

The Effects of Early Life Adversity on Child and Brain Development

Tens of millions of children around the world are exposed to significant adversity early in life. In high resource countries such as the United States, this can include growing up poor, exposure to domestic or neighborhood violence, growing up with a parent with a significant mental health problem; in low resource settings, this can also include malnutrition, lack of clean water and poor sanitation. In this talk I will discuss the effects of early profound adversity on child and brain development, drawing from three separate lines of work: children experiencing profound neglect early in life (Romania), children exposed to a range of biological (e.g., malnutrition) and psychosocial (e.g., maltreatment) hazards early in life (Bangladesh) and children growing up in high stress/low resource households (United States).