

Daphne B. Bugental - Professor Emeritus 2011

Daphne Bugental earned her Ph.D. in social psychology at UCLA, and came to UCSB in 1974. Her research encompasses human relationships of all kinds, but none so much as the delicate dance between parent and child. She found that children born at medical risk experience an increased probability of parental neglect/abuse or exceptionally high levels of parental investment. By blending naturalistic studies of parents and children in the community with carefully controlled laboratory research, she discovered how the mechanisms that regulate parenting processes are organized at a cognitive, hormonal, socio-emotional, and behavioral level. From this, she developed a successful child maltreatment prevention program that fostered thriving in at-risk children, as manifested in lower child cortisol levels, which, in turn, predicted increases in cognitive ability and health at age 3. Her research led her to reformulate evolutionary accounts of parental investment theory to reflect its bimodal nature.

In 2003, Bugental received the American Psychological Association's Kurt Lewin Award for her "outstanding achievements in research related to interpersonal conflict, parent-child relationships, and the understanding and prevention of child abuse." Santa Barbara County Health services named her "Researcher of the Decade" in 1997, and she won the UC 1996 Presidential Award for fostering Excellence in Undergraduate Research. Bugental was held in great esteem by her profession: Her research was continually supported by NIH and NSF, and she served as Associate Editor of the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* and *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*.

Bugental founded the Interdisciplinary Program in Human Development and the Developmental and Evolutionary Psychology program in our department. She served as Department Chair, Acting Dean of the Graduate Division, and chair of numerous Academic Senate Committees. Through her Senate activity, she improved the lives of all faculty parents and children by authoring and obtaining passage for the faculty parental leave policy for the entire UC system.