CENTRE FOR FAMILY RESEARCH

ANNUAL REPORT

(Academic Year 2000 – 2001)

Director of Centre
Professor Martin Richards

Deputy Director
Ms Helen Statham

Members of the Centre

Research Staff and Post-Graduate Students*

Anna Bagnoli*
Dr Manjit Bola
Dr Elizabeth Chapman
Claudia Downing*
Fatemeh Ebtbehaj*
Dr Judith Ennew
Marji Halati*
Georgina Haarhoff*
Dr Joanna Hawthorne
Dr Claire Hughes

Dr Antonella Invernizzi
Julie Jessop*
Bridget Lindley
Dr. Chris Mann
Maggie Ponder
Laura Riley
Wendy Solomou
Claire Snowdon
Dr. Jane Weaver
Dr Anji Wilson

Associate Members

Lucy Allcock*
Dr Andrew Bainham
Dr Shelley Day Sclater
Margaret Ely
Dr Gail Ewing
Dr Nina Hallowell
Dr Lynne Jones

Eva Lloyd
Prof Juliet Mitchell
Frances Murton
Dr Thelma Quince
Dr Eileen Richardson
Dr Ilina Singh
Dr Deborah Thom
Assistant Staff

Administrative Secretary  Jill Brown
Data Manager/Librarian    Sally Roberts
Cleaner                   Anne Burling

Management Committee

Professor Ian Goodyer (Chair, Developmental Psychiatry, University of Cambridge)
Ms Erica de’Ath (National Council for Voluntary Child Care Organisations)
Dr Mavis Maclean (Dept of Social Policy & Social Work, University of Oxford)
Professor Martin Richards
Dr Jacqueline Scott (Social and Political Sciences)
Ms Helen Statham
Professor Bryan Turner (Social and Political Sciences)
Ms Kate Stacey (Secretary)
Joiners and Leavers

We welcome Dr Antonella Invernizzi, who is joining the Centre as a post-doctoral fellow. Her work concerns child labour in Portugal and Peru.

Esa Alaraudanjoki left the Centre to return to the University of Jyväskylä, Finland to complete his project on child labour in Nepal.

Wendy Solomou has left the Centre to accompany her husband on a year’s sabbatical in California.

Claudia Downing, who completed her Ph.D. during the year, will take up a Wellcome Trust Post-Doctoral Fellowship in the Centre in October.

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We congratulate Dr Lynne Jones who was given an OBE in the New Year’s Honours List for services to child psychology and mental health in conflict-affected areas of Central Europe.

Research Workshops

During the year the Centre has hosted, and in most cases organised, the following Research Workshops.

- The Sociology of the Body Group
- The Psycho-Social Aspects of Genetics Group. In June we had a day-long meeting with social scientists and geneticists from the Institute of Medical Genetics at Cardiff. We plan to hold regular meetings with them to discuss our mutual research interests and are planning collaborative research with them.
- The Infant Relationships Study Group
- The Cambridge Biomedical Ethics Forum
- The Childhood Research Working Group
- The Cambridge Socio-Legal Group. Seminars were held on the law and the body. The volume resulting from these will be published by Hart in the Autumn, ‘Body Lore and Laws’, edited by Andrew Bainham, Martin Richards and Shelley Day-Sclater.

New projects on parent-child contact and socio-legal aspects of sexualities are being planned.

The Centre is also administrating the editorial work for a volume, The Blackwell Companion to Sociology of the Family which is being edited by Jackie Scott, Martin Richards and Judith Treas.
RESEARCH OF MEMBERS OF THE CENTRE

Martin Richards – Director
Professor of Family Research, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences

A review of interventions and support services for children experiencing parental divorce and other major family change (with Dr Jan Pryor, Dept of Psychology, University of Auckland, New Zealand and Dr Joanna Hawthorne). Funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Commenced June 2000 – Ends February 2002.
The project will provide a review of services directed at children. It is focusing on the UK but will include some data from New Zealand, Australia, North America and Scandinavia.

Understanding inheritance and kinship connection (with Dr Anji Wilson).
This qualitative study explores connections between knowledge of inheritance and concepts of kinship and family obligation. Interviews are being conducted with samples of young people and recent parents.

Non-disclosure of genetic risk information (with Dr Angus Clarke, University of Cardiff and Lauren Kerzin-Storrar, N.W. Regional Genetics Service and other collaborators). Commenced June 2000 – Ends 2003.
This multicentre audit study sets out to collect data on the frequency and circumstances of non-disclosure to family members of significant genetic risk information following genetic counselling. It involves about 15 genetic centres in the UK and Australia.

Follow-up study of participants in an epidemiological study of breast cancer (with Maggie Ponder – see her entry for details).

During the year I was awarded two grants, both held outside Cambridge, one from The Basque Government and University of the Basque Country. Family interaction and the psychological development of 5 year-old Basque children (with Enrique Arranz) and a second from The Swedish Council for Social Research. Conflict, negotiation and decision-making post divorce (with Helena Willen, Nordic School of Public Health, Gothenberg).

In March I gave the opening lecture in Science Week on ‘Making Babies in the Biotech Century’. This is being expanded into a book which is being written with Laura Riley on “designer babies”, from the 19th Century selective breeding experiments of the Oneida Community and the diverse eugenic policies and practices of the 20th Century, through current practices of prenatal screening and diagnosis and the use of some reproductive technologies to possible futures.

In November I made a research trip to Canada and gave lectures and seminars at the University of British Columbia, the University of Calgary, McGill University and the University of Montreal.

I continue to serve on the Human Genetic Commission, the body set up by the Government to advise on developments in human genetics. I am involved in the subgroups working on a consultation paper on genetic information and that on public consultation. I was involved in the planning of a national survey on attitudes to genetic technology which was carried out with the Citizens Panel by MORI.
I am a member of a working party of the Nuffield Council for Bioethics on genetics and behaviour. The Working Party plans to report in 2002.

I am external examiner for the M.Sc. in Genetic Counselling at the University of Manchester.

Publications


Helen Statham – Deputy Director
Senior Research Associate
Detection of fetal abnormality at different gestations: impact on parents and service implications
Funded by NHS R&D (Mother and Child Health Initiative)

Grantholders:

Helen Statham
Josephine Green Senior Lecturer, Mother & Infant Research Unit, University of Leeds

Lenore Abramsky North Thames Congenital Malformation Register

Susan Bewley Director of Obstetrics, Guy’s & St Thomas’ Hospital, London
Lyn Chitty
Consultant and Senior Lecturer, Fetal Medicine Unit, University College London Hospital and Department of Clinical and Molecular Genetics, Institute of Child Health, London;

Joanie Dimavicis
Director ARC (Antenatal Results and Choices, formerly SATFA, Support Around Termination For Abnormality)

Nicholas Fisk
Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Queen Charlottes’ Hospital, London

Phillipa Kyle
Director of Fetal Medicine, St Michael’s Hospital, Bristol

Further details of this study can be found in last year’s Annual Report. The final report has been submitted and will be available for purchase from the Centre for Family Research once Referees’ comments have been received and incorporated. A report for participating parents will also be available after that time.

Findings of the study have been presented regularly to study days for a range of health professionals.

Prenatal diagnosis of abnormality: how parents make decisions when faced with real ethical dilemmas
Funded by The Wellcome Trust
Commenced September 1999- Ended March 2001
Grantholders: Helen Statham and Wendy Solomou
Research Associate – Dr Manjit Bola (to December 2000)

Details can be found in last year’s Annual Report; the Report of the Study’s findings will be available in Autumn 2001.

Choice and decision making in caesarean section
Funded by The Nuffield Foundation
Grantholders Jane Weaver, Martin Richards and Helen Statham
(See entry for Jane Weaver)

Publications


Manjit Bola
Research Associate
Prenatal diagnosis of abnormality: how parents make decisions when faced with real ethical dilemmas.
Funded by The Wellcome Trust
Commenced September 1999-Ended December 2000
(see entry for Helen Statham)
Elizabeth Chapman

Wellcome Trust Research Fellow in Biomedical Ethics (May 1999-April 2002).
A comparison of two genetic conditions (Huntington’s disease and cystic fibrosis): their conceptualisation in the body and the implications of differences or similarities for education, counselling and ethical decision.
Commenced 1999-Ends 2002

Publications


Chapman, E. ‘Patient Impact of Negative Representations of HIV’ AIDS Patient Care and STDs. (in press)

I attended the XIV International Cystic Fibrosis Conference in Vienna in June 2001 presenting work on the understanding of cystic fibrosis by patients and the implications of this for treatment.

Research Interests:

Psychosocial aspects of the new genetics, medicine, health and illness particularly focusing on bio-ethical issues, embodiment, and lay understanding of genetic processes. Past and present illness conditions studied include HIV/AIDS, cystic fibrosis and Huntington’s disease. A developing interest in embodiment, identity, family processes and ethical decision making in transplantation.

Judith Ennew

Contact Person for Childwatch International

Publications


Dissemination


Research and writing

Lead author/external consultant (December 2000 to October 2001) for ILO Director General’s Report for ILO Conference 2002 on ‘The Effective Abolition of Child Labour’ Under the Follow Up to the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.
Advisory Committee
Advisor to The Open University Faculty of Education and Language Studies on course, U212 'Childhood 0 to 18'.
Invited speaker

Joanna Hawthorne
Senior Research Associate
Co-ordinator of the Brazelton Centre in Great Britain

Current research
June 2000-February, 2002 Interventions and support services for children experiencing divorce and family change. Joseph Rowntree Foundation grant held by Professor Martin Richards, Centre for Family Research and Dr. Jan Pryor, School of Psychology, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand

Publications


Papers presented
The Brazelton Neonatal Behavioural Assessment Scale – History and Background. Presented at Brazelton Study Day, Cambridge, April, 2001
Interventions and support services for children experiencing divorce and family change. Paper presented at the SLSA conference, Bristol, April, 2001

Activities
Set up Infant Relationships Study Group which meets 3-4 times per year in Cambridge.
Coordinator of the Brazelton Centre in Great Britain – administration, teaching, training, and organisation of Study Days. The Centre attained charitable status in May, 2001.

Honorary contract at the Rosie Maternity Hospital, Cambridge. Working two hours a week on project in Neonatal Unit using the NBAS: providing intervention for parents: feedback obtained from questionnaires.

Claire Hughes  
University Lecturer, Social and Political Sciences Faculty  
Publications  


Research activities and interests.  
I attended the Society for Research in Child Development Meeting in Minneapolis, USA, where I was discussant for a symposium on executive function and theory of mind, and presented a paper on disruptive behaviour in young children. My other main activity has been editing a special issue on early executive functions for the journal *Infant and Child Development*.

In collaboration with former colleagues at the Institute of Psychiatry, I’ve been analysing data from 1200 pairs of five-year-old twins, collected during one-hour home-visits. Here my twin interests have been a new observational paradigm for assessing disruptive behaviour, and the role of individual differences in executive
function and theory of mind in explaining children’s vulnerability / resilience to adverse environments.

Within SPS I’ve set up a small-scale longitudinal study of mothers and toddlers that involves study participants visiting the Faculty’s observation room. Here my chief interest has been on fledgling theories of mind, and their relations to real-life social interactions. This study also provides pilot data for a grant proposal submitted to the ESRC, to explore early theory of mind and executive function skills in aggressive toddlers. Over the summer I plan to write a more substantial application for an MRC ‘Career Establishment Award’ that will encompass early socio-cognitive development in normally developing, disruptive and autistic children.

Antonella Invernizzi
Visitor 2001, Post-Doctoral Fellow from October 2001
Funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation

I will be looking at children’s exploitation, socialisation and participation in economy. A comparative analysis of child labour in Peru and Portugal.

Lynne Jones, OBE.
An ethnographic study of children’s understanding of political violence.
Funded by the William T Grant Foundation.

I recently completed my specialist training in child psychiatry. My most recent NHS job was as senior registrar on the in patient adolescent unit at Douglas House, Cambridge. In addition I have almost completed my research project on adolescent understanding of political violence: three papers have been submitted for publication:

1. Adolescent Understandings of Political Violence: A Qualitative Study
2. Assessing Adolescent Mental Health in War Affected Areas: The Significance of Symptoms (Co-Author Costas Kafetsios, Senior Lecturer In Social Psychology, Anglia University)
3. Exposure to Political Violence and Psychological Wellbeing In Bosnian Adolescents: A Multiple Method Approach (Co-Author Costas Kafetsios)

Publications:
Jones, L. 2000. ‘What is the Psychosocial Domain and the Role of Mental Health Professionals in Conflict and Post Conflict Situations?’, In Psychosocial and Trauma Response in War Torn Societies: The Case of Kosovo, Psychosocial Notebook (1). International Organisation for Migration.


I was awarded an OBE in the New Years Honours list (2001) for services to Child Psychology and Mental Health in Conflict Affected Areas of Central Europe

I have been offered a book contract with US publishers W.H. Freeman for a book on my research on young people and political violence.
Conference presentations
Department for International Studies, Cambridge University, June 2000 Invited speaker: “Adolescent Understandings of the Dayton agreement”.

Bridget Lindley
Qualitative study on advice and advocacy for families in child protection cases.
Funded by the Nuffield Foundation
Commenced 1997-Ends 2001

I have been working part time (50%) at the Centre with Martin Richards on a qualitative study, which explored the process of advocacy for parents in child protection cases, in which the local authority was making enquiries under s.47 Children Act 1989. These enquiries are conducted within an administrative rather than judicial framework. The rationale for the study was that partnership between parents and the local authority is regarded as the fundamental principle underpinning the successful protection of children. Yet it may not always be achievable in every case because where there is a divergence of views between the social worker and the parents about the risk to the child, the social worker’s duty to protect the child takes precedence over their role as advocate for the family as a whole, often leaving the parents unsupported. When this occurs, parents may need to be supported by an independent advocate in order to be able to participate effectively in the process from an informed position. Such advocacy is promoted in recent guidance, but it is not as yet a coherent, nationally run service. The few specialist schemes which exist are innovative, and their advocates, along with solicitor advocates, have had to develop many of their skills on the hoof hence the need to explore the advocacy process in more detail.

The data collection and analysis is finished and three papers have been published outlining the legal and practice framework within which child protection enquiries are conducted from the parents perspective; reporting the empirical data on the process of the current specialist advocacy service; and exploring the theoretical and ethical issues inherent in the advocates role, raised by an examination of advocacy in other fields and by the data. These papers are listed below.

Publications


**Other dissemination**

Drawing on the early data from the project, I responded to a consultation document about new guidance to be issued by the Department of Health on the conduct of child protection procedures. Some of the recommendations made were incorporated in the new guidance which was issued in 1999 and is analysed in the first publication listed above. Subsequently the Department of Health has funded me to work with Martin on drafting a model protocol about how advocates may intervene effectively on behalf of parents in such cases in the future. This work will be undertaken part-time at the Centre between September 2001 and May 2002.

**Chris Mann**

*(1) Indicators of Academic performance Project (IAPP)*

*Grants from the General Board of the University of Cambridge, 1997-2001.*


The focus of the research has several inter-related aims and objectives:

To provide a detailed statistical analysis of variations in performance across the university

To explore the different perceptions of excellence across subject areas in order to understand something of the intellectual tasks which different students face

To investigate the impact of learning and teaching processes on achievement

To investigate the impact of college and departmental culture and practices on achievement

To identify how far non-academic aspects of students’ lives relate to their motivations for academic work and to their perceptions of self

To investigate how different aspects of personal identity may affect the choices that students make in prioritising various elements of their lives at Cambridge.

Chris Mann has had full responsibility for the *Graduates of the Millennium Project* which was started as a means to address several of the research aims of the IAPP. This section of the IAPP is an e-mail based longitudinal qualitative and quantitative cohort study of approximately 200 Cambridge undergraduates, most of whom graduated in the year 2000. This is the first time (either in the UK or elsewhere) that an innovative use of sequential e-mail interviews has been used to collect information about, and to track the implications of, students’ changing perceptions of their university experience.
(2) Evaluation of Mentoring Initiatives in Engineering and the Sciences (2000) 
Grant from the General Board of the University of Cambridge.

I evaluated a new mentoring programme introduced by the University committee, 
Women in Science, Engineering and Technology Initiative (WiSETI). I set up focus 
groups and individual interviews with established and non-established staff in these 
areas. I used data from these discussions to design an ‘attitudes questionnaire’. The 
questionnaire has been used to monitor the impact of the mentoring programme on 
staff in the Faculty of Engineering.

Grant administered by the General Board of the University of Cambridge from 
Kings College and Schlumberger Cambridge Research.

Cambridge University helped design and pilot a Springboard for Undergraduates 
programme. As part of this process, I set up focus groups and individual interviews 
with second year female science and maths students. I used data from these 
discussions to design an ‘attitudes questionnaire’. The questionnaire has been used to 
monitor the impact of the pilot programme (and subsequent Springboard programmes) 
on female confidence, aspirations and organisation.

Publications

Mann, C. and Stewart, F. 2001. ‘Internet Interviewing’. In J. Gubrium and 

Mann, C and Stewart F. 2001. ‘The Internet’. In C. Kramarue and D. Spender 
(eds.), The Routledge International Encyclopaedia of Women. New York: 
Routledge.

Mann, C. 2001. ‘Achievement in Education’. In C. Kramarue and D. Spender 
(ed.s), The Routledge International Encyclopaedia of Women. New York: 
Routledge.


Research in Cyberspace’ Vol.4 Number 3.

Maggie Ponder

As Vice Chairman of the Trustees of the Genetic Interest Group and Chairman of the 
Neurofibromatosis Association I have been overseeing support services for families 
with Neurofibromatosis and in collaboration with the Department of Clinical Genetics 
at Addenbrooke’s Hospital has been investigating new ways of delivering integrated 
services for families with neurofibromatosis type 1. This has included a survey of 
families in East Anglia collecting data about their needs.

Follow up study of participants in an epidemiological study of breast cancer

This is a study initiated and overseen by Martin Richards. I have carried out 
interviews with women who have had breast cancer and have been recruited to take 
part in a genetic epidemiological study. The study participants all had blood taken for 
DNA testing. Each participant chose, at the time the blood sample was taken, whether 
or not they wished to hear about results if the testing revealed that they had a positive 
genetic test result. The interviews have shown that women did not fully understand 
the research objectives nor had they thought through the possible implications for
themselves or their families. All would have taken part even without the option of feedback but they would all have liked more general information about the progress of the research. The results are in the process of being written up for publication.

Laura Riley  
*Research Assistant June – September 2001*  
I am assisting Martin Richards in the research for his new book which takes as its basis ‘Biotech Babies’, the public lecture he gave for Science Week 2001. This book will look at the history of the use of selective breeding, eugenics and assisted reproduction, at current social attitudes to various forms of assisted reproduction, and then use these to look at possible use of reproductive techniques which may become available in future. I am interviewing users of reproductive technologies and their offspring. Areas covered will include gamete donation, embryo donation, pre-implantation diagnosis, surrogacy, human cloning and eugenics, with a short section discussing the legal implications of new reproductive technologies.

Claire Snowdon  
*Research Fellow, Medical Statistics Unit, Department of Epidemiology and Population Health, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and linked to the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit, Institute of Health Sciences, Oxford.*

**Research interests**

Psychosocial aspects of the new genetics

Early work at the Centre for Family Research examined the attitudes of couples carrying recessive disorders to various reproductive options (adoption, parental diagnosis, gamete donation, preimplantation diagnosis, informed consent and clinical trials).

**Views of participants in trials**

The NPEU study involved qualitative analysis of interviews with around 80 parents of critically ill newborn babies enrolled in a clinical trial (The ECMO Trial). The research focused on parents’ perceptions of the trial, the doctor-patient relationship, results of the trial and management of informed consent. This work has been developed further as a research fellow at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, funded by Nuffield. The current study looks at the same issues with another perinatal trial (The INNOVO Trial) and various antenatal trials (CANDA). It involves approximately 120 interviews with staff and parents linked to these trials.

Wendy Solomou  
*Detection of fetal abnormality at different gestations: impact on parents and service implications*  
*Funded by NHS R&D (Mother and Child Health Initiative)*  
*Commenced 1996 – Ends 2001.*

Further details of this study can be found in last year’s Annual Report. The final report has been submitted and will be available for purchase from the Centre for Family Research once Referees’ comments have been received and incorporated. A report for participating parents will also be available after that time.
Findings of the study have been presented regularly to study days for a range of health professionals.

**Prenatal diagnosis of abnormality: how parents make decisions when faced with real ethical dilemmas**  
Funded by The Wellcome Trust  
Commenced 1999 - Ended 2001  
Grantholders: Helen Statham and Wendy Solomou  
Research Associate – Dr Manjit Bola (to December 2000)

Details can be found in last year’s Annual Report; the Report of the Study’s findings will be available in Autumn 2001.

**Jane Weaver**  
*A Study of Choice and Decision Making in Caesarean Section*  
Funded by The Nuffield Foundation.  
Commenced 1999 - Ends 2002

**Publications**


**In Press**

Weaver, J. 2001. ‘Thoughts on Caesarean Section’ to be published in *MIDIRS Midwifery Digest*

**Items of interest**

Helen Statham and I gave an invited paper on my research at a major RCOG/RCM/NCT conference in Manchester on 7 November 2000. At the BPS Annual Conference this year I was voted onto the Committee of the Psychology of Women Section.

**Anji Wilson**  
*Understanding Inheritance: Kinship Connections and Genetics*  
Commenced 2000 – Ends 2003

**Interests**

Support for children who have experienced parental separation or divorce  
Genetics, inheritance and kinship

**Project in completion**

Evaluation of an in-school support format for children whose parents have separated or divorced
Progress

Conferences and presentations attended
July 2000 - presented findings of Joseph Rowntree Foundation Project to AGM of Cambridge Family and Divorce Centre
Sept 2000 - Wellcome ‘Genetics and Society’ Summer School, Hinxton Hall, Cambridge (presented poster on current project)

Publications
Final draft of report on the evaluation of in-school support for children whose parent have separated or divorced for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation

GRADUATE STUDENTS
Anna Bagnoli
Narratives of identity and migration: an autobiographical study of young people in England and Italy.
Funded by TMR Marie Curie Research Training Grant.
Supervised by Prof. Gill Jones and Dr. Gerard Duveen.

My project investigates the ways in which young people define their identities, in a comparative perspective between England and Italy. The issue of identity has been approached holistically, with a relational “self-other” model, on the assumption that we construct our identities in a dialogue with the other, by relating to what we are not. Through engaging with an array of possible selves, our identities in a dialogue with the other, by relating to what we are not. Through engaging with an array of possible selves, our identities thus emerge as ongoing self-reflexive narrative constructions.

The case study of migration was chosen to highlight the components of change and adaptation to a new environment: just as the young individual moves from childhood into adulthood, so the migrant moves between two worlds. The fieldwork took place between England and Italy, in the Cambridge and Florence areas respectively, and involved the participation of 41 young people, aged 16 to 26, and equally divided by sex and between migrants and locals, where the migration considered was between the two countries.

A variety of autobiographical methods were designed to collect the young people’s lives: a first open interview, including also the visual technique of the self-portrait; an open format one-week diary; a second, diary-based interview, emerging from the issues that were remarked by participants themselves; and the young people’s own chosen photographs.

The resulting materials were analysed along the parameters of qualitative narrative analysis and with the aid of the Atlas-ti computer software. Three main themes organised the data: identities and time, individuating the young people’s life projects as defined by fateful moments and in relation to stories of communion/separation and
agency/lack of control. Identities and the other, looking at young people within society, and at the significant others and role-models within their networks. Identities and space, exploring the extent to which young people are prepared to leave, and whether migrating does in fact mean acquiring new identities.

I will be presenting a paper at the Training Seminar for Young Social Scientists organised at the European Youth Centre in Budapest from 4 to 9 September 2001 by the Youth Directorate of the Council of Europe.

I have been awarded A Ramon y Cajal Scientific Scholarship for in-service training at the Directorate-General for Research of the European Parliament in Brussels from October 2001.

Claudia Downing
Reproductive decision making in families at risk for Huntington’s disease: perceptions of responsibility.
Funded by the Medical Research Council
Supervised by Dr Josephine Green and Prof. Martin Richards

Following my viva in July 2001 I am completing some minor revisions of my Ph.D. thesis. My research is a study of the process of reproductive decision-making in the face of risks that will not manifest until later in life. This showed that late onset disorders present two reproductive risks, that for future generations and the uncertainty that arises about the at-risk parent’s ability to sustain a parenting role. The underlying concern that people had was establish themselves as acting responsibly when coming to accept, modify or avoid one or both of these risks. Recognition of the contribution this work has made to our understanding of how people make personal decisions in relation to late-onset genetic disorders led to me being invited to participate earlier this year in a workshop at the Centre for Applied Ethics at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. Whilst in Vancouver I also participated in a week long retreat for people affected by Huntington’s disease which was both very enjoyable and broadened my understanding of how people live with HD.

In October I will be taking up a postdoctoral fellowship awarded by the Wellcome Trust. The model of responsibility developed in my doctoral research will be employed to study how couples with dependent children perceive and address ethical dilemmas around parenting when one parent is either at-risk or has tested positive for a late onset genetic which can compromise the ability to sustain a parenting role. The research will focus on two late-onset disorders, Myotonic Muscular Dystrophy and Huntington’s disease, which affect both men and women but which can compromise the ability to sustain a parenting role in different ways.

Publications

New Genetics and Society 20: 1.

Fatemeh Ebtehaj
Iran women in the UK and USA at mid-life.
Self-funded. Supervised by Prof. Martin Richards
As a woman in my forties, I have been curious about the life-experiences and understandings of other women of my generation. As an Iranian immigrant, I have also wondered about cross-cultural differences in adult development and about the impact of life-changing experiences such as exile or immigration. Turning to the available literature, I found that the psychological research on women and mid-life development is still scarce and often decontextualised, ignoring cultural and historical specificity. There is also a dearth of research both on women and on the psychological experience of immigration and exile. More research is required to differentiate factors of gender, culture, social class, and developmental stage. I am conducting an exploratory study of a limited number of Iranian women immigrants. I wanted to answer the following questions: how do other women of my generation experience what is commonly called ‘midlife’? How does exile or immigration shape our development? And finally, how does our self-understanding reveal, reinforce or undermine our psychological resilience? I chose to do open-ended, unstructured in-depth interviews to explore these questions. In doing so, I also wanted to address some methodological and epistemological questions that have often troubled me when reading interview-based research. I am analysing interviews with twelve women who are Iranian exiles or immigrants between 40 and 60 years of age. These women have lived outside of Iran for a minimum of 15 years. Language choice was an important part of my analysis as I related it to immigration and acculturation, education, language community and cultural identity. I kept detailed field notes throughout my research process. Throughout my research process, I have been struck both by the range of individual differences and by the common or parallel themes and formal patterns that underlie all the interviews. In writing-up my research, I have decided to highlight both in my analysis and subsequent discussion. After introducing my research topic and methodology as well as my theoretical assumptions, I introduce the women I talked to by examining how they situated themselves within our encounter. I discuss the topics addressed, and examine how the participants’ orientation to me and my responses to them, both located within our understanding of the interview as a specific speech event, contributed to the construction of the stories. I then discuss a topic that was addressed by the women in different ways, namely the topic of speaking out and of self-disclosure. In parallel to a content analysis, I will explore how speaking out and self-disclosure were enacted within the interviews. Finally, I discuss two of the dominant and inter-dependent themes that underlie all of these narratives, namely the themes of gender and of relationships. Throughout my analysis and discussion, I include myself as a researcher and as a member of my research population. I hope to finish writing-up this study by the end of next spring.

Georgina Haarhoff
The experience of cancer in those with a genetic versus a sporadic form of colorectal cancer.
Funded by ESRC.
Supervised by Prof. Bryan Turner. Academic Adviser, Prof. Martin Richards.

This research is informed by research in the new genetics, the experience of cancer, and the sociology of the body. It views the experience of colorectal cancer as different from that of other cancers, due to the part of the body that it affects, and identity and stigma issues associated with this. Also, genetic screening and testing possibilities are at different stages than in other genetic cancers. The study uses qualitative methods to interview people who have had a bowel cancer, their partners,
and other people within society who have not had this cancer. This will give a dialectic of both social views and individual experience, and the interaction between these.

**Julie Jessop**  
*Psycho-social dynamics of post-divorce parenting: pleasures, pitfalls and new partners.*  
*Funded by University of Cambridge.*  
*Supervised by Prof. Martin Richards*

Although there are numerous studies which look at the effects of divorce on children, and individual outcomes for adults, there continues to be a lack of research into how parenting is actually lived and experienced post-divorce. This is a qualitative research project looking specifically at how the experience of parenthood is affected by divorce, and the effects this has on continuing parent-child relationships. The main body of the research is based on in-depth interviews with mothers, fathers and new partners and aims to explore the dynamics of post-divorce parenting, linking individual experiences with wider societal trends.

**Other interests**

Co-ordinator of the Child Research Working Group, a multi-disciplinary group which meets monthly in the Centre for Family research. Also currently co-ordinator of the Qualitative Women’s Workshop based in London.

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

**Lucy Alcock**  
*Disabilities and rehabilitation*

Because of serious medical problems for her son, Lucy has been forced to suspend work on her Ph.D. but she continues to do some supervision for the Social and Political Sciences Tripos.

**Andrew Bainham**  
*Lecturer in Law, University of Cambridge, Fellow, Christ’s College, Cambridge.*


**Other Activities**

Andrew Bainham gave a paper to the Brazilian Institute of Family Law in March 2001, in Sao Paulo and at the Federal University of Parana in Curitiba. This paper is
published in English in International Family Law and in Portuguese in Revista Brasileira de Direito de Família.

Gail Ewing
*Project Director: Dr J.M. Green, Mother and Infant Research Unit, University of Leeds. Funding: Anglia and Oxford NHS Executive.*

The introduction of solid foods to infants before the age of four months is a widespread practice that carries long-term health risks. This study investigated the views of health visitors and the psychosocial context of mothers’ decision to introduce solids in order to understand why this occurs. Health visitors’ views were obtained via focus groups; mothers’ though focus groups, interviews and fortnightly telephone contacts.

Presentations


Work in progress:

Symptoms and Needs Assessment in the Provision of Palliative Care in the Community: C Todd, G Ewing, S Barclay, M Rogers, A Martin, J McCabe
Health Services Research Group
GP and PCRU

Funded by the Department of Health, Community Services Initiative.

Institute of Public Health
University Forvie Site
Cambridge CB2 2SR

Presentations


Nina Hallowell
*Senior Research Scientist Institute of Cancer Research*
*London and Royal Marsden Hospital NHS Trust*

Invited seminar presentations

Policy, Ethics and Life Sciences Institute, University of Newcastle. June 2001
Invited participant: Workshop on the 'Ethnographic research into ethical and social issues and genetics’ CHSS Unit, University of Kent at Canterbury. May 2001.
Peer-Reviewed Conference Papers

BRCA1/2 testing in women previously affected with breast/ovarian cancer: reactions to, and expectations of, test results. 7th International meeting on Psychosocial Aspects of Genetic Testing for Hereditary Breast and/or Ovarian (HBOC) and Hereditary Non-Polyposis Colorectal Cancer (HNPCC) Frankfurt, September 2001


Publications


Committee membership

Member of the Anglia and Oxford Multi-Centre Research Ethics Committee, 1999-2002
Member of the Anglia Polytechnic University Ethics Committee 2001-
Member of steering group on Ashcroft et al.'s project "Ethical protection in epidemiological genetic research: participant’s perspectives. Funded by The Wellcome Trust, 2000-2003

Eva Lloyd

Director, National Early Years Network

Juliet Mitchell

Professor of Psychoanalysis and Gender Studies, Social and Political Sciences Faculty.

Public and Specialist Lectures


Publications


Thelma Quince
Research Fellow, Centre for Business Research, University of Cambridge.
Together with Joanna Hawthorne, I was involved in the data analysis and writing up of the final report entitled ‘Anxiety in the Antenatal Clinic: The Risks and Benefits of Screening for Renal Abnormalities and Choroid Plexus Cysts’ (funded by the Children’s Kidney Care Fund, Addenbrooke’s Hospital, Cambridge).

Eileen H. Richardson
Executive Director, Centre for Women Leaders, Lucy Cavendish College
Since taking on the role of Executive Director of the Centre for Women Leaders this year I have been working on ways to develop the scope of the Centre, including research funding, running seminars and expanding the membership scheme. I have also enjoyed my first year as Director of Studies for Social and Political Sciences in the college. Helping to run the Essay Writing and Exam Skills workshops in the college, and attending a conference on Writing Skills at the University of Warwick, with other members of the college Teaching and Learning Forum, were interesting teaching experiences. Conducting supervisions on the SPS paper Medicine Health and Illness was another pleasure. In terms of research, I continue my interest in the field of the governance of human artificial reproduction, and attended the International Sociological Association conference ‘New Natures, New Cultures, New Technologies’ at Fitzwilliam College, and the Wellcome Trust conference ‘Visions of Life, Molecular Politics and Normalisation: Making Connections between Genetics and the Neurosciences’, both in July.

Publications and reports:


Deborah Thom
Newton Trust Lectureship and Director of Studies, Robinson College, Cambridge.
Publications
Forthcoming 2001
Child Health and National Fitness. Wellcome Institute Series in the History of Medicine

‘Making Gender and War Spectacular in the Imperial War Museum’ in G. Braybon (ed.), Rethinking the First World War. Berghahn

Presentations

Thom, D. Chair and Commentator Social History Conference, January 2000, Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge.

Thom, D. Convenor and Chair Gender Panel AngloAmerican Conference of Historians on War, Institute of Historical Research London, July 2000


‘Beating the Victorian boy – a just measure of pain?’ at conference Relocating the Victorians organised by the Science Museum July 12-15th 2001

I have been writing entries for the New Dictionary of National Biography for Dr. Emanuel Miller, Barbara Drake, Teresa Billington Grieg, Lady Hester Adrian, Mrs Cecil Chesterton and Lilian Barker. My current research is on the history of corporal punishment in the UK in the magistrate’s court 1900-1948 and will move into the school 1900-82 in the autumn.