University of Cambridge
Centre for Family Research

Annual Report 2014-2015
Centre for Family Research 2014 - 2015

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Professor Trevor Robbins (Department of Psychology, University of Cambridge)
The 2014-15 academic year closed delightfully in October with a party featuring the Centre’s in-house jazz singer, Sophie Zadeh, and her wonderful accompanist Sandy Steel (who has now sadly for us moved to Oxford) on keyboard. This intimate gathering marked a prelude to a much bigger party in October 2016 to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Centre for Family Research.

The Centre was founded in 1966 by Martin Richards when he was awarded a grant from the Nuffield Foundation to study mother-infant interaction, an investigation carried out in collaboration with Judy Dunn. Over the years, the work of the Centre has reflected changes in family life and the impact on parents and children of social transitions and medical technologies. Studies have ranged from single motherhood and divorce, to pregnancy and antenatal care, the psychological consequences of genetic testing, assisted reproductive technologies and new family forms. Alongside
this body of research, a major strand of the Centre’s research has always been to investigate the psychological processes involved in children’s psychological development and wellbeing. The tradition continues to this day with the work of Claire Hughes’ team on children’s social, emotional and cognitive development which currently focuses on executive function and theory of mind, as well as on more applied aspects such as barriers to children’s readiness for school. Alongside our theoretical work, members of the Centre have always been committed to the policy implications of their research and in recent years have contributed to the development of policy and legislation in a range of areas from early education to the latest developments in assisted reproduction including “three-parent” babies. Our 50th Anniversary will give us an opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the past and plan for the next 50 years!

Our seminar 2014-15 series showcased a range of speakers from home and abroad and at different stages of their careers. These included, “Couples groups for parents to strengthen family relationships: 40 years of research in 40 minutes”, Professors Phil and Carolyn Cowan, University of California, Berkeley, USA; “Post-adoption Contact between Adoptive and Birth Families: What Matters for Identity Development?”, Professor Harold Grotevant, University of Massachusetts Amherst, USA; “Encounters with Diversity: Children’s and Adults’ Friendships across Social Class and Ethnic Difference”, Dr Humera Iqbal, Institute of Education, University of London; “Men, maternity and moral residue: negotiating the moral demands of the transition to first time fatherhood”, Dr Jonathan Ives, University of Birmingham; “Emotion elicitation as a window into children’s emotional management and empathy”, Dr Elian Fink, University College London; “Creating desired impressions:

As always, we hosted a number of visiting scholars this year including Professor Harold Grotevant from the University of Massachusetts, Dr Mele Taumoepeau from the University of Otago in New Zealand and Dr Anna Yvenes and her students from Fines Terre University in Chile. Dr Bjorn Bay from Aarhus University Hospital has recently arrived and will stay with us until the end of the year working on Danish cohort studies of the development of children born through assisted reproductive technologies. We also very pleased to welcome Anastasia de Waal, Deputy Director of the think-tank Civitas and Deputy Director of Family and Education, as a Visiting Scholar. Anastasia will be working on a report on marriage during her time at the Centre. We said farewell to some old friends and welcomed new ones over the course of the year. These are highlighted in the relevant sections below.
More CFR babies arrived this year. Many congratulations to Susanna, Sam and their son Reuben on the birth of Dotty in November, and to Tabitha and Tom and their daughters Bethan and Martha on the birth of Jude in July. It is extremely encouraging in terms of women’s career development that we now have 4 mothers of 3 children working at the Centre for Family Research!

Dorothea Daisy                          Jude Theobold

Susan Golombok, Director

27th November, 2015
The team has had a number of successes this year including the award of a prestigious Wellcome Trust Post-Doctoral Fellowship to Susanna Graham to study gamete donors; a Wellcome Trust Enhancement Award to Susan Golombok to extend our research on new family forms to the study of children with transgender parents; an ESRC grant awarded to Susan Golombok and Michael Lamb to conduct a follow-up study of adoptive gay and lesbian families; a grant from the Jacobs Foundation to Lucy Blake to study the thoughts and feelings of parents who have both genetically related and non-genetically related children; and a Wellcome Trust Society and Ethics Small Grant to Sophie Zadeh to explore the use of qualitative methods with children. Sophie was also awarded her PhD this year as well as a prize from the American Society for Reproductive Medicine for best paper in the field of mental health. The research described below would not have been possible without a generous Wellcome Trust Senior Investigator Award to Susan Golombok.
Members of the team presented papers at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) in Philadelphia (Lucy Blake on gay fathers); the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) in Baltimore (Sophie Zadeh on single mothers by choice, Susan Imrie on infants conceived by egg donation, and Elena Ilioi on adolescents born through reproductive donation); the Annual Meeting of the European Society for Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE) in Lisbon (Tabitha Freeman on online sperm donation); and the Nordic Fertility Society Annual Conference (Vasanti Jadva on telling children about their donor conception). Susan Golombok gave a number of keynote and invited presentations including lectures in Malta, Greece, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United States.

Susan’s new book, “Modern Families: Parents and children in new family forms” was published in March by Cambridge University Press and attracted a great deal of media attention, not least because it came out in the same week as Elton John had a public spat with the fashion designer Domenico Dolce about assisted reproduction.
and same-sex parenting, two key topics in the book. So thanks are due to Elton John for unknowingly acting as PR agent for the Centre for Family Research! We have been very active in media engagement this year with articles referring to our research in The Sunday Times, The Independent, The Telegraph, The Toronto Star, New Statesman, Good Housekeeping Magazine, Manhattan Family, Cambridge News, Crescer Brazil, Irish Examiner and The Psychologist. Radio and television broadcasts included UTV Belfast, BBC Northern Ireland, CTV News Toronto, News Talk Ireland, Right Hook Show Ireland, LBC radio, BBC News, BBC 5 Live and Norwegian Broadcasting. In addition, online articles were published in the Child and Family Blog, Family Law Week, University of Cambridge website, Healthy Kids Blog, BioNews, Newsweek, Men Having Babies, Guernalec Blog France, Gay Star News, Peter Tatchell Foundation, Wells Journal, Choice Moms and the Wellcome Trust Mosaic website. Susan was also invited to speak about “Modern Families” at the Hay Literary Festival.

Martin Richards continues to be involved in the bioethics of assisted reproduction. He chaired a Working Party for the Nuffield Council on Bioethics on the use of biomedical and health records. The report arising from this Working Party, The Collection, Linking and Use of Data in Biomedical Research and Health Care: Ethical Issues, was launched in February. Martin gave a number of presentations about this work at workshops and conferences as well as to the press. He was also a member of a Wellcome Trust history of medicine witness seminar on ethical aspects of clinical genetics. With Nina Hallowell from the Institute of Public Health in Cambridge, Martin has been working on the ethics of uterine transplantation, and with Effy Veyana from the University of Zurich, he has been pursuing a project on patient-led research.
involving the self-publishing of personal genomic data. In addition, Martin has continued his work on the history of reproductive donation in the UK. Currently, he is writing a history of the Centre for Family Research for the Centre’s 50th birthday celebrations.

In the summer, we were delighted to host two interns. Noam Shemer, an undergraduate in Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, assisted with the coding and transcription of data from our longitudinal study of assisted reproduction families, the gay dads study and the estrangement study. Zeynep Ertekin, an Erasmus PhD student from Turkey, assisted with the coding and analysis of data from the longitudinal study.

 Solo mothers
This year, those involved in the study of solo mothers, aka single mothers by choice, have been busily writing up, bringing the total of papers on this study to five. Following her earlier paper on the identity of single women who became mothers through donor insemination, Sophie has focused on how solo mothers perceive their
sperm donor as well as children’s thoughts and feelings about growing up in this kind of family. It appears that young children are much more interested in why they don’t have a father in their family than in the fact that their biological father is a sperm donor. Tabitha has explored differences between solo mother and two-parent families in the disclosure of donor conception to their children. Susan has examined parenting and the psychological adjustment of children of single mothers by choice and has found that these children have just as positive relationships with their mothers and are just as well adjusted as are donor-conceived children who have a mother and a father. When difficulties arose, these were associated with financial difficulties and stress, and this was true of both family types. The only difference to emerge between these two family types was the somewhat surprising finding that children with solo mothers were less likely to have arguments with their mothers than were children with partnered mothers.

**UK longitudinal study of assisted reproduction families**

Following 18 months of intensive data collection by Elena Ilioi, Sarah Evans, Lucy Blake and others, coordinated by Vasanti Jadva, the 6th phase of our longitudinal study of families created by egg donation, donor insemination and surrogacy was completed this year. The families were previously assessed when the children were aged 1, 2, 3, 7 and 10, and the present phase followed them into adolescence at age 14. Preliminary data analysis showed these families to continue to function well and, in spite of concerns to the contrary, the children did not seem to be distressed by the method of their conception. As summed up by one 10 year old, “I don’t really think about it much, because there’s much more like, special on my mind, like cooler things………”. Although it had been predicted by some that the relationship with the
surrogate mother would be problematic for children born through surrogacy, this does not seem to be the case. Families that had kept in contact with the surrogate reported a positive relationship with her and the children were generally happy to be in touch.

**Gay fathers through surrogacy**

Following a visit to Family Week in Provincetown in July by Lucy Blake, accompanied by Susan Imrie and Sophie Zadeh, data collection for the study of gay fathers with children born through surrogacy and egg donation ended this year. These are particularly interesting families to investigate as they are the most “non-traditional” of all of the families that we are studying; not only do they differ from the traditional family in terms of the gender and sexual orientation of the parents but also the children have two “mothers”, a surrogate mother who gave birth to them and a separate egg donor who is their genetic mother. If these children are found to be functioning well then this would provide the strongest evidence yet that family structure matters less for children’s psychological development and well-being than does the quality of family relationships. Following a period of data coding and analysis, we hope that the findings of this study will be available next year. It has been quite a challenge to conduct a study in the US and we are very grateful to our collaborator at Columbia University in New York, Professor Anke Ehrhardt, and to Jenna Slutsky and Elisabeth Raffanello who visited many of the families. The study was completed with the help of Skype in order to include families who lived beyond the tri-state area and this has proved to be a good way of conducting interviews internationally and even of collecting observational data on parent-child interaction.
**Donor siblings**

Another study conducted in the US was an in-depth interview study with donor-conceived adolescents who had made contact with at least one donor sibling, i.e., a genetically related half-sibling born from the same donor but growing up in a different family. The adolescents, all conceived by donor insemination, were visited at home by Jenna Slutsky and Sherina Persaud from the New School for Social Research in New York, and administered the Friends and Family Interview (FFI), an interview assessment of children’s attachment relationships with their parents, as well as a questionnaire designed to assess adolescents’ thoughts and feelings about their donor conception. The findings showed that the security of adolescents’ attachment to their parents was associated with their feelings about being donor-conceived, with securely attached adolescents showing curiosity about their donor conception whereas those who were insecurely attached were more negative about their donor conception and tended to avoid engaging with this aspect of themselves. This is the first study to examine the role of family relationships in understanding why some donor-conceived young people are more accepting of their origins than are others.

**Children born through identity-release egg donation**

Susan Imrie has had an especially productive year. Not only did she overshoot her desired sample size of 50 egg donation and 50 IVF families, with the assistance of Sarah Evans, but also she undertook extensive training in the coding of both the Parent Development Interview (PDI), an attachment-based interview designed to assess the nature of the emotional bond between mothers and their infants, and the Strange Situation Test, the gold-standard approach to assessing infants’ security of attachment. The PDI training was conducted by Professor Howard Steele at the New
School in New York and the Strange Situation training was run in London by Dr Judith Solomon, a US expert in the field. This study, conducted by Susan Imrie and Vasanti Jadva, breaks new ground in that it is the first in-depth investigation of mother-infant interaction in families created by egg donation (whereby the mother lacks a genetic link with her baby) and it is also the first study of egg donation families to be conducted after the introduction of identity-release egg donors. This means that the children will be legally entitled to request the identity of their egg donor on reaching age 18.

**Surrogate mothers and egg donors in India**

Nishtha Lamba, with the help of Vasanti Jadva, made excellent progress on her study of Indian surrogate mothers. She has conducted in-depth interviews in Mumbai with 50 surrogates, initially during pregnancy and again following the birth of the baby, and has also almost completed interviews with the comparison group of non-surrogate mothers. The focus of her research is on the experiences and mental health of Indian surrogate mothers who host pregnancies for foreign couples. This research is particularly timely given the changes in legislation on surrogacy currently under consideration in India. Vasanti and Nistha have also recently completed a study of the hidden phenomenon of Indian women donating their eggs to foreign couples.

**Adopted and institutionalised children in Chile**

Pamela Jimenez Etcheverria spent several months in Chile this year collecting data for her study of adopted and institutionalised children. She formed close links with adoption agencies as well as the national adoption service and returned to Cambridge with a wealth of data on children’s psychological development and
wellbeing. This is the first ever study of adoptive families in Chile and the findings will contribute to policy and practice on adoption in Chile by government departments and service providers.

*Family estrangement*

A new departure this year involved a study on family estrangement, a topic that has received very little academic attention. The study was conducted by Lucy Blake in collaboration with a new and growing charity, 'Stand Alone', which aims to support those experiencing estrangement. The collaboration arose from an approach from the charity’s Director who wished to establish links with family researchers. Lucy developed an online survey to explore the experiences and psychological consequences of estrangement. The survey was distributed to members of the Stand Alone community, attracting responses from more than 800 individuals. The most common factors found to contribute to relationship breakdown between family members were emotional abuse and having mismatched expectations of family roles and relationships. Most respondents experienced stigma following estrangement and found Christmas to be a particularly challenging time of year. A summary of the findings will be published in a report by Stand Alone in December.

*Childbearing and the internet*

A further area of research initiated this year is the study of men and women meeting over the internet for the purpose of having children. Tabitha Freeman and Vasanti Jadva worked with the Founder of the website PrideAngel to conduct the first ever investigation of this new phenomenon, focusing on the motivations, attitudes and experiences of those who use a connection website to start a family.
Comings and goings

We said farewell this year to our amazing New York researchers, Jenna Slutsky, Elisabeth Raffanello and Sherina Persuad, who worked with us on projects based at Columbia University and the New School for Social Research. Although they have all moved on to bigger things we are continuing to write papers with them. We have also just welcomed three new arrivals to our team; Anja McConnachie and Christopher Lloyd who will be working on the follow up of the adoptive gay fathers study and Kitty Jones who will be carrying out a PhD on homemaker fathers.
New research team members and new posts

As in previous years, the “new” members of my research team are actually a mix of the old and new. There are, however, at least three genuinely new faces. First, Dr Elian Fink, who has recently joined the LEGO-funded Centre for Play in Education, Development and Learning (PEDaL) at the Faculty of Education, also now has a desk in the CFR as she and I were successful in gaining funding from the Wellcome Trust for a satellite study for NewFAMS (see ‘Baby Talk and Baby Blues, below). Dr Fink completed her PhD at the University of Sydney exploring the longitudinal association between children’s emotion management, socio-cognitive understanding and peer relationships. She then went on to conduct post-doctoral research at University College London, working on a project looking at young people’s emotional well-being and mental health in the school context. When not watching children and babies play, Elian likes to follow the progress of the new CrossRail train line in London and bakes yeasted cakes.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to Dr Marisol Basilio (also from PEDaL) who has recently won a highly competitive ESRC ‘Future Leaders’ research fellowship for a study of how experience and neurobiological processes jointly influence children’s social and cognitive development in which I will play a mentoring role. Marisol is originally from Chile, which is interesting given that others in the CFR have also recently established positive professional relationships with researchers from Chile.
Other genuinely new faces include Philip Kinsky and Emily Pechey, who will be working in the CFR for one year as their research ‘sandwich’ year at the University of Bath. Philip and Emily are quickly learning the ropes on the NewFAMS study, but will also get involved in other studies, including the Toddlers UP study. We also hope to welcome a new post-doctoral researcher on the team, Dr Flavia Werhle, from the University of Geneva, who is waiting to hear on a funding decision for an 18-month placement at the CFR planned to begin in spring 2016.

Alongside these new arrivals are some changes of posts for familiar faces. In particular, Dr Wendy Browne succeeded in finishing her thesis while also working away furiously in recruiting and conducting prenatal visits for the New Fathers and Mothers Study. Wendy then sailed through her viva and also beat off strong competition to gain a new post working on the Wellcome Trust funded ‘Baby talk’ extension to NewFAMS. Likewise, Dr Keri Wong having successfully defended her thesis lost no time in gaining a highly competitive Junior Research Fellowship at Clare Hall. Keri will be spending the next few years at the CFR building on her work into mistrust and its links with problems of adjustment in children. One reassuringly constant feature of our research group meetings is their international nature: including our new MPhil students (Muslihah Albakri, Meingold Chan and Ben Morris), our meetings currently include individuals with links to 14 different countries: Australia, Austria, Canada, Chile, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden, the USA and Venezuela!
Reasons to celebrate!

This year saw a ‘bumper crop’ of PhD vivas: many congratulations to Dr Wendy Browne, Dr Adelle Pushparatnam, Dr Naomi White and Dr Keri Wong, who all sailed through their vivas with style. Jenny Landt has just submitted her thesis and Amanda Aldercotte and Nik Darshane are both entering their fourth year, so there should be three more reasons to celebrate next year. Congratulations also to Amanda on her wedding to Ben Mills in Canada in August. As you can see from the picture, she was a truly beautiful bride in a really romantic setting – and we wish her many more happy days to remember in the future.
New Fathers and Mothers Study (funded by the ESRC, NSF and NWO)

Recruitment has been effortful but successful in the UK and in our sister sites in New York and Leiden. In total, we now expect to interview 490 expectant couples (of whom 230 will be from in and around Cambridge). The figure overleaf gives numbers at each stage for the UK arm: note that the team spoke to more than 1,000 expectant couples to recruit the sample and so are now very familiar faces at the Rosie Ultrasound Clinic at Addenbrookes Hospital!

Flow chart for recruitment and data-collection for the NewFAMS study

In all three sites we have just completed all the prenatal visits and are currently about half way through the 4-month home visits and in Cambridge we celebrated the arrival of all these wonderful new babies with a weekend of garden parties at Newnham College. On the day the photographer from the Cambridge Evening News arrived it poured with rain, but as the pictures show, everyone managed to have a wonderful time.
We have learned a lot about recruitment and saliva (which fills up our scientific freezer remarkably fast!) and a few weeks ago Sarah Foley gave the first conference presentation for the study, at the Society for Reproduction and Infant Psychology in Nottingham; building on this work we hope to achieve a draft of the first study manuscript around Christmas – exciting and very impressive progress!

*Baby Talk and Baby Blues (funded by the Wellcome Trust)*

Building on the success of the New Fathers and Mothers Study, Dr Elian Fink and I have been awarded a grant from the new ‘Seed for Science’ scheme from the Wellcome Trust that will enable us to add some technology to our measures of the infants’ family environments. Collaborators on this grant include several wonderful researchers within the University (Dr Jason Rentfrow, Dr Emily Holmes, Prof John Suckling) and outside (Professor Topun Austen from Addenbrookes NICU and Dr Andy Skinner from the University of Bristol). A few weeks ago, we hosted a launch workshop and have been successful in attracting a number of other great researchers with expertise in this field, including Prof. Paul Ramchandani (Imperial College), Professor Caroline Rowland (University of Liverpool), Dr Danielle Matthews (University of Sheffield) and Dr Andy Jones (University of Bristol). The main piece of technology that we are adding to the NewFAMS is a ‘talk pedometer’ that can fit inside a very sweet
tabard (with pictures of octopuses!) and provides a wealth of data on children’s conversational environments.

A second aim of this grant is to expand recruitment to include 50 expectant couples whose transition to parenthood involves an infant stay on NICU; related to this arm of the study, Sarah Foley will, as part of her ESRC studentship, be completing a 3-month internship in Addenbrookes NICU at the start of 2016. Interestingly enough, this means that research at the CFR will resume close links with the neonatology department at Addenbrookes that began almost 50 years ago when the CFR, under the directorship of Professor Martin Richards, was still in its own infancy. To assist with this new recruitment phase, we have now acquired a team bicycle, to enable us to nip out to Addenbrookes as soon as we hear that a potential participant is there.

*Ready, Steady, Go! Measuring Children’s Adjustment in the Early Years*

This year we have continued our work validating the Brief Early Skills and Support Index (BESSI), a 30-item teacher-rated questionnaire of children’s adjustment during the preschool and reception years. A main aim of our work this year has been to
assess whether the BESSI is appropriate for use with children from ethnic minority groups. To this end we have been asking teachers in ethnically diverse areas of the country to complete the BESSI about the children in their class. The final wave of this data collection is currently underway and we hope to be able to write up the findings from this study shortly. This year has also been a time of dissemination. Our first article about the BESSI was published in May and following on from this I was invited to write a feature on school readiness for the September issue of the British Psychological Society’s magazine, *The Psychologist*. Naomi has also presented our work on the BESSI at several conferences for early years practitioners and public health professionals. We have been pleased with the positive feedback and interest that we received related to the BESSI from psychologists and practitioners alike, and Naomi has been busy creating a manual and scoring spreadsheet to help practitioners to use the BESSI in their work.

A second part of this project was to develop a new questionnaire, the Index of Toddlers’ Life Chances (or I-TLC), to help identify families with toddlers who might benefit from extra support in the early years. Building on our BESSI findings demonstrating the importance of family support, this questionnaire focuses on parents’ experiences and the home and neighbourhood environment, rather than children’s behaviours and abilities. With the help of an enthusiastic team of undergraduates we have collected over 900 questionnaires from parents of 1- to 3-year-olds throughout the country. The preliminary findings from this work suggest that the support parents receive from friends and families plays an important role in how satisfied they are with their...
parenting, the frequency with which they engage in activities with their child, and their child’s emerging competencies and positive behaviours. These findings also suggest that support from friends may play a particularly important role in promoting parenting practices among families facing social disadvantage.

The Toddlers Up study – a ‘final’ wave?

Last year, as part of their PhD work, Amanda Aldercotte and Nik Darshane conducted phone-based interviews and cognitive assessments with all the children in the Toddlers Up study. Measures of interest include social and academic success, risk-taking behaviour and executive functions: we look forward to reporting some interesting results from our longitudinal analyses of developmental trajectories and predictors of individual differences. This year, we hope that Emily and Philip will be able to assist on a student project to interview all of the Toddlers Up children and their brothers or sisters about the sibling relationship – and how it changes once children are in adolescence. This first-hand view of sibling relationships will, I hope provide rich material for future research studies. Alongside this work, Dr Naomi White and I have recently signed a book contract with Psychology Press for a book that will provide an overview of current research on sibling relationships.

‘In Mind’: Social Influences on Children’s Theory of Mind and Executive Function

Data collection on the ‘In Mind’ study (funded by the ESRC and Isaac Newton Trust) finished in October 2014 and this longitudinal data set has proved to be a rich source
of data on the social predictors of individual differences in children’s social and
cognitive skills. This year four undergraduate students completed dissertations based
on data collected during the ‘In Mind’ study. These dissertations looked at: (1) the
relations between executive function, parental scaffolding and early academic ability;
(2) gender differences in parent-child interaction during play; (3) the links between
parental mental state talk during a book reading task and children’s theory of mind;
and (4) the links between parental theory of mind and individual differences in
children’s false belief understanding. These findings are now being prepared as
manuscripts for publication.

A few fond farewells.

Sadly, there are a few long-standing members of my research team who will be leaving
us this year. Of these, Dr Naomi White is travelling the greatest distance as she plans
to train as a clinical psychologist in New Zealand. We will miss her (and her scrumptious
baking) enormously. Naomi and I have, however, just signed a book contract together
and so Naomi should stay in close touch with the CFR for some time to come. Amanda
Aldercotte has just moved to South London, which is close enough for her to make
regular trips to Cambridge to join in team meetings and social events. Adelle
Pushparatnam, who passed her viva last year will be in Cambridge until May, when her
lovely husband Fred finishes his thesis. We were also very sad to say goodbye to our
two lovely Icelandic interns (Hildergunner and Solveig - aka Anna 1 and Anna 2) who
were fabulously helpful during the hectic summer of home visits for the NewFAMS.
Dr Gail Ewing

Gail Ewing’s highly important work on end-of-life care deserves special mention. Gail’s work on the Carer Support Needs Assessment Tool (CSNAT), continues to have both national and international impact. The CSNAT is a direct measure of the support needs of carers (family members / friends) in palliative and end-of-life home care that is used in both research and health practice contexts. Gail is co-developer of the CSNAT with Professor Gunn Grande at the University of Manchester. Interest in and uptake of the CSNAT is international. The CSNAT team have had enquiries from and issued licences to university and practitioner teams in Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, England, Germany, Iceland, India, Ireland, New Zealand, Norway, Scotland, Singapore, Slovenia, Sweden, Thailand, USA and Wales. The CSNAT is used by many palliative care organisations in Australia because it has been recommended as a clinical tool for use in palliative care services by the Victoria Department of Health.

In the UK, Gail has been heavily involved in the development and delivery of CSNAT training workshops for healthcare practitioners who are implementing the CSNAT within their healthcare practice. A series of one-day workshops is currently being funded by Hospice UK which is supporting implementation of the CSNAT for carer assessment and support by hospice services. Together with Professor Gunn Grande, Gail has worked to raise the profile of comprehensive carer assessment in different policy forums. This includes their invitation to join the team led by Jen Kenward, Patient Experience Lead for NHS England, as advisors on their work on supporting carers. They also presented the CSNAT work to the National Director of Hospice
Care and this resulted in Hospice UK supporting implementation of the CSNAT as a practice tool and providing funding for a series of CSNAT training workshops. Use of the CSNAT in end-of-life care was also submitted to the Patients' Experience Round Table event (invitation only event), led by Dr Bee Wee, National Clinical Director for End of Life Care, NHS England.

As a result of regular presentations at international palliative care conferences (European Association for Palliative Care), the CSNAT has come to the attention of a wide group of palliative care researchers and practitioners and Gail has been invited to join a number of new initiatives and collaborations both nationally and internationally. In the UK, she has joined the Stroke Programme team from the NIHR Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRC) Greater Manchester to work a study on using the CSNAT for assessment and support of carers of stroke survivors. Along with colleagues at The University of Manchester and the University of Cambridge, she is working with Dementia UK to develop a proposal to investigate the usefulness of the CSNAT for supporting carers of people with breathlessness. She has also been invited to join at team at Queen’s University, Belfast, led by Professor Kevin Brazil and Dr Audrey Roulston on an application to the Roy Castle Foundation on Assessing the acceptability of the ‘Changes Toolkit’ for patients living with lung cancer and their carers. This invitation derives from work she carried out in CFR on the Sharing Bad News study which focussed on sharing a diagnosis of lung cancer.

Gail is currently involved in a number of international studies and initiatives, all of which use the CSNAT. In Canada, she works with the team led by Professor Kelli
Stajduhar of the University of British Columbia and Professor Richard Sawatzky of Trinity Western University, using the CSNAT as an intervention to support family caregivers in Western Canada and on a newly funded project on integrating a quality-of-life assessment and practice support systems in home care services for older adults with life-limiting illness and their families. This study involves translation of the CSNAT into a tablet-based tool for use in healthcare practice.

Gail has also begun to work with the INSPIRED Outreach Program for Patients and Families living with Advanced Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, led by Professor Graeme Rocker, INSPIRED’s Medical Director and Professor of Medicine at Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia. In mid-November, Professor Rocker and Ms Denise Nauss from the Caregiver Relief Initiative of Canada travelled to Cambridge for a training workshop on using the CSNAT within the INSPIRED program in Halifax, Nova Scotia. In Australia, Gail continues in her advisory role on the study led by Professor Chris Toye of Curtin University, Western Australia which is implementing an outreach support program for family carers of older people discharged from an acute medical assessment unit, funded by the Government of Western Australia State Health Research Advisory Council. Within Europe several new collaborations have been established this year: with Professor Mogens Grønvold’s team from the Department of Public Health, University of Copenhagen on an application to the Danish Cancer Society to test a caregiver-led intervention (CSNAT) to improve support to caregivers of cancer patients in palliative care at home; with Professor Sabine Pleschberger from the University of Salzburg and Dr Johannes Bükki from Munich on a study to translate the CSNAT into German, validate it in a palliative population in Germany and evaluate it as a practice intervention within a hospice
organization in Germany; and with Dr Anette Alvariza, Department of Health Care Sciences, Ersta University College in Sweden, to translate the CSNAT into Swedish and validate it with Swedish family caregivers.
Amanda Aldercotte

Publications


Dr Lucy Blake

Publications


Presentations


July. 2015. Discussant on Family Building Panel at Family week, organised by the Family Equality Council, Provincetown, USA.


Dr Wendy Browne

Publications


Nikhil Darshane

Publications


Foley, S., White, N., Aldercotte, A., Darshane, N., & Hughes, C. (2015, March). Risk-


Dr Rory Devine

Publications


**Presentations**


Devine, R.T., (2015, June). Mindreading in early childhood. Presentation to students at an open day at Corpus Christi College Cambridge

Devine, R.T., (2015, August). Children’s understanding of other minds. Presentation to students at the Sutton Trust Summer School, Cambridge

**Dr Gail Ewing**

**Publications**


Griffiths J, Wilson C, Ewing G, Connolly M, Grande G. Improving communication with palliative cancer patients at home - a pilot study of SAGE & THYME communication skills model European Journal of Oncology Nursing. Published Online: March 15, 2015, DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ejon.2015.02.005


Presentations (published abstracts)

Adult Family Members and Friends. European Journal of Palliative Care. Abstracts of the 14th World Congress of the European Association for Palliative Care (EAPC) 2015 Copenhagen, Denmark 8-10th May 2015, 57.


Farquhar M, Preston N, Ewing G. Reflections on 10 Years of Recruitment in the Palliative Care Setting. Parallel Session: Recruiting to palliative care studies in Europe – developing recommendations. European Journal of Palliative Care. Abstracts of the 14th World Congress of the European Association for Palliative Care (EAPC) 2015 Copenhagen, Denmark 8-10th May 2015, 27.

Research to Develop a Training Programme for Carer Support Workers. European Journal of Palliative Care. Abstracts of the 14th World Congress of the European Association for Palliative Care (EAPC) 2015 Copenhagen, Denmark 8-10th May 2015, 118.


**Other invited presentations /meetings**


Patient Experience Roundtable Meeting organised by the National Clinical Director for End of Life Care, NHS England. London. Monday 20th October 2014: 2-5 pm. The purpose of this meeting is to explore how we can deepen our insight and understanding of the experience of those who use end of life care services, in particular those provided by NHS services

The Carer Support Needs Assessment Tool: Gail Ewing. Presentation on the CSNAT to Melbourne City Mission, Melbourne, Australia. Melbourne City Mission is one of the palliative care sites in Australia using the CSNAT. 26th November 2014.
The Carer Support Needs Assessment Tool: Gail Ewing. Presentation on the CSNAT to Peninsula Health Care, Frankston, Victoria, Australia. Peninsula Health Care is one of the palliative care sites in Australia using the CSNAT. 2nd December 2014.

The Carer Support Needs Assessment Tool: Gail Ewing. Presentation on the CSNAT to the Palliative Care Clinical Network (PCCN). Department of Health, Melbourne, Australia. Wednesday 3rd December 2014. The Department of Health in Victoria has recommended the use of the CSNAT for palliative care service providers in the State and this will be an opportunity to provide more information on the tool and its implementation in practice in the UK.

Carers Research Workshop University of Edinburgh, Professor Scott Murray’s research team (which is using the CSNAT in one of their studies) is convening a workshop with experts in carer research to discuss the findings of the study and plan how they might continue with their work. 12 December 2014.


Dr Elian Fink

Publications


Sarah Foley

Publications


Presentations


Dr Tabitha Freeman

Publications


Presentations


Freeman, T. (June 2014) ‘Psychosocial aspects of gamete donation: overview of the empirical data’, invited presentation for pre-congress workshop on ‘The ethics of
gamete donation and information sharing’ at the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology 30th Annual Meeting, Munich.


Professor Susan Golombok

Publications


**Presentations**

“Modern Families: Parenting and child development in new family forms”. Invited lecture to Wellcome Trust, October, 2014.


“The Wellcome Trust: A personal experience”. Invited lecture to Wellcome Trust meeting for applicants, November, 2014.


“Lesbian and gay families: Are the kids alright?” Invited lecture at University of Leiden Department of Child and Family Studies, January, 2015.

“Modern Families”. Invited lecture to the University of the 3rd Age, Cambridge, March, 2015.


Dr Susanna Graham

Publications


Professor Claire Hughes

Publications


**Presentations**


Public engagement presentations and events


New Fathers and Mothers Study Garden party (August 2015), Newnham College, Cambridge

Elena Ilioi

Publications

Blake, L., Ilioi, E., Golombok, S. (Forthcoming). Families in which donor-conceived offspring are aware of their origins: understandings, experiences and reflections.

**Susan Imrie**

**Publications**


**Dr Vasanti Jadva**

**Publications**


Presentations


Dr Adelle Pushparatnam

Presentations


Professor Martin Richards

Publications


Dr Naomi White

Publications


Presentations


Dr Keri Wong

Publications


Presentations


Dr Sophie Zadeh

Publications


Online contributions


Zadeh, S. (2014, October). Facebook and Apple offering to pay for female employees to freeze their eggs is utterly misguided. *Independent Voices*. 

Presentations


Zadeh, S. A reply to Dolce and Gabbana, or the experiences of families formed through third-party assisted reproduction. Fellows’ lunchtime seminar series, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, May 2015.

ACTIVE CFR GRANTS 2014/2015

XJAG/55 Enhancement
Grant holder: Professor Susan Golombok
Investigator: Professor Susan Golombok
Title: Future Families: The social and psychological outcomes of emerging assisted reproductive technologies for individuals, families and society.
Sponsor: Wellcome Trust
Period: January 2013 – December 2017
Amount: £150,016

XJAG/76
Grant holder: Dr Elian Fink
Investigator: Dr Elian Fink
Title: Baby talk and baby blues: harnessing technology to investigate mechanisms of influence of parental wellbeing on infants
Sponsor: Wellcome Trust
Period: 1st August 2015 – 30th June 2017
Amount: £97,546

XJAG/075
Grant holder: Professor Susan Golombok(PI), Professor Michael Lamb (CI)
Investigator: Professor Susan Golombok
Title: Parenting and the psychological development of children raised in adoptive gay father families: A follow up at early adolescence
Sponsor: ESRC
Period: 1st October 2015 – 30th September 2018
Amount: £383,507

XJAG/074
Grant holder: Dr Sophie Zadeh
Investigator: Dr Sophie Zadeh
Title: Donor conception: What do the children think?
Sponsor: Wellcome Trust
Amount: £2,000

XJAG/73
Grant holder: Dr Gail Ewing
Investigator: Dr Gail Ewing
Title: Supporting family carers to enable patient discharge from acute care at end of life
Sponsor: University of Manchester (Marie Curie Cancer Care)
Period: 1st September 2014 – 31st August 2017
Amount: £8,755
XJAG/72
Grant holder: Professor Claire Hughes
Investigator: Professor Claire Hughes
Title: Risky Beginnings – service support costs
Sponsor: CRN Eastern
Period: 1st November 2014 – 31st August 2015
Amount: £16,153

XJAG/71
Grant holder: Professor Susan Golombok
Investigator: Professor Susan Golombok
Title: Eton entry test
Sponsor: Eton College
Period: 1st September 2014 – 31st August 2017
Amount: £160,000

XJAG/70
Grant holder: Dr Lucy Blake
Investigator: Dr Lucy Blake
Title: Like Father, Like Son: The significance of Genetic Relatedness for Family Relationships and Family Life
Sponsor: Jacobs Foundation
Amount: £22,350

XJAG/69
Grant holder: Dr Susanna Graham
Investigator: Dr Susanna Graham
Title: Motivations, experiences and future expectations of men donating their sperm
Sponsor: Wellcome Trust
Period: 1st October 2014 – 30th September 2017
Amount: £148,640

XJAG/68
Grant holder: Professor Claire Hughes
Investigator: Professor Claire Hughes
Title: Cross cultural study of family influences on executive functions
Sponsor: ESRC
Total amount: £100,000
Amount to CFR: £7,892.28

XJAG/67
Grant holder: Professor Claire Hughes
Investigator: Professor Claire Hughes
Title: ORA Risky Beginnings
Sponsor: ESRC
Period: 1st October 2014 – 30th September 2017
Total amount: £1.5 million
Amount to CFR: £584,669
**XJAG/65**
Grant holder: Dr Gail Ewing  
Investigator: Dr Gail Ewing  
Title: Developing a relevant and acceptable educational intervention for carers of patients with breathlessness in advanced disease  
Sponsor: Dimbleby Cancer Care  
Amount: £12,586

**XJAG/63**  
Grant holder: Professor Claire Hughes  
Investigator: Professor Claire Hughes  
Title: School readiness  
Sponsor: The Foundation Years Trust  
Amount: £100,000

**XJAG/55**  
Grant holder: Professor Susan Golombok  
Investigator: Professor Susan Golombok  
Title: Future Families: The social and psychological outcomes of emerging assisted reproductive technologies for individuals, families and society.  
Sponsor: Wellcome Trust  
Period: January 2013 – December 2017  
Amount: £1,037,142

**ESRC Grant held by Psychology Dept**  
Grant holder: Professor Michael Lamb (PI) Professor Susan Golombok (CI)  
Investigator: Professor Michael Lamb  
Title: Gay Father Families  
Sponsor: ESRC ORA  
Period: January 2012 – December 2015  
Amount: £503,868

**XJAG/037**  
Grant holder: Prof. Susan Golombok (PI), Dr Tabitha Freeman, Dr Vasanti Jadva, Dr Shirlene Badger, Helen Statham & Professor Martin Richards  
Investigator: Prof. Susan Golombok  
Title: Redefining families: Bioethics, assisted reproduction and emerging family forms.  
Sponsor: Wellcome Trust  
Period: 1st April 2009 – 30th September 2015  
Amount: £368,000