

Dr. Darcey Merritt  
Biography

Darcey Merritt is an Associate Professor at NYU Silver School of Social Work and a Faculty Fellow at the School's McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research. She is also an Associate Editor for *Children and Youth Services Review (CYSR)*, a member of the editorial board for *Child Maltreatment*, a member of the Board of Directors of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR), a Board member of the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA), and Chairperson of the NYU Tenured/Tenure-Track Faculty Senate.

Dr. Merritt has extensive experience as a practitioner in the private and public child welfare systems, and as a researcher with interests including child maltreatment prevention; maltreatment type definitional issues; neighborhood structural impact on maltreatment; and experiences of those served by public child welfare systems. More specifically, her research focuses on parenting in socio-economic context, considering the impact of working memory on parental decision-making. Overall, her scholarship is dedicated to providing empirical and meaningful knowledge useful to bolster the well-being of children and families, specifically through contributing their voices in the discussion of prevention methods. Her most innovative scope of research, *An Elicitation Analysis of Parental Perspectives Regarding Child Neglect* has recently been funded for an R21 mechanism by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD, NIH, \$435, 875, 2019-2021).

Dr. Merritt's research has been widely published in journals including *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, *Journal of Public Child Welfare*, *Child Abuse and Neglect*, *Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, *Substance Use and Misuse*, and *Journal of Social Services Research*, as well as *CYSR*. She presented keynote addresses at the UNICEF, Social Work Conference on Child Protection in Beijing, China and the East China University of Science and Technology, Child, Family, and Society: the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Social Work and Social Policy for Children. In addition, she regularly presents her research at the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR), American Public Health Association (APHA) and the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN). She also serves on the Child Maltreatment Prevention Committee of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) and was lead author of the chapter on "Effective Program Models for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment" in the *APSAC Handbook on Child Maltreatment*, Fourth Edition. Additionally, she has been invited to contribute a paper/chapter on "*How Do Families Experience and Interact with CPS?*" to the *ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, a special issue entitled, "Toward a Better Approach to Preventing, Identifying, and Addressing Child Maltreatment." She has certifications in adoptive parent training and domestic violence training. Her current work advances our understanding of parenting in traumatic environments, systems oversight and the correlations between the chronic trauma of child neglect and family well-being outcomes. Dr. Merritt earned her MSW and PhD in social welfare from the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs and her BA from Sarah Lawrence College.

