

1978/79

MEDICAL PSYCHOLOGY UNIT

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University of Cambridge

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The work of the Unit is mainly concerned with research on child development, with particular emphasis on the growth and influence of parent-child relationships and the effects of medical practice on children and parents. The Unit is associated with the Medical School (Regius Professor of Physic, Professor Sir John Butterfield) and the Social and Political Sciences Committee. In several projects we work closely with the Consultant Paediatricians (Dr. N.R.C. Robertson and Dr. N. Barnes) at Addenbrooke's Hospital. Much of our work is supported by grants from the Social Science Research Council, the Department of Health and Social Security and through studentships from the Medical Research Council and the Social Science Research Council. Members of the Unit teach for various departments in the University, especially Social and Political Sciences, Experimental Psychology and the Medical Sciences Tripos.

The largest study currently in progress is a longitudinal study of mother-child relationships and aspects of child development. This project, which was initiated in 1968, is planned to be concluded within the next year, 'follow-up' data was gathered at the later ages.

Barbara Antonis is working on the social and cognitive development of the 5½ year olds in the longitudinal study and how this development relates to parental and child measures at earlier ages, including the mothers' pregnancies.

Richard Backus. Major study is that of the acquisition of attitudes of medical students in the areas of obstetrics and possibly paediatrics. Also a study of attitude change around the course "Social aspects of medicine", with follow-up relating this to the major study.

Roger Bacon is starting a 3½ year project for the DHSS on the identification, management and treatment of child abuse in Cambridgeshire. His particular area of interest is in social work and child-care services, and the attitudes of abusing and 'at risk' parents and families.

Frances Barnes is engaged on a study on the children in the longitudinal study at 2-3 years - focussing on patterns of communication in the family, in as far as it is informative about underlying relationships. Work continues on the relationships between the children's status at birth and their later development.

Tony Booth is conducting research into the history of case study methods in psychology with special reference to the work of John Dollard, Gordon Allport, William Stern, Lucien Sere and Harre and Dewaele. The coincidence of method will be highlighted in relation to the different aims of these workers arising as they do from differing social, political and intellectual traditions. He is also involved with attempts to integrate 'handicapped' children in ordinary schools and is monitoring a small unit of such children in a school in Cambridge.

Denise Campbell is working on a study to evaluate the effectiveness of Special Care Baby Units with the aim of investigating the effects of perinatal factors on neonatal morbidity and mortality. Particular emphasis will be placed on understanding why admission and discharge policies differ between units and whether these differences are associated with varying mortality and morbidity rates.

Joanna Hawthorne set up an intervention study in the special care baby unit at the Maternity Hospital in Cambridge and has followed a group of mothers and their low birthweight babies. Half of the mothers have received extra support from the hospital staff and community and extra contact with their babies. This may have an effect on how they react to the separation and development of their babies.

Chris Henshall is working on a study of children's concepts of gender and gender roles, and the relationship of these concepts to their own behaviour and to their parents' behaviour and attitudes.

Elsbeth Highkin is beginning a study of the effects of postpartum depression on the interaction between mother and infant. She is also involved with the Counselling Centre as a psychotherapist.

Jane Kenrick is working on family ideology, concentrating on the impact of separation and divorce on couples with children.

Roland Klepzig is conducting a theoretical study into the concept of 'consciousness'. He is especially concentrating on its relation to the developments of concepts, language and the 'self', during the first years of life. An attempt is being made to fuse aspects of developmental psychology, phenomenology, psychoanalysis and marxism with insights of the nature of consciousness described in the original revelations of certain spiritual traditions.

Elena Lieven is working on the role of speech to young children in their own language development. She is studying individual differences between mother-child pairs in their linguistic communication and changes in the interaction as the child's language develops. In 1974 she completed a short period of fieldwork in the West Sepik District of Papua New Guinea, studying language development and some aspects of socialisation.

Cathy Myers is carrying out research into the lack of motivation of schoolgirls towards careers and higher education. This will be with regard to the experience of conflicting interests when social demands contradict the girls' self images and conceptions of femininity. Insofar as these roles are seen to be incompatible, the symbolic function of make-up will be taken into account, as a way of handling and maintaining the disjunctions in personal identity.

Martin Richards (with Jane Kenrick) has just begun work under a contract from the SSRC on a study of ideologies of parenthood. The aim is to describe the ways in which parents conceptualise their own views of childrearing and the development of their children. The project is partially historical and will look at changes in England since 1940. A sample of parents will be interviewed and an analysis will be made of documentary evidence (e.g. Reports of Royal Commissions, Family Law, books written for parents, etc.) over the relevant period.

Graham Richardson is interested in the development of perception and language in seven to eleven year old children who are experiencing reading and spelling difficulties. One aspect being investigated is the recognition of complex, mono-orientated figures such as faces and words when inverted and reversed. Another characteristic being evaluated is these children's understanding and production of relational terms and time-ordered series (months of the year, etc.).

Jane Selby is studying women's perceptions of their own sexual experiences and the importance of heterosexual relationships in their lives.

Stephen Scott is investigating the effect of a change of bedding texture on the behaviour of premature babies in incubators. Preliminary findings show that a switch from cotton to lambswool leads the babies to grow more quickly (weight gain rate increases by 30% or more) and to be calmer (rapid movements reduced by 60% or more).

He is also involved in organising discussion groups for hospital personnel at all levels to explore feelings which arise while working with patients.

Recent and forthcoming publications by members of the Unit

- Antonis, B. "The First Pregnancy: Mothering and attitudes to it in working and non-working mothers." Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation.
- Antonis, B., Allport, A. and Reynolds, P. 'On the division of attention: A disproof of the single channel hypothesis.' Quart. J. Exp. Psychol. 1972; 24(2), 225-235.
- Bacon, R. Problems in the relationship between Sociological Theory and Sociological Practice with special reference to the interpretation of attempted suicide by drug overdosing. Ph.D. Thesis, University of Cambridge.
- Bacon, R. Management of Resources for fostering and adoption in Region 5. A Study of Needs and Resources for Substitute Family Care. A confidential Report to the DHSS. (A summarised Report is published by the Association of British Adoption & Fostering Agencies)
- Bacon, R. Organization and Practice. Adoption and Fostering.
- Bacon, R. 'Breaking Cycles' - a Review of 'Cycles of Disadvantage'. Adoption & Fostering.
- Bacon, R. Child-Care and Child-Abuse - Connections & Implications. Adoption & Fostering, December 1977.
- Bacon, R. Lack of Planning, Lack of Care. A Re-examination of the Wayne Brewer Report, to be published in Cranfield Social Policy Studies, Vol.2.
- Barnes, F. Birth of a Ngoni child. Man, 49.
- Barnes, F. Paleolithic Man. In 'Insight on Human Biology', Australian Broadcasting Commission, pp.23-28, Sydney.
- Barnes, F. 'Biology of Man' ed. Stephen Boyden. Australian National Univ. Press.
- Barnes, F. On having a relatively poor status at birth: some characteristics of the children and their mothers. Paper presented at the Spastics Society Developmental Neurology Meeting, Oxford, September 1974.
- Barnes, F. Handedness and Birth Stress in a Sample of Normal Children. New Scientist 67, No. 959, 25 July 1975.
- Barnes, F. Accidents in the first three years of life. Child: care, health and development 1975, 1, 421-433.
- Booth, A.J. Growing up in society (1975). London, Methuen.
- Booth, A.J. Learning to Communicate. AEP Journal 1974.
- Booth, A.J. Psychology in a Changing World. AEP Journal 1976.
- Campbell, D. Smoking Policies in Canadian Hospitals. Dimensions in Health Services, 53, 12, 1976.
- Bakal, D., I. Routman & D. Campbell. Drug Use in Rural Alberta. Internal Report Series EAD-76-84, NMUD, Ottawa, 1976.
- Campbell, D. Acute Drug Poisonings: A Review. Internal Report Series EAD-77-106, NMUD, Ottawa, 1976.
- Clarke, A.H., Wyon, S.M. and Richards, M.P.M. Free play in nursery school children. J. Child Psychol. Psychiat., 10, 205-16, 1969.
- Corrigan, J.M. Social participation in severely subnormal children during free play. (Forthcoming).

- Corrigan, J.M. and Santer, N.C. Weststrate. The verbal imitation skills of a SSN man - the analysis of a training programme. Paper presented at 3rd IASSMD, The Hague, 1973.
- Corrigan, J.M. Interaction between Down's Syndrome Babies and their Mothers. Ph.D. Dissertation, 1978.
- Dunn (Bernal) J.F. Crying during the first 10 days of life, and maternal responses. *Developm. Med. Child Neurol.* 14, 362-72, 1972.
- Dunn (Bernal) J.F. Attachment: some problems and possibilities. In M.P.M. Richards (ed.) 'The Integration of a Child into a Social World.' Camb. Univ. Press, 1974.
- Dunn (Bernal) J.F. Night waking in the first 14 months. *Developm. Med. Child Neurol.* 15, 760-769, 1973.
- Dunn (Bernal) J.F. Consistency and change in maternal style. Parent-Infant Interaction. Ciba Foundation Symposium No.33, Elsevier, 1975.
- Dunn, J.F. Patterns of early interaction: continuities and consequences. In H.R. Schaffer (ed.) 'Studies in Mother-Infant Interaction.' Academic Press 1977.
- Dunn (Bernal) J.F. and Richards, M.P.M. Social interaction in the first days of life. in H.R. Schaffer (ed.) 'The Origins of Human Social Relations.' Academic Press, 1971.
- Dunn (Bernal) J.F. and Richards, M.P.M. What can the zoologist tell us about human development? In A.S. Barnett (ed.) 'Ethology and Development' (Little Clinics Clubs in *Developm. Med.* No.47). Spastics Society/Heinemann Medical Books, 1973.
- Dunn (Bernal) J.F. and Richards, M.P.M. Observations on the developing relationship between mother and baby in the neonatal period. Presented at the Loch Lomond Symposium on Mother-Infant Interaction and to appear in 'Studies in mother-infant interaction by H.R. Schaffer. Academic Press, 1977.
- Henshall, C.H. The Ontogenesis of Gender Identity and Gender Roles: A review of the literature and a research proposal. Unpublished paper, 1977.
- Jacques, N. The Role of Early Mother-Infant Contact in the Developing Mother-Child Relationship. Ph.D. Dissertation, Camb. Univ. 1978.
- Lieven, E. Conversations between Mothers and Young Children. Paper presented at 3rd Int. Symp. of Child Language, September 1975.
- Lieven, E. Conversations between Mothers and Young Children: individual differences and their implications for the study of language learning. In N. Waterson and C. Snow (eds.) 'The Development of Communication: Social and Pragmatic Factors in Language Acquisition', London, John Wiley, 1977.
- Lieven, E. Patriarchy. *Red Shift* 4, 1977.
- Lieven, E. Turn-taking and Pragmatics: two issues in early child language. Paper presented at Psychology of Language Conf. Stirling, 1976. In P. Smith and R. Campbell (eds.) 'Recent Advances in Psychology of Language' Vol. N.Y. & London, Plenum Press (in press).
- Lieven, E. and McShane, J. Language is a developing social skill. In D. Chivers and J. Herbert (eds.) 'Recent Advances in Primatology' Vol.1, Academic Press (in press)
- Light, P. The Development of Social Sensitivity. A Study of Social Aspects of Role-Taking in Young Children. Camb. Univ. Press (in press).
- Richards, M.P.M. Consuming science: Rothschild, Dainton and the non-revolution in research policies. *Cambridge Review*, January 1972.
- Richards, M.P.M. (ed.) 'The Integration of a Child into a Social World.' Camb. Univ. Press, 1974. Chapter: First steps in becoming social.

- Richards, M.P.M. The biological and the social. In Armistead, N. (ed.) 'Reconstructing Social Psychology.' London, Penguin Education, 1974.
- Richards, M.P.M. An ecological study of infant development in an urban setting in Britain. In P.H. Leiderman, S.R. Tulkin & A. Rosenfeld (eds.) 'Culture and Infancy.' Academic Press, 1977.
- Richards, M.P.M. The Pros and Cons of Breast Feeding. Paper presented at the Joint Meeting of the British Paediatric Assoc. Council and the Medical Information Unit of the Spastics Society, March 1974.
- Richards, M.P.M. Non-accidental injury to children in an ecological perspective. In 'Non-accidental injury to children.' DHSS, HMSO 1975.
- Richards, M.P.M. Feeding and the early growth of the mother-child relationship. In Kretchmer, N., Rossi, E. and Sereni, F. (eds.) 'Modern Problems in Pediatrics'. No.=5 Milk and Lactation. Karger, Basel, 1975.
- Richards, M.P.M. Interaction and the concept of development: the biological and the social revisited. In 'Interaction, Conversation and the Development of Language.' M. Lewis and A. Rosenblum (eds.), New York, John Wiley, 1977.
- Richards, M.P.M. History and the Study of Child Development. Presented at the 3rd Biennial Conference of the ISSBD, Guildford, July, 1975.
- Richards, M.P.M. Innovation in Medical Practice: obstetricians and the induction of labour in Britain. Social Science and Medicine 9, 595-602, 1975.
- Richards, M.P.M. Parents and children and non-accidental injury. In A. White Franklin (ed.) 'The Challenge of Child Abuse', Academic Press, 1977.
- Richards, M.P.M. Effects of infant behaviour of analgesics and anaesthetics used in obstetrics. Paper presented at 5th Conf. of the Europ. Teratology Soc., Italy, 1976.
- Richards, M.P.M. The induction and acceleration of labour: some benefits and complications. Early Human Developm. 1, 3-17, 1977.
- Richards, M.P.M. A place of safety? An examination of the risks of hospital delivery. In 'The Place of Birth', J. Davis and S. Kitzinger (eds.) Oxford Univ. Press 1978.
- Richards, M.P.M. Social relationships during infancy (Conduites du bebe: les fonctions de relations sociale). Part II Chapter 6, La Psychologie. l'Encyclopedie de la Pleiade, J. Piaget, J.P. Brouckart & P. Mounoud (eds.) Paris, Gallimiard, in press 1978.
- Richards, M.P.M. Public Health and Medical Practice. In R. Monroe and M. Wilkins (eds.). The Biosciences and Society. Liverpool University Press, in press.
- Richards, M.P.M. and Bernal, J.F. An observational study of mother-infant interaction. In N. Blurton Jones (ed.) 'Ethological Studies of Child Behaviour', Cambridge University Press, 1972.
- Richards, M.P.M., Bernal, J.F. and Brackbill, Y. Early behavioural differences: gender or circumcision? Developmental Psychobiology 9, 89-95, 1976.
- Richards, M.P.M., Dunn, J.F. and Antonis, B. Caretaking in the first year of life: The role of fathers and mothers' social isolation. Child: care, health and development 3, 23-36, 1977.
- Richards, M.P.M. and Robertson, N.R.C. Admission and discharge policies for special care baby units. In Brimblecombe, Richards and Robertson (eds.)(see below).
- Chalmers, I. and Richards, M.P.M. The effectiveness of present day obstetric practice. In Chard and Richards (eds.)(see below).
- Chard, T. and Richards, M.P.M. (eds.) Hazards and Benefits of the New Obstetrics. Clinics in Developm. Medicine, Spastics Publications, No.64, 1977.

- Chisholm, J.J. and Richards, M.P.M. Swaddling, cradleboards and the development of children. *Early Human Developm.* 2, 255-275, 1978.
- Hawthorne, J.T., Richards, M.P.M. and Callon, M. Parental visiting of children in a special care nursery. In Brimblecombe, Richards & Robertson (eds.)(see below).
- Brimblecombe, F.S.W., Richards, M.P.M. and Robertson, N.C.R. (eds.) 'Early Separation and Special Care Nurseries.' *Clinics in Developm. Med.* No.68. Spastics Publications, 1978.
- Richardson, G. The Cartesian frame of reference: A structure unifying the description of dyslexia. *J. Psycholinguistic Res.*, 3, 15-63, 1974.
- Richards, M.P.M. Effects on development of early separations of parents and children. In D. Schaffer and J.F. Dunn (eds.) 'The First Year of Life', London, John Wiley (in press)
- Richards, M.P.M. Psycho-social implications of breast-feeding. *Nutricia Symposium*, Rotterdam 1978 (in press).
- Richards, M.P.M. The Biological and the Social. In A. Lock (ed.) 'Action, Gesture and Symbol', Academic Press, 1978.
- Richards, M.P.M. Conception, Pregnancy and Birth - a perspective from developmental Psychology. Paper presented at the International Congress for Psychosomatic Medicine in Obstetrics & Gynaedology, Rome 1977 and to appear in Proceedings.
- Urwin, C. The Psychological Development of Blind Children. Ph.D. dissertation, Univ. of Camb., 1979.
- Wood, M.J. Continuity and change in individual differences. Ph.D. dissertation, Univ. of Camb., 1978.

#### Addenda

- Hawthorne, J.T. 'Ways of increasing the support for mothers of low birthweight babies.' Paper discussed at Seminar on Special Care Baby Units, Medical Psychology Unit, Cambridge 2 Feb. 1977.
- Hawthorne, J.T. 'A Guide for Parents of Babies in the Special Care Baby Unit.' Booklet in use at the Maternity Hospital, Mill Road, Cambridge.
- Hawthorne, J.T. 'An intervention study: Can you persuade staff to change routines in a Special Care Baby Unit?' Paper presented at BSA Medical Sociology Conf., York, 22-24 September 1978.

CURRENTLY WORKING IN THE MEDICAL PSYCHOLOGY UNIT UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

- BARBARA ANTONIS, B.Sc. The first pregnancy and attitudes to mothering of working and non-working women. Follow-up at 4 and 5½ years of the 100 longitudinal study children.
- ROGER BACON, M.A., Ph.D. Non-accidental injury to children.
- FRANCES BARNES, M.B., B.Chir. Follow-up at 3 years of the 100 longitudinal study children. Development of autonomy in children and patterns of communication within the family.
- TONY BOOTH, B.A., Dip.Ed.Psych. 3rd year research student SSRC.
- Dr. MARIA ISOLINA BORGES, Lecturer and clinical psychologist Porto University, Visiting Scholar.
- DENISE CAMPBELL, M.A. 2nd year research student. Epidemiology of Perinatal Mortality.
- IAIN FARQUHAR, M.A. Research Assistant. Non-accidental injury to children.
- JOANNA HAWTHORNE, B.A. 4th year research student, MRC. The problems of mother-baby separation in special care baby units.
- CHRIS HENSHALL, B.A. 3rd year research student, SSRC. Gender and sex-role development.
- ELSPETH HIGHKIN. 1st year research student. Postpartum depression and its effects on mother-child interaction.
- JANE KENRICK, Research Assistant. Working on family ideologies.
- ELENA LIEVEN, M.A. University Demonstrator in Experimental Psychology. The role of the speech environment of young children in their own language acquisition. Sex differences and the development of gender identity.
- ROLAND KLEPZIC. Undertaking a theoretical study of the concept of consciousness.
- JULIA NEWSAM, Research Assistant, specialising in computer analysis of data.
- MATHY MYERS, 1st year research student. Studying the lack of motivation of schoolgirls towards careers and higher education.
- PHYLLIS OSBOURN, Unit Secretary.
- MARTIN RICHARDS, Ph.D. Lecturer in Social Psychology. Longitudinal study of parent-child relationships. Effects of medical practice on child development. Fathers.
- GRAHAM RICHARDSON, M.S. Aspects of language and visual perception in children with reading retardation.
- JANE SELBY, M.A. 2nd year graduate student, SSRC. Women's perceptions of their own sexual experiences and the importance of heterosexual relationships in their lives.
- Professor K. YAMAMOTO, Arizona State University. Visiting Scholar.

ASSOCIATED

- DAVID INGLEBY, Social and Political Sciences, Free School Lane, Cambridge.
- AIDAN MACFARLANE, Paediatric Consultant, 6 Cobden Crescent, Oxford.

ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNIT IN THE RECENT PAST

HEALTH EDUCATION COUNCIL- DENTAL HEALTH PROJECT

Mike Craft, Ray Croucher and Ann Gilbert. Now at Adcenbrooke's Hospital,  
Trumpington Street, Cambridge.

PAST RESEARCH STUDENTS

Jenny Corrigall, now at the Rees Thomas School, Cambridge.

Judy Dunn (formerly Bernal), now at the Sub-department of Animal Behaviour,  
High Street, Madingley, Cambridge.

Ann Thorington, now at 8, St. Michael's Rise, Okehampton Crescent, Welling, Kent.

Mike Wood, now at 654 Finchley Road,, London, NW11 7NT.

Nichola Jacques, now at the Paediatric Research Unit, Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital,  
(Heavitree), Gladstone Road, Exeter, Devon.

Cathy Urwin, now at the University of Warwick, Coventry.