Beginning around 2000, a number of researchers turned their focus to understanding experimentally the effect of social-emotional programming on 4 and 5 year old children in preschool. This discussion will focus on what has been learned in the last fifteen years of social-emotional learning (SEL) intervention research in preschool and what open questions still remain for the field. The panel will feature an open, hour-long discussion between the audience and 4 panelists who have led seminal randomized control trials in the field (Raver, Bierman, Morris, and Jones) intended to inform the direction of future research on SEL interventions from 0 to age 8.

The panel will spend some time reviewing research findings and designs in the past 10 years from three seminal randomized control trials in this field (CSRP, REDI, and Head Start CARES). The rest of the time will be used for a guided discussion among panelists and with the audience, centered around 'what's next in the field' of SEL early childhood intervention. The panelists and moderator, leading experts in the field, will raise large design and intervention questions for the next 10 years in the field, including a discussion of the trajectory of long-term impacts and "fade-out", the alignment of early childhood contexts, the strength of evidence around cross-domain effects, and the areas of SEL intervention still needing to be explored. This discussion will help set the stage for the next generation of SEL studies in early childhood.