



JACK, JOSEPH AND MORTON MANDEL
SCHOOL OF APPLIED SOCIAL SCIENCES

CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY

ALOEN L. TOWNSEND, Ph.D.

Faculty Biographical Sketch

Aloen L. Townsend is Ralph S. and Dorothy P. Schmitt Professor of Social Work. She holds a joint appointment in the Department of Sociology and is a Faculty Associate in the University Center on Aging and Health. She received her Ph.D. in Social Psychology from The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and joined the Mandel faculty in 2001.

Her primary research interests are in adult development and aging, family relationships, mental and physical health, and informal and formal care for older adults. Past 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 funded by the National Institute on Aging, and the impact of cancer and comorbidities on psychosocial quality of life of middle-aged and older married couples. In collaboration with Hospice of the Western Reserve, she developed a tool for assessing family caregiver strain and resources during end-of-life care (funded by a Social Work Leadership Development Award from the Project on Death in America).

She has taught master's courses on Human Development II: Adult, Advanced Adult Development, Family Systems Theories, and Families and Health, and doctoral courses on Social Statistics and Data Analysis, Applied Regression and General Linear Model, Measurement Issues in Quantitative Research, and Structural Equation Modeling. Her methodological interests include survey research, longitudinal analyses, dyadic research, 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 former National Research Mentor for the John A. Hartford Geriatric Social Work Faculty Scholars Program, a past Secretary/Treasurer of the BSS Section of GSA, and former Invited Faculty at the Institute on Aging and Social Work (funded by the National Institutes of Health). Awards and honors include John S. Diekhoff Award for Distinguished Graduate Teaching (2004), Association for Gerontology Education in Social Work (AGE-SW) Leadership Award (2012), Ohio Association of Gerontology and Education (OAGE) Researcher of the Year award (2016), and one of 100 Most Influential Contemporary Social Work Faculty (2019).

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