



CASE

MANDEL SCHOOL OF APPLIED SOCIAL SCIENCES

ALOEN L. TOWNSEND, Ph.D.

Faculty Biographical Sketch

Aloen L. Townsend is Associate Professor of Social Work in the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences (MSASS) at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU). She also holds a joint appointment in the Department of Sociology, is a Faculty Associate in the University Center on Aging and Health, and is an Associate Member of the Cancer Prevention, Control, and Population Research Program of the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center. She received her Ph.D. in Social Psychology from The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and joined the MSASS faculty in 2001. Prior positions include Senior Research Associate in the Margaret Blenkner Research Center of the Benjamin Rose Institute, Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at Kent State University, and Senior Research Associate at MSASS.

Her primary research interests are in adult development and aging, family relationships, mental and physical health, and the interface between families and formal service systems. Recent research projects have focused on multiple roles of middle-generation caregiving women, benefits to families of using adult day services for older relatives with dementia, and physical health and emotional distress in middle-aged and older married couples. All of these studies have been funded by the National Institute on Aging. In collaboration with Hospice of the Western Reserve, she recently completed an assessment of family caregiver strain during end-of-life care (funded by the Project on Death in America, Open Society Institute). Her current research investigates the impact of cancer and comorbidities on psychosocial quality of life of middle-aged and older married couples (funded by the Institutional Aging and Cancer Research Program at the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center).

She teaches an advanced master's course on Adult Development and Dysfunction and doctoral courses on Social Statistics and Data Analysis and on Measurement Issues in Quantitative Research. Her methodological interests include survey research, longitudinal analyses, structural equation modeling, and multilevel modeling. Dr. Townsend is a Fellow of the Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSS) Section of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA), a National Research Mentor for the Geriatric Social Work Faculty Scholars Program sponsored by the John A. Hartford Foundation and GSA, Secretary/Treasurer of the BSS Section of GSA, and Invited Faculty at the Institute on Aging and Social Work (funded by the National Institute on Aging). In May 2004, she received the John S. Diekhoff Award for Distinguished Graduate Teaching at Case Western Reserve University.

- Adult Development and Aging
- Family Relationships
- Mental and Physical Health
- Research Methods and Statistics