PROGRAMME

The Final Oral Examination
for the Degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
Department of Psychology

Jacqueline E. Bush
2002 University of Victoria MA
1995 University of Western Ontario BA

Children’s Experience of Sibling Relationships After Parental Separation: A Case Study Approach

Friday, January 10, 2014
11:00 AM
HSD, Room A264

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Marion Ehrenberg, Department of Psychology, UVic (Supervisor)
Dr. Marsha Runtz, Department of Psychology, UVic (Member)
Dr. Robert Dalton, Department of Educational Psychology & Leadership Studies, UVic (Outside Member)

External Examiner:
Dr. Robert Ley, Department of Psychology, SFU

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. Douglas Magnuson, School of Child and Youth Care, UVic
Abstract

The current study examined children’s experiences of sibling relationships following parental separation. Areas investigated included the nature of sibling relationships in separated families, how siblings provide care and support to each other, and how they view sibling relationships in general. To obtain a holistic, context-sensitive understanding of sibling relationships, the study involved a multimethod, multi-source, case study approach that included interviews, sentence completion items, drawings, and vignettes. Three families participated in approximately five to six sessions each. Children and parents participated in individual sessions, and the children participated in one session with their siblings. Through cross-case, qualitative analyses, several salient themes relevant to sibling relationships in separated families were identified. Such themes include the importance of context in understanding sibling relationships (e.g., developmental phase of sibling relationship, custody arrangements, co-parenting relationship); the role of negotiating time with each parent; the impact of physical context; how shared experiences might shape sibling relationships in separated families; and the indirect ways in which siblings support each other. Relevant research and clinical implications when working with children are discussed.
Awards, Scholarships, Fellowships

2004-06  SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship
2005-05  University of Victoria President Research Scholarship
1999-04  University of Victoria Graduate Fellowship
1993  University of Western Ontario Continuing Scholarship

Presentations


3. **Bush, J.E.** (February, 2003) *Young Adults’ Perspectives on the Influence of Family Transitions on Sibling Relationships: A Qualitative Exploration.* Presentation at Clinical Research Rounds, University of Victoria, Victoria, BC.


Publications


