



**University
of Victoria**

Graduate Studies

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

1. **Bush, J.E.**, & Ehrenberg, M.F. (2009, June). *The Adult Sibling Relationship Scale: Initial validation of a new measure*. Poster session presented at The Annual Meeting of the Canadian Psychological Association, Montreal, Quebec.
2. **Bush, J.E.**, Kit, K., Luedemann, M., Su, T., & Vanderhill, S. (2006). *Challenges in Short-Term Psychotherapy*. *Presentation at Clinical Rounds, University of Victoria, B.C.*
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.
4. Ehrenberg, M.F., **Bush, J.**, Luedemann, M., & Pringle, J. (2003, June). *Community-based interventions for divorcing families: Needs and innovations*. Poster session presented at the Annual Meeting of the Family Research Consortium, Santa Fe, NM.
5. Ehrenberg, M.F., **Bush, J.E.**, Chia, A., Luedemann, M., Pringle, J., & VanBruggen, L. (September, 2004). *Mother-Daughter Relationships in Divorcing Families: A Practice Example*. Presentation at Clinical Rounds, University of Victoria, Victoria, B.C.

Publications

1. **Bush, J.E.**, & Ehrenberg, M.F. (2004) Sibling Relationships in Divorcing Families: Practice Considerations for School Counsellors. *Journal of the BC School Counsellors' Association*, 26, 75-92.
2. **Bush, J.E.** & Ehrenberg, M.F. (2003). Young persons' perspectives on the influence of family transitions on sibling relationships: A qualitative exploration. *Journal of Divorce and Remarriage*, 39, 1-35.
3. **Bush, J. E.**, & Ehrenberg, M. F. (2002, June). Young adults' perceptions of their sibling relationships in the context of parental divorce in childhood [Abstract]. *Canadian Psychology*, 43, 90.
4. Ehrenberg, M.F., **Bush, J.E.**, Pringle, J.D., Luedemann, M., & Geisreiter, J. (2005). Young children experiencing divorce and family transitions: How early childhood professionals can help. In Spodek & Saracho (Eds.), *Families and communities: Contemporary perspectives in early childhood education*.
5. Ehrenberg, M., Stewart, L, Roche, D., Pringle, J., & **Bush, J.** (2006). Adolescents in divorcing families: Perceptions of what helps and hinders. *Journal of Divorce and Remarriage*, 45, 69-91.
6. Maio, G.R., Olson, J.M., & **Bush, J.E.** (1997). Telling jokes that disparage social groups: Effects on the joke teller's stereotypes. *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*, 27, 1986-2000.