



JACK, JOSEPH AND MORTON MANDEL
SCHOOL OF APPLIED SOCIAL SCIENCES

CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY

11235 Bellflower Road

Cleveland, Ohio 44106-7164

msass.case.edu

SONIA MINNES, Ph.D.

Faculty Biographical Sketch

Sonia Minnes is an Associate Professor of Social Work at the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences (MSASS). She holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in psychology and a doctorate in social welfare from MSASS. Her research interests are in the study of child development and the multiple factors that affect cognitive and mental health outcomes. Dr. Minnes is particularly interested in the study of risk and protective factors both biologic and environmental that interact to affect long term developmental outcome. Biologic risk factors of interest include prenatal drug exposure (cocaine, marijuana, alcohol and tobacco) and elevated blood lead levels (pre and postnatally). Environmental factors of interest include exposure to ongoing stress, maternal psychopathology and substance use, caregiver placement and other conditions related to socioeconomic status.

Dr. Minnes is the Principal Investigator of a longitudinal study of prenatal cocaine exposure funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse. This study, now in its fifth phase of data collection and funding has followed a group of over 400 caregiver infant pairs since the children were born during 1994-1996. Dr. Minnes is currently assessing the study subjects as emerging adults, and will evaluate their substance use and antisocial behaviors, the development of mental health problems and their adaptive functioning. Through her work with multirisk, prenatally drug exposed children she has recognized the importance of health disparities among inner city children, particularly in regard to exposure to environmental hazards including lead found in old housing stock in the city of Cleveland.