

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

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NAME: John Fluke, PhD

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login): JOHNFLUKE

POSITION TITLE: Associate Director, Systems Research and Evaluation; Professor

EDUCATION/TRAINING

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
University of Northern Colorado <i>Greeley, Colorado</i>	B.A.	12/1976	Mathematics, Anthropology
Pennsylvania State University <i>University Park, Pennsylvania</i>	M.A.	05/1980	Anthropology
Union Graduate School <i>Cincinnati, Ohio</i>	Ph.D.	12/1995	Organizational Decision Science

A. Personal Statement

My research has focused on the behavioral economics of child protection decision-making and child maltreatment epidemiology. In this work I utilize and interpret results from advanced statistical approaches and research methods coupled with large linked data. I have been involved in developing and testing theoretical frameworks in child welfare decision making. I played a role in developing some of the earliest child maltreatment epidemiological studies in the US, work that continues today. By extending this work to other countries I have contributed to the development of the epidemiological infrastructure and the advancement of child maltreatment epidemiological research on a global basis, particularly focused on the impacts of policies. I have served as PI on a number of large federal and state research and evaluation initiatives including developing proposals and conducting work on research grants funded by the US HHS Administration for Children and Families (ACF) and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE). Also, multiple child welfare program evaluation contracts for states such as Colorado, New York, Utah, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, and Washington, the Public Health Agency of Canada, UNICEF and research grants from private foundations such as the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Ongoing and recently completed projects that I would like to highlight include:

Chafee Strengthening Outcomes for Transition to Adulthood October 1, 2021 - Sept 30, 2026
Office of Program Research and Evaluation, ACG, USDHHS

Under sub-contract to Westat our aims are to implement innovative evaluation to help identify ways to better evaluate Chafee funded programs for youth transitioning from out of home care to adulthood and better understand state level policy and its effectiveness in improving outcomes for this population. The evaluation are intended to rely on implementing a Youth Participatory Action (YPAR) component as a part of the design approach.

Role: CO-PI

Completed Research Support

Permanency from Day One, Washington Department of Children, Youth and Families October 1, 2018 - Sept 30, 2024

Permanency from Day One Initiative aims to achieve more fitting and timely permanency plans and adoption for children and youth, the project aims to enhance system capacity to support caseworkers in concurrent planning and early family engagement. The project will develop, test, implement, and sustain concurrent planning as a component of an effective multi-dimensional practice model to serve children in dependency

cases in Washington's child welfare system.

Role: PI

R25 1R25HD094660-01

The Kempe Graduate Summer Program in Child Abuse and Neglect R25, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development, National Institutes of Health

Jan 1, 2018 – Dec 31, 2023

A week-long educational experience aimed at improving the capacity of the next generation of physician and graduate student researchers in child maltreatment.

Role: PI

Fulbright Specialist Grant- Arctic University, Norway

November 3, 2022 – June 30, 2023

A project to develop a epidemiological study protocol with the aim of comparing the violence exposure of Sami youth with Norwegian youth in the Arctic region of Norway.

Role: Fulbright specialist

1. Hansen, K. L., Fluke, J., Gesink, D., Friborg, O., Sørli, T., Merkel-Holguin, L., & Martinussen, M. (2023). Study Protocol: The Arctic Childhood Study: A Study of Violence and Health in Indigenous Sámi and Non-Sámi Children and Youth in Arctic Norway—A Mixed Methods Cohort Study Design. *International Journal on Child Maltreatment: Research, Policy and Practice*.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s42448-023-00165-w>

Pan Territorial Data Project, Health & Social Services, Territorial Social Programs, Northwest Territories

February 1, 2015- October 15, 2023

This is an inter-jurisdictional project sponsored by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) developed to enable the Northern tier territories (Nunavut, Northwest Territories, and Yukon) to collectively assess data requirements and explore the development of a common pan-northern administrative dataset.

Role: Project Consultant (under contract to prime project contractor Birdseye).

B. Positions, Scientific Appointments, and Honors

Academic Appointments

2019 -	Professor (with tenure), Kempe Center, Department of Pediatrics, School of Medicine University of Colorado, University of Colorado Denver, Aurora, CO
2016 - 2019	Research Professor, Kempe Center, Department of Pediatrics, School of Medicine University of Colorado, University of Colorado Denver, Aurora, CO
2012 -	Status Only Assistant Professor, Factor Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
2012 - 2016	Associate Research Professor, Kempe Center, Department of Pediatrics, School of Medicine University of Colorado, University of Colorado Denver, Aurora, CO
2012 - 2012	Vice President, Children's Innovation Institute, American Humane Association, Englewood, CO
2008 - 2015	Visiting Scholar, Graduate School of Social Work, University of Denver, Denver, CO
2007 - 2012	Vice President and Founding Director, Child Protective Services Research Center, American Humane Association, Englewood, CO
2003 - 2007	Vice President for Research, Walter R. McDonald & Associates, Inc., Centennial, CO
1999 - 2003	Director of Research, Walter R. McDonald & Associates, Inc., Aurora, CO
1979 - 1999	Director of Program Analysis and Research, The American Humane Association, Children's Division, Englewood, CO

Other Experience and Professional Memberships

2022-	Board Member, European Scientific Association on Residential and Family Care
2018 -	Board Member, Treasurer, International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect.
2017 - 2020	<i>Member</i> , Scientific Advisory Committee, What future after SAJE / SAPPEJ? Université Paris Nanterre, France.
2014 -2015	Interim Executive Director, The International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, Aurora, CO
2010 - 2018	<i>Partner</i> , Preventing Violence across the Lifespan Network (PreVAil), partnership of researchers and from Canada, United States, United Kingdom, Asia, Europe and Australia.

- 2010 - 2017 *Advisory Board Member*, Center for Violence and Injury Prevention, George Warren Brown School of Social Work, Washington University, St. Louis, MO, USA.
- 2009-1994- *Member*, Society for Social Work and Research
- 1994- *Founding Member*, International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Working Group on Child Maltreatment Data (ISPCAN-WGCMD)
- 1986- *Member*, International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect

Honors

- 2023 Fellow, American Association for Social Work and Social Welfare
- 2022 Fulbright Specialist Grant, US Department of State
- 2018 Visiting Professor, Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry / Psychotherapy, University of Ulm, Germany.
- 2017 Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research Visitors Grant: project HESTIA University of Groningen (the Netherlands)
- 2016 Distinguished Service Award 2016, International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect

C. Contributions to Science

International Epidemiology: My research career now extends to a range of different child maltreatment surveillance data collection methods and in settings throughout the world. I am a co-chair and founding member of the Working Group on National Child Maltreatment Data Collection of the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN). Among the culminations of this line of research was the publication of an article in *Lancet* in late 2011, which compared trends in six developed countries a report for UNICEF, and a the geography of child maltreatment reporting during the COVID outbreak:

- a) Gilbert, R., Fluke, J., O'Donnell, M., Gonzalez-Izquierdo, A., Brownell, M., Gulliver, P., Janson, S., & Sidebottom. (December, 2011). Trends in child maltreatment in six developed countries. *Lancet*. PMID: 22169108 DOI: 10.1016/S0140-6736(11)61087-8
- b) UNICEF. (2011). *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home*. New York, NY: UNICEF (contributing author).
- c) Fluke, J., King, B., Esposito, T., Filleul, A., Dudding, P., Pang, C., Tonmyr, L., Prevost, C., Henderson, J., MacDonald, G. (2019). *Canadian Pan-Northern Project: Minimum Data Set (MDS) child welfare data structures and dictionary*. Yellowknife: Government of Northwest Territories, Public Health Agency of Canada.
- d) Nunez, J.J., Fluke, J.D., Shusterman, G.R. & Fetting, N.B. (2023). Understanding the Effects of COVID-19 on Child Maltreatment Reporting Among Rural Versus Urban Communities in the United States. *Int. Journal on Child Malt.* (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42448-023-00163-y>

Human Services Decision-Making: Decision making under uncertainty, which is characteristic of most child welfare decisions such as the decision to place children out of their homes, means that system generated errors will always occur. Child welfare decisions, while highly influenced by case characteristics, are also a function of decision-maker thresholds for action. A major goal of my research has been to apply behavioral economics principles to an ever widening set of research efforts, including international settings, aimed at the overall goal of improving decision making in child welfare. The approach we developed is a theoretical framework aimed at understanding conditions that lead to decision-making behavior at the worker and administrative levels referred to as the Decision Making Ecology. Colleagues and I originally formulated this theoretical perspective in 1997 and since revisited in a more recent monograph and referenced in some of my related publications below:

- a. Fluke, J., Chabot, M., Fallon, B., MacLaurin, B., & Blackstock, C. (2010). Placement decisions and disparities among aboriginal groups: An application of the decision making ecology through multi-level analysis. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 34 (1), 57-69. PMID: 20056276 DOI: 10.1016/j.chiabu.2009.08.009
- b. Dettlaff, A., Rivaux, S., Baumann, D. J., Fluke, J.D., & Rycraft, J. R. (2011). Disentangling substantiation: the influence of race, income, and risk on the substantiation decision in child welfare. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 33 (9), 1630-1637. DOI: 10.1016/j.childyouth.2011.04.005
- c. Graham, J.C., Baumann, D. J., Dettlaff, A.J., & Fluke, J.D. (2015). The Decision Making Ecology of Placing a Child into Foster Care: A Structural Equation Model. *Child Abuse & Neglect*. PMID: 25861871 DOI: 10.1016/j.chiabu.2015.02.020
- d. Fluke, J.D., López López, M., Benbenishty, R., Knorth, E.J., and Baumann, D. J. (2020). Decision

Making and Judgement in Child Welfare and Protection: Theory, Research, and Practice. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

- e. Taylor, B.J., Fluke, J.D., Graham, J.C., Keddell, E., Killick, C., Shlonsky, A., and Whittaker, A. (2023). **The Sage Handbook of Decision Making, Assessment and Risk in Social Work**. London, Sage Publications Ltd.

Developing Child Maltreatment Data System Infrastructure: When I was employed at the American Humane Association in 1979, my role was to develop the data system infrastructure for the original National Reporting Study on Child Abuse and Neglect following the passage of the federal Child Abuse Protection and Treatment Act in 1973. This evolved into the current US data collection program, the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) which I was also deeply involved in developing. I continue to work with the research team responsible for the production of these data on behalf of the US. I have also been a member of research teams working on related projects such as the US National Incidence Study of Child Maltreatment (NIS) and the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well Being (NSCAW). I also consult with the Public Health Agency of Canada and work with Canadian researchers to develop surveillance architecture for child maltreatment and the use of data to inform policy and practice. I serve as the co-chair of the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Child Maltreatment Data Working Group ISPCAN-CMD) and am an external advisor to the EU COST Action EuroCAN project. My ongoing work with national data is focused on relating policy, and disruptive events such as the COVID outbreak to patterns and trends in reporting and response to maltreatment.

- a) Fluke, J., Harlaar, N., Brown, B., Heisler, K, Merkel-Holguin, L., and Darnell, A. (2019). Differential response and children re-reported to child protective services: county data from the national child abuse and neglect data system (NCANDS). *Child Maltreatment*, 24(2) 127-136. PMID: 30522344 DOI: 10.1177/1077559518816381
- b) Fallon, B., Lefebvre, R., Filippelli, J., Joh-Carnella, N., Trocmé, N., Carradine, J. and Fluke, J. (2021). Major findings from the Ontario Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect-2018. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 111 104778. PMID: 33162106 DOI: 10.1016/j.chiabu.2020.104778
- c) Johnson-Motoyama, M., Ginther D., Phillips R, Beer O., Fluke J D, & Merkel-Holguin L. (2021). *Differential Response and the Reduction of Child Maltreatment and Foster Care Services Utilization in the U.S. from 2004 to 2017*. *Child Maltreatment* November 22, 2021. PMID: 35062827 DOI: 10.1177/10775595211065761
- d) Shusterman, G. R., Fluke, J. D., Nunez, J. J., Fettig, N. B., & Kebede, B. K. (2022). Child maltreatment reporting during the initial weeks of COVID-19 in the US: Findings from NCANDS. *Child abuse & neglect*, 134, 105929. PMID: PMC9556910

Establishing Risk: The work on decision making described above emerged as I began to recognize that data regarding maltreatment was derived from systems of intervention, such as NCANDS. Thus, administrative data represent a summary of decision-making behavior at the systems level. My research in this area in the late 90s and early 2000s was devoted to using the data to understand child maltreatment risk; specifically risk of re-reporting and recurrence of child maltreatment, work that continues as illustrated by the publications below:

- a) Fluke, J., Yuan, Y. T., & Edwards, M. (1999). Recurrence of maltreatment: an application of the national child abuse and neglect data system (NCANDS). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 23(7), 633 –650. PMID: 10442829 DOI: 10.1016/s0145-2134(99)00039-3
- b) Fluke, J., Shusterman, G., Hollinshead, D., & Yuan, Y.T. (2008). Longitudinal analysis of repeated child abuse reporting and victimization: multistate analysis of associated factors. *Child Maltreatment*, 13(1), 76–88. PMID: 18174350 DOI: 10.1177/1077559507311517
- c) Putnam-Hornstein, E., Wood, J., Fluke, J., Yoshioka-Maxwell, A., & Berger, R.P. (2013). Risk factors for severe and fatal child maltreatment. *Child Welfare*, 92(2) 59-76. PMID: 24199323
- d) Kearney, A.D., Wilson, E. S., Hollinshead, D.M., Poletika, M., Kestian, H. H., Stigdon, T. J., Miller, E. A. and Fluke, J.D. (2023). Child welfare triage: Use of screening threshold analysis to evaluate intake decision-making. *Children and Youth Services Review*. 144. DOI: 10.1016/j.childyouth.2022.106710

Selected List of Published Work in MyBibliography:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/myncbi/john.fluke.1/bibliography/public/>