

# Three (More) Questions for *Researching Salient Pathways and Contexts for Family- School Partnerships*

Eric Dearing  
Boston College



# Researching Salient Pathways and Contexts

- Is more always more?
  - Our modeling approaches to the study of family-school partnerships tend to assume:
    - high-quality partnerships = high-quantity parent involvement
    - linear relations
  - ...despite:
    - theory and evidence that less is sometimes more.
    - the potential for diminishing returns

# Researching Salient Pathways and Contexts

- Are we too level headed?
  - We tend to measure and operationalize family-school partnerships as static levels of involvement, despite the fact that:
    - Educational involvement is a dynamic process unfolding over time
    - Change is salient

# Researching Salient Pathways and Contexts

- Are we testing the water in which children swim?
  - We tend to ignore the subtle, yet pervasive aspects of home contexts and home-school partnerships such as:
    - Structure, routines, habits, and “investment” priorities

THANK YOU 