

Author biographies

Herbert Renz-Polster was trained as a pediatrician at Maine Medical Center, USA (1995–1999) and then completed a fellowship in pediatric pulmonary medicine at Oregon Health Sciences University, USA, which included epidemiological work on the relationship between Cesarean section and allergies (published in 2005). He was staff scientist at the Mannheim Institute for Public Health, Heidelberg University, Germany (2006–2011), then affiliated with MIPH and Center for Preventive Medicine and Digital Health Baden-Württemberg, Heidelberg University. 2016–2018 development and publication of an evolutionary theory of positional plagiocephaly (together with Freia De Bock). Currently affiliated with Department of General Pediatrics, Neonatology and Pediatric Cardiology, Heinrich-Heine-University, Düsseldorf, Germany. Extensive publications of translational and popular articles and books on child development from an evolutionary perspective. He also runs www.kinder-verstehen.de, one of the largest German blogs on child development and parenting.

Peter Blair completed his PhD on the epidemiology of SIDS in 1997. He has conducted several observational studies at the University of Bristol and published more than 80 papers related to unexpected infant deaths. He is an Honorary Fellow (2009) and advisor to UNICEF UK for the Baby Friendly Initiative and has been chair (2017–2020) of the International Society for the Study and Prevention of Perinatal and Infant Death (ISPID).

Helen Ball is professor of anthropology and director of the Infancy & Sleep Centre at Durham University. Helen studies infant sleep and the parent–infant sleep relationship from a biosocial perspective. This encompasses attitudes and practices regarding infant sleep, behavioral and physiological monitoring of infants and their parents during sleep, infant sleep development, and the discordance between cultural sleep preferences and biological sleep needs. She has conducted research in hospitals and the community, and contributes to national and international policy and practice guidelines on infant care.

Oskar G. Jenni is a Swiss board-certified developmental pediatrician and head of the Child Development Center at the University Children's Hospital Zurich. He is associate professor of developmental pediatrics at the University of Zurich and principal investigator of the Zurich Longitudinal Studies, which are among the world's most comprehensive studies on children's development and growth. Oskar Jenni has published more than 250 scientific articles and is the author of the textbook *Kindliche Entwicklung Verstehen* (Understanding Child Development).

Freia De Bock obtained her degree as a pediatrician in 2012 and specialized in developmental and behavioral pediatrics. She also obtained a degree in public health and epidemiology through the Clinical Effectiveness Program at Harvard University (USA) and Erasmus University Rotterdam (NL). Following this, she led scientific working groups as affiliated professor at the universities of Heidelberg and Cologne and was then appointed full university professor for Child Health Services Research and head of the department on Child Health Services and Prevention Research at the University Düsseldorf in 2022. From 2018 to 2022, she also was department head at the Federal Centre of Health Education (BZgA) in Germany.