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 effect of medical practice on children and parents. In several projects we work closely with the Consultant Paediatricians 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 & Political Sciences, Experimental Psychology, the Medical Sciences Tripos and the Department of Paediatrics.

The status of the Unit within the University is about to undergo a change so that we will become formally attached to the Department of Paediatrics (Professor John Davis) and the Social & Political Sciences Committee. At the same time our title will be altered and we shall become the "Child Care & Development Group". It is expected that these changes will take place from 1st November 1980. These changes do not signal any shift in policy as regards the Unit’s work.

Barbara Antonis is working on the social and cognitive development of the 1½ year olds in the longitudinal study and how this development relates to parental and child measures at earlier ages, including the mothers’ pregnancies.

Roger Bacon is working on 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 of the children in the longitudinal study at 2½-3 years - focusing on patterns of communication in the family, in as far as it is informative about underlying relationships. Work continues on the relationships between pregnancy factors, the children's status at birth and their later development.

Denise Campbell is working on a study to evaluate the effect of changes in admission policies to SCBU on neonatal morbidity. As a result of a stricter criterion for admitting babies to the Peterborough SCBU the admission policies between January 1st 1979 and June 30th 1979 are compared with the 6 month period from January 1st 1980 to June 30th 1980. In an effort to assess the benefits of varying admission policies particular emphasis will be placed on understanding why standards of selection to SCBU vary between Units. Work in the study also involves a follow-up of SCBU babies born in 1975 at the Cambridge Maternity Hospital with the aim of measuring their quality of life on a wide range of health problems.

John Clark is working on a map of mental states, based on descriptions of ordinary life, mental illnesses, hallucinogenic drug states and mystical states. He hopes to show the characteristic course of mental illnesses by plotting people's mental states against time.

Shelley Day is beginning a study of the psychological effects on women of obstetric medicine, with interest in the outcomes of both home and hospital deliveries, focussing on "post-natal depression", the psychology and politics of childbirth/motherhood/mental health.
Margaret Dyson is working on a 15 month feasibility study for a larger scale project on the effects of marital separation on parents and children funded by the DHSS.

Iain Farquhar is completing his thesis on Transcendental Meditation, and is also employed on the DHSS project headed by Roger Bacon (see above).

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.

Elspeth Highkin is studying the way Cambridge students see themselves within the University, their expectations, satisfactions and frustrations and the ways in which they handle stress.

Cornelius Katona is working on a study of primiparous women having their babies in Cambridge. He is interested in their initial expectations and final assessment of antenatal classes and the relationship between the actual influence the classes have and the aims of the staff who conduct them.

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

Martin Richards is working under a contract from the SSRC (with Jane Kenrick) on a study of ideologies of parenthood. His part of the project has concentrated on a study of fatherhood, both as a social institution and of the experiences of men with their children.

Work has also recently begun on a feasibility study for a follow-up project on separating parents and their children supported by the DHSS (with Margaret Dyson). The aim is to contact people at the point when they separate and follow them until a new living pattern has emerged. A variety of interview techniques will be used with the adults and children. A particular focus of the study is the arrangements made for the children after separation.

Jane Selby is working on the social and psychological issues of being a career woman, especially in academia as research students. Also methodological issues in social psychology.

Stephen Scott, with the help of Penny Lucas (and funded by a grant from the International Wool Secretariat) 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.

Martin Stone is engaged in a study of the relationship between the theoretical development of Psychology and Psychiatry, and their current areas of practice within the Medical Health Services.

Anne Weissman is observing potential differences in interactions between depressed mothers and their infants, and non-depressed mothers and their infants, the impact of maternal depression on the infants' early cognitive development - for instance, on the formation of object concept - will be examined.

Professor Susan B. Crockerberg from the University of California at Davis will be working in the Unit from March-July 1981. She is the Associate Professor of Human Development in the Department of Applied Behavioral Sciences at Davis.

Dr. Jean-Francois Saucier from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Montreal will be joining the unit for a year from July 1981.


Bacon, R. Organization and Practice. Adoption and Fostering.


Barnes, F. Birth of a Ngoni child. Man, 49.


Barnes, F. Accidents in the first three years of life. Child: care, health and development 1975, 1, 421-433.


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. 2nd February 1977.


Richards, M.P.M. History and the Study of Child Development. Presented at the 3rd Biennial Conf. of the ISSBD, guildford, July 1975.


Richards, M.P.M. & Roberton, N.R.C. Admission and discharge policies for special care baby units. In Brimblecombe, Richards and Roberton (eds.) (see below).


Hawthorne, J.T., Richards, M.P.M. & Callon, M. Parental visiting of children in a special care nursery. In Brimblecombe, Richards & Roberton (eds.) (see below).


CURRENTLY WORKING IN THE MEDICAL PSYCHOLOGY UNIT

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.

JILL BROWN, Assistant Secretary.

DENISE CAMPBELL, M.A. 4th year research student. Epidemiology of Perinatal Mortality.

JOHN CLARK, M.A., M.B., B.Chir., D.P.M. Senior Lecturer, on Sabbatical leave from the Department of Psychology, University of Manchester, until September 1981.

SHELLEY DAY, 2nd year Research Student, studying the psychological effects of obstetric medicine on woman.

MARGARET DYSON, Research Assistant, working on 'Separating Parents and their Children'.


CHRIS HENSHALL, B.A. 4th year Research Student, (SSRC). Gender and sex-role development.

ELSPETH HIGHTON, 3rd year Research Student. Studying stress in University students.


JANE KENRICK, Research Assistant. Working on family ideologies.

PHYLLIS OSBOURNE, Unit Secretary.


JANE SELBY, M.A. 4th year Research Student (SSRC). Working on the social and psychological issues of being a career woman.

MARTIN STONE, 1st year Research Student. Studying the relationship between the theoretical development of Psychology and Psychiatry and their current areas of practice within the Medical Health Services.

ANNE WEISSMAN, M.A. (N.Y. Univ.), 2nd year Research Student, observing the potential differences in interaction between depressed/non-depressed mothers and their infants.

ASSOCIATED

DAVID INGLEBY, Social & Political Sciences, Free School Lane, Cambridge.

AIDAN MACFARLANE, Paediatric Consultant, 6 Cobden Crescent, Oxford.

ELENA LIEVEN, Department of Psychology, University of Manchester.

ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNIT IN THE RECENT PAST

HEALTH EDUCATION COUNCIL - DENTAL HEALTH PROJECT

Mike Craft, Ray Croucher and Ann Gilbert. Now at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Trumpington Street, Cambridge.
PAST RESEARCH STUDENTS

TONY BOOTH, now a tutor at the Open University, Milton Keynes.

JENNY CORRIGALL, now at Commissioners Cottages, Swaffham Prior Fen Cambridge.

JUDY DUNN (formerly BERNAL), now at the Sub-department of Animal Behaviour, High Street, Madingley, Cambridge.

JOANNA HAWTHORNE, now working in Chicago. (Home address: 932 East 56th Street, No.2, Chicago, Illinois 60637, U.S.A.).

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

GRAHAM RICHARDSON, now at 25 Falkland House, Marlloes Road, London W85LF

CATHY URWIN, now at the University of Warwick, Coventry.

MIKE WOOD, now at 654 Finchley Road, London NW11 7NT.