



Child Care & Development Group
University of Cambridge

Current Research 1989/1990



CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Introduction

The Group, which is part of the Social and Political Science Faculty and is closely associated with the Department of Paediatrics, exists to carry out research on parent-child relations and associated topics. While the University provides working space, equipment and other support, the main funding for research comes from outside bodies. Currently the level of funding from these sources is running at nearly £200,000 per year.

This booklet is intended to provide a brief description of the Group and its work. Readers wishing to know more about a particular research project should contact the person listed in the description of the research.

Members of the Group

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Margaret Lowenfeld Library

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.

CENDIF (Centro de Investigaciones para La Infancia y La Familia)
Metropolitana University, Caracas, Venezuela

We maintain an academic link with CENDIF, a group engaged in both research and intervention projects with poor families. The latter are run in partnership with members of the poor communities - mostly in the barrios of Caracas - and have a strong element of 'basismo' or grass roots organisation as well as a grounding in developmental psychology and other relevant social sciences. The link with CENDIF is funded by the British Council.

A brief history of the Unit

The history of the Child Care and Development Group began in 1966 when I was given a grant by the Nuffield Foundation to set up an observational follow-up study of Cambridge infants and their parents. I was offered a home for this project in the Unit for Research on the Medical Applications of Psychology, which was housed in a building in Salisbury Villas in Station Road. This Unit had been set up by the then Professor of Experimental Psychology, Oliver Zangwill, with the support of the Regius Professor of Physic as an embryo psychiatry department and to accommodate work on psychopathology. Judy Dunn joined me to work on the longitudinal project and soon others, also interested in developmental research, came to the Unit. Among the early researchers were Joanna Ryan, who set up a project on language acquisition in subnormal children and her graduate student, Elena Lieven; Frances Barnes, Paul Light and Barbara Antonis, who came to work on the continuation of the longitudinal project. The developmental research grew as the psychopathologists moved their work to buildings with better laboratory facilities and we simplified the name to the Medical Psychology Unit. In 1972 the lease of the building expired (it became a language school) and we moved to our present premises on the top floor of the Old Cavendish Laboratory. This became vacant when the physicists moved to a new building on Madingley Road. We were later joined in the building by Social and Political Sciences. In the early days of the Group the administrative links were with the Experimental Psychology Laboratory and the, then, Postgraduate Medical School. With the setting up the Clinical School and its Department of Paediatrics, that became our medical link and, indeed, has proved a valuable source of research collaboration and support. With my appointment to a teaching post in Social and Political Sciences and our close proximity to them - geographical and intellectual - that became our other link and we are now a part of the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences.

While the group has never had a narrow definition of its area of interest, this has always, directly or indirectly, concerned parents and children. Projects have ranged from fetal life through all the years of childhood onto marriage and childbearing. We have always been a multidisciplinary group and among our number we have people who began their careers and continue to teach in psychology, sociology, social anthropology, history, medicine and zoology. In professional terms, as well as links with Paediatrics, we have close connections with psychotherapy, social work, counselling, midwifery, the education system, divorce conciliation, child and adult psychiatry, and adoption and fostering. Because in our work we have always tried to place the development of children in its social context, many of our studies have concerned the role of professionals as well as parents, in such settings as labour wards, secondary schools, neonatal units, divorce courts and child abuse case conferences.

The University provides us with the fundamentals of working space, equipment and an administrative structure and all other research funds come from outside bodies. Funding sources range from Government departments, the Research Councils, to private foundations and industry. In the early years the Nuffield foundation played a particularly important part in our support. Today our grant income is approximately £200,000 per year. The bodies currently providing our funding are listed under the individual projects. As with most social science research the bulk of the projects are funded on a relatively short-term basis, of which the major part is salaries. Some postgraduate students are attached to the Unit, and, when space permits, visitors needing space to work for a short time or on sabbatical leave are also accommodated.

Our weekly research seminars (see p.25) have been a feature of the Group since the earliest days. These we have used to widen our horizons by asking people outside the Group to come and talk about their work, as well as for discussion of our own projects. We are pleased to welcome a very diverse audience at these meetings. The meetings have always been held at lunchtime, and in the Station Road era in the summer we often met in the garden under an old pear tree. Today we have a seminar room which affords excellent views of Kings College Chapel and some of the older parts of Cambridge. This room also houses a small library which has grown from an original collection of books from the Institute of Child Psychology, a gift of the Lowenfeld Trustees. The central themes of the collection are the interrelationship of child psychology and psychotherapy, and child care manuals for parents. We also hold the Lowenfeld Archive. This has many papers and letters by and related to Margaret Lowenfeld as well as her test material and other records of the activity of the Institute of Child Psychology. We also have an archival collection of papers and research reports produced by members of the Group.

Martin Richards

Martin P.M. Richards

First degree (Zoology, 1962) and a Ph.D. (1965, working on maternal behaviour in the golden hamster) from University of Cambridge. After a period working at Princeton University and the Centre for Cognitive Studies at Harvard I returned to do research in the Child Care and Development Group. In 1970 I became a University lecturer in Social Psychology and in 1989 Reader in Human Development. Main research interest has been in parent-child relations, including the influences on this of medical and other professional practice.

Parental divorce and children

For the past decade I have been involved in a series of studies of the effects of parental divorce on children and the ways in which the legal system and related activities in the voluntary sector cope with divorce. Studies have ranged from interviews with parents to the analysis of court judgements, and has been funded by the ESRC and the DHSS. Recently I have become interested in extending the work into a more general consideration of the interconnections of parent-child relationships and those between parents. This research which is at a preliminary stage involves both historical and cross-cultural analysis.

An overview of the research related to divorce may be found in J. Burgoyne, R. Ormrod and M.P.M. Richards, 'Divorce Matters', Penguin Books, 1987.

A new project begun in 1989 investigates the longer term effects of parental divorce for children using existing data from large scale longitudinal studies. This work will be carried out in collaboration with Jane Elliott and is funded by the Health Promotion Research Trust (see p.23).

Neonatal care

A considerable part of the work of the Group in the recent past has been related to the provision of specialised care for sick and term infants and the ways in which this care may influence the infants relationships with their parents. A major concern has been the effects of separation on this relationship and ways in which such effects may be ameliorated. In the last few years with growing attention being paid within neonatal units to the support of parental relationships, my attention has turned to an examination of decision making about the provision of care and related ethical issues.

An overview of our research related to neonatal care may be found in J.A. Davis, M.P.M. Richards and N.R.C. Robertson (eds) 'Infant-Parent Attachment in Premature Infants'. Croom Helm, 1983.

Prenatal screening for genetic and congenital abnormalities of the fetus

One of the most rapidly expanding areas of medicine in the development of methods for fetal diagnosis through such techniques as amniocentesis, ultrasound scanning, chorion villus biopsy and gene probe methods. The deployment of these methods poses a series of psychological and social questions, especially for parents, which as yet have been little investigated. Together with Jo Green I am engaged in a project to investigate some of these questions which started in 1989 (see p. 7). As part of this work we hope to set up a study of screening for sickle cell anaemia. The project has been supported with a major grant from the Health Promotion Research Trust. The grantholders are Martin Richards, Jo Green,

Martin Bobrow (Guy's Hospital) and Ann Oakley (Thomas Coram Research Unit).

A second study will begin in 1990 which is concerned with the reactions of families to the diagnosis of a son with Duchenne muscular dystrophy. The work is being planned with Professor Martin Bobrow of Guys Hospital and is funded by the Muscular Dystrophy Trust.

Some other relevant books and papers:

The Politics of Maternity Care, edited with J. Garcia, R. Kilpatrick.
Oxford University Press, 1989.

Infancy: The World of the Newborn. Harper and Row; 1980

Children in Social Worlds: Development in a Social Context. (edited with P. Light) Polity Press/Harvard University Press, 1986

Richards, M.P.M. Fatherhood, marriage and sexuality: some speculations on the English middle-class family. In C. Lewis and M. O'Brien (eds) Reassessing Fatherhood. Sage Publications, 1987.

Scott, S., Lucas, P., Cole, T. and Richards, M.P.M. (1983) Weight gain and movement patterns of very low birthweight babies nursed on lambswool. The Lancet, ii, 1014-1016,

Richards, M.P.M. (1987) Children, parents and families: developmental psychology and the re-ordering of relationships at divorce. International Journal of Law and the Family, 1, 295-317.

THE MATERNITY SERVICES RESEARCH GROUP

WORK IN PROGRESS

Social and psychological aspects of prenatal diagnosis

March 1989 to February 1992

Research team: Josephine Green, Helen Statham, Claire Snowdon

Grant holders: Martin Richards, Josephine Green, Martin Bobrow (Guy's Hospital) and Ann Oakley (Thomas Coram Research Unit)

Funded by the Health Promotion Research Trust

Screening for fetal abnormalities has become an integral part of antenatal care for most women. The majority will now expect to have at least one ultrasound scan during the course of their pregnancy, and blood tests to measure the level of alpha feto-protein are also the norm in many hospitals. Women who are identified as being at high risk on the basis of these screening tests, or on the basis of their age, race or previous history, are likely to be offered amniocentesis which can offer a more definitive diagnosis.

This study will examine the experiences of an unselected group of women at hospitals with different screening policies. Women will be asked to complete four postal questionnaires: prior to booking, at 20 weeks, at 36 weeks and six weeks after the birth. Some women and their partners will also be interviewed.

The questionnaires will monitor changes in women's knowledge and attitudes with regard to screening during pregnancy. These will be considered relative to other aspects of their lives including:

- reproductive history,
- experiences during this pregnancy,
- perception of their own risk of fetal abnormality,
- attitudes towards abortion,
- attitudes towards medical care,
- the desire to obtain information,
- hospital practice.

Anxiety about fetal abnormality will be examined in the context of other sources of anxiety and the woman's predisposition to being anxious.

There will be two further aspects of this study. The first will be an extension of the main project carried out in the Midlands with women at risk for sickle cell conditions. The second will involve observations of women undergoing ultrasound which will focus particularly on the communication between mother and ultrasonographer.

RESEARCH COMPLETED

Implications of medical staffing structures for midwives and doctors on the labour ward.

Research Team: Jo Green, Vanessa Coupland, Jenny Kitzinger

Publications

- Green, J., Kitzinger, J. and Coupland, V. (1986) The Division of Labour: Implications of medical staffing structures for midwives and doctors on the labour ward. Child Care and Development Group, Cambridge.
- Kitzinger, J., Green, J. and Coupland, V. (1989) Labour Relations: Doctor and Midwives on the labour ward. In J. Garcia, R. Kilpatrick and M. Richards (eds) The Politics of Maternity Care Oxford University Press, in press.
- Coupland, V., Green, J., Kitzinger, J. and Richards, M. (1987) Obstetricians on the Labour Ward: Implications of medical staffing structures. Brit.Med.J., 295, 1077-1079.
- Green, J., Coupland, V., Kitzinger, J., Harvey, J. and Hare, M.J. (1989) Observations on Obstetric Staffing: The Myth of the 3-tier norm. J. Obstetrics & Gynaecology, 9, 289-292.

Women's expectations and experiences of childbirth

Research Team: Jo Green, Vanessa Coupland, Jenny Kitzinger

Publications

- Green, J., Coupland, V. and Kitzinger, J. (1988) Great Expectations: A prospective study of women's expectations and experiences of childbirth. Child Care and Development Group, Cambridge.
- Green, J., Kitzinger, J. and Coupland, V. (1990) Midwives responsibilities, medical staffing structures and women's choice in childbirth. In Midwives, Research and Childbirth, vol. 3. eds. Robinson and Thomson (forthcoming).
- Green, J., Coupland, V. and Kitzinger, J. (1990) Expectations, experiences and psychological outcomes of childbirth: a prospective study of 825 women. Birth (forthcoming).

Other papers and a book in preparation.

Josephine Green

I graduated in Psychology at the University of Sheffield, 1970, Ph.D. at the Hester Adrian Research Centre, University of Manchester, 1973. My research has ranged from problems of numeracy (or otherwise) amongst Arts graduates to the problems of families of handicapped children and adults, and the support that they receive from both statutory and voluntary bodies. I am currently Senior Research Associate on the Maternity Services Research project.

In addition to the projects described here I shall also be working on a study of families affected by Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. This project is funded for three years from January 1990 by the Muscular Dystrophy Group of Great Britain (Grant holders: Martin Richards, Martin Bobrow (Guys Hospital, London) and myself). We will be looking at parents' feelings about the information they have been given, the use that they feel that they can make of genetic risk estimates, and the implications of carrying an X linked disorder for family relationships.

Helen Statham

After graduating from the University of Durham in 1972 with a degree in Zoology, I undertook research on frog muscle physiology (University of Liverpool, 1972-76) and on human cultured muscle cells (Royal Post Graduate Medical School, 1976-83). The human muscle work was funded by the Muscular Dystrophy Group, and although employed as a cell biologist, my interests increasingly tended towards genetics and the implications for families of prenatal diagnosis.

Before joining the MSRG as a Research Associate on the prenatal screening project, I spent 3 years researching women's experiences of termination of pregnancy following the detection of fetal abnormality.

Claire Snowdon

After graduation in 1987, Claire worked as a Research Assistant on a number of different projects in the Dept. of Community Medicine at St Thomas' Hospital, London. She will be joining the prenatal screening project in October 1989 and will also be working for a Masters Degree in Women's Studies at Anglia Higher Education College.

MARRIAGE AND EXTRAMARITAL RELATIONSHIPS

Date started: January 1987
Date due to finish: January 1991

Researchers: Janet Reibstein and Martin Richards

Funded by William Heinemann, Publishers

While it is generally agreed that many, if not most, married men and women have some extra marital sexual experience, very little is known about the phenomena. Without better knowledge many kinds of support and help for married people are less effective than they could be. The presence of HIV virus in the community both changes the significance of extra marital sex and makes better knowledge of it more pressing. This study aims to investigate extra marital relationships in the context of marriage with the aims of a) mapping out their types, number and frequency; b) building an adequate typology to describe them and; c) to provide an understanding of the motives that lead to the various kind of involvements or their absence. Thus while the study concentrates on non-monogamy, it is hoped that this study will illuminate people's feelings about and expectations of marriage.

Recent Publications

Reibstein, J. Sex role development and the marital life cycle. In D. Clark and J. Burgoyne (eds) *Class, Culture, and Contemporary Marriage*. Book in preparation.

Reibstein, J. (1988) Family therapy, sex role development throughout the life cycle: A useful concept. J.Family Therapy, 10, 153-166.

Janet Reibstein

I qualified as a psychotherapist with a special training and interest in therapy with couples and families. I received my Ph.D. in Human Development (Psychology) from the University of Chicago (1981) and post-graduate psychotherapy and clinical training certificates from the University of Chicago Department of Behavioral Sciences, Michael Reese Hospital, Dept. of Psychiatry (1983) and Northwestern University Medical School/Family Institute of Chicago (1984).

My previous work and research interests have been on therapeutic change, particularly in groups; on change through important life cycle transitions; on psychotherapy with families; and on marriage and their changes at important life cycle events. Present work includes teaching and training people to do psychotherapy with couples and families as well as continuing to do psychotherapy with individuals, couples and families.

NIGHT WAKING IN INFANCY

September 1984 to December 1988
Grantholder: Martin Richards

Researcher: Gordon K. Scott

Funded by The Health Promotion Research Trust



Night waking in babies is one of the difficult problems that parents of young children may have to face. There are many different ideas about what causes the problem and what is best done about it. The study aimed i) to discover exactly how common the problem is and whether it is typically associated with particular kinds of families or living circumstances and, ii) to test out a booklet written for parents to see if it helped them with their night waking problem.

We did this with i) a postal survey of the incidence of night waking in a representative sample of about 1000 English one year olds and ii) an intervention study in which support and information was offered to the mothers of children under 18 months who were waking regularly at night. The study is now completed and we are writing up results for publication.

i) The postal survey of families

Addresses of 1500 families with one year olds were obtained from the community health registers in 6 Health Service Districts. These were selected from the north and south of England and from urban and rural areas to get a cross section of communities. Each family was sent a questionnaire which included questions about night waking and other aspects of child rearing as well as some details about the family. 69% of the families returned the questionnaire.

About half of all families reported some kind of problem with their one year olds sleeping and 26% said their baby was waking on average at least 5 nights a week. Night wakers were found with equal frequency among all social class, among breast feeders and bottle feeders, among boy and girl babies, and among all types of housing. However, they were more common in households which were overcrowded. Babies that regularly slept in their parents' bedroom were more likely to wake regularly but it is not clear whether this is because night wakers are more likely to be taken into their parents' bedroom or because being in the parents' bedroom disturbs the baby.

From the replies it is clear that though there was a wide range of attitudes to night waking (some parents, for example, did not think that a baby waking 5 times or more a week was 'a problem') many found night waking very stressful and mothers of night wakers were less likely to say they generally felt well. They also more often wanted their partners to help more with the baby. Mothers also had more mixed feelings about their babies if they woke often.

Parents had tried a very wide range of ways of dealing with night waking - from sleeping medicines to leaving the baby to cry. No method seemed particularly helpful and the rather depressing picture is that the problem is a very persistent one, at least through the first year.

ii) The intervention study

Mothers with night waking babies they considered a problem were divided into 3 groups (30 mothers and babies in each). The first were given our booklet which was especially written for the study and support visits, the second the booklet only and the third neither the booklet nor support visits until the end of the study. A fourth comparison group of mothers and babies who did not wake at night was also included. All 4 groups were assessed after 3 months.

On all our measures of night waking - number of nights the baby woke, number of times the baby woke each night - and the assessment of how well the mothers themselves felt, all three night waking groups improved over the three months of the study but no one group did better than the others suggesting that our booklet and support visits were not particularly helpful (at least as far as these measures are concerned). However, mothers said they valued the visits and that they found the booklet interesting and useful.

It was of course disappointing to find no particular improvement in night waking in the families who received our booklet and visits from Gordon Scott. Other studies have found night waking to be intractable and perhaps we were over optimistic to expect a marked improvement in 3 months. All babies tended to sleep a bit better as they got older. Some parents said they felt better able to cope with the problem after reading the booklet even though the night waking itself had not changed much.

A book for parents on night waking is in preparation.

Publications

Night Waking in Infancy. Child Care and Development Group, 1985. (The booklet used in the intervention study).

Night Waking in Infancy. G. Scott and M.P.M. Richards. 1988. Report to the Health Promotion Research Trust.

Night Waking in Infants: Effects of providing advice and support for parents. G. Scott and M.P.M. Richards. J. Child. Psychology Psychiatry, in press.

Night Waking in Infants: a review. G. Scott, in preparation.

Night Waking in One Year Olds. G. Scott and M.P.M. Richards, in preparation

NATIONAL STUDY OF TRIPLETS AND HIGHER ORDER BIRTHS: THE PARENTS STUDY

Date started: July 1986 - Final Report completed 1989.

Researcher: Frances V. Price

Funding sources: Department of Health (until 31st July 1989); Doris Bott Fund (continuing).

The tasks of tending, nurturing and caring for triplets, quadruplets, quintuplets or sextuplets - higher order multiple birth children - place extraordinary demands on their caretakers, at first in hospital and later at home. In recent years, these births have formed a greater proportion of all maternities, although they are still unusual.

Little is known about how parents of higher order multiple birth children cope, the extent to which they can elicit assistance from others or the services they use. The National Study of Triplets and Higher Order Births, of which the parents study is an integral part, is the first population based study of the problems faced by those responsible for the care of these children. The main objective of the study of parents is to obtain information about the sources of assistance, advice and material benefit and the specific needs and problems of parents who care for triplets, quadruplets, and quintuplets and more. Parents' own views about the resources, needs and nature and timing of the practical help and support required are central to the study. This information, it is hoped, can provide the basis for the planning and provision of appropriate support by the health and social services and by voluntary bodies. In addition such information may be of direct value not only to parents who have experienced a higher order multiple birth but also to clinicians and all those who are faced with decisions relating to the medical management of infertility in the attempt to alleviate childlessness.

The Final Report, which is now with the Department of Health, is based on the analysis of the first two hundred and ninety-nine questionnaire returns from, and also seventy-four interviews with, parents whose triplets, quads and quins were born in the years 1979-1988 inclusive. The report draws attention to the wide-ranging social and economic implications of a higher order multiple birth and to the need for adequate provision of support and assistance to the parents of these children, especially in the pre-school years.

A book Three, Four and More: The National Study of Triplets and Higher Order Births for publication by HMSO early in 1990 is in preparation.

Frameworks for Understanding Public Interpretations of Science and Technology: Diagnostic Obstetric Ultrasound and In Vitro Fertilization

Associate Director/Consultant: Frances Price

Funding source: ESRC (Project A 09 25 008)

This project is part of the ESRC Initiative 'Public Understanding of Science' and is being conducted collaboratively with Dr Brian Wynne and other researchers who are focussing on the medical and environmental effects of ionising radiation at the University of Lancaster.

Recent Publications

- Price, F.V. (1987) The social and economic consequences of a higher order multiple birth. J. Obstetrics and Gynaecology, 8, 81-84.
- Richards, M.P.M. and Price, F.V. (1987) Licensing work on IVF and related procedures. Lancet (letter) i, 1373-1374.
- Macfarlane, A., Price, F., Daw, E.G. and Botting, B. (1987) Multiple pregnancy and assisted reproduction, Lancet (letter) ii, 1090.
- Price, F.V. (1988) The Risk of High Multiparity with IVF/ET. Birth 15, 157-163.
- Price, F.V. (1988) Establishing guidelines: regulation and the clinical management of infertility. In R. Lee and D. Morgan (eds,) Birthrights: Law and ethics at the beginnings of life, pp. 37-53. London: Routledge.
- Price, F.V. (1989) The management of uncertainty in obstetric practice: diagnostic obstetric ultrasound and in vitro fertilization and embryo transfer. In M. McNeill, I. Varcoe and S. Yearley (eds.) The social context of the new reproductive technologies. London: Macmillan.
- Price, F.V. (1989) Multiple pregnancy: ethical questions and policy debates. In E.V. van Hall and W. Everaerd The Free Woman: Women's Health in the 1990s. Camforth, Lancs: Parthenon.
- Price, F.V. Joint editor and contributor to Three, Four and More: A National Study of Triplets and Higher Order Births. London: HMSO (forthcoming 1990).
- Price, F.V. Sacrificing siblings?: the dilemmas surrounding selective fetacide. In R. Lee and D. Morgan (eds), Death duties: Law and ethics at the end of life. London: Routledge (forthcoming).
- Price, F.V. Isn't she coping well?: the extraordinary circumstances of parents of caring for triplets, quads and more. In D. Harvey (ed) The Stress of Multiple Births. (Forthcoming, 1990)

Frances Price

Graduation in Sociology at the University of Wales in Cardiff was followed by employment first as a research assistant to Professor Peter Townsend in the Dept. of Sociology, University of Essex and subsequently as a lecturer in adult and continuing education provided by the Home Office and the Universities of London, Brunel, Lancaster and the Open University. Later, when my two children were older, an SSRC studentship enabled me to do research full-time for my Ph.D. which was based on a longitudinal study of a panel of households with at least one child born in one Registration district in the North West of England. A longstanding and continuing research interest (reflected in both my Ph.D. work and in the Triplet Study) has been the social and historical significance of relatedness in relation to early child-care, to contemporary adoption practices and to the new reproductive technologies.

1. POST PARTUM DEPRESSION AND INFANT DEVELOPMENT

Date started: October 1985.

Date expected to finish: March 1992.

Researchers: Lynne Murray, Claire Kempton, Ruth Sagovsky, Helen Marwick,
Andrew Carothers.

Funded by the Winnicott Trust, Medical Research Council, and Camilla
Samuel Fund.

Background

Studies of children aged 1-15 years, whose mothers suffer from depression, show impaired outcome on measures of cognitive and language development, a raised incidence of psychiatric disturbance, and greater insecurity of attachment.

Methods

This research project aims to elucidate the processes involved, by carrying out a prospective longitudinal study in which comparisons are made of interactions between depressed mothers and their infants and randomly selected control mothers and their infants, over the first 18 months of life. Assessments are also being made of these children's development on a range of cognitive and linguistic variables.

Recent Publications

- Murray, L. and Trevarthen, C. (1985) Emotional regulation of interactions between two-month olds and their mothers. In Social Perception in Infants. T.M. Field and N. Fox (eds). Ablex, New Jersey.
- Murray, L. and Trevarthen, C. (1986) The infant's role in mother infant communications: Journal of Child Language 13 15-29
- Murray, L. (1988) Effects of Postnatal Depression on Infant Development: the Contribution of Direct Studies of Early Mother-Infant Interaction. Chapter in Motherhood & Mental Illness Vol. II Brockington I & Kumar R (Eds). John Wright.
- Murray, L. (1988) The influence of postnatal depression on infant development. Marce Society Bulletin, Summer.
- Murray, L. and Carothers, A.D. (1989) Post-natal Depression in 702 Cambridge Mothers: Estimation of prevalence and validation of the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS). Brit.J.Psychiatry, in press.
- Murray, L. (1989) Childbirth as a life event: the Cambridge study of postnatal depression and infant development. In Childbirth as a Life Event. J.L. Cox and E.S. Paykel (eds). Univ. Southampton Press.
- Murray, L. (1989) Winnicott and the Developmental Psychology of Infancy. British J. Psychotherapy. 5 (3): 333-348.

2. THE PREDICTION AND TREATMENT OF POSTNATAL DEPRESSION, AND THE
PREVENTION OF ITS ADVERSE EFFECTS ON INFANT DEVELOPMENT

Starting date: October 1989
Date expected to finish: September 1992

Researchers: Lynne Murray, Peter Cooper, Ian Goodyer, Steven Smith,
Angela West, Freda Gardner.

Funded by the Birthright and the Royal College of Obstetricians and
Gynaecologists Award.

Information about the epidemiology of postpartum depression from the first study described above in a population of over 700 Cambridge mothers, combined with the evidence from Dr Peter Cooper's study of the prevalence and course of postnatal depression in a large Oxford sample has permitted Dr Cooper and me to draw up a predictive index, for antenatal administration, to identify women at risk for postnatal depression. This predictive index will be administered at antenatal clinics, and its sensitivity and specificity will be established by following up all potential cases in a random sample of potential non cases at 6 weeks postpartum. The index could then be used by those working in obstetric clinics to identify a high risk population who would benefit from special care.

Women identified in this phase of the study as suffering from postnatal depression will be randomly assigned to one of four conditions: routine primary care, non directive counselling, psychotherapy, or mother-infant interaction treatment. This last treatment will be developed on the basis of the specific pattern of deficits in mother-infant relationships identified in the first study described above. The infant's outcome on a range of measures and the mother's emotional state, will be monitored for eighteen months to compare the relative effectiveness of the different treatments.

Lynne Murray

I read Psychology at Edinburgh University for my first degree, and then went on to complete my Ph.D. in developmental psychology there in 1980. During this time in Edinburgh I was also able to pursue my long-standing interest in Psychoanalytic theory through contacts with the Scottish Institute of Human Relations.

In October 1985, having worked as a psychologist for 2 years for the MRC, I took up appointment as Winnicott Research Fellow in Cambridge. In holding this post I am attempting to integrate the theories of infant development of British Psychoanalysis (and particularly those of Donald Winnicott) with the perspectives of developmental psychologists, and as a data base, am using evidence about the development of infants whose mothers are depressed.

Girls and the transition to secondary school: health implications of girls' adjustment to menstruation

Date started: April 1989

Date due to finish: April 1992

Researcher: Shirley Prendergast

Funded by the Health Promotion Research Trust

Menarche and the early experience of menstruation are pivotal events in the process of young women's understanding of, and coming to terms with, themselves as adult. The experience not only organises their knowledge of the body, both cognitively and psychologically, but operates as a powerful symbolic marker of the ways in which this new female identity is socially valued. Although seen as private and personal, and rarely openly discussed, menarche and menstruation are, like other experiences of the body, as Turner demonstrates, nevertheless shaped by the social contexts in which they occur. For young women school is the first major public setting in which such new identities will be made manifest, through which these values will be lived, and where the experience must be emotionally and practically dealt with. For most girls these events occur in parallel with the early years of the transition from primary to secondary school, a time when the curriculum and educational achievement become more polarised in relation to gender.

Although these are important issues, with potential long term consequences for education and health, we know very little about them, particularly in relation to the experiences of girls themselves. The research combines ethnographic and quantitative methodologies, working through four LEA's to provide data on both girls' knowledge and experience of these events, and the setting - the secondary schools, the curriculum, the attitudes of teachers and the actual lessons, in which they take place. An extensive literature review, a report, and following book and journal articles are planned for 1992-3.

Recent Publications

(with Alan Prout) 'The Natural and the Personal: Reflections on birth films in school', British Journal of the Sociology of Education, Vol. 6, No. 2, 1985.

(with Alan Prout) 'Some reflection on pupil knowledge as a resource in parenthood and family life education'. In Childhood. Milton Keynes: Open University (Course PE631), 1985.

(with Alan Prout) 'Knowing and Learning about Parenthood'. 1987. Health Education Authority Research Monographs Series, No. 17.

(with Alan Prout) 'Smile at him when you ask for the books: transmitting sexuality in class'. In Producing and Reducing Disaffection. Ed. T. Booth and D. Coulby, 1987. OU Press: Milton Keynes.

'Girls' Experience of Menstruation in School'. In L. Holly (ed.) Girls and Sexuality, 1989. OU Press, Milton Keynes.

Shirley Prendergast

I graduated in Social Anthropology at Cambridge. I have mostly worked in educational research using ethnographic quantitative methods to explore aspects of health, sexuality and the learning process. I am particularly interested in exploring recent sociological debates about the body in relation to women's health, and am joint convenor of the BSA Human Reproduction Study Course.

HISTORY OF CHILD GUIDANCE

Researcher: Deborah Thom

Currently seeking funding for research project entitled Records of Child Guidance to start Spring 1990. I am writing up the last project on maladjustment in context in articles and book form.

Selected Recent Publications

The 1944 Education Act - the 'act of the possible'? In H. Smith (ed) War and Social Image, Manchester University Press, 1985.

'Women's employment in Britain', ed. J. Winter and W. Wall. The upheaval of war. Cambridge University Press, 1988.

'Freed from chains' in W.G. Stedman Jones and D. Feldman, Metropolis Routledge Kegan Paul, 1989.

'Nice girls and rude girls': women workers in the Woolwich Arsenal. In R. Samuel (ed.) Patriotism and the making of the national identity. Routledge, 1989.

'Girls and the 11+'. In F. Hunt (ed.) The Upbringing of Daughters. Blackwells, 1987.

Currently writing a book on educational psychology, intelligence testing and child guidance from 1940-1970 called The History of the Clinic.

Deborah Thom

My first degree was in history after which I trained as a teacher and taught in a London comprehensive for two years. I then reentered higher education at Warwick University with an MA in Comparative Labour History followed by a variety of part-time teaching jobs in higher education for 6 years while I had my first 2 children. I did my Ph.D. on women's employment and the First World War part-time at my main place of work, Thames Polytechnic. In January 1982 I began a 3 year research project on the history of intelligence testing at the Department of Education, Cambridge and followed this by a second ESRC project at the Child Care and Development Group. I am Director of Studies in Social and Political Science at Newnham and Robinson Colleges and a Fellow of Robinson. I am course organiser for the Women in Society paper in SPS and lecture in the History and Education faculties as well. I am interested in the history of social regulation, particularly of women and children, and hope to extend the child guidance project into the 1980s.

MARGARET LOWENFELD RESEARCH FELLOW

Researcher: Cathy Urwin
Funded by Margaret Lowenfeld Trust

Cathy Urwin has 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 has just completed training as a child psychotherapist.

Recent Publications

- Henriques, J., Hollway, W., Urwin, C., Venn, C. and Walkerdine, V. (eds.) (1984) Changing the Subject: Psychology, Social Regulation and Subjectivity. London: Methuen.
- Urwin, C. (1984) Language for absent things: learning from visually handicapped children. In C. Snow (ed.) Topics in Language Disorders, 4, 24-37.
- Urwin, C. (1985) The Construction of Motherhood: The Persuasion of Normal development. In C. Steedman, C. Urwin and V. Walkerdine (eds.) Language, Gender and Childhood. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul.
- Urwin, C. (1986) Psychoanalysis and Developmental Psychology: Splitting the Difference. In P. Light and M. Richards (eds.) Children in a Changing World. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Urwin, C. and Hood-Williams, J. (eds.) (1988) Child Psychotherapy, War and the Normal Child. Selected papers of Margaret Lowenfeld. London: Free Associations (in press)

Cathy Urwin

I studied psychology at Bedford College, London from 1968 to 1971 and then did a Master's course at Nottingham University with John and Elizabeth Newson. I came to Cambridge in 1972 to do research for a Ph.D. on social interaction and early language development in blind infants. I then worked in Oxford with J.S. Bruner on a project on early language development, before taking a post as a lecturer at Warwick University.

In 1981 I took up a position as Margaret Lowenfeld Research Fellow. This position was supported by a Trust fund set up in the name of Margaret Lowenfeld, a child psychotherapist who practised from 1928 until her death in 1973. Broadly speaking, the original purpose of the Fellowship was to foster link-making between academic developmental psychology and the concerns of child psychotherapists, paediatricians and other practitioners. While holding this post I have carried out a research study on social relationships between same aged babies, and a historical study of childcare books. Dina Lew helped in the initial stages of this work and more recently the historical survey has been done jointly with Elaine Sharland. From 1984 I also began training as a child psychotherapist at the Tavistock Clinic, London. From September 1989 I will be working part-time in London as a child psychotherapist while continuing to work here on a one day a week basis.

PARENTAL DIVORCE AND ADOLESCENTS' ATTITUDES TOWARDS MARRIAGE

Date Ph.D. started: October 1986
Dated due to finish: October 1989

Researcher: Fiona Tasker

Funded by an Economic and Social Research Council Post-graduate Award

The research is concerned with the effects of differing parental marriage relationships and parent-child relationships on teenagers' current close relationships and dating experience. From this, and the teenagers' expectations of their own possible marriages in the future, inferences are being drawn about the processes involved in the repetition of family patterns and parent-child relationships across generations.

The respondents in this study are both male and female 18 year olds in the Cambridge area who come from varying social class backgrounds. These adolescents were asked to fill in a survey questionnaire. From their answers to the questionnaire a smaller group of subjects were selected for interview.

I obtained a B.A. in Psychology from University College of Swansea in 1986.

DIVORCE AND KINSHIP

Date Ph.D. started: January 1988
Date due to finish: January 1991

Researcher: Christina Sinclair

Funded by Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund, Canada, ORS Award

My research explores the connections between extended family relationships and the attitudes and decision-making of couples in such areas as courtship and marriage, management of conflict and parenting. Through interviews and questionnaires I am planning to compare both across generation (parents and grandparents) and within generation (parents and their siblings). I am using a sample of Cambridge families which includes married, common-law, divorced and re-married households.

I graduated BA (Psych) 1973, University of Tasmania, Australia and MSc (Psychopathology) 1976, University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada. As a certified clinical/counselling psychologist and mediator in Calgary, I have had 11 years of generic experience in a number of applied fields, primarily working with individuals, couples and families. I am a partner in a group private practice which provides community service in adult individual, sexual and relationship counselling, plus a growing involvement with divorce mediation.

INTERMITTENT FATHER ABSENCE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN

Date Ph.D. started: October 1984

Date finished: June 1989

Researcher: Nicola Totterman (left Group August 1989)

Funded by Economic and Social Research Council, CASS Studentship

Background:

Intermittent father absence is a fairly common family pattern, yet little research has been carried out in this field. Most father absence studies tend to concentrate on children whose fathers are absent due to divorce, death or desertion. The few studies that do exist suggest that boys, being more affected than girls, develop poor peer relationships, sleeping problems, aggressive behaviour, hostility as well as attention seeking and fearfulness.

Present study:

The present study is concerned with children from naval families who experience frequent separations from their fathers. Some children may only see their father for a few weeks of the year and odd week-ends. Other children may experience separation from the father for 6-9 months at one time. Fathers may also be intermittently absent for 12-18 months after which they may be home for the same length of time. Two groups of families were examined. One group, whose fathers had been intermittently absent from home for the last two years or more, was compared with a group of children whose fathers were home for a similar length of time. Age and sex were taken into account as well as age of child when father first went away to sea. 90 mothers and children were interviewed. Children were interviewed about their feelings regarding their father going away and their self-concept. In addition the older children were given a depression scale. Mothers were interviewed about their children's behaviour and their adjustment to the father's intermittent absence and presence in the home. Questions were also asked about mothers' own coping strategies of being part of a two parent household yet spending a great deal of time as a single parent, the support they receive from their husbands, family and friends when their husbands are home and away. The results are being written up for my Ph.D. thesis.

Nicola Totterman

I graduated from Oxford Polytechnic with a joint honours degree in Psychology and Anthropology after which I received a M.Sc. in Child Development from London University, Institute of Education. I then spent three years at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, as a research assistant, working with children with leukaemia. Currently I am writing up my Ph.D. on naval families at the Child Care and Development Group in Cambridge.

My research interests have ranged from mothers' attitudes towards early post-natal care both in England and Finland, language mixing in bilingual and trilingual speaking children, the effect medical treatment has on the intellectual development on children suffering from leukaemia to father absence and the effect on children's emotional and social development.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF DIVORCE FOR CHILDREN

B. Jane Elliott

I began work in April 1989 with Martin Richards on a three year project investigating some of the consequences of divorce for adults and children, particularly those related to health. The work is based on the analysis of three existing large data sets, the Health and Lifestyle Survey and the 1958 and 1970 National Birth Cohort Surveys. A further postal survey of selected respondents to the Health and Lifestyle Survey is also planned. Using computer modelling techniques we hope to illuminate the processes by which the experience of divorce influences adults and children. It is hoped that improved knowledge of these processes and outcomes after divorce will provide a better basis for the growing number of counselling, support and legal services which cater for divorcing couples and their children.

I graduated in 1987. The Cambridge Tripos system allowed me to do Part IA of my degree in Mathematics and Part II in Social and Political Science. This reflects my love of things numerical and my interest in social issues. Since finishing my degree I have been involved with helping several members of Child Care with the analysis of their data. I also worked for a year in the Department of Psychiatry analysing data from the Health and Lifestyle Survey as research assistant to Dr Felicia Huppert. Currently I am working in the Department of Applied Economics, analysing survey data on individuals' experiences and perceptions of the labour market.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE IN EGYPT

Marjaneh Halati joined the Group as a graduate student in January 1989. She is working on aspects of middle class marriage in Egypt and plans to compare Islamic fundamentalist couples with other Islamic and with Coptic couples.

INTERMARRIAGES AND INTEGRATION

Sultan Kocaoluk. I am working on the role of the intermarriages in the integration of Turkish migrants in Britain.

I joined the Group as a graduate student in January 1990. I studied sociology at the University of Istanbul and also did my M.A. degree at the same university.

THE WORK OF D.W. WINNICOTT

Madeleine Davis

From 1971 until 1985, during the time our five children were growing up, I was a voluntary worker in hostels for ex-offenders in Manchester and then in Cambridge. I also worked in Manchester Prison. For the last ten years I have been involved in the publication of the posthumous papers of D.W. Winnicott, and am now one of the Editors to the Winnicott Trust and have special responsibility for the last stages before publication. I am co-author, with David Wallbridge, of Boundary and Space: an Introduction to the Work of D.W. Winnicott (Penguin Books, 1983). This year I am involved in conducting seminars on Winnicott's ideas with the British Association of Psychotherapists and with the Cambridge-centred Bioenergetics Training course. Since 1984 I have also been training with the British Association of Psychotherapists, and see patients in Cambridge.

VISITORS

David Messer

Currently a senior lecturer in the Psychology Division, Hatfield Polytechnic, he will be spending a Sabbatical in the Group from January to September 1990. Among the work he plans to do in this period is a follow up of our night waking study sample that took part in our postal survey (see p.11) and others working on parent-child relationships.

Gay Ochiltree

I am a visiting scholar from the Australian Institute of Family Studies where I coordinate aspects of the Institute's work concerned with children in families. At present I am working on a large scale study in three states of Australia (South Australia, Western Australia and Victoria). This study, known as the Early Childhood Study, examines the contexts of care of pre-school children and the relationship with child competence on starting school. The study which has been undertaken in two stages, uses a questionnaire sent to mothers of children in beginners grades at school at the first stage. The sample for stage one is 8,471 mothers. At stage two 762 mothers were selected from the stage one sample. These mothers were interviewed about the subject child, family life, health matters, values, mother's work history, child-care arrangements, and division of labour in the family. The child was tested for competence using several measures. This study is also concerned with policy matters, as the Institute is working with two State and one Federal government departments which are concerned with the provision of childrens' services and the changing context of rearing pre-school children.

My visit to Britain has been made possible by an Alice Creswick Foundation grant. This grant is to enable me to meet researchers in similar fields, to look at services to children in the pre-school years, government policies relating to children, and support provided for parents and children.

My other interest is in the effect of marital disruption on children. I previously coordinated a major study for the Institute which focussed on the effects on children of living in different family types.

Recent Publications

Ochiltree, Gay (1989) 'The changing contexts of child rearing in Australia, Australian Journal of Early Childhood, Vol. 14 (1).

Ochiltree, Gay (1988) 'The effects of marital disruption on children an overview' Family Matters: Australian Institute of Family Studies Newsletter, Issue No.22.

Ochiltree, Gay (in press) Australian children in families, Longmans Cheshire, Melbourne.

Ochiltree, Gay (in press) Children in stepfamilies, Prentice-Hall, Sydney.

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Lunchtime Seminars - Michaelmas Term 1988

(Meetings held at 12.30 on Tuesdays in Room 606)

- October 18th Jenny Popay - (Thomas Coram Research Unit, London)
"Artefactual explanations for excess morbidity amongst women: a case study on tiredness".
- October 25th Break for half term.
- November 1st Deborah Thom - (Child Care and Development Group)
"Who shaped child guidance in Britain?"
- November 8th Liz Hodder - (Founder, National Step-Family Association, Cambridge)
"Step-families".
- November 15th The Maternity Services Research Group - (Child Care and Development Group)
"Great Expectations: women's expectations and experiences of childbirth".
- November 22nd Arnlaug Leira - (Institute for Social Research, University of Oslo, Norway)
"Preschool provision in Norway"
- November 29th Tina Sinclair - (Child Care and Development Group)
"Joint custody - facts and fiction"
- December 6th Martin Richards - (Child Care and Development Group)
"St Kilda: History of Britain's most isolated island community"

If you wish to come to a seminar, please arrive on time,
so we may begin promptly at 12.30 p.m

Child Care and Development Group,
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Cambridge CB2 3RF.

Tel (0223 334510)

Child Care and Development Group

Lunchtime Seminars - Lent Term 1989

(Meetings held at 12.30 on Tuesdays in Room 606, CCDG)

- January 24th Lesley Regan - Dept Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Rosie Maternity Hospital, Cambridge. "The effect of reproductive history on pregnancy outcome".
- January 31st David Messer Hatfield Polytechnic. "The infants contribution to social interaction: an examination of data patterns".
- February 7th Jeffrey Vass & Ruth Merittens - Dept. of Teaching Studies North London Polytechnic (general topic area) Social-cultural mediation of cognitive development in children. (specific title t.b.a.)
- February 14 Sheila Greene - Dept of Psychology, Trinity College, Dublin. (general topic area) Mother-child relationships. (specific title t.b.a.)
- February 21 Penny Mansfield - Marriage Research Centre "Partnering and parenting".
- February 28 Annette Lawson - Sociologist "Adultery, the masculination of sex and the feminization of love."
- March 7 Penny Munn - MRC Unit, Madingley. "Developments in social rule understanding during children's third year."
- March 14 Janet Walker - Centre for Family and Dispute Resolution: University of Newcastle upon Tyne "Conciliation processes: Are objectives being met?"

N.B. Please note that Ann Scott will be presenting a paper at the Cambridge Group for the History of Psychiatry, Psychoanalysis and Allied Sciences Seminar Wednesday Feb. 1 12.30 - 2.00 at the Dept of History & Philosophy of Science, Free School Lane, Seminar Room 1.
Title - "Phantasy in question: The Maltings House School in Cambridge Re-visited".

If you wish to come to a seminar, please arrive on time,
so we may begin promptly at 12.30 p.m.

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Child Care and Development Group

Lunchtime Seminars - Easter Term 1989

(Meetings held at 12.30 on Tuesdays in Room 606, CCDG)

- April 25th Harry Ferguson - Graduate Student, S.P.S.
"The Cleveland child sex abuse crisis: historical & cultural reflections".
- May 2nd John McKinney - Psychology Dept., Michigan State University, U.S.A.
"Values & agency in adolescence".
- May 9th Lesley Regan - Dept. Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Rosie Maternity Hospital, Cambridge.
"The effect of reproductive history on pregnancy outcome".
- May 16th Jane Jefferson - Dept. of Science & Technology Policy: University of Manchester.
"The social impact of genetic screening".
- May 23rd Alan Prout - South Bank Polytechnic, London.
"Food as a cultural artefact in children's social relationships - (some undigested thoughts!)".
- May 30th Janet Walker - Centre for Family & Dispute Resolutions: University of Newcastle upon Tyne.
"Conciliation processes: Are objectives being met?"
(to be confirmed)
- June 6th Nicola Totterman - Child Care & Development Group
"The intermittent husband syndrome among naval wives".

If you wish to come to a seminar, please arrive on time,
so we may begin promptly at 12.30 p.m.

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Line drawings by Shirley Prendergast.

