

Vita

Paul R. Benson

Work Address: Department of Sociology
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Education:

1980 – 1982	NIMH Postdoctoral Program in Mental Health Evaluation Research, Department of Sociology, University of California, Los Angeles
1981	Ph.D. (Sociology), University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
1977	M.A. (Sociology), University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
1974	B.A. (Sociology), University of California, Santa Cruz

Academic and Administrative Positions Held:

2015-present	Chair, Department of Sociology, University of Massachusetts Boston
1988 – present	Associate to Full Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Massachusetts Boston (tenured 1991)
2011 – 2015 2008 – 2009	Associate Chair, Department of Sociology, University of Massachusetts Boston
1995 – 1998	Vice Provost for Sponsored Projects and Public Service, University of Massachusetts Boston
1993 – 1995	Chair, Department of Sociology, University of Massachusetts Boston
1982 – 1988	Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA

Major Teaching and Research Interests:

Disability and the Family

Sociology of Health and Mental Health

Research Positions Held:

1998 – 2012	Senior Research Associate, Center for Social Development and Education, University of Massachusetts Boston
1992	Faculty Associate, McCormack Institute of Public Affairs, University of Massachusetts Boston
1989 – 1990	Research Associate, Division of Research and Planning, Massachusetts Department of Mental Health
1981 – 1982	Research Associate, Program in Medicine, Law, and Human Values, University of California, Los Angeles School of Medicine
1978 – 1980	Research Assistant, Department of Social Medicine, University of North Carolina School of Medicine

Grants, Contracts, and Awards:

2005-2010	Principal Investigator, “A Longitudinal Study of Children with ASD and their Families during the Elementary School Years.” Office of Special Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education (5 years - \$900,000 direct and indirect costs)
2001-2005	Principal Investigator, “Parent Involvement in Public School Programs for Young Children with Autism.” Office of Special Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education (3 years -- \$540,000 direct and indirect costs)
1991	Recipient, Chancellor’s Scholarship Fund Award (to support a statewide conference on family support and severe mental illness cosponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health)
1982-88	Contractee, Biometry and Survey Reports Branch, National Institute of Mental Health
Fall 1980	Visiting Scholar, Biometry and Survey Reports Branch, National Institute of Mental Health
1979	Recipient, Howard W. Odum Award for Outstanding Graduate Work in Sociology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
1979	Recipient, Dissertation Grant, Maurice Falk Medical Fund
1974 – 1976	Recipient, National Institute of Mental Health Traineeship in Medical Sociology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
1974	Graduation with Honors in Sociology, University of California, Santa Cruz

Publications in Peer Reviewed Journals:

O'Nions, Elizabeth, Eva Ceulemans, Francesca Happé, Paul Benson, Kris Evers, and Ilse Noens.

2020 "Parenting strategies used by parents of children with ASD: Differential links with child problem behaviour." Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders 50: 386-401.

Benson, Paul R.

2020 "Examining the Links between received network support and marital quality among mothers of children with ASD: A longitudinal mediation analysis." Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders 50: 960-975.

Paul R. Benson

2018 "The impact of child and family stressors on the self-rated health of mothers of children with autism spectrum disorder: Associations with depressed mood over a 12-year period." Autism 22: 489-501.

Paul R. Benson

2016 "The longitudinal effects of social network characteristics on the mental health of mothers of children with ASD: The mediating role of positive parent cognitions." Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders 46: 1699-1715.

Paul R. Benson

2015 "Longitudinal effects of educational involvement on parent and family functioning among mothers of children with ASD." Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders 11: 42-55.

Paul R Benson

2014 "Coping and psychological adjustment among mothers of children with ASD: An accelerated longitudinal study." Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders: 44: 1793-1807.

Paul R. Benson

2013 "Family influences on social and play outcomes among children with ASD during middle childhood." Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders 7: 1129-1141.

Paul R. Benson

2012 "Network characteristics, perceived social support, and psychological adjustment in mothers of children with autism spectrum disorder." Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders 42: 2597-2610.

Paul R. Benson and Joanne Kersh

2011 "Marital quality and psychological distress in mothers of children with autism spectrum disorders." Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders 12: 674-684.

Paul R. Benson, Dave Daley, Kristie L. Karlof, and Dotothy Robison

2011 "Assessing expressed emotion in parents of children with autism: The Autism-Specific Five Minute Speech Sample." Autism 15: 65-82.

- Paul R. Benson and Kristie L. Karlof
2010 "Coping, distress and well-being in parents of children with ASD." Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders 4: 217-228.
- Paul R. Benson and Kristie L. Karlof.
2009 "Anger, stress proliferation, and depressed mood among parents of children with ASD: A longitudinal replication." Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders 36: 685-695.
- Paul R. Benson and Kristie L. Karlof.
2008 "Parent, child, and family predictors of later adjustment among siblings of children with autism." Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders 2: 583-600.
- Paul R. Benson, Kristie L. Karlof, and Gary N. Siperstein
2008 "Maternal involvement in the education of young children with autism Spectrum disorder," Autism 12: 47-63.
- Paul R. Benson
2006 "Child symptom severity and depressed mood among parents of children with ASD: The mediating role of stress proliferation." Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders 36: 685-695.
- Carole C. Upshur, Paul R. Benson, Elizabeth Clemens, William H. Fisher, H. Stephen Leff, and Russell K. Schutt
1997 "Closing state hospitals in Massachusetts: Policy, process, and impact." International Journal of Law and Psychiatry 20: 199-218.
- Lorenzo Burti and Paul R. Benson
1996 "Psychiatric reform in Italy: Developments since 1978." International Journal of Law and Psychiatry 19: 373-39.
- Paul R. Benson, Gene A. Fisher, Augusto Diana, Lorna Simons, Gail Gamache, Richard C. Tessler, and Melissa McDermeit
1996 "A state network of family support services: The Massachusetts Family Support Demonstration Project." Evaluation and Program Planning 19: 27-39.
- Paul R. Benson
1994 "Deinstitutionalization and family caretaking of the mentally ill: A policy perspective." International Journal of Law and Psychiatry 17: 119-138.
- Paul R. Benson
1989 "The social control of human biomedical research: An overview and review of the literature." Social Science and Medicine 29: 1-12.
- Paul R. Benson, Loren H. Roth, Paul S. Appelbaum, Charles W. Lidz, and William J. Winslade
1988 "Information giving, subject understanding, and informed consent in psychiatric research." Law and Human Behavior 12: 455-475.

Loren H. Roth, Paul S. Appelbaum, Charles W. Lidz, Paul Benson, and William J. Winslade
1988 "Informed consent in psychiatric research." Rutgers Law Review 39: 425-441.

Loren H. Roth, Paul S. Appelbaum, Charles W. Lidz, Paul Benson, and William J. Winslade
1987 "False hopes and best data: Consent to research and the therapeutic misconception." Hastings Center Report 17: 20-24.

Paul R. Benson
1986 "The prescribing of discretionary antipsychotic drugs by southern psychiatrists." Journal of Health and Social Behavior 27: 28-43.

Paul R. Benson
1985 "Informed consent: Drug information disclosed to patients prescribed antipsychotic medication." Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease 172: 642-641.

Paul R. Benson
1984 "Factors associated with antipsychotic drug prescribing by southern psychiatrists." Medical Care 21: 639-641.

Walker, Deborah Klein, Alan W. Cross, Peter W. Heyman, Holly Ruch-Ross, Paul Benson, and John WG Tuthill.
1982 "Comparisons between inner-city and private school adolescents' perceptions of health problems." Journal of Adolescent Health Care 3: 82-90.

Paul R. Benson
1981 "Political alienation and public satisfaction with police services." Pacific Sociological Review 24: 45-64.

Paul R. Benson
1980 "Labeling theory and community care of the mentally ill in California: The relationship of social theory and ideology to public policy." Human Organization 39: 134-141.

Book Chapters and Published Proceedings

Stephanie Hartwell and Paul R. Benson
2007 "Social Integration: A conceptual review and two case studies." In Mental Health, Social Mirror (William S. Avison, Jane D. McLeod, and Bernice A. Pescosolido, eds.). N.Y.: Springer.

Gene A. Fisher, Paul R. Benson, and Richard C. Tessler
1990 "Family response to mental illness: Developments since deinstitutionalization." In Mental Health in Social Context (James R. Greenley, ed.). Greenwich, CT: JAI Press.

Paul R. Benson, Elizabeth Clemens, William H. Fisher, H. Stephen Leff, and Russell K. Schutt

- 1994 "Closing state mental hospitals: The Massachusetts experience with privatization and facility consolidation." In Proceedings of the Fourth Annual National Conference on State Mental Health Agency Services and Program Evaluation. Alexandria, VA: National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors Research Institute, Inc., 20-28.

Paul R. Benson and Loren H. Roth

- 1988 "Trends in the social control of medical and psychiatric research." In Law and Mental Health: International Perspectives, Volume 3 (David N. Weisstub, ed.). N.Y.: Pergamon.

Paul R. Benson, Loren H. Roth, Paul S. Appelbaum, Charles W. Lidz, and William J. Winslade

- 1987 "Informed consent and the regulation of psychiatric research." In Social Problems and Public Policy, Volume 4 (Joanne L. Miller and Michael Lewis, eds.). Greenwich, CT: JAI Press.

Edited Volumes

Paul R. Benson (Guest Editor)

- 1996 Special Issue, "Mental Health Policy and Practice: International Perspectives." International Journal of Law and Psychiatry 20: 219-458.

Reports and Miscellaneous Publications

Paul R. Benson, Elizabeth Clemens, William H. Fisher, H. Stephen Leff, and Russell K. Schutt

- 1994 Overview: Findings from the University of Massachusetts Studies of Mental Health Facility Consolidation. Final report submitted to the Division of Capital Planning and Operations, Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Center for Social Acceptance, University of Massachusetts Boston.

Paul R. Benson

- 1994 The Impact of Mental Health Facility Consolidation on Families. Final report submitted to the Division of Capital Planning and Operations, Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Center for Social Acceptance, University of Massachusetts Boston.

Paul R. Benson, Laura J. Milazzo-Sayre, Marilyn J. Rosenstein, Wayne E. Johnson, and Ronald W. Manderschied

- 1991 "Clients/patients with a principal diagnosis of affective disorder served in inpatient, outpatient, and partial care programs of specialty mental health organizations, United States, 1986." Mental Health Statistical Note No. 203, Division of Applied and Services Research, Statistical Research Branch, National Institute of Mental Health.

Laura J. Milazzo-Sayre, Paul R. Benson, Marilyn J. Rosenstein, and Ronald W. Manderscheid

- 1987 "Use of inpatient psychiatric services by the elderly, age 65 and over, United States, 1980." Mental Health Statistical Note No. 181, Survey and Reports Branch, Division of Biometry and Applied Sciences, National Institute of Mental Health.

Laura J. Milazzo-Sayre, Paul R. Benson, Marilyn J. Rosenstein, and Ronald W. Manderscheid

- 1986 "Use of inpatient psychiatric services by children and youth under age 18, United States, 1980." Mental Health Statistical Note No. 179, Survey and Reports Branch, Division of Biometry and Applied Sciences, National Institute of Mental Health.

Conference Papers and Presentations (2002-present)

Paul R. Benson

- 2019 "Received network support, perceived social support, and marital quality among mothers of children with ASD." Presented at the European Congress of the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disorder, Glasgow, Scotland, UK.

Paul E. Benson

- 2016 "Stress, depressed mood, and self-rated health in mothers of children with autism." Presented at the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Paul E. Benson

- 2014 "Network support and mental health in parents of children with autism: A longitudinal study." Presented at the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association, San Francisco, CA

Paul R. Benson

- 2014 "Educational involvement and psychological adjustment among mothers of children with ASD." Presented at the European Congress of the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disorder, Vienna, Austria.

Paul R. Benson

- 2014 "Coping and psychological adjustment among mothers of children with ASD: An accelerated longitudinal approach." Presented at the annual meetings of the Gatlinburg Conference on Theory and Research in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Chicago, IL.

Paul R, Benson

- 2012 "Network characteristics, perceived social support, and psychological distress among mothers of children with autism spectrum disorder." Presented at the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association, Denver CO.

Paul R. Benson

2012 “Predictors of peer network size and unstructured group play among children with ASD.” Presented at the annual meetings of the Gatlinburg Conference for Research and Theory in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Annapolis MD.

Paul R. Benson and Joanne Kersh

2010 “Marital quality and psychological adjustment among mothers of children with ASD.” Presented at the annual meetings of the Gatlinburg Conference for Research and Theory in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Annapolis MD.

Paul R. Benson

2009 “Assessing expressed emotion in parents of children with autism.” Presented at the annual meetings of the Gatlinburg Conference for Research and Theory in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, New Orleans LA.

Paul R. Benson

2008 “Educational engagement and well-being in Boston area families of children with autism.” Presented at the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association, Boston MA.

Paul R. Benson

2008 “Predictors of adjustment among siblings of children with autism.” Paper presented at the annual meetings of the Gatlinburg Conference for Research and Theory in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, San Diego CA.

Paul R. Benson

2008 “Educational engagement and well-being in Boston area families of children with autism.” Presented at the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association, Boston MA.

Paul R. Benson

2009 “Predictors of adjustment among siblings of children with autism.” Paper presented at the annual meetings of the Gatlinburg Conference for Research and Theory in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, San Diego CA.

Paul R. Benson

2007 “Parent involvement in educational and therapeutic activities among parents of children with autism spectrum disorders: A longitudinal study.” Paper presented at the Gatlinburg Conference on Research and Theory in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Annapolis MD.

Paul R. Benson and Stephanie W. Hartwell

2006 “Social integration: a conceptual overview.” Paper presented at the annual meetings of the Eastern Sociological Association, Boston MA.

Paul R. Benson, Kristie Karlof, Gary N. Siperstein, and Keith Widaman

2995 “Parent engagement, problem behaviors, and adaptive functioning in children with ASD.” Presented at the OSEP Program Director’s Meetings, Washington, D.C.

- Paul R. Benson
2004 “Stress proliferation among parent of children with autism.” presented at The Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, San Francisco CA.
- Paul R. Benson, Kristie Karlof, and Gary N. Siperstein
2004 “Parent involvement in preschool programs for children with autism spectrum disorders.” Presented at the Annual Meetings of the Council for Exceptional Children, New Orleans LA.
- Paul R. Benson, Kristie Karlof, and Gary N. Siperstein
2003 “Parent involvement in the education of young children with autism spectrum disorders.” Presented at the Annual Meetings of the Association for the Severely Handicapped TASH), Chicago IL
- Paul R. Benson and Kristie Karlof
2002 “The role of the family in the education and development of children with autism.” Presented at the Second Annual Conference on the Shared Implementation of IDEA, U.S. Department of Education, Arlington VA.

Professional Memberships/Activities:

American Sociological Association

International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities

Reviewer, Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, Autism, Journal of Intellectual Disability Research, Social Problems, Journal of Health and Social Behavior, Sociological Quarterly, American Journal of Intellectual and Developmental Disability, Pediatrics, Anxiety, Stress, and Coping, Mental Health and Society, Stress and Health, Child, Care, Health, and Development, Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders, Research in Developmental Disabilities, Autism Research, PLOS One, Journal of Child and Family Studies, International Journal of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Education, Israel Science Foundation, Swiss National Science Foundation, Research Foundation Flanders

Associate Editor, Journal of Health and Social Behavior (1990-1993)

Review Editor, Symbolic Interaction (1987-1989)