

# CURRICULUM VITA

## Elizabeth M. Dowling, Ph.D.

Institute for Applied Research in Youth Development  
Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Study and Human Development  
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Date: January 2022

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### Education:

2004 Ph.D.	Child Development	Tufts University
1995 M.Ed.	Early Childhood	Lesley College
1991 B.A.	Psychology	Haverford College

### Research and International Youth Development Experience:

**Senior Research Scientist Director:** (November 2016-present): Institute of Applied Research in Youth Development, Tufts University, Medford, MA.

- Manager and Senior Research Advisor *Compassion International Study of Positive Youth Development*, a longitudinal assessment of Compassion International's child development centers in Latin America, Asia, and Africa. PI: Dr. Richard M. Lerner. October 2016 – July 2022
- Manager and Senior Research Advisor *Promoting Healthy Development in South African Children through Thanda's Character Virtues Development Programs*. PI: R. M. Lerner, PI and Co-PI: A. Larkan. 2021-2024
- Member of Consultancy Platform for Templeton World Charity Foundation (TWCF), *Creating a Platform for Global Innovation and Capacity Building in the Design, Implementation, and Evaluation of Character Development Programs*: Co-Members: Richard M. Lerner and Marc Bornstein. October 2019 – 2021.
- Manager and Senior research Advisor *Evaluating Positive Youth Development Intervention Programs Promoting Character Virtues Among Ugandan Youth Living in Poverty: Innovations using Idiographic Methods and Measures*. PIs: A. T. R. Sim, & J. M. Tirrell. 2020-2022
- Senior Research Advisor *Building Youth Resilience and Communal Justice: Forgiveness as a Civic Virtue in Rwanda*. PIs: J. M. Tirrell and E. I. Kelly. 2019-2021

**Director of Research:** (October 2004 - January 2014): The ImagineNations Group, Pasadena, Maryland: Led research and evaluation work related to positive youth development and youth employment and enterprise development in Low and Middle Income Countries. Developed case study reports on large scale, comprehensive youth employment systems in developing nations. Designed and managed monitoring and evaluation strategies between ImagineNations and youth organizations from around the world.

**Advisor:** (July 2020 - present): Opa Health: Baltimore, MD. Advise Rick Little and Opa leadership on development of a research agenda for OPA Health initiative and support development of proof of concept by comparing two cities in Baltimore, MD on health-related indicators, research, and resources.

**Advisor:** (2005-2010): Advisor on leading international policy and program reports focused on youth such as United Nations Youth Report on the Millennium Development Goals; 2007 World Development Report; World Bank Concept Note on Youth Employment for Government of Indonesia.

**Research Assistant:** (Summer 1996, 1997): Mara Kreschevsky, lead researcher, Project Zero, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

**Research Assistant:** (June 1997-August 1998): Co-PIs: Michael Lamb, Ph.D. and Lin Delaney, Bethesda, Maryland.

**Graduate Assistant:** (1999-2004): Richard Lerner, PI, Institute for Applied Research in Youth Development, Tufts University, Medford, MA. Assisted in data analysis for publication for three research grants “Thriving Indicators Project,” “Overcoming the Odds” and “Bases of Unwanted Sex Among Adolescent Females.”

## **Teaching Experience**

### **Early Childhood Teaching:**

St. Mary’s Academy, Englewood, Colorado. September 2014-2016, full-time junior kindergarten teacher.

Sandy Spring Friends School, September 1996-June 1999, Sandy Spring, Maryland. Head teacher prekindergarten class. Member diversity committee. Led faculty lectures on Reggio Emilia and Project Spectrum classrooms.

Sidwell Friends School, January 1993-June 1994, Washington, D.C. Director of special projects’ classroom prekindergarten through first grades.

### **Adjunct Professor:**

Boston College: Early Childhood Development and Learning, Fall 2001

Tufts University: Introduction to Cognitive Development, Spring 2002

**Graduate Teaching Assistant:** Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Development, Tufts University:

Introduction to Child Development (Fall 1999, Instructor: Dr. David Elkind; Spring 2000, Instructor: Dr. Richard Lerner)

Personal-Social Development (Fall 2000, Instructor: Dr. Donald Wertlieb)

Introduction to Cognitive Development (Spring 2001, Instructor: Dr. David Feldman)

Applied Developmental Science (Spring, 2001, Instructor: Dr. Richard Lerner)

## Grants

**Promoting Healthy Development in South African Children through Thanda's Character Virtues Development Programs** (R. M. Lerner, PI, & A. Larkan, Co-PI). **2021-2024**

Grant awarded by the Templeton World Charity Foundation

Total Award: \$999,552.37

Role: Co-Investigator, Project Manager

Completion Date: 9/30/2024

**Building Youth Resilience and Communal Justice: Forgiveness as a Civic Virtue in Rwanda** (J. M. Tirrell, PI, & E. I. Kelly, Co-PI). **2019-2021**

Grant awarded by the "Self, Virtue, and Public Life" Project (N. E. Snow, PI) funded by the Templeton Religion Trust via the Institute for the Study of Human Flourishing, University of Oklahoma.

Total Award: \$189,865.52

Role: Researcher

Completion Date: 11/30/2021

**Creating a Platform for Global Innovation and Capacity Building in the Design, Implementation, and Evaluation of Character Development Programs** (R. M. Lerner, PI, E. M. Dowling, Co-PI, & Marc H. Bornstein, Co-PI). **2019-2021**

Grant awarded by the Templeton World Charity Foundation.

Total Award: \$222,444.00

Role: Research Co-PI, Project Manager

Completion Date: 12/31/2021

**The Compassion International Study of Positive Youth Development** (R. M. Lerner, PI).

Grant awarded by Compassion International.

**2016-2022**

Total Award: \$2,900,00.00

Role: Project Director

Completion Date: 6/30/2022

### **Contracts Awarded**

Contract between IARYD and **Cajon Valley School District**

Extended Learning Opportunities funds to cover cost of two doctoral students for 4 years for CVSD research project

Start Date: March 2021

Total Award: \$483, 126

### **Publications**

#### **Articles:**

Lerner, R. M., Chase, P. A., **Dowling, E. M.**, Tirrell, J. M., Buckingham, M. H., Yu, D., Park, Y., Gonçalves, C., & Gansert, P. (in press). Resilience and positive youth development: A dynamic, relational developmental systems-based perspective. In S. Goldstein and R. Brooks (Eds.), *Handbook of Resilience in Children* (3rd ed.). New York: Springer Publications.

Lerner, R. M., Tirrell, J. M., Gansert, P. K., Lerner, J. V., King, P. E., Geldhof, G. J., **Dowling, E. M.**, & Sim, A. T. R. (2021). Longitudinal research about, and program evaluations of, positive youth development in low- and middle-income countries: Methodological issues and options. In L. Lauxman, T. Archibald, **E. Dowling**, & C. Jessee (Eds.), *International positive youth development: Challenges and opportunities in policy and practice [Special issue]*: *Journal of Youth Development*.

Tirrell, J. M., Hay, S. W., Gansert, P. K., Le, T. U., O'Neil, B. C., Vaughn, J. M., Bishara, L., Tan, E., Lerner, J. V., King, P. E., **Dowling, E. M.**, Williams, K., Iraheta, G., Sim, A. T. R., & Lerner, R. M. (2021). Exploring the role of the “Big Three” features of effective youth development programs in El Salvador: The sample case of programs of Compassion International. *International Journal of Behavioral Development*, 45(6), 524-532.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/01650254211022858>

Tirrell, J. M., Gansert, P. K., **Dowling, E. M.**, Williams, K., Iraheta, G., Lerner, J. V., King, P. E., Sim, A. T. R., & Lerner, R. M. (2021). Interrogating ergodicity versus specificity: The sample case of youth development programs in El Salvador. In M. H. Bornstein & R. M. Lerner (Eds.), *Enriching the study of human development through the use of the specificity principle: Theory, research, and application [Special issue]*: *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology*.

Tirrell, J. M., **Dowling, E. M.**, Gansert, P., Buckingham, M., Wong, C. A., Suzuki, S., Naliaka, C., Kibbedi, P., Namurinda, E., Williams, K., Geldhof, G. J., Lerner, J. V., King, P. E., Sim, A. T. R., & Lerner, R. M. (2020). Toward a measure for

assessing features of effective youth development programs: Contextual safety and the “Big Three” components of positive youth development programs in Rwanda. *Child & Youth Care Forum*, 49, 201-222.

King, P. E., Vaughn, J. M., Yoo, Y., Tirrell, J. M., **Dowling, E. M.**, Lerner, R. M., Geldhof, J. G., Lerner, J. V., Iraheta, G., Williams, K., & Sim, A. T. (2020). Exploring religiousness and hope: Examining the roles of spirituality and social connections among Salvadoran youth. *Religions*, 11(2), 75.

Tirrell, J. M., Gansert, P. K., Geldhof, G. J., **Dowling, E. M.**, Lerner, J. V., King, P. E., Sim, A. T. R., Iraheta, G., Williams, K., & Lerner, R. M. (2019). Using the specificity principle to go inside the black box of programs: The sample case of an El Salvador PYD program. In S. Verma, A. Petersen, & J. Lansford (Eds.), *Sustainable human development: Challenges and solutions for implementing the United Nations’ Goals [Special issue]: Zeitschrift für Psychologie*, 227(2), 121128.

Lerner, R. M., Tirrell, J. M., Lerner, J. V., Geldhof, G. J., Gestsdottir, S., King, P. E., Sim, A. T. R., & **Dowling, E.** (2019). The end of the beginning: Evidence and absences studying PYD in a global context. *Adolescent Research Review*, 4(1), 114.

King, P. E., Yoo, Y., Vaughn, J. M., Tirrell, J. M., Geldhof, G. J., Iraheta, G., Williams, K., Sim, A., Stephenson, P., **Dowling, E.**, Lerner, R. M., & Lerner, J. V. (2019). Evaluating the measure of diverse adolescent spirituality in samples of Mexican and Salvadoran youth. *Psychology of Religion and Spirituality*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1037/rel0000279>

Tirrell, J. M., Geldhof, G. J., King, P. E., **Dowling, E.**, Sim, A., Williams, K., Iraheta, G., Lerner, J. V., & Lerner, R. M. (2019). Measuring spirituality, hope, and thriving among Salvadoran youth: Initial findings from the Compassion International Study of Positive Youth Development. *Child & Youth Care Forum*, 48(2), 241-268.

**Dowling, E.** and Lee, P. “Spirituality”. Stmarys.academy. n.p. Web. 20 February 2016.

**Dowling, E.** (2010). State of the field in youth enterprise, employment and livelihoods development programming and policymaking in youth enterprise, employment, and livelihoods development; and youth-inclusive financial services. *Making Cents International 2009 Conference Report*. Making Cents International.

**Dowling, E.** (2009). State of the field in youth enterprise, employment and livelihoods development programming and policymaking in youth enterprise, employment, and livelihoods development; and youth-inclusive financial services. *Making Cents International 2008 Conference Report*. Making Cents International.

**Dowling, E.**, Peters, C., Twichell, P. & Yao, B. (2007). *Investing in youth: Large scale approaches to youth employment and entrepreneurship*. Unpublished document.

**Dowling, E.M.** (2005). A developmental systems theory of religious development. In E. Dowling & G. Scarlett (Eds.), *The Encyclopedia of Religious and Spiritual Development in Childhood and Adolescence*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

**Dowling, E.M.** (2005). The International Youth Foundation: A youth-serving organization with spirituality in its mission. In E. Dowling & G. Scarlett (Eds.), *The Encyclopedia of Religious and Spiritual Development in Childhood and Adolescence*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

**Dowling, E.M.** (2005). A developmental systems theory of religious development. E. Dowling & G. Scarlett (Eds.), *The Encyclopedia of Religious and Spiritual Development in Childhood and Adolescence*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

King, P.E. & **Dowling, E.M.** (2005). Developmental systems theory of religious development. *Applied Developmental Science Encyclopedia*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

King, P.E. & **Dowling, E.M.** (2005). Thriving in youth development. *Applied Developmental Science Encyclopedia*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

**Dowling, E.** (2005). *The import of the goodness of fit in parent and youth religiosity for youth thriving: A developmental systems analysis*. (Doctoral Dissertation) Retrieved from Classify Web Services. (Accession No. 73596805).

Taylor, C. S., Lerner, R. M., von Eye, A., Bobek, D., Balsano, A. B., **Dowling, E.**, & Anderson, P. (2003). Positive individual and social behavior among gang and nongang African American male adolescents. *Journal of Adolescent Research* 18(6), 548-574.

Taylor, C. S., Lerner, R. M., von Eye, A., Bobek, D., Balsano, A. B., **Dowling, E.**, & Anderson, P. (2004). Internal and external developmental assets among African American male gang members. *Journal of Adolescent Research* 19(3), 303-322.

**Dowling, E.** (2003). International Youth Foundation. In J.R. Miller, R.M. Lerner, P.L. Anderson, and L.B. Schiamberg (Eds.), *Human ecology: An encyclopedia of children, families, communities, and environments*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-Clío.

**Dowling, E.M.**, Gestsdottir, S., Anderson, P.M., von Eye, A., & Lerner, R.M. (2003). Spirituality, religiosity, and thriving among adolescents: Identification of factor structures. *Applied Developmental Science* 7(4), 253-260.

**Dowling, E.M.**, Gestsdottir, S., Anderson, P.M., von Eye, A., Almeirigi, J. & Lerner, R.M. (2003). Structural relations among spirituality, religiosity, and thriving in adolescence. *Applied Developmental Science*, 8(1), 7-16.

Lerner, R. M., **Dowling, E. M.**, & Anderson, P. M. (2003). Positive youth development: Thriving as a basis of personhood and civil society. In L. Wagner & J. Furrow (Eds.). (Special Issue) *Applied Developmental Science*, 7(3), 172-180.

**Chapters:**

King, P. E., Yoo, Y., & Vaugh, J. M., Tirrell, J. M., Geldhof, G. J., & **Dowling, E. M.** (In press). Under construction: The Measure of Diverse Adolescent Spirituality (MDAS) and refined findings from Mexican and Salvadoran youth. In K. Harris, A. Ai, & P. Wink (Eds.), *Assessing Spirituality and Religion in a Diversified World*. New York: Springer.

Lerner, R. M., Lerner, J. V., Geldhof, G. J., Gestsdottir, S., King, P. E., Sim, A. T. R., Batanova, M., Tirrell, J. M., & **Dowling, E.** (2018). Studying positive youth development in different nations: Theoretical and methodological issues. In J. J. Lansford & P. Banati (Eds.), *Handbook of adolescent development and its impact on global policy* (pp. 68-83). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Lerner, R. M., Chaudhuri, J., & **Dowling, E.** (2004). Methods of contextual assessment and assessing contextual methods: A developmental contextual perspective. In D.M. Teti (Ed.), *Handbook of research methods in developmental psychology*. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell.

Lerner, R. M., **Dowling, E.**, & Roth, S. L. (2004). Contributions of life-span psychology to the future elaboration of developmental systems theory. In U. M. Staudinger & U. Lindenberger (Eds.), *Understanding human development: Lifespan psychology in exchange with other disciplines*. Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publisher.

**Dowling, E.M.** & Dowling R.J. (2003). Catholic youth ministry and program development. In R.M. Lerner, F. Jacobs, & D. Wertlieb (Eds.), *Promoting positive child, adolescent, and family development: A handbook of program and policy innovations*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Lerner, R.M., Anderson, P.M., Balsano, A.B., **Dowling, E.M.**, & Bobek, D.L. (2003). Applying developmental science to promote human development: The role of models of person-context relations. In R.M. Lerner, M. A. Easterbrooks, & J. Mistry (Eds.), *Comprehensive handbook of psychology: Vol. 6. Developmental psychology*. Editor in chief: I.B. Weiner. New York: Wiley.

Lerner, R. M., Brentano, C., **Dowling, E. M.**, & Anderson, P. M. (2002). Positive youth development: Thriving as a basis of personhood and civil society. In R. M. Lerner, C. S. Taylor, & A. von Eye (Eds.), *New directions for youth development: Theory, practice and research: Pathways to positive development among diverse youth* (Vol. 95; G. Noam, Series Ed.). (pp.11-34). San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

Taylor, C. S., Lerner, R. M., von Eye, A., Balsano, A. B., **Dowling, E. M.**, Anderson, P. M., Bobek, D. L., & Bjelobrck, D. (2002). Stability of attributes of positive functioning and of developmental assets among African American

adolescent male gang and community-based organization members. In R. M. Lerner, C. S. Taylor, & A. von Eye (Eds.), *New directions for youth development: Theory, practice and research: Pathways to positive development among diverse youth* (Vol. 95; G. Noam, Series Ed.). (pp. 35-56) San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

Taylor, C. S., Lerner, R. M., von Eye, A., Balsano, A. B., **Dowling, E. M.**, Anderson, P. M., Bobek, D. L., & Bjelobrk, D. (2002). Individual and ecological assets and positive developmental trajectories among gang and community-based organization youth. In R. M. Lerner, C. S. Taylor, & A. von Eye (Eds.), *New directions for youth development: Theory, practice and research: Pathways to positive development among diverse youth* (Vol. 95; G. Noam, Series Ed.). (pp. 57-72). San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

### **Editorial Roles:**

Archibald, T., **Dowling, E.**, Jessee, C. and Lauxman, L. (Eds.). (2001). *positive youth development: Challenges and opportunities in policy and practice [Special issue]: Journal of Youth Development*.

**Dowling, E.M.** & Scarlett, G. (Eds.) (2005). *The encyclopedia of religious and spiritual development in childhood and adolescence*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

### **Posters and Presentations:**

Sim, A. T. R., Tirrell, J. M., **Dowling, E. M.**, King, P. E., Lerner, J. V., & Lerner, R. M. (2020, October). *Contributions of faith-based programs in promoting PYD: Methodological challenges and approaches* [Poster presentation]. USAID Evidence Summit on Strategic Religious Engagement, Washington, DC.

Tirrell, J. M., Gansert, P., **Dowling, E. M.**, Buckingham, M., Geldhof, G. J., Williams, K., Iraheta, G., Lerner, J. V., King, P. E., Sim, A. T. R., & Lerner, R. M. (2020, March). *Features of effective youth-development programs and character development among youth in El Salvador: Longitudinal analyses* [Paper presentation]. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research on Adolescence, San Diego, CA. (Conference canceled).

Yoo, Y., King, P. E., Tirrell, J. M., **Dowling, E. M.**, Lerner, R. M., Geldhof, G. J., Sim, A. T. R., Lerner, J. V., Gansert, P., Iraheta, G., Williams, K., & Kibbedi, P. (2020, March). *Testing the Measure of Diverse Adolescent Spirituality (MDAS) in Rwanda and El Salvador* [Paper presentation]. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research on Adolescence, San Diego, CA. (Conference canceled).

Tirrell, J. M., Dowling, E. M., Gansert, P., Lerner, J. V., King, P. E., Naliaka, C., Kibbedi, P., Namurinda, E., Williams, K., Sim, A. T. R., & Lerner, R. M. (2019, March). *Assessing effective out-of-school-time programs: Development of a measure for the “Big Three” features of positive youth development programs* [Paper presentation]. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Baltimore, MD.



**Dowling, E.**, Banati, P. McCabe, M., Morgan, E., Sim, A. (2019). *Promoting thriving among majority-world youth: Issues of theory, design, and measurement in program evaluation*. (Facilitated roundtable discussion). Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Baltimore, MD.

Yoo, Y., King, P. E., Vaughn, J. M., Tirrell, J. M., Iraheta, G., William, K., Sim, A., **Dowling E.**, Lerner, R. M., & Lerner, J. V. (2019, March). *Profiles of youth strengths and PYD outcomes for Salvadoran youth* [Paper presentation]. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Baltimore, MD.

Vaughn, J. M., Yoo, Y., King, P. E., Tirrell, J. M., Iraheta, G., William, K., Sim, A., **Dowling E.**, Lerner, R. M., & Lerner, J. V. (2019, March). *Exploring ecological assets and personal strengths among Salvadoran youth: The complex relation between religion and hope* [Paper presentation]. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Baltimore, MD.

Gansert, P., Tirrell, J., **Dowling, E.**, Lerner, J., King, E., Williams, K., Iraheta, G., & Sim, A. (2018, October). *Using the specificity principle to go inside the black box of program evaluation: The sample case of an international PYD program* [Poster presentation]. Society for Research in Child Development Special Topic Meeting: Promoting Character Development Among Diverse Children and Adolescents: The Roles of Families, Schools, and Out-Of-School-Time Youth Development, Philadelphia, PA.

King, P. E., Yoo, Y., Tirrell, J. M., Geldhof, G. J., Iraheta, G., William, K., Sim, A., Stephenson, P., **Dowling, E.**, Lerner, R. M., & Lerner, J. V. (2018, October). *Measure of Diverse Adolescent Spirituality in Mexican & Salvadoran Youth: Confirmatory factor analysis and measurement invariance* [Paper presentation]. Society for Research in Child Development Special Topic Meeting: Promoting Character Development Among Diverse Children and Adolescents: The Roles of Families, Schools, and Out-Of-School-Time Youth Development, Philadelphia, PA.

King, P. E., Vaughn, J., Yoo, Y., Tirrell, J. M., Geldhof, G. J., **Dowling, E.**, Lerner, J. V., & Lerner, R. M. (2018, August). *Religious attendance, relational spirituality, hope, & positive development in Salvadoran youth* [Paper presentation]. American Psychological Association Annual Convention, San Francisco, CA.

Tirrell, J. M., Geldhof, G. J., King, P. E., **Dowling, E.**, Sim, A., Williams, K., Iraheta, G., Lerner, J. V., & Lerner, R. M. (2018, April). *Measuring spirituality, hope, and thriving among Salvadoran youth: Initial findings from the Compassion International Study of Positive Youth Development* [Paper presentation]. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research on Adolescence, Minneapolis, MN.

#### **Reviewer:**

Global Innovations in Character Development, Templeton World Charity Foundation (2018; 2019)