Dr. Robert Coplan

January 29th
2:30pm - 3:30pm

262 Mabel Lee Hall

Speaking Up for the Quiet Ones: Shy Children at School

For many young children, it is a common experience to feel somewhat wary or nervous when meeting unfamiliar people or encountering new situations. However, about 15% of young children are considered extremely shy, routinely experiencing fear and anxiety in social contexts to a degree that hinders their abilities to interact with other children. The school environment represents a particular challenge for shy children. This talk will highlight results from our ongoing program of research exploring different facets of shy children’s school adjustment, including socio-emotional functioning, academic achievement, teacher attitudes, and teacher-child relationships.

Robert J. Coplan (PhD) is a Full Professor in the Department of Psychology at Carleton University (Ottawa, Canada) and Director of the Pickering Centre for Research in Human Development. His research is related to children’s socio-emotional development and peer relations, with a particular focus of the development of shyness and social anxiety in childhood. Dr. Coplan has served as Editor of the journal Social Development. His books include The Development of Shyness and Social Withdrawal (2010, Guilford), Social Development in Childhood and Adolescence: A Contemporary Reader (2011, Wiley-Blackwell), and the Handbook of Solitude: Psychological Perspectives on Social Isolation, Social Withdrawal, and Being Alone (forthcoming, Wiley-Blackwell).