Dr. Foushee earned her BA in linguistics from Harvard University and her PhD in developmental psychology at UC, Berkeley. Ruthe Foushee's primary research concerns two processes that are more resilient than science can explain: (1) human (linguistic) communication, and (2) children's development of language. How — when there is such tremendous variability in infants' early experiences across the world — does children's language learning vary so *little*? (What is in common across the apparent diversity of human contexts and of infant learners such that this is possible? How is infants' learning *adapted* to their early environments?) And in adulthood, how do we get such rich meanings from each other's utterances in conversation, when words are so *vague*? Ruthe's research combines experimental and observational methods, in contexts ranging from rural indigenous to industrialized, multilingual to monolingual, speaking to signing...to identify the social-cognitive mechanisms underlying everyday communicative success across the lifespan.