1986-87 Child Care & Development Group (formerly Medical Psychology Unit)  
(Department of Paediatrics and Social & Political Sciences Committee)

(Tel. (0223) 350381 until Easter 1986.)  
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The work of the Group 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. Members of the Group teach for various departments in the University, including Social and Political Sciences, Experimental Psychology, the Medical Sciences Tripos and the Department of Paediatrics.

The library of the Institute of Child Psychology is now housed in our premises. This came to us together with the Margaret Lowenfeld Fellowship, held by Dr. Catherine Urwin, through the Lowenfeld Trustees. We also have been given some archival material relating to Dr. Lowenfeld and the Institute of Child Psychology. Anybody wishing to consult this should contact Dr Urwin. Sally Roberts is our Honorary Librarian. The library also houses books given by Professor Harry Highkin following the death of his wife Elspeth, who was a research student in the Group at the time of her death.

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Barbara Antonis has been working on the development of the children in the longitudinal study and completing a project (begun by J.F. Saucier) on first pregnancies and the early months of parenthood. She also works part-time in a psychiatric day clinic for adults.

Frances Barnes is engaged on a study of 3 year old children - focusing on patterns of communication in the family. Work continues on the relationships between pregnancy factors, the children's status at birth and their later development, including handedness. She plans to spend much of the year in Australia.

Jill Brown - Secretary for the Group.

Les Goldmann (research student) is researching the psychological aspects of anaesthesia and surgery. He is particularly interested in the question of awareness under anaesthesia and the preoperative psychological preparation of patients.

Josephine Green, Vanessa Coupland, Jenny Kitzinger are working on a study of maternity services in a number of hospitals, currently focussing on the implications of different staffing structures. The three-year study is funded by The Health Promotion Research Trust and The Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust. The research will also look at the questions of women's choices and expectations throughout the childbirth process.

Lynne Murray (Winnicott Fellow) is studying infants in the first eighteen months whose mothers suffer from depression in order to explore the development of interpersonal and emotional processes. She is drawing on both British psychoanalytic theory and the empirical work of developmental psychologists. The research is funded by the Winnicott Trust and the Camilla Samuel Fund.
Shirley Prendergast and Alan Prout have just finished a study of parenthood teaching and learning in secondary schooling, based on number of case studies of knowledge and classroom process. The Health Education Council have provided a further 2 years funding to include development and dissemination work. More publications are also planned.

Frances Price is engaged on preliminary planning and a pilot study for a national survey of triplets and high order births. This survey will cover obstetric, paediatric, social and psychological aspects of families with multiple births and is being carried out in collaboration with researchers in several other institutions including OPCS and NPEU.

Janet Reibstein is working on the effects on adolescents of parental affairs. Her field of specialization is adolescence and the family, and past research has included a study of adolescent mothers.

Martin Richards main interests are in the effects of marital separation on children and the intended and unintended consequences for children and their parents of perinatal medicine. Current research projects include studies of night waking in infants, maternity services in local hospitals, a national survey of triplets and higher order multiple births and neonatal screening for genetic disorders.

Sally Roberts - Assistant Secretary, Unit Librarian and Computer Representative.

Gordon Scott is investigating night waking in infants under a grant from The Health Promotion Trust. He is evaluating the effects of offering support, advice and information to parents of infants under a year who are regarded as having a night waking problem by means of a randomised controlled trial.

Elaine Shaps is examining the Margaret Lowenfeld Papers and the Library of the Institute of Child Psychology, in relation to the development of child psychotherapy and development psychology. She is also looking at changing orthodoxies about parents and children in popular child care literature since the war.

Deborah Thom has begun a three-year historical study of the notion of maladjustment in child guidance clinics and school psychological services in England and Wales under an ESRC project grant. Past research has been women's employment and intelligence testing in the educational system.

Nicola Totterman (second year research student supported by an ESRC CASS award) is studying family life within a Naval community, where fathers are intermittently absent from home. She is particularly interested in how this life-style affects the emotional development of children aged 5-9 years.

Cathy Urwin (Margaret Lowenfeld Research Fellow) has recently carried out a small-scale longitudinal study of relationships between same-aged babies. She is interested in making links between psychoanalytic and other clinical approaches and academic developmental psychology, and is currently training as a child psychotherapist. With Elaine Shaps, she is also working on postwar childcare books and changing norms of parenting.
Selected publications

Barbie Antonis

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

Lynne Murray


Shirley Prendergast and Alan Prout

Prendergast, S. (with Brown, P., MacIntyre, M., Morpeth, R.) A daughter, a thing to be given away. 'Women in Society', Virago 1981.


Frances Price

M.P.M. Richards


Richards, M.P.M. How should we approach the study of fathers? In M. O'Brien and L. McKee (eds.) 'The Father Figure'. Tavistock, 1982.


Oakley, A. and Richards, M.P.M. Elective delivery: attitudes and responses of parents and children. Unpublished manuscript. 1985


Deborah Thom

Cathy Urwin


