool to improve pre-K classroom practices and enhance learning. *Presented at the Reimagine Education Conference, London, England.*
2. **Christopher, C.** (July 2019). Assessing the quality and alignment of pre-k to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classrooms in Tennessee. *Presentation given at the Early Education Convening of the Tennessee Education Research Alliance (TERA), Nashville, Tennessee.*
3. **Christopher, C.** (May 2019). A learning agenda derived from a partnership between Vanderbilt and the Tennessee Department of Education: Overview of research questions and context. *Presentation given at the Ounce of Prevention’s Partnership for Pre-K Improvement Peer Learning Convening, Seattle, Washington.*
4. **Christopher, C.** (March 2019). Using research to drive improvement in classrooms. *Panel presentation to the Early Education Caucus of the Tennessee Legislature, Nashville, Tennessee.*
5. **Christopher, C.** (July 2018). A research practice partnership promoting high quality pre-k. *Presentation to the Metro Nashville Public Schools Early Childhood Summit, Nashville, Tennessee.*
6. **Christopher, C.**, Hazen, N., Frankel, L., Jordan, E., Rutledge, J. (March 2018). Navigating the job search: Insights and success stories. *Panel presentation at the 2018 Biennial Conference of the Society for Research in Human Development, Plano, Texas.*
7. **Christopher, C.**, Farran, D., & Nesbitt, K. (April 2017). “It’s not what you said, it’s how you said it”: Pre-K classroom environment and children’s gains in academic and interpersonal skills. *Poster presented at the 2017 Biennial Conference of the Society for Research in Child Development, Austin, Texas.*
8. Farran, D., **Christopher, C.**, Nesbitt, K., & Meador, D. (April 2017). The Value of Classroom Observations Using Behavioral Measures: Setting Goals for Changes in Practice in Pre-K. *Paper Symposium presented at the 2017 Biennial Conference of the Society for Research in Child Development, Austin, Texas.*
9. **Christopher, C.**, Rutledge, J., Beverung, L., & Langlais, M. (March 2016). Early Career Panel. *Panel presentation from the 2015 Biennial Conference of the Society for Research in Human Development, Denver, Colorado.*
10. **Christopher, C.**, Wolchik, S., Tein, J., Masten, A., & Sandler, I. (March 2015). Gender and risk as moderators of long-term effects of the New Beginnings Program on job success 15-years post-intervention. *Poster presented at the 2015 Biennial Conference of the Society for Research in Child Development, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.*

11. **Christopher, C.** (March 2014). Exploring the etiology of adolescent depression: Gender differences in how sons and daughters are influenced by parents' depression. *Paper presented at the 2014 Biennial Conference of the Society for Research on Human Development, Austin, Texas.*
12. **Christopher, C., Umemura, T., & Hazen, N.** (March 2014). Exploring the etiology of adolescent depression: Gender differences in how teens are influenced by parents' depression over time. *Poster presented at the 2014 Biennial Conference of the Society for Research in Adolescence, Austin, Texas.*
13. **Christopher, C., Umemura, T., Mann, T., & Hazen, N.** (April 2013). Cooperative and competitive coparenting during toddlerhood: Relations with children's social-emotional competence and behavior problems concurrently and at school age. *Poster presented at the 2013 Biennial Conference of the Society for Research in Child Development, Seattle, Washington.*
14. Umemura, T., **Christopher, C., Mann, T., & Hazen, N.** (April 2013). Marital quality across the transition to parenthood: Relations with cooperative and competitive coparenting. *Poster presented at the 2013 Biennial Conference of the Society for Research in Child Development, Seattle, Washington.*
15. **Christopher, C., Umemura, T., Hazen, N. & Jacobvtiz, D.** (June 2012). The relation of extensive nonmaternal care to attachment disorganization. *Poster presented at the International Conference on Infant Studies, Minneapolis, Minnesota.*
16. Umemura, T., **Christopher, C., Allen, S., Jacobvitz, D., & Hazen, N.** (March 2012). Extensive nonmaternal care predicts attachment disorganization: Convergent evidence from two samples. *Poster presented at the 36<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the Society of Research on Human Development, New Orleans, Louisiana.*
17. **Heaton (Christopher), C., Saunders, R. Jacobvitz, D. & Hazen-Swann, N.** (March, 2011). The relation of maternal empathy and hands-on training in positive guidance to changes in toddlers' social competence. *Poster presented at the 2011 Biennial Conference of the Society for Research in Child Development, Montreal, Canada.*
18. **Heaton (Christopher), C., Saunders, R., Burton, R., Jacobvitz, D., Hazen-Swann, N.** (March, 2010). Changes in mothers' permissiveness and depression as predictors of toddlers' early social competence with peers. *Paper presented at the 35<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the Society of Research on Human Development, San Antonio, Texas.*

### **External Funding**

**Principal Investigator of subcontract to Vanderbilt** (PI: Molly Branson-Thayer, University of Washington). Partnership for Preschool Improvement: Research-Practice Partnership Follow-Up. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, (12/2019 – 05/2021), \$435,900.

**Co-Principal Investigator** (PI: Maury Nation). Nashville Longitudinal Study of Youth Safety and Wellbeing. National Institute of Justice, (01/17 – 12/2021), \$4,916,705.

*\*Note: Christopher added as Co-PI, approved by NIJ in 2019, COEUS to be updated.*

**Project Advisor** (PI: Marcy Singer-Gabella; Co-PI William Heerman). Complex Assessment & Support in Elementary Schools (CASES): Building Capacity to Reduce Disciplinary Inequity. William T. Grant Foundation. Grant under review.

**Principal Investigator of subcontract to Vanderbilt** (PI: Molly Branson-Thayer). Partnership for Preschool Improvement: Research-Practice Partnership. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, (02/2019 – 12/2019), \$190,103.

**Principal Investigator.** Assessing the Quality and Alignment of Pre-K to 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Classrooms in Tennessee. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, (10/2018 – 09/2020), \$365,165.

**Principal Investigator.** Development and Validation of a Mobile, Web-based Coaching Tool to Improve Pre-K Classroom Practices and Enhance Learning. National Science Foundation, Development Research K-12 (08/2018 – 07/2022), \$2,786,484.

**Principal Investigator of subcontract to Vanderbilt** (PI: Molly Branson-Thayer). Evaluation and Data Support for Exemplar States: Partnership for Preschool Improvement: Research-Practice Partnership. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, (06/2018 – 10/2018), \$28,984.

## Press

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1. Aldrich, Marta (2019, February 22). Is Tennessee moving its weakest teachers to early, non-tested grades? New research says yes, Chalkbeat. Retrieved from <https://chalkbeat.org/posts/tn/2019/02/22/is-tennessee-moving-its-weakest-teachers-to-early-non-tested-grades-new-research-says-yes/>
2. Hinton, Marva (2018, October 19). Vanderbilt researchers develop “magic 8” practices to create an effective preschool, *Education Week*. Retrieved from [http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/early\\_years/2017/10/researchers\\_develop\\_magic\\_8\\_practices\\_to\\_create\\_an\\_effective\\_preschool.html](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/early_years/2017/10/researchers_develop_magic_8_practices_to_create_an_effective_preschool.html)
3. Mongeau, Lillian (2017, October 2). New research finds “magic 8” preschool classroom practices, *The Hechinger Report*. Retrieved from <http://hechingerreport.org/new-research-finds-magic-8-preschool-classroom-practices/>
4. Child and Family Blog (2017, July 13). Supporting parent-child relationships during divorce benefits children 15 years later. Retrieved from <https://childandfamilyblog.com/parent-child-relationships-divorce/>
5. Child and Family Blog (2015, November 25). Husband’s parenting depends on relationship with wife. Retrieved from <https://childandfamilyblog.com/updates/coparenting-children-behaviour/>

## Honors and Awards

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| 2019 | <b>Shortlisted for ICT Tools for Teaching and Learning Award</b> through Reimagine Education Conference, an international conference on innovative educational practices.  |
| 2019 | <b><i>Invited Member of the Tennesseans for Quality Early Education Policy Council.</i></b> This group convenes biannually to advise TQEE on policy initiatives.   |
| 2018 | <b><i>Invited Member of the Tennessee Department of Education’s Early Learning Advisory Taskforce.</i></b> The goal of this work is to inform quality improvements in early learning and to develop a framework for teaching in Pre-K in Tennessee.  |
| 2017 | <b><i>Invited Member of Mayor Megan Barry’s Quality Tracking, Monitoring, and Improvement Working Group</i></b> as part of the Mayor’s <i>Early Childhood Education Initiative</i> . The focus of this group is to develop detailed implementation plans for improving quality and access of Pre-K throughout Nashville. |
| 2014 | <b><i>T32 NIMH-funded Postdoctoral Research Fellowship.</i></b> Awarded fellowship to work at the Prevention Research Center (REACH Institute). Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona   |
| 2013 | <b><i>University of Texas Graduate School Summer Fellowship.</i></b> Awarded \$2,000 merit-based scholarship to conduct research for summer 2013. The University of Texas at Austin  |

- 2012 *Isora and Thomas Cooke Endowed Human Ecology Scholarship*. Awarded \$2,400 merit-based scholarship to conduct research for summer 2012. The University of Texas at Austin
- 2012 *Professional Development Scholarship*. Awarded \$600 Travel Award to attend the 2012 Conference of the International Society for Infancy Studies in Minneapolis, Minn. The University of Texas at Austin
- 2011 *Mary Ellen Durrett Scholarship in Child Development*. Awarded \$1,000 merit-based scholarship. The University of Texas at Austin
- 2011 *Isora Cooke Estate Professional Development Scholarship*. Awarded \$400 Travel Award to attend the conference of the Society for Research in Child Development in Montreal, Canada. The University of Texas at Austin

### **Methodological Training** (*Excel, SPSS, Mplus, HLM*)

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Regression, Mediation and Moderation

Multi-level Modeling

Structural Equation Modeling

Multiple Groups Analysis

Cluster Analysis

Latent Class Analysis

Factor Analysis, Exploratory and Confirmatory

### **Teaching Experience: Instructor**

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- 2018 *Research Methods in Counseling (7810.01)*, Vanderbilt University.
- 2012 *Child Development*, University of Texas at Austin.
- 2010 *Topics in Human Ecology Research*, University of Texas at Austin.

### **Professional Service**

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- 2017-20 Ad hoc reviewer for Early Childhood Research Quarterly, Journal of Family Issues, Journal of Family Psychology, Journal of Child and Family Studies
- 2016 Ad hoc reviewer for Journal of Research on Adolescence
- 2015 Ad hoc reviewer for Child Development
- 2014-2017 Member-at-large, Society for Research on Human Development
- 2014 Ad hoc reviewer for Journal of Marriage and Family
- 2013-2014 Postdoctoral Reviewer, Society for Research on Human Development
- 2011-2013 Student Reviewer for conference submissions, Society for Research on Child Development
- 2010-2011 Student Representative, Society for Research on Human Development

### **Departmental Service**

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- 2019 Committee Chair, Community Research and Action Annual Student Conference, Department of Human and Organizational Development
- 2020 Committee Chair, Community Research and Action Annual Student Conference, Department of Human and Organizational Development