

FPR-UCLA Second Interdisciplinary Conference
Four Dimensions of Childhood: Brain, Mind, Culture, and Time

*IMPLICATIONS OF THE TSUNAMI DISASTER IN THE ACEH REGION
ON INDONESIAN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES*

KEYNOTE PANEL

**THE HONORABLE SENATOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON (NY)
OPENING REMARKS**

SPECIAL PUBLIC PRESENTATION

Friday, February 11, 2005

7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Korn Convocation Hall

UCLA Anderson School of Management

Good evening everyone. I am so sorry that I could not be with you tonight for the second annual conference of the Foundation for Psychocultural Research at UCLA. But I want to thank you for giving me a chance to address you.

The work that FPR and all of you are involved in is crucial to the health and wellbeing of Americans and people around the world. And I am pleased that FPR has convened this conference to explore the interaction of childhood social experiences and neurobiology, and their influence on a person's resilience and mental wellbeing throughout his or her life. I am particularly impressed by the extraordinary group of internationally recognized researchers and scholars gathered here today, from such a broad range of professional disciplines—including anthropology, psychology, neuroscience, linguistics, psychiatry and education.

I would like to send my special thanks to Rob Lemelson for both his commitment to FPR and for his inspiring work around the world. I would also like to thank the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development for their recognition of the importance of this event through their support and sponsorship. Since 2000, the FPR Center for Culture, Brain and Development at UCLA, has been a valuable source of interdisciplinary research, education and training, focused on how culture, social relations and the science of the brain impact the development of individuals throughout their lives.

I share a deep passion for the work of FPR, and the scholarly efforts that are highlighted here at this event. I have dedicated much of my life to advocating for the health and wellbeing of children and families. In the aftermath of the recent tsunami disaster and in our post-9/11 world, we have become all too aware of the devastating consequences that traumatic experiences can have. Children are especially at risk when they endure terrible traumas including abuse, neglect, bullying and other man-made as well as natural disasters. Whether it be trauma on an individual and family level, or large-scale mass devastation, we know that such experiences can leave irreparable and lasting effects on young people. That is why your work is extremely important, as we try to find more effective ways to understand, assess and assist children and families at risk.

So I would like to thank FPR and all of you here tonight for your contributions through science, education and training. As I have said before, I believe it does take a village, and I am grateful to call all of you neighbors as we work together to promote the health and resilience of children and families here in the United States and around the world. I hope you have a wonderful evening, and God bless you, and your work. Thank you and good night.