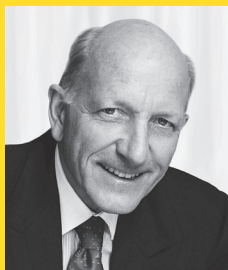




2013 AWARDS CEREMONY

RESEARCH PRIZE
BEST PRACTICE PRIZE



THE KLAUS J. JACOBS AWARDS

In honor of its founder, the entrepreneur Klaus J. Jacobs, who passed away in 2008, the Jacobs Foundation has awarded two annual prizes since 2009. Endowed with a total of 1.2 million Swiss francs, the awards recognize exceptional achievements in research and practice in the field of child and youth development.

The Research Prize acknowledges scientific work of high social relevance to the development of children and young people. The Jacobs Foundation attaches great importance to scientific findings from interdisciplinary research which can yield practical applications. The Klaus J. Jacobs Research Prize is endowed with one million Swiss francs.

The Best Practice Prize recognizes the exceptional commitment of institutions or individuals who put innovative solutions in the field of child and youth development into practice. The Best Practice Prize is worth 200,000 Swiss francs.

OVERCOMING CHILDHOOD POVERTY AND DISADVANTAGE

One of the world's leading philanthropic foundations, the Jacobs Foundation is dedicated to promoting innovation in the field of child and youth development. The Jacobs family has operated the foundation for nearly 25 years, seeking to benefit future generations by promoting developmental opportunities to allow young people to become productive and socially conscious members of society. Our focus is on the potential inherent in every child and youth. We seek to strengthen that potential and thereby develop and expand the capabilities of these young people.

Every year, in a tradition that was established in 2009 in memory of our founder, we present two awards for outstanding achievements in research and practice in the field of child and youth development. The 2013 Klaus J. Jacobs Awards represent something of a milestone: We are awarding these prizes for the fifth time. I am especially pleased to note that both recipients share our emphasis on the strengths of young people, and the view that every child and adolescent has the capacity for success. The work of Greg Duncan, recipient of the Research Prize, and ELTERN-AG, recipient of the Best Practice Prize, has drawn attention to the sad fact that even today, a child's origins all too often determine that child's future; poverty and disadvantage early in life have far-reaching consequences. Indeed, a poor and disadvantaged child will often grow up to be a poor and disadvantaged adult. Beyond that, however, the two recipients of this year's Klaus J. Jacobs Awards look at the living conditions of disadvantaged children and identify both risk factors and protective factors for their health, education and ability to participate in society. Greg Duncan draws on insights from economics, psychology, sociology and neuroscience to expand our understanding of the long-term effects of childhood poverty. ELTERN-AG, too, takes an explicitly science-based approach to its work, integrating the latest findings from the fields of neuroscience, developmental psychology and social education into its prevention program for disadvantaged parents.



Thanks to the contributions of Greg Duncan and ELTERN-AG, we now know much more about the effects of economic hardship and disadvantage during childhood, and about when and how those effects occur. We also have a better understanding of what measures are most likely to be effective over the long term in addressing these issues.

My congratulations go to Greg Duncan and to ELTERN-AG for their impressive and important work.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Joh. Christian Jacobs'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dr. Joh. Christian Jacobs
Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Jacobs Foundation



THE LONG REACH OF EARLY CHILDHOOD POVERTY

Research Prize recipient Greg Duncan studies the impact of childhood poverty on behavior, success and health in later life. Best Practice Prize recipient ELTERN-AG works with disadvantaged parents in an effort to improve opportunities for their children.

Children are like sponges, absorbing everything around them – both good and bad. By relating family income in early childhood to outcomes in adulthood, Greg Duncan has shown the extent to which parental income affects children's lives. He has found that on average, infants and children from low-income families grow up to earn and work less than their more fortunate peers.

Economists, sociologists, developmental psychologists and neuroscientists all agree that poverty is stressful for families and associated with worse health, lower levels of education and less participation in society. However, the various disciplines emphasize different pathways by which poverty affects children's development. In describing the harmful effects of poverty on children, economists, for example, emphasize the limits imposed by family income, while psychologists and sociologists focus on the quality of family relationships.

Looking at the long-term consequences of childhood poverty from an innovative interdisciplinary perspective, Greg Duncan has found that career success in adulthood, in particular, is directly related to family income during childhood, and that economic circumstances in the first five years of a child's life are especially consequential for adult well-being.

Early childhood is also a very challenging period for many parents. And when poverty and disadvantage are present as well, parents need not only financial assistance, but other kinds of support. This is precisely what is provided by ELTERN-AG's prevention program, which helps parents in difficult straits to become capable mothers and fathers – to ensure that children's origins will no longer determine their future, and that disadvantaged children will not grow up to become disadvantaged parents. It is in this spirit that this year's Klaus J. Jacobs Awards are being presented to these two worthy recipients.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF ECONOMIC HARDSHIP

★ 2013 RESEARCH PRIZE

Trained as an economist, Greg Duncan takes an interdisciplinary approach in exploring the many ways in which childhood poverty affects opportunities in adulthood. He combines an economist's perspective with insights from psychology, sociology, neuroscience and epidemiology.

Much of his work has drawn on the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID), an exceptionally influential study that has followed American families and their children since 1968. Its data have allowed Duncan to identify links between family income during childhood and life circumstances when children reach adulthood. In the past, researchers had identified dynamic patterns of poverty, family structure and social circumstances, but they knew relatively little about the consequences of these conditions – especially when they occur early in childhood – for child development over the long term. In 2010, Duncan and his colleagues were, for the first time, able to shed more light on these questions: Compared with children spending their early years in families with incomes substantially above the poverty line, poor children completed an average of two fewer years of schooling, they earned less than half as much as their more fortunate peers, and they worked approximately 450 fewer hours per year. They also received more welfare benefits and suffered from more health problems. Boys growing up in poor families were nearly twice as likely to be arrested, while girls were five times as likely to become single mothers before reaching the age of 21.

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION



Greg Duncan studies the impact of childhood poverty on behavior, success and health in later life.

Drawing on other studies, Duncan was able to show that economic deprivation early in childhood is particularly predictive of adult well-being. Indeed, brain researchers and psychologists have found that the development of cognitive functions is often compromised in children from poor families. Duncan therefore argues that policy measures should focus on chronically poor families with very young children and favors coordinated policies aimed not only at helping parents find jobs, but at ensuring that family income increases as well.

In recognition of his interdisciplinary research on the long-term consequences of childhood poverty for life chances in adulthood, the Jacobs Foundation is pleased to award the 2013 Klaus J. Jacobs Research Prize to Greg Duncan.

COMBATING A CYCLE OF DISADVANTAGE

★ 2013 BEST PRACTICE PRIZE

ELTERN-AG is a prevention-based program for parents that focuses on the needs of disadvantaged families. It was launched over 10 years ago by Meinrad Armbruster, professor of educational psychology at Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences, and Janet Thiemann, social educator and the organization's executive director. Today the program is active throughout Germany, working with more than 50 partners in 13 German states.

Trained mentors offer courses for parents who find themselves in difficult circumstances. Poverty and disadvantage have numerous causes – including inadequate education, an immigrant background, unemployment and separation – which can combine to push parents to the fringes of society and into dependence on government. Economic hardship has an adverse effect on parents' physical and mental health, interferes with family relationships and ultimately harms children, setting in motion a cycle of disadvantage that is nearly impossible to break. The low-threshold and easily accessible ELTERN-AG program, based on mutual respect, is designed to address this situation. It is founded on the belief that there are a few simple and essential principles of parenting that nearly every parent is capable of learning, and that the necessary skills can be taught and reinforced in a group setting. While it relies on a simple formula, the program is evidence-based. It draws on the latest insights from neuroscience, developmental psychology and social education, and focuses on parent-child interactions, child development and families' living conditions and social environments.

ELTERN-AG is a scientifically monitored program, and its practical work benefits from the scientific component, which is reflected in quality control and regular review and revision of the program's design. The resulting findings give cause for hope that the cycle of disadvantage can indeed be broken. The program has been enthusiastically accepted by the target group; it is so popular that 80 percent of participating parents complete all 20 courses, 68 percent are still meeting regularly one year later, and 98 percent report that they would recommend ELTERN-AG to others. Moreover, evidence suggests that it has had a significant positive impact on children's emotional and cognitive development.

In recognition of its prevention program for families in difficult circumstances, the Jacobs Foundation is pleased to present its 2013 Best Practice Prize to ELTERN-AG.

ELTERN-AG provides support to disadvantaged parents in an effort to improve their children's opportunities.



LAUREATES TO DATE

2012

The 2012 *Research Prize* was awarded to Dante Cicchetti (University of Minnesota) in recognition of his research on children's resilience and the effects of adversity on development.

The 2012 *Best Practice Prize* was presented to the Off Road Kids Foundation for its nationwide efforts to help young runaways and street children in Germany.

2011

The 2011 *Research Prize* was awarded to Michael Tomasello (Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology) for his research on the identification of uniquely human forms of collaboration, communication and cultural learning.

The 2011 *Best Practice Prize* was presented to Christiane Daepf for developing Ideenbüro, a program for helping schoolchildren to accept responsibility, to learn the benefits of cooperation and to consider everyday's problems as challenges.

2010

The 2010 *Research Prize* was awarded to Terrie Moffitt and Avshalom Caspi (Duke University and King's College London) for their research into the interplay between genetic disposition and environmental influences in the development of children and youth.

The 2010 *Best Practice Prize* was given to two organizations, Opstapje Deutschland e. V. and a:primo, for their sustained commitment to providing early support for socially disadvantaged children by successfully implementing a play and development program in Germany and Switzerland.

2009

The 2009 *Research Prize* was awarded to Laurence Steinberg (Temple University) for his work in the psychopathology, risk-taking and decision-making behavior of young people.

The *Best Practice Prize* 2009 was presented to Father Johann Casutt for successfully adapting the Swiss model for the vocational training to the needs of young people in Indonesia.

JURY FOR THE 2013 RESEARCH PRIZE

Professor Albert Bandura

Stanford University; Stanford (CA), USA

Professor Monique Boekaerts

*University of Leiden;
Leiden, the Netherlands*

Professor W. Thomas Boyce

*University of British Columbia;
Vancouver (BC), Canada*

Professor Kathleen Kiernan

*University of York; Heslington (YO),
England*

Professor Meinrad Paul Perrez

*University of Fribourg;
Fribourg, Switzerland*

Professor Anne C. Petersen

*University of Michigan;
Ann Arbor (MI), USA*

Professor Rainer K. Silbereisen

*Friedrich-Schiller University of Jena;
Jena, Germany*

NOMINATION COM- MITTEE FOR THE 2013 BEST PRACTICE PRIZE

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*Managing Director Hub Zurich;
Zurich, Switzerland*

Michael Feigelson

*Programme Director Bernard
van Leer Foundation;
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*CEO Ashoka Germany;
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"Fritz + Fränzi"; Zurich, Switzerland*

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Professor at Haas School of Business of the University of California; Berkeley (CA), USA

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THE JACOBS FOUNDATION

The Jacobs Foundation is active worldwide in the area of child and youth development. The Zurich-based private foundation was established in 1989 by entrepreneur Klaus J. Jacobs. It is operated according to the vision of its founder, who believed that a society can only experience long-term success when as many of its members as possible are given the chance to receive quality education.

The Jacobs Foundation supports research projects, scientific institutions and intervention programs with an annual budget of approximately 40 million Swiss francs. It promotes activities that provide answers to how the living and learning conditions of young people can be designed and supported so that they will become successful members of society.

As far as its methods and approaches are concerned, the Jacobs Foundation is particularly committed to scientific excellence and evidence-based findings, and subscribes to an approach in child and youth development that emphasizes positive development opportunities for young people. This approach covers a wide spectrum of scientific disciplines and approaches that include the psychological, cognitive, emotional, intellectual, social vocational, academic, economic and physical development of children and youth.

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Our Promise to Youth