Graduate Program in Comparative Human Development

Drawing together anthropologists, biological and developmental psychologists, educational researchers, sociologists, and statisticians, faculty in the Department of Comparative Human Development (CHD) share an interest in the ways that social, cultural, and institutional factors shape individual change over the life course and how, in turn, changing individuals reshape their wider social and cultural contexts.

CHD offers students the opportunity to build a unique research program by integrating training in sociocultural, medical, and psychological anthropology; biological, cognitive and cultural psychology; sociology; linguistics; statistical methods; and education policy. Faculty and graduate students conduct research in both US and non-US settings using diverse methods including long-term participant observation, qualitative interviewing, analysis of survey data, experiments, classroom observation, and field research with non-human animals. Areas of particular interest include: child and adolescent development; gender and sexuality; culture, subjectivity, and mental health; disability studies; the social and psychobiological shaping of behavior and development; quantitative research methodologies; education and learning; language, thought and communication; multiculturalism and migration; youth and generational change; and aging across the life-course.

By receiving deep training from faculty across disciplines, students are able to consolidate multiple theoretical and conceptual frameworks into their scholarship. Students also receive high quality methodological training including theory-driven quantitative, qualitative, and ethnographic courses, and have numerous opportunities to collaborate with faculty on on-going research projects.

The University provides graduate stipends for five years plus additional summer funding. Applications should be filed with the Office of the Dean of Students on or before December 15 to be considered for the following autumn.

Our PhD students have gone on to positions in universities, government, non-profit organizations, and the private sector.
Faculty research interests

- **Margaret Beale Spencer**, Chair: development; adolescence; vulnerability; resilience; education
- **Jennifer Cole**: youth; gender; migration; social memory; Africa; Europe
- **Michele Friedner**: deafness and disability; India
- **Susan Goldin-Meadow**: language development and acquisition; gesture; sign-language; cognition
- **William Goldstein**: psychology of preference, uncertainty, and resolution of conflicting goals
- **Sydney Hans**: maternal functioning; risk and resilience; intervention development
- **Guanglei Hong**: causal inference; evaluating multi-level and longitudinal interventions
- **Micere Keels**: educational inequality; developmental trauma; intersectionality
- **Susan Levine**: cognitive development; mathematical and spatial learning
- **John Lucy**: language; cognition; childhood; Mexico
- **Dario Maestripieri**: evolution of human behavior; relationship between science and literature
- **Jill Mateo**: survival and reproduction; social, hormonal and genetic interactions
- **Anna Mueller**: social networks; gender; adolescence; mental health; suicide
- **Eugene Raikhel**: mental health; psychiatry; Russia
- **Lindsey Richland**: development; memory and analytical reasoning; education
- **Richard Shweder**: psychological anthropology; cultural psychology; morality; multiculturalism; India

For a full list of faculty research interests and contact information, see: https://humdev.uchicago.edu/directories/full/faculty

Recent alumni career outcomes

- Post-doctoral Fellow, Michigan Society of Fellows
- Assist. Prof. of Psychology, Duquesne University
- Assist. Prof. of International Studies, CSU-Long Beach
- Assist. Prof. of Anthropology, Smith College
- Assist. Prof. of Quantitative Research Methodology, University of Pittsburgh
- Researcher, National Institute for Mental Health
- Research Scientist, Nat. Commit. for Quality Assurance
- Assoc. Dean for Leadership Devel, Full-Time MBA Program, University of Chicago
- Research Assoc, Faraday Inst. for Science and Religion
- Senior User Experience Researcher, Microsoft
- Executive Director, Suicide Prevention Action Network of Teton Valley

Career placement of past 5 years

![Career Placement Chart]

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Apply:
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