



CENTRE FOR FAMILY RESEARCH

University of Cambridge

Current Research 1993



The garden in Free School Lane stands on the site of part of the original University Botanic Garden. This moved to its present site when the Cavendish Laboratory was built. The garden is maintained by Martin Richards. Currently the garden is under scaffolding while the stonework and roof is being renovated. Hopefully all will be restored in the winter.

May 1993

CENTRE FOR FAMILY RESEARCH  
(formerly Child Care and Development Group)

Introduction

The Centre, which is part of the Social and Political Sciences Faculty, exists to carry out research on family life and parent-child relations. 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 about £400,000 per year.

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

From April to October 1993 the Centre will be housed at 2/3 Bene't Place, Lensfield Road, while mercury is being cleared from the Old Cavendish Building (a legacy from the physicists). However, our postal address and phone numbers remain unchanged, and we now have a new FAX number 0223 - 330574.

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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, which was 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 Sally Roberts, 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.

Contacts

General enquiries and seminar programme : Jill Brown 334510  
 Centre archive, library and Lowenfeld Archive : Sally Roberts 334514

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### Visitors

John Morss is a visitor in the Centre from January 1993 for one year. He is on leave from the Department of Education, University of Otago, New Zealand. John is a psychologist with strong interests in theoretical issues related to the notion of development. His 'The Biologising of Childhood: Developmental Psychology and the Darwinian Myth' was published by Lawrence Erlbaum in 1990. He is currently working on a new book, 'Lifestories: towards an anti-developmental psychology' for the Routledge Critical Psychology Series.

### A brief history of the Unit

The history of the Centre for Family Research 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 Committee (now Faculty). 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. In 1992 we changed our name to the Centre for Family Research.

While the group has never had a narrow definition of its area of interest, this has always, directly or indirectly, concerned parents, children and families. 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 mediation, child and adult psychiatry, and adoption and fostering. Because in our work we have always tried to place the development of children and the lives of their parents in a 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, support for part of a secretarial post, 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 £400,000 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 Centre, 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.38) have been a feature of the Centre since the earliest days. These we have used to widen our horizons by asking people outside the Centre 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 materials 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 Centre.

Martin Richards

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.

Carlos Leighton

It is with great regret we record the tragic death of Carlos Leighton in a car accident in Caracas in July 1992. Carlos completed a Ph.D. with us. After his return to his post at the Metropolitana University he set up CENDIF which carries out intervention projects and research in the poor communities of Caracas. He published many papers about the work with poor families and their children.

CENDIF was very much Carlos's creation but its work will continue as will the Link with Cambridge. All who knew Carlos miss his warmth, timeless energy and, above all, his commitment to improve the lot of the children of poor families.

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 Centre for Family Research. 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 and family life - especially marriage and divorce and more recently, social and psychological effects of the new genetics.

Parental divorce and children

For the past decade I have carried out 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. These have ranged from interviews with parents to the analysis of court judgements. Later this work was extended into a more general consideration of the interconnections of parent-child relationships and those between parents.

An early 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.

We have just completed an investigation of the longer term effects of parental divorce for children using existing data from large scale longitudinal studies. The work was carried out in collaboration with Jane Elliott and was funded by the Health Promotion Research Trust (p. 36).

- On a more practical level I have been concerned with the development of divorce mediation in Cambridge and am a Trustee of the Cambridge Family and Divorce Centre:
- Richards, M.P.M. (1990) Divorce Cambridge Style, Family Law, November 1990.
- Richards, M.P.M. Divorce Research Today, Family Law, February 1991.
- Reibstein, J. and Richards, M.P.M. (1992) Sexual Arrangements: Marriage and Affairs. Heinemann. Mandarin 1993, Scribners 1993.
- 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.
- Richards, M.P.M. and Elliott, B.J. (1991) Sex and marriage in the 1960s and 1970s. In D. Clark (ed.) Marriage, Social Change and Domestic Life. Essays in honour of Jackie Burgoyne. Routledge.
- Richards, M.P.M. and Elliott, B.J. (1992) Children and divorce; educational performance and behaviour before and after parental separation. Int.J. of Law and the Family, 5, 258-278.
- Richards, M.P.M. (1993) Private worlds and public intentions. The role of the State at divorce. In A. Bainham and D. Pearl Frontiers of Family Law. Chancery Lane Publishing.
- Richards, M.P.M. 1992. Learning from divorce. Chapter in C. Clulow (ed) Does Marriage Matter? Karnac Books, in press.



### Neonatal care

A considerable part of the work of the Centre 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. I am currently engaged with Dr. Janet Rennie of the Department of Paediatrics, in developing a project to provide support for parents who have children in the neonatal unit and to evaluate this.

Overviews 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); and M.P.M. Richards 'Psychological aspects of neonatal care' in N.R.C. Robertson (ed.) Textbook of Neonatology, Edinburgh, Churchill Livingstone (1st ed. 1986, 2nd ed. 1992).

### Social and psychological aspects of the new genetics

Growing out of earlier work on prenatal screening and diagnosis we have become increasingly interested in work on the new genetics (work involving the application of recombinant DNA techniques).

Richards, M.P.M. (1989) Social and ethical problems of fetal diagnosis and screening. J. Reprod. Infant Psychol. 71, 671-85.

A study began in 1990 which is concerned with the reactions of families to the diagnosis of a son with Duchenne muscular dystrophy. The work is being carried out with Professor Martin Bobrow of Guys Hospital and is funded by the Muscular Dystrophy Group (see p.14). This work has now been extended to cover a wider range of questions related to the new genetics including a project concerned with families who carry neurofibromatosis which has been funded by the MRC.

In 1992, together with Jo Green, I edited a special issue of the Journal of Reproductive and Infant Psychology on fetal diagnosis and the new genetics which appeared in January 1993. This issue contains several papers from the Centre as well as those from elsewhere.

Richards, M.P.M. and Green, J.M. Screening for fetal abnormality - some social and psychological consequences. To appear in Proceedings of a Fulbright Colloquium on The Social Consequences of Life and Death under High Technology Medicine. Life and Death under High Technology Medicine edited by I. Robinson. Manchester University Press, 1993.

Richards, M.P.M. The new genetics: some issues for social scientists. Sociology of Health and Illness, in press, 1993.

The family ties of prisoners

A study of the extent to which male and female prisoners, both British and foreign nationals, are able to retain their links with family and children has been completed (see p. 19). Results of the project have been reported to the Home Office who funded the research and will soon be cleared for publication.

Richards, M.P.M. (1991) The separation of children and parents; some issues and problems. In R.Shaw (ed.) Prisoners' Children. What are the issues? Routledge.

Transitions to adulthood

Work has recently begun on a new project which will examine transitions of young people from their families of origin into adult relationships, households and the world of work. The initial phase of the work will include the analysis of some existing data sets and a major review of published research. The project is funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (see p. 27).

## Recent books:

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. Also available in a number of foreign language editions.

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

Obstetrics for the 1990s. Current Controversies. (edited with T.Chard) MacKeith Press, 1992

Sexual Arrangements: Marriage and Affairs (with J. Reibstein) Heinemann, 1992.

## MATERNITY SERVICES/PSYCHOSOCIAL ASPECTS OF GENETICS

The Maternity Services Research Group was established in 1985 with grants from the Health Promotion Research Trust and the Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust. The most recent projects carried out by the MSRG have been concerned with the impact of screening for fetal abnormality. From here it has been a short step to examining the wider issues of genetic screening and other psychosocial aspects of genetics.

### Social and psychological aspects of prenatal diagnosis

March 1989 to August 1992.

Research team: Josephine Green, Helen Statham, Claire Snowdon,  
Merry France-Dawson

Grant holders: Martin Richards, Josephine Green, Martin Bobrow (Guy's Hospital) and Ann Oakley (Social Science Research Unit, Institute of Education, London)

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 foeto-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 examined the experiences of an unselected group of women at nine hospitals with different screening policies. Women completed four postal questionnaires: prior to booking, at 22 weeks, at 36 weeks and six weeks after the birth. Some women and their partners were also interviewed.

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

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

Anxiety about fetal abnormality has been examined in the context of other sources of anxiety and the woman's predisposition to being anxious. 1824 women were recruited to the study.

Two additional projects supplemented the main study:

#### The sickle cell study

This study replicated the methodology of the main study with a sample of women from 2 hospitals in the West Midlands. The sample contained a high proportion of women of Afro-Caribbean origin who are at increased risk of having sickle cell trait (i.e. being a carrier). We have examined differences between Afro-Caribbean and non-Afro-Caribbean women within this sample, and differences between these groups and the main sample. The study was carried out by Merry France-Dawson, and was funded by the HPRT.

#### Ultrasound observation

With a grant from the Marie Stopes Research Fund, we pursued some of the issues arising from the main study concerning ultrasound scanning. We visited three of the main study hospitals and approached women waiting for their scan. We gave them information about the research and ask whether we might accompany them during their examination. At this time we collected some information about the woman's background, her previous experiences of scanning and her attitude to the pregnancy. We observed the scan and afterwards talked to the woman about her understanding of what had happened and her feelings about it. We interviewed 30 women in each hospital at the time of their routine scan at 18-20 weeks.

#### Screening for Down's syndrome

Serum screening for Down's syndrome was introduced into a number of districts in Britain with little consideration of the psychological and social aspects of the test. Twenty women who had contacted Support After Termination For Abnormality about their experiences of receiving a positive result following serum-screening for Down's syndrome were interviewed; the data collected in these interviews was presented at a meeting, called by the King's Fund in July 1992 which focussed on the "human" side of this screening test.

#### The politics of prenatal screening: a look at recent history

January - September 1993

Staff: Josephine Green

Funding: Institute for Social Studies in Medical Care

This project is exploring the recent political history of prenatal screening, both by examining published material and by repeating a survey of consultant obstetricians carried out by Wendy Farrant in the late 70s. Of particular interest will be the consistency of arguments advanced for and against various types of screening, and comparisons between AFP screening for neural tube defects, age screening for Down's syndrome and the new Down's syndrome serum screening.

## Publications

- Green, J.M. (1990) Calming or Harming? A critical review of psychological effects of fetal diagnosis on pregnant women. Galton Institute, Occasional papers, Second Series, No.2.
- Green, J.M. (1990) Commentary: Prenatal screening and diagnosis: some psychological and social issues. Brit.J. Obs. & Gynae, 97, 1074-6.
- Green, J.M. (1993) Women's experiences of prenatal screening and diagnosis In: Abramsky, L & Chapple, J (Eds) The Human side of Prenatal Diagnosis, London: Chapman & Hall (In press)
- Green, J.M. & France-Dawson, M. (1993) Women's experiences of routine screening during pregnancy: the sickle cell study. Proceedings of a symposium entitled "Targetting health promotion: reaching those in need", Kings Fund Centre, London, 24th June 1992.
- Green, J.M. and Murray, D. (in press) The use of the EPDS in research to explore the relationship between antenatal and postnatal dysphoria. In J.L. Cox and J. Holden (eds) Prevention of depression after childbirth: use and misuse of the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale. London, Gaskell Press.
- Green, J. & Statham, H. (1993) Testing for fetal abnormality in routine antenatal care. Midwifery (in press)
- Green, J.M., Snowdon, C. and Statham, H. (1993) Pregnant women's attitudes to abortion and prenatal screening. Journal of Reproductive and Infant Psychology, 11(1), 31-39.
- Green, J.M., Statham, H. and Snowdon, C. (1991) EPDS by post. British Journal Psychiatry, 158, 865.
- Green, J.M., Statham, H. and Snowdon, C. (1992) Screening for fetal abnormality: attitudes and experiences. In T. Chard and M.P.M. Richards (eds), Obstetrics in the 1990s: Current Controversies. Mackeith Press.
- Green, J.M., Statham, H. and Snowdon, C. (1993) Women's knowledge of prenatal screening tests. I: Relationships with hospital screening policy and demographic factors. Journal of Reproductive and Infant Psychology, 11(1), 11-20.
- Green, J.M., Statham, H. and Snowdon, C. (1993) Pregnancy: A testing time. Report of the Cambridge Prenatal Screening Study. Centre for Family Research, University of Cambridge.
- Maternity Services Research Group: Memoranda submitted to the House of Commons Maternity Services Inquiry, March 1991, published in Vol. III of the Inquiry's Second Report (1992).
- Richards, M.P.M. and Green, J.M. (1993) Attitudes toward prenatal screening for fetal abnormality and detection of carriers of genetic disease: a discussion paper. J Reproductive and Infant Psychology 1993; 11: 49-56.
- Richards, M.P.M. and Green, J.M. (in press) Screening for fetal abnormality: some social and psychological consequences. Paper for the proceedings of a Fulbright Colloquium (December 1991) on 'The Social Consequences of Life and Death under High Technology Medicine'.
- Statham, H. (1992) Professional understanding and parents experience of termination. In D.J. Brock, C.H. Rodeck and M.A. Ferguson Smith (eds) Prenatal Screening and Diagnosis, pp. 697-702. London: Churchill Livingstone
- Statham, H. (1993) Women's experiences of termination of pregnancy for fetal

- abnormality. In: Abramsky, L & Chapple, J (Eds) *The Human side of Prenatal Diagnosis*, London: Chapman & Hall (In press)
- Satham H. & Dimavicius, J. (1992) How do you give the bad news to parents? *Birth*, 19: 103-104.
- Satham, H. & Green, J. The effects of miscarriage and other 'unsuccessful' pregnancies on feelings early in a subsequent pregnancy. *J Reproductive and Infant Psychology* (submitted for publication).
- Satham, H. & Green, J. (1993) Issues raised by serum screening for Down's syndrome: some women's experiences. *British Medical Journal* (in press)
- Satham, H., Green, J. and Snowdon, C. (1991) When is a fetus a dead baby? *Lancet*, 6th April, 1991.
- Satham, H., Green, J. and Snowdon, C. (1992) Psychological and social aspects of screening for fetal abnormality during routine antenatal care. In *Proceedings of 'Research and the Midwife'*, November 1992.
- Satham, H., Green, J. and Snowdon, C. (1993) Mothers' consent to screening newborn babies for disease. *British Medical Journal*, 306, 858-9.
- Satham, H., Green, J., Snowdon, C. & France-Dawson, M. (1993) Choice of baby's sex. *Lancet*, 341, 564-5.

#### Publications from earlier Maternity Services Research Group studies

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

Research Team: Josephine Green, Vanessa Coupland, Jenny Kitzinger

#### Publications

- 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.
- 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.
- Green, J., Kitzinger, J. and Coupland, V. (1993) Midwives' responsibilities, medical staffing structures and women's choice in childbirth. In S. Robinson and A. Thomson (eds.) *Midwives. Research and Childbirth, Vol.III*. Routledge, Chapman and Hall, London.
- Kitzinger, J., Green, J. and Coupland, V. (1990) 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.
- Kitzinger, J.V., Green, J.M. and Coupland, V.A. (1993) Labour Relations: Doctors and

Midwives on the labour ward. In J. Walmsley, J. Reynolds, P. Shakespeare and R. Woolfe (eds) Health, Welfare and Practice: Reflecting on roles and Relationships. London, Sage.

### Women's expectations and experiences of childbirth

Research Team: Josephine Green, Vanessa Coupland, Jenny Kitzinger

#### Publications

- Green, J.M. (1990) Who is unhappy after childbirth?: Antenatal and intrapartum correlates from a prospective study. J.Reprod. & Infant Psych. 8, 175-83.
- Green, J.M. (1993) Expectations and experiences of pain in labor: Findings from a large prospective study. Birth, 20 (2) 65-72.
- 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., Coupland, V. and Kitzinger, J. (1990) Expectations, experiences and psychological outcomes of childbirth: a prospective study of 825 women. Birth 17:1, 15-24.
- Green, J.M., Kitzinger, J.V. and Coupland, V.A. (1990) Stereotypes of childbearing women: a look at some evidence. Midwifery, 6, 1-8.
- Green, J., Kitzinger, J. and Coupland, V. (1993) Midwives responsibilities, medical staffing structures and women's choice in childbirth. In S. Robinson and A. Thomson (eds) Midwives, Research and Childbirth, vol. III. Routledge, Chapman and Hall, London.
- Green, J., Richards, M., Kitzinger, J. and Coupland, V. (1991) Mothers' perceptions of their 6-week-old babies: Relationship with antenatal, intrapartum and postnatal factors. Irish Journal of Psychology, 12, 133-144.

## PSYCHOSOCIAL ASPECTS OF GENETICS

### Attitudes to genetic screening

Two hundred couples who had taken part in our prenatal screening study and who intended to have another child, were sent a questionnaire about attitudes towards genetic screening. The second part of the questionnaire focussed on cystic fibrosis carrier screening, while the first section was concerned with more general attitudes.

#### Publications

- Green, J.M. (1992) Principles and practicalities of carrier screening: attitudes of recent parents. J.Med.Genet. 29: 313-319.
- Richards, M.P.M. and Green, J.M. (1990) Cystic fibrosis carrier screening: Issues and questions for research. Presented to the MRC Health Services Research Committee, 17th December 1990.

Richards, M.P.M. and Green, J.M. (1993) Attitudes towards prenatal screening for fetal abnormality and detection of carriers of genetic disease: a discussion paper. Journal of Reproductive and Infant Psychology, 11(1), 49-56.

### Duchenne muscular dystrophy: families' responses to diagnosis and genetic counselling

January 1990 - December 1992

Researchers: Josephine Green, Frances Murton

Grant holders: Martin Richards, Josephine Green, Martin Bobrow (Guy's Hospital).

Funded by the Muscular Dystrophy Group of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The last few years have seen major changes for potential carriers of Duchenne muscular dystrophy, both in the diagnostic information that can be given and in styles of genetic counselling. This study examined families' responses to diagnosis and genetic counselling. The study had the following aims:

- (1) To assess the relative efficacy of counselling, advice, information and support given by different people (including paediatricians, geneticists, health visitors, support groups and church and religious groups) and how this is viewed by the recipients.
- (2) To describe the attitudes of the families to future reproduction and prenatal diagnosis and how such attitudes may have altered with counselling.
- (3) To identify aspects of advice and help that may have had particularly positive or particularly negative effects on attitudes.
- (4) To compare the experience of families who have received care through one of the major specialist centres with families who receive care elsewhere.
- (5) To examine effects that the disease and decision making about it may have had on the relationship between the parents and each of their involvement with the care of the affected son and other sons and daughters.
- (6) To examine effects of the disease and its progress on siblings of the affected child and relatives outside the nuclear family.

Data was collected by postal questionnaires and interviews from 158 families who have had a child with Duchenne muscular dystrophy born since 1978. The final report is in preparation.

#### Publications

Green, J.M. & Murton, F. (1992) Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy: Families responses to diagnosis and genetic counselling. Paper presented to the Third European Meeting on Psychosocial aspects of Genetics, University of Nottingham, 21-23 September, 1992.

Green, J.M. & Murton, F.E. (1993) Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy: Families Responses to Diagnosis and Genetic counselling. Centre for Family Research, University of Cambridge (in preparation)



**Social and psychological implications of identifying women with a family history of ovarian cancer**

December 1991 to February 1992.

Researchers: Josephine Green, Frances Murton, Helen Statham

Grant holders: Josephine Green, Maggie Ponder (CRC Human Cancer Genetics Group)

Funded by Cancer Research Campaign

**Purpose of the study**

The long-term aim was to investigate the social and psychological implications of identifying women with a family history of ovarian cancer. The CRC funded a 3 month pilot study to carry out interviews with 20 women.

In the longer term it is intended that the research should provide answers to a number of specific questions which may be considered under the following headings:

- Prior assumptions about risk
- Understanding of risk
- Knowledge of the disease
- Coping with the knowledge of high personal risk
- Experience of screening for ovarian cancer.

**Publications:**

Green, J., Murton, F. & Statham, H. (1993) Psychosocial issues raised by a familial ovarian cancer register. Journal of Medical Genetics, 30, 101-105.

**New reproductive technologies: attitudes and experience of carriers of recessive disorders**

1st October 1992 -

Researchers: Josephine Green, Claire Snowdon.

Grant holders: Josephine Green, Claire Snowdon, Christine Barnes (Genetic Counsellor SE Thames Regional Genetics Centre)

Funded by Medical Research Council.

The rapid development of reproductive technologies in recent years has created new choices for known carriers of genetic disorders. Prenatal diagnosis gives the option of selective termination of pregnancy, while pre-implantation diagnosis and gamete donation can provide the opportunity to avoid the conception of an affected fetus.

The use of such techniques is not, however, without problems, such as the psychological sequelae of termination for fetal abnormality or the physical and emotional stresses inherent in assisted conception. Furthermore, for some carriers the situation

remains unchanged: prenatal diagnosis is not available for all conditions, and long waiting lists or prohibitive costs may make assisted conception impractical. In addition, personal convictions may render these techniques unacceptable.

Many assumptions are made about carriers' attitudes toward these techniques. However there is virtually no evidence available on the view of those for whose benefit these technologies have been devised. Such information is needed for appropriate service provision. The attitudes and expectations of 150-200 couples of reproductive age who carry a deleterious recessive gene are being examined.

### Families and Genetic Disorders

1st March 1993 -

Researchers: Josephine Green, Helen Statham, Frances Murton, Martin Richards  
 Grantholders: Martin Richards, Josephine Green,

Funded by Medical Research Council.

The 'new genetics' has implications for whole families, yet there is almost no psychosocial research on genetic disease from a family perspective. This study has three aims: (1) to investigate family members' knowledge of their genetic disorder, how they communicate about it and cope with its consequences, (2) to describe lay beliefs about heredity and health, (3) to investigate how knowledge and beliefs influence demands for genetic and other health services. Data will be collected mainly via in-depth interviews. The study focuses on two dominantly inherited disorders: hereditary ovarian/breast cancer and neurofibromatosis (NF1). We will be comparing families where NF has arisen as a new mutation with those with a family history, and people who have, or believe that they have, a familial disorder with those who do not. The project incorporates a self-contained longitudinal study of the process of genetic counselling in a late onset condition with a high degree of uncertainty and a study of the service implications of media publicity about genetic risk. The study will yield unique information on the interaction between beliefs and service demand, and of how service demand is influenced by family communication.

Initial funding is to develop appropriate methodologies for this research. The main study is planned to start in October 1993. We have also been awarded an MRC Research Studentship for work in this area.

### Publications

Richards, M.P.M. (1993) The new genetics: some issues for social scientists. Soc. of Health and Illness (in press)

It runs in the family: Beliefs about heredity and susceptibility to health risks among young people and their parents

Grant holders: Josephine Green & Martin Richards

Funded by the Health Promotion Research Trust for 18 months from October 1993.

Over the years, health promotion has urged people to take control and be responsible for their own health. The message has been that the causes of ill-health can be under the individual's control. Alongside this there have been developments in molecular genetics which are not only telling clinicians more about what have long been known to be 'genetic disorders', but also increasingly revealing genetic bases to other common disorders not previously thought of as 'genetic' (e.g. breast cancer). These divergent messages: on the one hand that good health is the reward for healthy living, and on the other that it is preordained by our genes and thus beyond our control, are going to pose an increasing challenge to health educators.

Contrary to the emphasis which health promotion has placed on lifestyle factors, we hypothesise that people are only receptive to these messages if they see themselves as susceptible, and that their judgement of their own susceptibility is heavily influenced by their family history, including a negative family history. Thus, in order to understand the ways in which people may respond to conflicting health messages, we need first to know what beliefs they hold about heredity and health.

We will be investigating these issues in interviews with a sample of 17-18 year olds and their parents.

Josephine Green

I graduated in Psychology at the University of Sheffield, 1970, Ph.D. at the Hester Adrian Research Centre, University of Manchester, 1973. Before joining the Child Care and Development Group, my research 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 have been Senior Research Associate here since 1985.

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 Child Care and Development Group 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

I graduated in 1987 and worked as a research assistant in the Dept. of Community Medicine at St Thomas' Hospital, London. The greater part of my time there was spent working on a study to assess the impact of family care officers on families affected by neuromuscular disease.

I joined the Child Care and Development Group as a Research Associate in 1989 and completed an MA in Women's Studies in 1991. The focus of my dissertation was the meaning of genetic ties in egg donation and host surrogacy, based on interviews with 13 women with experience of these situations.

#### Frances Murton

I graduated from the London School of Economics and subsequently worked for the Government Social Survey and as a Research Officer for the Family Planning Association of Hong Kong. I obtained a postgraduate social work qualification and was employed as a local authority social worker until March 1987. Since then I have undertaken adoption and fostering assessments for Cambridge Social Services, and I am currently a mediator with the Cambridge Family and Divorce Centre. I was appointed as a Research Associate in January 1991 to work for one year on the Duchenne Families Research Project. This has since been extended. I have also carried out interviews on the pilot study of the Familial Ovarian Cancer project.

#### Merry France-Dawson

After graduating in Anthropology and Biology in 1982 and Genetics in 1984, I worked at the Royal College of Nursing first as a research assistant and later as a research officer. Projects in which I was involved focussed on the role of the clinical nurse specialist caring for (1) Ostomates and (2) Juvenile diabetics. I then worked on a two part four year study on sickle cell conditions.

While working on this project, I did a small scale study (for a degree in research methods) which focussed on beliefs and attitudes towards pregnancy, childbirth, contraception and abortion (all of the sample members were known to have one or more sickle cell genes).

I joined the Maternity Services Research Group in April 1990 to work on the sickle cell study.

## IMPRISONMENT AND FAMILY TIES

October 1990 - June 1993

Research team: Martin Richards, Brenda McWilliams and Jill Enterkin.

Grantholder: Martin Richards.

Funded by the Home Office.

The research aims to evaluate the extent to which male and female prisoners are able to maintain relationships with their families, especially their children. The research has evaluated the provision in Prison Department establishments for fostering family ties, and for promoting family stability. It set out to examine whether there is a relationship between the provision of facilities at prisons, the maintenance of family ties and the rehabilitation of the prisoner. The research involved interviewing prisoners before and after their discharge as well as members of their families. The study included subsamples of women and men who are not UK subjects.

A report has been prepared by Dr Pat Owens for the Home Office on Visitor Centres and provision for visiting in prisons. This is available as an Occasional Paper, price £4 including postage.

Richards, M.P.M. (1991) The separation of children and parents: some issues and problems. In R. Shaw (ed.) Prisoners' Children. What are the issues? Routledge.

McWilliams, B. 'Imprisonment and family ties' pp 256-60 in Conference Proceedings: Prison Service Psychology Conference. (Scarborough, 16-18 October 1991). London: HM Prison Service, Home Office.

Further reports have been submitted to the Home Office and are awaiting clearance for publication.

### Brenda McWilliams

After graduating in Mathematics from London University, I worked for 10 years in the civil service, first at the Royal Aircraft Establishment in Farnborough, and then at the Home Office Research Unit (in the probation and after-care section). I was involved with several studies related to prison and probation, and I coordinated one large-scale random allocation project across five probation areas. Later, in Sheffield, I undertook some research into discretion in the breaching process of community service orders. I also worked at the MRC unit doing clinical assessments of patients referred for therapy to an experimental clinical project. I have most recently been employed on a DOH funded project at the Institute of Criminology, looking at Intermediate

Treatment for juvenile offenders. My responsibility has been coordinating the project and processing and analysing the data generated. I also provided statistical and computing advice to a number of short-term fellows at the Institute, and I am a member of the selection committee for Cropwood Fellows.

### Selected publications

- Chapman, B.C., Silberman, M. and McWilliams, B. (1971) After-care units in London, Liverpool and Manchester. In Explorations in After-Care. Home Office Research Study No. 9. London: HMSO.
- McWilliams, B. (1972) Practical aspects of experimental design. In Proceedings of the European Committee on Crime Problems. London: Home Office.
- Folkard, M.S. et al. (1974) Intensive Matched Probation and After-Care Treatment. Vol.1. Home Office Research Study No. 24. London: HMSO.
- McWilliams, B. (1980) Discretion and the Prosecution of Breach Proceedings: An Interim Report. University of Manchester, Department of Social Administration.
- Bottoms, A.E. et al. (1990) Intermediate Treatment and Juvenile Justice: Key Findings and Implications from a National Survey of IT Policy and Practice. London: HMSO.

### Jill Enterkin

After graduating from Goldsmiths' College, London University with a degree in Psychology I returned to Hong Kong where I remained for a year and a half working in the administration department of a large sports, recreation and yacht club. In 1989 I spent six months living in Indonesia before returning to England to complete a Masters degree in Criminology at Cambridge University.

Before joining the Group I worked as a research assistant at the Institute of Criminology on a project investigating organisational issues arising in inter-agency crime prevention initiatives.

Jill Enterkin has now left the Centre to do a PhD in the Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge.

FERTILITY/INFERTILITY AND THE HUMAN EMBRYO

Current Research

Date started: January 1993 - (Completion date December 1995)

Coordinator for the Social Sciences: Frances Price

Funding source: European Commission (grant held by the Centre for Philosophy and Health Care, University of Swansea)

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) Multiple pregnancy: ethical questions and policy debates. In E.V. van Hall and W. Everaerd *The Free Woman: Women's Health in the 1990s*. Carnforth, Lancs: Parthenon.
- Price, F.V. (1990) 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 New Reproductive Technologies*. London: Macmillan, p. 123-153.
- Price, F.V. (1990) Joint editor and contributor to *Three, Four and More: A National Study of Triplets and Higher Order Births*. London: HMSO.
- Price, F.V. (1990) Too much of a good thing. *New Scientist*, 18 August 1990, 29-30.
- (Joint) (1990) Multiple problems with the stomp of tiny feet. *Health Service Journal*, 1208.
- (Joint) (1990) The study of triplet and higher order births. *Population Trends*, 62, 26-28.
- (Joint) (1991) The National Study of Triplets and Higher Order Births in *The Sixth Report of the Interim Licensing Authority for Human In Vitro Fertilisation and Embryology*. London, ILA.
- Price, F.V. (1991) Asking questions about egg donation. *Les Sociologues dans le Debat Social en Europe*. Volume of conference proceedings. (Vol.4. Les Sociologues et les pratiques bio-medicales) CNRS/TRESCO Paris.
- Price, F.V. (1991) Extraordinary circumstances: caring for triplets, quads and more. In D. Harvey (ed) *The Stress of Multiple Births*. Multiple Birth Foundation.
- Price, F.V. (1991) How Many is Too Many? Triplets, Quadruplets and More. *1991 Medical and Health Annual*. Encyclopaedia Britannica.
- Price, F.V. (1992) 'Isn't she coping well?': providing for mothers of triplets, quadruplets and quintuplets. In H. Roberts (ed.) *Women's Health Matters*. London:

Routledge.

- Price, F.V. (1992) Assisting fertilisation: clinical practices and public concerns. In T. Chard and M.P.M. Richards (eds.) Obstetrics for the 1990s. Current Controversies. MacKeith Press.
- Price, F.V. (1992) Having triplets, quads or quins: whose responsibility? In M. Stacey (ed.) Changing Human Reproduction: Social Science Perspectives. Sage.
- Price, F.V. (1993) Now you see it, now you don't: mediating science and managing uncertainty in reproductive medicine. In A. Irwin and B. Wynne (eds.) Misunderstanding Science. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Edwards, J., Franklin S., Hirsh, E., Price, F. and Strathem, M. (1993) Technologies of Procreation: Kinship in the Age of Assisted Conception. Manchester: Manchester University Press.
- Price, F.V. (1993) Tailoring multiparity: the dilemmas surrounding death by selective reduction of pregnancy. In R. Lee and D. Morgan (eds), Death Rites: Law and Ethics at the End of Life. London: Routledge.

### Completed research

#### 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 1990); Doris Bott Fund.

A book which I co-authored Three, Four and More: The National Study of Triplets and Higher Order Births was published by HMSO in 1990.

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

Associate Director/Consultant: Frances Price

Funding source: ESRC. Final Report completed 1990.

This project was part of the ESRC Initiative 'Public Understanding of Science'. A book Misunderstanding Science to which I am a contributor, edited by Alan Irwin and Brian Wynne, is to be published in 1993 by Cambridge University Press.

#### The Prospect of Triplets and Quads

Completed: July 1991

Researchers: Frances Price, Ruth Bush, Julie Tucker.

This research project, funded by the Department of Health, followed from the recently completed Parents Study of the National Study of Triplets and Higher Order Births (see above). The main objective was to develop and pretest written material



about the prospect of triplets and quads for women and men attending infertility clinics in the UK.

The Representation of Kinship in the Context of the New Reproductive Technologies

Consultant: Frances Price.

Funding source: ESRC.

Final report completed 1991.

Consultant to ESRC funded project directed by Professor Marilyn Strathern, University of Manchester.

A book which I co-authored Technologies of Procreation: Kinship in the Age of Assisted Conception was published in 1993 by Manchester University Press.

Frances Price

I joined the Centre as a Senior Research Associate in 1985 after I had completed my PhD. Previously I had been employed as a university lecturer in sociology, latterly at the University of Lancaster. I am currently involved in a three year European Commission research project as coordinator for the Social Sciences and also in writing up my completed research projects for publication.

GIRLS AND THE TRANSITION TO SECONDARY SCHOOL: HEALTH  
IMPLICATIONS OF GIRLS' ADJUSTMENT TO MENSTRUATION

April 1989 - June 1992 (Dissemination until December 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 learned about and 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 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. The findings of the study are now available as a book (Prendergast 1992). In addition the findings and their implications have been summarised in a booklet for governors, teachers and parents (Prendergast 1992a). They have also contributed to a teachers resource pack on menstruation for use in schools and further education (Alvarado and Power 1993). A number of articles are also available (Prendergast 1989, 1991, 1992b, Kingman 1992). A paperback book for girls themselves is planned for 1993.

- Prendergast, S. (1989) 'Girls' Experience of Menstruation in School'. In L. Holly (ed.) Girls and Sexuality, OU Press, Milton Keynes.
- Prendergast, S. (1991) 'Teaching and Learning About the Body in School'. In Young People, Behaviours and Opportunities. Health Promotion Research Trust.
- Prendergast, S. (1992) 'This Is The Time To Grow Up': Girls' experience of menstruation in school. Cambridge, Health Promotion Research Trust.
- Prendergast, S. (1992a) Helping Girls To Cope With Menstruation In School. A booklet for governors, teachers and parents. Available free from The Health Promotion Research Trust, 49 Regent Street, Cambridge.
- Kingman, S. (1992) Periods of Anxiety (a summary of the findings of the research) Health Education, May 1992.
- Prendergast, S. (1992b) Becoming a woman. Promoting menstrual health in school. Primary Health Care (forthcoming).
- Prendergast, S. (1993) 'Gender and Sex Education'. In D. Massey (ed) Sex Education.

- Theory and Practice. Falmer Press (forthcoming 1992/3).
- Alvarado, S. Power, P. (1993) Teaching Pack on Menstruation. Cambridge, Learning Development Aids (forthcoming January 1993).
- Prendergast, S. (1992) 'School, Sex and Gender: Learning the Body in the Mind'. Submitted to The Sociology of Health and Illness.

Previous work, now completed

Knowing and Learning about Parenthood in School (funded by the Health Education Authority) explored the ways which adolescents' knowledge about parenthood generally framed in everyday experience meets more formally constructed knowledge in the secondary school curriculum, drawn from developmental psychology, biology and medicine. Pupils were interviewed in depth before classes began and followed through lessons in an ethnographic study of the classroom. They were interviewed again to establish what new learning had taken place and the impact of different frames of meaning on learning processes. Pupils' own accounts of their knowledge and learning were the central resource of the study matched against an observation of the classes they took. (This work was done jointly with Alan Prout.)

- Prendergast, S. and Prout, A. (1985) 'The Natural and the Personal: Reflections on birth films in school', Brit. J. of the Sociology of Education, Vol. 6, No. 2.
- Prout, A. and Prendergast, S. (1985) 'Some reflection on pupil knowledge as a resource in parenthood and family life education'. In Childhood. Milton Keynes: Open University (Course PE631).
- Prendergast, S. and Prout, A. (1987) 'Knowing and Learning about Parenthood'. H.E.A. Research Monographs Series, No. 17.
- Prendergast, S. and Prout, A. (1987) 'Smile at him when you ask for the books: transmitting sexuality in class'. In T. Booth and D. Coulby (eds) Producing and Reducing Disaffection. OU Press: Milton Keynes.
- Prendergast, S. and Prout, A. (1990) Birth the Classroom Context. In J. Garcia, R. Kilpatrick, M. Richards (eds.) The Politics of Maternity Care. Oxford University Press.

Active Learning in the Classroom (funded by the Health Education Authority and the Open University), was an ethnographic study of classroom process, evaluating Open University learning materials packs Childhood and Family Lifestyles.

- Prendergast, S. (1988) 'Active Learning in Family Life Education: Teachers using the Open University Training Packs, Childhood and Family Life Style.' H.E.A. Research Monograph Series. (plus summary version)

Shirley Prendergast

I graduated in Social Anthropology at Cambridge. I have mostly worked in educational research using both ethnographic and 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.

## HISTORY OF CHILD GUIDANCE

Researcher: Deborah Thom

Currently seeking funding for research project entitled Records of Child Guidance. I am writing up the last project on maladjustment in context in articles and book form. Currently writing a book on educational psychology, intelligence testing and child guidance from 1940-1970 called The History of the Clinic.

### Selected Recent Publications

- Thom, D. (1985) The 1944 Education Act - the 'act of the possible'? In H. Smith (ed.) War and Social Change, Manchester University Press.
- Thom, D. (1987) 'Girls and the 11+'. In F. Hunt (ed.) The Upbringing of Daughters. Blackwells.
- Thom, D. (1988) 'Women's employment in Britain. In J. Winter and W. Wall (eds.) The Upheaval of War. Cambridge University Press.
- Thom, D. (1989) 'Freed from chains'. In G. Stedman Jones and D. Feldman, Metropolis, Routledge Kegan Paul.
- Thom, D. (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.
- Thom, D. (1992) Wishes, fears and dreams; Child Guidance in Britain. In R. Cooter (ed) In the Name of the Child. Routledge.
- Thom, D. (1992) Feminist history or women's history - a lopsided view? In K. Campbell (ed) Critical Feminisms. Special issue, Ideas in Production.

### 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 Centre for Family Research. I am Director of Studies in Social and Political Science at Robinson College and a Fellow of Robinson. I lecture in the History and SPS Faculties. 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.

With Dr L. Ashby I am continuing a research project on the case note records of the Cambridge clinic for which we are using SPSSX for bulk data assessment. I continue to collect and encourage the preservation of records of clinics.

## TRANSITIONS TO ADULTHOOD

Ginny Morrow. I have a BA in Oriental Studies and Social Anthropology and I completed my PhD in the Social and Political Sciences Faculty in 1992. My research consisted of a sociological study of British secondary school children's involvement in 'work' outside school in the form of part-time paid employment, working in family businesses and domestic labour, and I am interested in the general field of the sociology of childhood.

I now work as a Research Associate with Martin Richards on the 'Transitions to Adulthood' project, carrying out a wide-ranging literature review and conceptual overview. This is a two year project funded by the Rowntree Foundation. In addition to the literature review being carried out in Cambridge the work involves analysis of National Child Development Study age 33 sweep (Dr Kath Kiernan, LSE) and the Twenty-07 Study (Dr Patrick West, MRC Medical Sociology Unit, Glasgow).

### Publications:

- Morrow, V. (1989) Only connect: the mechanics and ethics of networking with development agencies for children. In E. Verhellen and F. Spiesschaert (eds) Ombudswork for Children. A way of improving the position of children in society. Acco, Leven/Amersfoort, Belgium.
- Dunne, G., Hodge, I., Monk, S. and Morrow, V. (1992) Rural labour markets: a literature review. Anglia Polytechnic University/Department of the Environment.
- Morrow, V. (1992) Family values: accounting for children's contribution to the domestic economy. Working Paper Series of University of Cambridge Sociological Research Group.
- Morrow, V. (1992) Memorandum on children's employment. In Minutes of Evidence. Child Labour. House of Commons Employment Committee, May. Cmnd 454-i.

### Graduate Student Research

#### URBAN MIDDLE CLASS MARRIAGES IN POST-REVOLUTIONARY IRAN: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

Marjaneh Halati. I am working on intra-familial relations between two groups of urban middle-class families in Iran: the "Westernised" families (those who embrace Western ideology) and the traditional families. I am interested in how marriage have been affected by the Islamic Revolution and whether the abolition of the Family Protection Act of 1967 has in any way changed the status of women within marriage/household. The study is also concerned with intra-familial relations across generations. Interviewing began in Iran in the summer of 1991.

I joined the Centre in January 1989, having obtained my MSc degree in Social Psychology from the London School of Economics.

#### INTERMARRIAGES AND INTEGRATION OF TURKISH IMMIGRANTS

Sultan Kocaoluk. I joined the Centre as a graduate student in April 1989. I studied sociology at the University of Istanbul and also did my M.A. degree at the same university. My Ph.D. examines the relationship between inter-marriage and integration process of Turkish migrants in Britain. By conducting semi-structured interviews I am comparing Turkish-British couples with Turkish-Turkish couples and exploring the differences in marriage and integration processes between these two types of couples.

This work is supported by a studentship from the Ministry of Education of the Turkish Government.

#### WOMEN'S DIFFERING EXPERIENCES OF EARLY MOTHERHOOD

Natasha Mauthner. I graduated in 1989, with a degree in Experimental Psychology, and joined the Centre in October 1990. My study examines women's emotional well-being across the transition to motherhood, and in particular how this might be affected by a woman's employment status, her relationship with her partner, and her social support system. I have recently completed interviewing 40 mothers and 23 of their partners, all of varying socio-economic backgrounds. I am currently in the process of analysing the transcripts.

This work is supported by a studentship from the Medical Research Council.

### CHOICES ABOUT WORK AND REPRODUCTION FOR YOUNG WOMEN IN POOR COMMUNITIES IN VENEZUELA

Myra Hunt. In conjunction with the 'Centro de Investigaciones Para la Infancia y la familia' in Caracas, I am researching the lives of young women growing up in the shanty towns. I am interested in education, sexuality, family structure and ideologies about family life and motherhood. I have just returned from 14 months fieldwork in Caracas, and am mainly funded by the Simon Population Trust and Lucy Cavendish College.

### GENDER IDENTITIES AND RELATIONS IN ADOLESCENCE

Jane Ireland. I am a second year Ph.D. student who is looking at men and women in non-traditional occupations. I am focusing on men in nursing and women in the engineering trades. The research is basically asking four main questions about women and men who enter non-traditional areas of work.

1) What resources and experiences do men and women making non-traditional choices draw on in choosing and then making the transition into non-traditional work?

2) How have families, friends and places of education influenced and helped to ease such transitions?

3) What are the day-to-day experiences of men and women in non-traditional areas of work?

4) How do they view their own skills and abilities in relation to the dominant definitions of skill and ability the professions they have entered have traditionally embodied?

### THE EFFECTS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Kelly Lindwall. I came to the Centre in October 1991 as a graduate student. I graduated from Wellesley College, Boston in May 1991 with a degree in Psychology. The goal of my research is to discover any significant differences in the longterm effects of child sexual abuse with regard to gender. Since males and females have different perceptions of the world and their experiences, I believe that it is unlikely that boys and girls will share the same interpretations and reactions to the traumatic experience of sexual abuse.

ARMY WELFARE AND DIVORCE IN BRITAIN, 1939-1945

Ruth Jamieson. My research interest is in the relationship between gender, law and the state. My work explores this relationship through an analysis of a specific instance of state intervention - that of Army welfare into the matrimonial problems of soldiers - at a particular historical moment (1939-1945).

I completed an M.Phil in Criminology in 1988 on leave of absence from the Department of Justice, Canada prior to joining the Centre in 1991. My research is being supervised by Deborah Thom and has been supported by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission.



## RECENTLY COMPLETED RESEARCH

### 1. POST PARTUM DEPRESSION AND INFANT DEVELOPMENT

Date started: October 1985.

Date expected to finish: March 1992.

Researchers: Lynne Murray and others

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

This research is now based in the Winnicott Research Unit, Department of Psychiatry.

#### 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 and her collaborators moved to the Department of Psychiatry in October, 1990. Current address:

Winnicott Research Unit,  
Fenners,  
Gresham Road,  
Cambridge.

Tel: (0223) 336974

PARENTAL DIVORCE AND ADOLESCENTS' ATTITUDES TOWARDS  
MARRIAGE

Date Ph.D. started: October 1986                      Finished 1990  
 Researcher: Fiona Tasker (left the Centre in July 1990)  
 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 and my Ph.D. in 1990.

(Fiona Tasker now works in the Clinical Research Unit, City University, Northampton Square, London EC1V 0HB.)

Tasker, F.L. (1991) Anti-marriage attitudes and pro-marriage behaviour amongst adolescents with divorced parents. Unpublished paper.  
 Tasker, F.L. and Richards, M.P.M. (1991) The attitudes to marriage and the marital prospects of children of divorce: a review. Unpublished paper.

DIVORCE AND KINSHIP

Date Ph.D. started: January 1988  
 Finished: Sept 1991  
 Researcher: Christina Sinclair  
 Funded by Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund, Canada, and 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 comparing 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. I am a clinical/counselling psychologist and divorce mediator. I am a partner in a group practice in Calgary which offers assessment and therapy for individuals, couples and families, primarily in the areas of relationships, stress and substance abuse. I am involved in the divorce conciliation movement in the UK and provide seminars and case consultation.

## MARRIAGE AND EXTRAMARITAL RELATIONSHIPS

Researchers: Janet Reibstein and Martin Richards

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. Our book sets out to analyse extra-marital relationships in the context of beliefs and expectations of present day marriage. We trace both the historical development of these beliefs and of marriage patterns and the aspects of individual development which underlie adult patterns of behaviour. Our study is illustrated by a series of case studies.

Reibstein, J. and Richards, M.P.M. (1992) Sexual Arrangements: Marriage and Affairs. William Heinemann.

### 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.

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

## THE CONSEQUENCES OF DIVORCE FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

Date started: April 1989

Date finished: July 1992

Researcher: B. Jane Elliott

Grant holder: M.P.M.Richards

Funded by the Health Promotion Research Trust

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 first two years of the project have been spent analysing the Health and Lifestyle Survey, and the 1958 National Child Development Survey. Results suggest that men tend to be more adversely affected by divorce than women, when the health and psychological wellbeing of divorcing adults who have never had children is examined. One possible explanation for this may be that women tend to initiate divorce more than men do (this is certainly the case in strictly legal terms). A small scale qualitative interview study was completed which examined in more detail some of the emotional dynamics of ending marital relationships.

Analyses of the National Child Development Survey (1958 Birth Cohort) show that children whose parents are divorced show more signs of disturbed behaviour and under-achievement at school than children whose parents remain married. A rather more surprising result, however, is that these differences in educational performance and behaviour are detectable prior to the separation/divorce of the parents. Other analyses have traced the differences in the groups of children into young adulthood.

### B. Jane Elliott

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. After finishing my degree I helped several members of the Centre for Family Research 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, and for six months I worked at the Department of Applied Economics in Cambridge analysing some of the data produced by the Social Change in Economic Life initiative. Now a Fellow of Newnham College and Director of Studies in Social and Political Sciences.

### Publications related to the project

Elliott, B.J., Ochiltree, G., Richards, M.P.M., Sinclair, C. and Tasker, F. (1990) Divorce and Children: A British challenge to the Wallerstein view. Family Law, 20, 309-310.

Elliott, B.J. (1991) Demographic trends in domestic life 1945-1990. In D. Clark (ed.) Marriage, Domestic Life and Social Change: Essays in Honour of Jackie

- Burgoyne. Routledge.
- Richards, M.P.M. and Elliott, B.J. (1991) Sex and marriage in the 1960s and 1970. In D. Clark (ed.) Marriage, Domestic Life and Social Change: Essays in Honour of Jackie Burgoyne. Routledge.
- Elliott, B.J. Divorce and adult health: the mediating effect of gender. (Submitted to Social Science and Medicine).
- Elliott, B.J. and Richards, M.P.M. (1991) Children and divorce: educational performance, and behaviour, before and after parental separation. Int. J. Law and the Family, 5, 258-278.
- Elliott, B.J. and Richards, M.P.M. (1991) Effects of parental divorce on children. Annotation. Archives of Diseases in Childhood, 66, 915-916.
- Elliott, B.J. and Richards, M.P.M. (1991) Parental divorce and the life chances of their children. Family Law.
- Elliott, B.J. and Richards, M.P.M. (1991) Adolescents and parental divorce. Presented at a Symposium at the Int. Society for the Study of Behavioural Development, Minneapolis, USA.
- Richards, M.P.M. (1989) Joint custody revisited. Family Law, p.83-85.
- Richards, M.P.M. (1990) Divorce Cambridge style. Family Law, November.
- Richards, M.P.M. (1991) Private words and public intentions. The role of the State at divorce. Paper presented at a Cross National Seminar 'Family, Politics and the Law'. Oxford. To appear in Family, Politics and the Law, edited by M. Maclean.
- Richards, M.P.M. (1991) Children and parents after divorce. Paper presented at 7th World Conference of the Int.Society on Family Law. Opatija, Croatia. To appear in Proceedings edited by J. Eekelaar and P. Sarcovia. Martinus Nijhoff.
- Richards, M.P.M. (1991) Divorce research today. Family Law, February.
- Richards, M.P.M. 1992. Learning from divorce. Chapter in C. Clulow (ed) Does Marriage Matter? Karnac Books, in press.

**CENTRE FOR FAMILY RESEARCH**  
(formerly Child Care & Development Group)  
Lunchtime Seminars - Michaelmas Term 1992.  
(Meetings held at 12.30 on Tuesdays in Room 606)

- 6th October Paula Nicolson. Department of Psychiatry, University of Sheffield.  
"Understanding post-natal depression: a clinical or social psychological phenomenon?"
- 13th October Melanie Mauthner and Valerie Hey. Social Science Research Unit, Institute of Education, University of London.  
"Contradictions in parental accounts of family life".
- 20th October Jeanette Edwards. Public Health Research and Resource Centre, Salford Royal Hospital.  
"'Parenting skills' and/or poverty: some views from the providers of social and health services".
- 27th October Half Term - no seminar
- 3rd November Gill Dunne. Social and Political Sciences Faculty, University of Cambridge.  
"Working women loving women: balancing homelife and employment in 'lesbian' households".
- 10th November Jane Ribbens. Sociology Dept. Oxford Polytechnic  
"Friendship and acceptability - the lives and concerns of mothers of 7-year olds".
- 17th November Jo Green, Helen Statham, Claire Snowdon. Centre for Family Research, University of Cambridge.  
"Social and psychological aspects of screening for fetal abnormality: some findings from a recent prospective study".
- 24th November Claire Cameron and Cathy Hepworth. Medical Research Unit, Bedford College, University of London.  
"Interviews with young men: the inner city experience".
- 1st December Jane Wardle. Institute of Psychiatry, the Bethlem Royal Hospital and the Maudsley Hospital.  
"Health beliefs and health behaviours among young Europeans".

If you wish to come to a seminar, please arrive on time,  
so we may begin promptly at 12.30 p.m.  
Centre for Family Research, Univ. of Cambridge,  
Free School Lane, Cambridge CB2 3RF  
Tel: (0223) 334510

**CENTRE FOR FAMILY RESEARCH**  
*(formerly Child Care and Development Group)*

Lunchtime Seminars - Lent Term 1993

(Meetings held at 12.30 on Tuesdays in Room 606)

- 19 January Ania Wilczynski, Inst. of Criminology, Univ. Cambridge  
"Parents who kill their children: an overview"
- 26 January Carol Gilligan, Harvard University/Social & Political Sciences Faculty, Univ. Cambridge  
To be announced
- 2 February Alison Paech-Ujeski, Dept. of Education, Univ. Cambridge  
"The construction of masculine gender identities in English public schools"
- 9 February Andrea Doucet, Social & Political Sciences Faculty, Univ. Cambridge  
"Who remembers birthdays? Who cleans the loo? Thinking creatively about gender and household work"
- 16 February John Morss, Otago University/Centre for Family Research, Univ. Cambridge  
"Alternatives to development"
- 23 February Shirley Prendergast, Centre for Family Research, Univ. Cambridge  
"Ludovic Lopic and his daughters?: looking for a phenomenology of gender"
- 2 March Myra Hunt, Centre for Family Research, Univ. Cambridge  
"Poverty and sexual politics: a study of young women's lives in Caracas"
- 9 March Pia Haudrup Christensen, Dept. Human Sciences, Brunel University  
"The social construction of help among children"

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

*Centre for Family Research,  
University of Cambridge  
Free School Lane,  
Cambridge CB2 3RF*

*Tel: (0223) 334510*



**CENTRE FOR FAMILY RESEARCH**  
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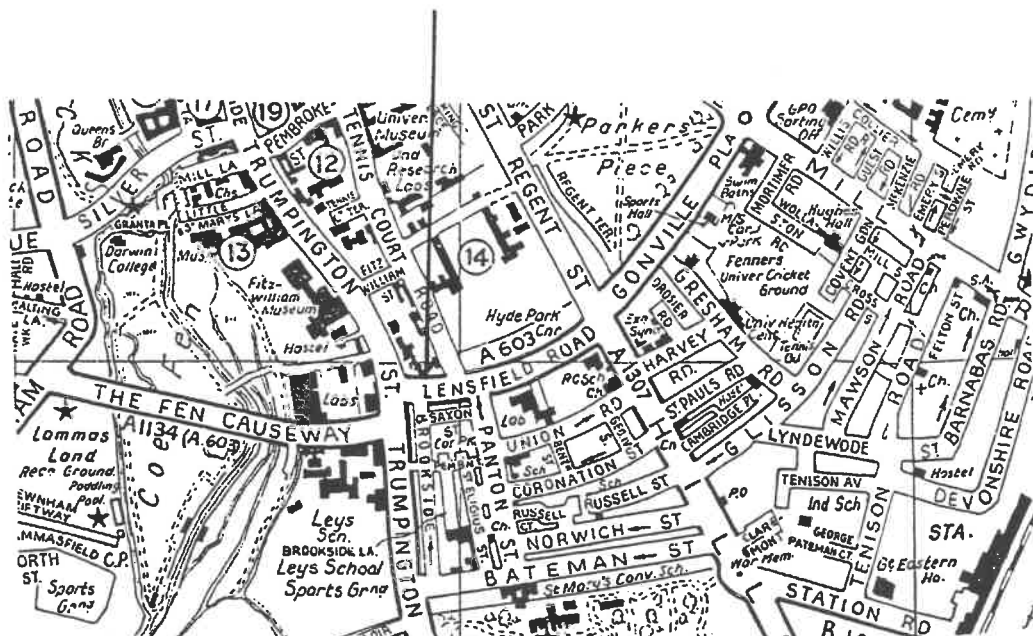
**Lunchtime Seminars - Easter Term 1993**

(Meetings held at 12.30 on Tuesdays  
at 2, Bene't Place, Lensfield Road)

- 20 April Judy Dunn (Penn State University)  
'From pre-school to adolescence: A ten-year follow up of siblings in Cambridge'
- 27 April Wendy Chan (Department of Criminology, University of Cambridge)  
'Battered women who kill their partners'
- 4 May Half-term - No seminar
- 11 May Ann Wetherall (Department of Psychology, Lancaster University)  
'Gender and language: talk about Coronation Street'
- 18 May Ruth Jamieson (Social & Political Sciences Faculty, University of Cambridge)  
'Army welfare and divorce in Britain 1939-1945'
- 25 May Natasha Mauthner (Centre for Family Research, University of Cambridge)  
'Listening to women's voices: mothers' accounts of "post-natal depression"'

**PLEASE NOTE TEMPORARY LOCATION:**

**2, BENE'T PLACE, LENSFIELD ROAD**  
(opposite the turning to Brookside)  
TEL NO: (as before) (0223) 334510





Occasional Papers

Available from the Centre Secretary

No. 1. Visiting Prisoners. An Interim Report from the Cambridge Research Project on Imprisonment and Family Ties, by Patricia Owens. Price £4 including postage.



Line drawings by Shirley Prendergast