

# Understanding & Supporting Families Over Time

## Research Policy & Practice

Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre  
Westminster, London

13th & 14th June 2011



Family & Parenting  
Institute



# timescapes

An ESRC Qualitative Longitudinal Study

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# Introduction to the Conference

Dear Delegate,

Welcome to this conference. Our aim is to enable academics, policy makers and practitioners to explore the dynamics of family care and support, and to debate how families might be better supported and sustained over time.

The first day of the conference highlights some of the rich findings on family life, intergenerational support and processes of change that are emerging from longitudinal research. We focus in particular on evidence from qualitative longitudinal studies, including a network of projects that has been funded by the Economic and Social Research Council under the Timescapes Programme.

The second day of the conference explores current policy developments that are designed to strengthen and transform families. Here we showcase a rich diversity of family-based initiatives, ranging from tailored services provided through grass roots practitioner organisations, to large scale, government-led family intervention programmes that are being rolled out and evaluated across the country.

We anticipate that this conference will generate some lively discussions and debates between researchers, practitioners and policy makers about 'what works' in supporting families, 'what matters' to family members across the generations, and why taking *time* and the *long view* into account is so important.

Our thanks goes to all those who have contributed to this event: to our splendid line up of speakers, rapporteurs and session chairs; to our collaborators, the Social Policy Association and the Family and Parenting Institute and to our organising committee, co-ordinated by Sarah Finney and Jamie Downs.

We are grateful to the Social Policy Association for their financial support and to our funders, the Economic and Social Research Council, for supporting this event as part of the Timescapes programme.

We hope you will find the conference both productive and enjoyable.

Bren Neale  
Director of Timescapes.

# Programme

Day One: Understanding Families Over Time. 13th June 2011

Time	Morning Session - Westminster Suite		
9:30-10:00	Registration		
10:00-10:10	Welcome and Introduction from Chair of Morning Session Professor Caroline Glendinning		
10:10-10:50	The Changing Landscapes of Family Lives and Public Policies Professor Fiona Williams		
10:50-11:30	The Impact and Contribution of Qualitative and Quantitative Longitudinal Research Professor Paul Boyle		
11:30-12:00	Discussion Chair: Professor Caroline Glendinning		
12:00-13:00	Lunch - St James's Suite		
13:00-15:30	Parallel Sessions: Insights From Research		
Theme	Life Chances of Children & Young People Chair: Alan Deacon	Parenting & Family Life Chair: Katherine Rake	Older Lives & Times Chair: Bren Neale
Venue	Shelley Room	Westminster Suite	Robert Burns Room
13:00-13:30	Moving into Adulthood in an Economic Recession Ros Edwards and Susie Weller	Strengthening Men's Involvement in Fathering: Opportunities and Challenges Karen Henwood, Fiona Shirani & Carrie Coltart	Grandparenting Across the Life Course Joanna Bornat & Bill Bytheway
13:30-14:00	Growing up in Northern Ireland Janet Holland and Sheena McGrellis	Expectations & Realities: Rethinking 'Choice' for First Time Mothers Lucy Hadfield & Rachel Thomson	Configuring Families Over Time: How Policy Processes Shape low Income Grandparenting Kahryn Hughes & Nick Emmel
14:00-14:30	Break - St James's Suite		
14:30-15:00	Gaps & Gradients in Child Well Being in the Early Years Kathleen Kiernan	Families' Experiences of Working Parenthood: The Construction & Negotiation of Responsibility Between Parents & Children Jeni Harden	Improving Older People's Lives: Maximising the Impact of Research on Ageing Thomas Scharf
15:00-15:30	Growing up in Low Income, Working Lone Parent Families Tess Ridge & Jane Millar	Gender, Values & Commitment: Continuity & Change in Parenting Sarah Irwin & Mandy Winterton	Older People's Views & Experiences of Resources in Later Life Katherine Hill
15:30-16:30	Plenary Session Chair: Professor Graham Crow - Westminster Suite		
15:30-16:00	Rapporteur on the Conference Themes and Sessions Dorit Braun		
16:00-16:30	Closing Reflections on the Day Professor Graham Crow		

# Programme

Day Two: Supporting Families Over Time. 14th June 2011

Time	Morning Session - Westminster Suite		
9:45-10:30	Registration		
10:30-10:35	Welcome and Introduction from Chair of Morning Session Professor Alan Deacon		
10:35-10:50	Review of First Day of the Conference Dorit Braun		
10:50-11:30	Early Years Interventions: The Next Steps Graham Allen MP		
11:30-12:10	Preventing Poor Children from Becoming Poor Adults Frank Field MP		
12:10-12:40	Discussion Chair Professor Alan Deacon		
12:40-13:30	Lunch - St James's Suite		
13:30-15:30	Parallel Sessions: Insights From Practice		
Theme	Supporting Children & Young People Chair: Lisa Williams	Supporting Parents & Families Chair: Clem Henricson	Supporting Older People Chair: Sam Smethers
Venue	Shelley Room	Westminster Suite	Robert Burns Room
13:30-14:00	Below the Breadline: Research & Support for Children in Poverty Puja Darbari	Home Based Family Support: Addressing the Needs of Vulnerable Families Rhian Beynon	'That Bit of Help': Better Outcomes for Older People Gillian Crosby
14:00-14:30	Following Fathers: The Experiences and Support Needs of Young Dads Carmen Lau Clayton & John May	Sustaining Support for Parents with Complex Needs Zoe Munby & Elizabeth Young	A Better Life: Alternative Approaches from the Perspectives of Families & Carers of Older People with High Support Needs Stephen Burke
14:30-15:00	Family-Nurse Partnerships: Principles, Practices, Impact Kate Billingham	Tough Love for Families: How well are Family Intervention Projects working? Clarissa White	The 'Generations Together' Programme: Principles, Practice, Impact Alan Hatton-Yeo/Louise Middleton
15:00-15:30	Break - St James's Suite		
15:30-16:30	Closing Plenary Session: Chair: Professor Bren Neale - Westminster Suite		
15:30-16:00	Understanding & Supporting Families Over Time: Reflections on the Conference Themes Katherine Rake		
16:00-16:30	Discussion & Close of Day		



# Abstracts & Biographies: Day One Presentations 13th June 2011

## Understanding Families over Time

### Plenary Sessions: Day One

#### The Changing Landscapes of Family Lives and Public Policies

Professor Fiona Williams (*University of Leeds*)

**Abstract:** The last fifty years have seen major changes in the structure and practices of family lives across the developed world. An ageing society and women's increasing involvement in paid work have made the issue of support for care needs more urgent than ever.

In this presentation Fiona Williams looks at these changes from two perspectives: first, from the claims for state support for caring activities to have emerged 'from below', that is, from grass roots movements and organisations of those with unpaid and paid caring responsibilities and those with needs for support; and second, from care policies 'from above' - from national and supranational governments and international organisations. She proposes that what now exists are two overlapping but competing frames for interpreting care needs: social justice (from below) and social investment (from above). However, the real question is how might the care practices of everyday life find greater social and political value.

**Biography:** **Fiona Williams** is Emeritus Professor of Social Policy in the School of Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Leeds and part-time Professor at the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of New South Wales.

Between 1999 -2005 she was Director of the ESRC CAVA Research Group on Care, Values and the Future of Welfare, and then established and co-directed the Centre for International Research on Care, Labour and Equalities (CIRCLE) at the University of Leeds. She has published widely on gender, ethnicity and the welfare state. Her research interests focus on the place of care in contemporary society and the development of a political ethic of care. She is currently researching into migrant care workers in Europe.

Fiona is co-editor of *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State and Society*. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society for the Arts, and an elected member of the Academy of the Social Sciences. She was awarded an O.B.E for services to social policy in 2004.

#### The Impact and Contribution of Qualitative and Quantitative Longitudinal Research

Professor Paul Boyle (*Chief Executive, Economic & Social Research Council*)

**Abstract:** This presentation will focus on the broader ESRC contribution to the development of longitudinal research and highlight the importance of longitudinal evidence, including qualitative longitudinal evidence, for policy.

Professor Boyle will outline the ESRC's national role in the area of data infrastructure including longitudinal studies, data archiving and access. The presentation will outline the importance of both quantitative and qualitative longitudinal research, using examples from both. It will be noted that the latter are particularly important for: adding depth to breadth of understanding; building up detailed case histories to shed light on important 'how' and 'why' questions; and providing a flexible method that enables us to look backwards and forwards in time and to target 'hard to reach' populations who may fall under the radar of national level surveys. Professor Boyle will draw particularly on ESRC-funded longitudinal contributions to our understanding of family issues.

**Biography:** **Professor Paul Boyle** took up the post of ESRC Chief Executive in September 2010. Before joining the ESRC he was Head of the School of Geography and Geosciences at the University of St Andrews and prior to moving to St Andrews in 1999, he had been at the University of Leeds.

Professor Boyle's research has been within population and health geography. He has had research published on migration issues, including the influence of family migration on women, on health issues, including health inequalities and the clustering of disease, and on the intersection between demographic and health issues, including the links between migration and health.

He has been the Director of the ESRC funded Longitudinal Studies Centre – Scotland. The Scottish Longitudinal Study links data from various routine administrative sources and is one of the largest studies of its type in the world. He was also Co-Director of the ESRC funded Centre for Population Change, responsible for the co-ordination of five Scottish universities, working closely with the Scottish Government and the General Register Office for Scotland, and was Co-Investigator on the Wellcome Trust-funded

Scottish Health Informatics Programme and the ESRC-funded Administrative Data Liaison Service. Professor Boyle has been an expert advisor to the European Science Foundation committee, Foresight (Office of Science and Technology), the Ministry of Justice Data Sharing Review, Royal Statistical Society Working Party on Data Capture and Society, and a member of the International Health Data Linkage Consortium, involving directors of the major health related record linkage studies worldwide. He has held Professorial fellowships at the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, University of Connecticut, the University of Amsterdam and the National University of Singapore.

#### Parallel Sessions: Day One

#### Life Chances of Children & Young People

### Moving into Adulthood in an Economic Recession

Ros Edwards & Susie Weller (*University of Southampton & London South Bank University*)

**Abstract:** This paper examines a timely and pressing issue of public and policy concern: young people's aspirations for their future lives and pathways into adulthood as the economic backdrop to their lives undergoes rapid change.

This paper draws on a qualitative longitudinal study that tracks change and continuity in young people's relationships with their sisters and brothers, and with their friends, to document how such relationships contribute to their sense of self as their individual and family biographies unfold. The study has been following the lives of a diverse, nationally distributed sample of 50 young people for the past 7-8 years.

This paper uses a series of case studies to illustrate the structures and relationships underpinning the choices about their lives that young people are able to make as they move from childhood into adulthood. It will show how young people enter a period of economic recession with prior resources and particular pathways or trajectories already in play in their lives. For the young people in the study, rather than recession bringing about a changed or fractured pathway, into adulthood, it has provided a set of conditions for embedding particular ways of moving into adulthood that are already part of their lives and aspirations.

In tracking young people's relationships and aspirations over time, this study demonstrates how in-depth longitudinal data can provide important insights, particularly in an age of austerity.

**Biographies:** **Rosalind Edwards** is a Professor in Sociology and a co-director of the ESRC National Centre for Research Methods, at the University of Southampton. Rosalind is founding and co-editor (with Julia Brannen) of the *International Journal of Social Research Methodology*, as well as co-editing (with Janet Holland) the Routledge book series *Relationships and Resources*. She is an elected member of the Academy of Social Sciences.

Rosalind has researched and published widely on a range of issues concerning families, with a focus on the perspectives on family members, including children and young people. She has a particular interest in social divisions and diversity, social resources and social change.

Since 2000 **Susie Weller** has been working on a number of projects that hold central the voices and experiences of children and teenagers. She is currently working on project one, 'Siblings and friends', of the Timescapes programme. This study seeks to document the meanings, experiences and flows of young people's prescribed (sibling) and chosen (friendship) relationships, and how these relationships relate to young people's sense of self as they grow older.

Susie's background is in children's geographies and she is particularly interested in the development of youth-centred research methods. Her previous research explored: teenagers' opportunities for participation and their understandings of citizenship (education); views on out-of-school clubs; the significance of social capital in children's lives, particularly within the context of secondary school transfer.





## Growing Up in Northern Ireland

Janet Holland & Sheena McGrellis (*London South Bank University*)

**Abstract:** The *Inventing Adulthoods* qualitative longitudinal study has been exploring young people's lives in their biographical, social/historical and generational context since 1996. (Research Team: Sheila Henderson, Janet Holland, Sheena McGrellis, Sue Sharpe and Rachel Thomson.) The young people in the study are located in five socio-economically contrastive sites across the UK, and this holistic, biographical and dynamic approach taken explores their varied trajectories into adulthood. This paper looks particularly at young people in Northern Ireland whom Sheena has re-interviewed in 2009/2010. They are the generation of the 'peace process,' the exigencies of which 'Inventing Adulthoods' fieldwork has shadowed, and here their experiences are contextualised in time in the broader span of the study, and in the complex changing historical and political backdrop through which their identities have been constructed. The focus in the paper is on how policies for young people in Northern Ireland have affected their trajectories.

**Biographies:** **Janet Holland** is Professor of Social Research in the Weeks Centre for Social and Policy Research at London South Bank University. She has research interests in youth, education, families, intimacy, feminist theory and methodology, and qualitative longitudinal methods, and has published in all of these areas. She is currently Co-Director of Timescapes, and part of an archiving project in the study, 'Making the Long View'. This involves archiving data from the qualitative longitudinal study of youth transitions, 'Inventing Adulthoods'. This study is also developing a case history method for writing and representing qualitative longitudinal data.

**Sheena McGrellis** has been involved in youth research for a number of years and has also worked in both the voluntary and statutory youth sector. She has worked on the *Inventing Adulthood* project since 1996 and is particularly interested in the experiences of young people growing up in Northern Ireland in times of political and social change. Sheena's main areas of research interest and experience are in youth transitions and identities, and in young people's health and wellbeing. She is particularly interested in the use of qualitative methods and biography to document and understand young lives in transition and in the context of social change.

## Gaps & Gradients in Child Well Being in the Early Years

Kathleen Kiernan (*University of York*)

**Abstract:** This paper uses data from the Millennium Cohort Study to examine the role of Poverty, Maternal Depression and Parenting in children's cognitive and emotional development in the first 5 years. The evidence shows that poverty matters for children's cognitive development but less so for behaviour problems and that maternal depression matters notably so for behaviour problems but also for children's cognitive development. Positive parenting is shown to be a very important mediator of family disadvantage on children's development.

**Biography:** **Kathleen Kiernan** is Professor of Social Policy and Demography at the University of York. Previously she was Professor of Social Policy and Demography at the London School of Economics and Co-Director of the ESRC Centre for the Analysis of Social Exclusion. Much of her research on family issues uses longitudinal data from the British Birth Cohort Studies. Her current research is on the family context of the early years of childhood and its implications for children's development using data from the Millennium Cohort Study. She was a member of the Children's Society Good Childhood Inquiry.

## Growing Up in Low Income, Working Lone Parent Families

Tess Ridge & Jane Millar (*University of Bath*)

**Abstract:** This paper presents findings from three waves of a longitudinal qualitative study exploring the lives and experiences of mothers and children living in low-income working lone-mother households. The study began in 2003, when the mothers elected to move into employment supported by tax credits following a period of unemployment in receipt of Income Support (or in a few cases JSA).

In general children's contributions to working family life have tended to be overlooked or ignored. Public and policy discourse have constituted children as passive dependant family members in need of adult care and control. In particular, children living in working families have been problematised as potential obstacles to employment and at times as burdensome responsibilities impinging on the career prospects of other family members. This paper explores the dynamic role that children played within families, where they were often engaged in a tessellation of interactions and negotiations with their mothers, (non-resident

fathers) and their siblings. The paper draws on individual case studies to explore how over time children have negotiated and mediated their experiences of both secure and insecure employment, and reveals children's active engagement in producing and reproducing family life in challenging social, emotional and financial circumstances. In the context of increasing conditionality in welfare provision, especially for lone mothers, the study raises important questions about the role and consequences of welfare-to-work policies in children's lives.

dataset, the paper builds on existing research through a focus on men's linked lives with others, with particular reference to early experiences and expectations, changing relationships to involvement and fathering across generations.

**Biographies:** Tess Ridge is a Senior Lecturer in Social Policy at the University of Bath. Her main research interests are childhood poverty and social exclusion, especially exploring the experience of poverty and disadvantage from the perspectives of children themselves. She also has a keen interest in the role of policy in the lives of children and families, especially the provision of welfare and economic support for children and families. She has extensive experience of carrying out qualitative research with low-income children and their families. Her current research includes a qualitative longitudinal project with Jane Millar (University of Bath) which explores the lives and experiences of low-income children and their mothers in working lone-mother households. This study explored the transition from welfare benefits to employment and the sustainability of that employment over time. Most recently she has been working with the Child Poverty Unit reviewing research with low-income children and feeding in to the development and progress of the recently passed Child Poverty Act.

**Biographies:** **Karen Henwood** is a Professor in the Cardiff School of Social Sciences where she has worked since 2006. Her research concerns identity and risk and seeks to understand how people live with socio-cultural and environmental change. She has a longstanding track record of reflecting on social research methodologies and methods as a means of fostering inquiry into the complex meanings and dynamics of people's everyday lives, and exploring social, cultural and psychological change. As a PI on the Timescapes network, where she leads the Men as Fathers project and coordinates aspects of network methods and ethics activities, qualitative longitudinal/temporal methods of inquiry have become a key part of her research portfolio.

Karen's research is often conducted within collaborative networks, interdisciplinary teams and multi-method groupings. From 2003-2008 she jointly led the 'living with nuclear risk' project as part of the ESRC's Social Contexts and Responses to Risk or SCARR network. Currently she is in the early stages of starting up a major new project (2011-2014) within the ESRC's Energy and Communities programme to study people's 'energy biographies' and to open up ways of reducing energy consumption in everyday life.

Karen is affiliated to Cardiff University's Centre for Understanding Risk (CUR) and Sustainable Places Research Institute (PLACE). She will be seconded to PLACE in 2012: her plans include fostering the role of families and relationships researchers in sustainability science.

**Fiona Shirani** joined Timescapes in 2007 as a Research Associate for the Men as Fathers project and has primarily been responsible for collecting and analysing the study's qualitative longitudinal

## Parenting & Family Life

### Strengthening Men's Involvement in Fathering: Opportunities and Challenges

Karen Henwood, Fiona Shirani & Carrie Coltart  
(Cardiff University)

**Abstract:** Whilst fatherhood has become a topic of research and policy interest in recent years, there remains little consensus about the extent to which men and their families support ideals of involved fatherhood in their everyday lives, the practical barriers to achieving this, and to what extent 'traditional' models of fathering remain relevant. This paper draws on data collected for the Men as Fathers project based at Cardiff University in order to highlight some of the important issues for policy arising from this project, namely men's experiences of involvement across their child's life, the opportunities this presents and barriers to achieving this. Using a qualitative longitudinal



data. She was recently awarded her PhD in Sociology for a study of the 'right time' for fatherhood: a temporal study of men's transition to parenthood. Fiona is also currently conducting a review of theories and concepts for a study in the AHRC's 'Connected Communities' programme, and will be joining another qualitative longitudinal interview research project in August 2011.

**Carrie Coltart** is a Research Associate on the ESRC Timescapes Study (Masculinities, Identities and Risk: Transition in the Lives of Men as Fathers). She joined the 'Men as Fathers' research team after completing her PhD in Women's Studies at the University of York in 2008. Carrie is working on the psychosocial strand of the project as well as contributing to cross-project collaborative work around the theme of intensive parenting culture.

### Expectations & Realities: Rethinking 'Choice' for First Time Mothers

Lucy Hadfield & Rachel Thomson  
(Open University)

**Abstract:** Policies addressing new mothers place an emphasis on 'choice', inviting women to shape the kind of mother they want to be. Yet are these choices realised in practice? In this paper we draw on a broadly based interview study of new motherhood, in order to focus on women's expectations in relation to choosing how and where to give birth and when and how to return to work. Through QL case studies we reveal how experiences may be very different from those anticipated, showing how women reframe earlier 'choices' with hindsight.

**Biographies:** **Lucy Hadfield** is the Research Fellow on the project 'The Dynamics of Motherhood'. She is also a part-time PhD student at the Open University and a research consultant for Triangle Services (consultancy and training with children). Lucy's research interests include family relationships, disability, pregnancy and childhood. Her previous work has been in the area of children's sibling relationships and childhood disability and her PhD research is on 'Becoming a Disabled Mother'.

**Rachel Thomson** is Professor of Social Research in the Faculty of Health and Social Care and is director of the Dynamics of Motherhood project. She has been involved in two qualitative longitudinal studies, the 'Inventing Adulthood' study and 'Making of Modern Motherhood' study. Both studies form part of the Timescapes project. She has also written extensively on qualitative longitudinal methods and the challenge of researching personal and social change.

Her research interests focus on personal life and the life course and her empirical research spans late childhood, youth and the transition into adulthood. Her most recent research has been in the area of new parenthood. She has theoretical interests in the gendered character of social and personal change and debates between feminist and late modern accounts. Her methodological interests focus on empirical strategies for capturing temporal processes.

### Families' Experiences of Working Parenthood: The Construction and Negotiation of Responsibility between Parents & Children

Jeni Harden (Edinburgh Napier University)

**Abstract:** In the UK, more children than ever before are being brought up by parents engaged in some form of paid employment outside the home. This change has been met with interest by academics, policy makers and indeed employers, particularly in how the demands of work and family are managed by parents. There is also concern about the impact of this on children's lives. This paper draws on data from a qualitative longitudinal study with working families. Three waves of fieldwork were conducted with 14 families living in Scotland under differing socio-economic and labour market conditions. Individual interviews were conducted with parents and children at waves 1 and 3 (15 months apart), while wave 2 entailed family group interviews. This paper focuses on families' experiences of working parenthood over time. Specifically it considers the ways in which children and parents construct and negotiate responsibility in relation to the 'family-work project'. The concept of responsibility was addressed directly in the interviews, but was also embedded in much of the parents' and children's discussion of their experiences and concerns. By comparing and contrasting children's and parents accounts across and within families it is possible to contribute to an understanding of how families face work-life challenges in relation to present and future concerns.

**Biography:** **Jeni Harden** is a senior lecturer in Sociology at Napier University, Edinburgh. She is a co-investigator on the 'Work and Family lives' project, working alongside colleagues from the University of Edinburgh. This project develops on earlier research she has worked on exploring the construction and negotiation of everyday experiences between family members.

Jeni is interested in childhood, particularly child-parent negotiations around children's health and wellbeing. She has carried out research into



children and risk anxiety, parenting children with mental health problems, and children's emotional wellbeing. She is also interested in the methodological challenges of addressing multiple perspectives in research with families.

### Gender, Values & Commitments: Continuity and Change in Parenting

Sarah Irwin & Mandy Winterton (*University of Leeds*)

**Abstract:** Recent decades have seen transformations in gendered relations to work and care. In the UK this is exemplified by a marked increase in the participation of women in paid employment through the family building period. Whilst having pre-school children is still important to women's work patterns, there have been important changes over recent decades. The trend has been away from a breadwinner pattern towards a co-resourcing family model.

Employment has become more central to many women's identities even when they are parents of young children. This is part of a broader reconfiguration of gender, family resourcing, and work and care commitments. As is well known this change has generated newly extensive pressures in managing and coordinating family life. However, we are relatively short of insights into mothers' and fathers' experiences, values and motivations as these evolve through the period of family building. The work reported on in this presentation asks: how do gender roles and values, and perceptions of appropriate commitments 'play out' over time, through this part of the life course? New experiences, changing relationships and contingencies, and new mothers' and fathers' reflections on these, offer a rich set of insights into gender identities, and perceptions and norms about gender roles.

In turn this sheds light on motivations and behaviours and offers a resource for understanding emergent patterns. The paper draws on research by the Secondary Analysis Project team of ESRC Timescapes, which is working with data across the Timescapes projects. The qualitative longitudinal perspective allows us new kinds of insights into continuity and change in gendered roles, identities and values. This presentation will make links to wider social transformations and consider implications for policy.

**Biographies:** **Sarah Irwin** is a Reader in Sociology and is involved in Timescapes, an ESRC qualitative longitudinal study 'Changing lives and times: relationships and identities through the life course'. She runs the secondary analysis project on Timescapes and is also running a small

research project into parenting, class and family life. She is Director of the Centre for Research on Families, the Life Course and Generations (FLaG).

Sarah's main research interests are in the areas of family, education, gender, youth, the life course and research methods. Recently she has been exploring the scope for working across different kinds of data (including qualitative and quantitative) in advancing conceptual understanding: a feature of her work for Timescapes, and also of her work on parenting and class related inequalities.

**Mandy Winterton** is a Research Fellow on the ESRC Timescapes study 'Changing lives and times: relationships and identities through the life course'. She is working on the secondary analysis project of this qualitative longitudinal study.

Mandy's research interests lie in the dynamics of social inequality, with particular respect to the intersections of social class, gender and education.

### Older Lives & Times

#### Grandparenting Across the Life Course

Joanna Bornat & Bill Bytheway (*Open University*)

**Abstract:** Using data from interviews and diaries this paper reviews assumptions as to the role of grandparenting in older people's lives. National evidence on the effect of class and location on the range of grandparenting behaviours is reviewed, along with trends in the timing of parenting and changing family structures. Qualitative evidence is presented on the position of people aged 75 or more in families, and on how intergenerational care, support and resources are deployed within families. This includes longitudinal data illustrating how the life chances of older people can work out over time. The paper concludes that any understanding of the contribution of grandparents to the role of the family in supporting intergenerational cohesion needs to take into consideration the range of types of support available within families as well as external resources within immediate localities and wider society.

**Biographies:** **Joanna Bornat** has a longstanding interest in oral history, as a method and as evidence about the past. Her particular focus has been remembering in late life and the part this plays in the construction and maintenance of identity in old life. Dialogues which generate accounts of the past, and engagement with memory at the level of community and society are also significant,



particularly when what is remembered challenges dominant accounts.

**Bill Bytheway** is a gerontologist and a member of the British Society of Gerontology, the British Sociological Association and the Academy of the Social Sciences. He has been a researcher in the Universities of Aberdeen, Keele and Swansea before joining the Open University in 1997. He was born in York and has lived in Swansea since 1975.

In the last ten years, he has undertaken research on medication in later life, chronological age and birthdays (with the Mass-Observation Archive), age discrimination and the age factor in the response to Hurricane Katrina. Methodologically, he is interested in the power of diaries and photographs.

### Configuring Families Over Time: How Policy Processes Shape Low Income Grandparenting

Kahryn Hughes & Nick Emmel (*University of Leeds*)

**Abstract:** Intergenerational Exchange, Project 6 in Timescapes, investigates how mid-life grandparents (35-55yrs), who can be described as falling within the 'core poor' living in low income localities, describe experiences of grandparenting.

Kahryn and Nick's research in these localities (from 1999 to date) suggests that, for these grandparents, the relationships they have with formal and third sector workers are crucial in whether or not they are able to gain access to what they need to make ends meet in their day to day lives.

These relationships can be described as enabling or constraining. Formal service intervention impacts on how families are experienced; different policy focus can rewrite the expected flow of authority, control, and 'generation' within these families as these relationships are managed over time by services providers. A consequence of this is that, as these families engage with services over time, so are the trajectories and choices of these families shaped. A problematic consequence of this is that when formal service agencies focus on particular identities within families (teenage mother, vulnerable child), or particular interests in the family (the father's, the mother's, the child's) this can render their clients, or other family members unintentionally vulnerable.

Nevertheless, services can be crucial in the support of different family members in providing

the opportunity for them to develop identities, support and resources, beyond their family setting and locality.

This paper will therefore consider how, in the context of policy-based intervention, family 'choices' are shaped; 'resources' are provided and, in particular in these families, produced. The paper will argue that ideas of 'within family choice and preference' require reformulation within an understanding of the broader policy context in which these families are themselves configured, in place, in 'generation', and over time.

**Biographies:** **Kahryn Hughes** is in the School of Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Leeds. For the last ten years, she has been researching individuals and groups traditionally considered hard-to-reach by the academic community. She is particularly interested in understanding intergenerational poverty within families and across localities. Her main theoretical interests lie around theorising time, space and relational processes of identity constitution and maintenance, including those associated with practices of addiction; and theorising social networks in the context of low-income communities. Her two most recent projects are first, ESRC 'Changing Lives and Times Qualitative Longitudinal Initiative Relationships and Identities through the Life Course' (Timescapes) 'Grandparenting: charting trajectories of inter-generational social exclusion and health'; and second, 'New forms of participation: internet gambling and the role of the family', under the ESRC/RIGT initiative.

**Nick Emmel** is a senior lecturer in health policy and development. His interests lie in innovative investigation, through using participatory, longitudinal qualitative, and mixed methods in social spaces of vulnerability. His research-led teaching critically engages with the social policy and sociology of international health and development. At present he is writing a book for Sage on sampling in qualitative research: choosing cases. His on-going research includes: ESRC 'Changing Lives and Times Qualitative Longitudinal Initiative Relationships and Identities through the Life Course' (Timescapes) 'Grandparenting: charting trajectories of intergenerational social exclusion and health'.

## Improving Older People's Lives: Maximising the Impact of research on Ageing

Thomas Scharf (NUI Galway)

**Abstract:** Set within the context of a critical gerontology perspective that emphasises the close relationship between research and social change, this presentation will reflect on the range of impacts, both short and long-term, arising from one of the projects featured in a recent *Making the Case for the Social Sciences* brochure produced in collaboration with the Academy of Social Sciences, the British Society of Gerontology, and Age UK.

The focal point is an empirical study of the experiences of older people living in some of England's most disadvantaged urban communities, supported by the Economic and Social Research Council's Growing Older programme between 2000 and 2003. The study draws on a wide range of data collected from older residents in neighbourhoods of London, Liverpool and Manchester.

The presentation will highlight potentially contrasting approaches to understanding and reporting the impacts of gerontological research. It will focus on research impacts in relation to four key areas. First, it will show how research findings were used by charities, local authorities, and national government in their efforts to improve policy making. Second, it will address the study's contribution to producing highly skilled researchers. Third, it will explore impact in relation to 'cultural enrichment' in terms of the ways in which people consider issues around ageing and the lifecourse. Fourth, it will assess a range of direct benefits arising for older people in terms of improved quality of life. In discussing some of the ongoing impacts and issues emerging from a study completed over seven years ago, the presentation concludes with a reflection on the value of reporting the impacts of gerontological research.

**Biography:** **Tom Scharf** is Professor of Social Gerontology and Director of the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology at NUI Galway, Ireland. With a first degree in German and Politics from the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne and a doctorate in political science from Aston University, his research encompasses the fields of social gerontology, social policy and political science. Tom moved to NUI Galway in 2010 having previously been Director of the Centre for Social Gerontology, Keele University, UK. Tom was elected to the UK Academy of Social Sciences in 2009 in recognition of his work on ageing.

At NUI Galway, Tom engaged in a variety of projects on issues relating to poverty in later life, aspects of intergenerational solidarity, and the experiences of people ageing in disadvantaged communities. Tom is also playing a lead role in shaping the development of NUI Galway's new Lifecourse Institute.

## Older People's Views and Experiences of Resources in Later Life

Katherine Hill (Centre for Research in Social Policy, Loughborough University)

**Abstract:** Drawing on a qualitative research project conducted over a two year period with people aged 65 to 84, this presentation will illustrate various dynamics of older people's social networks and how they can affect their lives. It will focus on the ways in which changes in family and social relationships are experienced by older people. This includes changes in older people's own personal relationships, as well as the effects of transitions in the lives of those around them.

As the research looked across a range of aspects of older people's lives, it also provided insight into how social contacts act as a resource that can be drawn on to help people adjust to and cope with changes in their lives, such as deteriorating health. It also highlights the role of family and friends in protecting against change, which can help older people maintain greater stability in their lives, for example, in providing additional help or accessing adaptations, benefits or services.



**Biography:** **Katherine Hill** is a Senior Research Associate at the Centre for Research in Social Policy at Loughborough University. She is particularly interested in older people's needs and policy implications and led the qualitative longitudinal Resources in Later Life project funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Katherine's research with older people and on welfare policy evaluation has involved discussing financial management, perceptions of need and decision-making and how people respond to and manage change.

# Biographies: Day One Chairs 13th June 2011

## Understanding Families over Time

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### Dorit Braun

(College of Social Work)

Dorit has worked in the voluntary and public sectors throughout her working life. Her background is in adult and community education, and she spent many years working in family and parenting education and support, latterly as Chief Executive of the charity Parentline Plus. Dorit has experience of health commissioning, service development and provision, charity mergers, governance, policy lobbying and income generation.

Dorit left Parentline Plus to work on a number of projects, and specialises in supporting not for profit start ups. She is currently Project Director for the start up phase of The College of Social Work being hosted by The Social Care Institute for Excellence.

Dorit is Chair of the Board of Trustees of the charity Working with Men, and a Non Executive Director of CWDC.

### Professor Graham Crow

(University of Southampton)

Graham Crow (Professor of Sociology) studied Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Oxford, and was awarded a PhD in Sociology from the University of Essex for research into the rural class structure in Britain. He has been employed at Southampton since 1983, teaching in various areas including sociological theory, comparative sociology, the sociology of family and community, research methods, and the sociology of disability. His publications are concerned with issues in all of these areas, and his latest book is *Stepfamilies* (Palgrave 2011, with Graham Allan and Sheila Hawker). From 2001-3 he was co-editor (with Larry Ray) of the *Electronic Journal Sociological Research On-line*, and from 2006-8 he was co-editor (with Cathy Pope) of *Sociology*. He has been Deputy Director of the ESRC National Centre for Research Methods since 2006 and was lead organiser of the Research Methods Festivals in 2008 and 2010.

Together with Rose Wiles he is currently working on projects on methodological innovation and on 'missing data' in qualitative research.

### Professor Alan Deacon

(University of Leeds)

Alan Deacon is Emeritus Professor of Social Policy at the University of Leeds. He is an Academician of the Academy of Social Sciences and was a member of the ESRC Research Group on Care, Values and the Future of Welfare 1999-2004, and Chair of the Social Policy Association from 2001 to 2004. The focus of his work has been upon the debates about the future direction of welfare reform in Britain and the United States.

### Professor Caroline Glendinning

(University of York)

Caroline is Professor of Social Policy in the Social Policy Research Unit, University of York, England. From 2004-2011 she led SPRU's DH-funded research programme on Choice and Change across the Lifecourse. She is Chair of the UK Social Policy Association; Associate Director of the National Institute for Health Research School for Social Care Research; and a Trustee of the Thalidomide Trust.

Professor Glendinning has long-standing experience of research in health and social care; informal care; and comparative research. She is currently contributing to two cross-European studies of long-term care reform.



**Professor Bren Neale**  
(University of Leeds)

Bren Neale is Professor of Life Course and Family Research in the School of Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Leeds. She specialises in policy related research on the dynamics of family life and childhood. These have included studies of the transition to marriage, family and professional care of terminally ill people, and the changing lives of parents and children following divorce. As Director of the ESRC Timescapes Initiative, Bren has been researching new conceptual and methodological understandings of time. She has contributed to advances in Qualitative Longitudinal (QL) research methods and supported the development of projects across academia, government and the voluntary sector. As part of her work in establishing the new Timescapes Archive, she has advanced a 'stakeholder' model for the archiving and re-use of complex longitudinal data. Her empirical research under Timescapes has focused on the changing lives of young people, as part of which she is tracking groups of teenage fathers and disadvantaged black young men. She is a founding co-editor of a new international journal: *Families, Relationships and Societies*, published by Policy Press, and is an elected member of the Academy of Social Sciences.

**Dr Katherine Rake OBE**  
(Family & Parenting Institute)

Katherine took up her post as Chief Executive of the Family and Parenting Institute in October 2009. She has a strong background in social policy and research and is passionate about improving families' well-being. Katherine previously spent seven years as chief executive of the Fawcett Society. Prior to that she was a Lecturer in Social Policy at the LSE and seconded to the Women's Unit, Cabinet Office where she edited a ground-breaking report on women's lifetime incomes: Katherine has advised the Prime Minister's Policy Unit, HM Treasury and a variety of other Government departments. She is a regular broadcaster and has contributed to a wide range of print media. In 2008, Katherine was awarded an OBE for services to equal opportunities, an Institute of Directors 'Good Director' Honour and the Social Policy Association's Annual Award for Outstanding Contribution from a Non-academic.





# Abstracts & Biographies: Day Two Presentations 14th June 2011

## Supporting Families over Time

### Plenary Sessions: Day Two

#### Early Years Interventions: The Next Steps

Graham Allen MP

**Abstract:** Early Intervention is an approach which offers our country a real opportunity to make lasting improvements in the lives of our children, to forestall many persistent social problems and end their transmission from one generation to the next, and to make long-term savings in public spending. It covers a range of tried and tested policies for the first three years of children's lives to give them the essential social and emotional security they need for the rest of their lives. It also includes a range of well-established policies for when they are older which leave children ready to face the challenges of each stage of childhood and of passage into adulthood – especially the challenge of becoming good parents to their own children.

In spite of its merits, which have achieved increasing recognition by national and local government and the voluntary sector, the provision of successful evidence-based Early Intervention programmes remains persistently patchy and dogged by institutional and financial obstacles. In consequence, there remains an overwhelming bias in favour of existing policies of late intervention at a time when social problems are well-entrenched – even though these policies are known to be expensive and of limited success. Strong leadership by all political parties is required to overcome this bias and achieve a cultural shift to Early Intervention. A move to successful Early Intervention requires new thinking about the relationship between central government and local providers. It also needs authoritative evidence about which forms of Early Intervention are most successful, and about their impact.

**Biography:** **Graham Allen** is the Labour MP for Nottingham North and the Independent Chair of the Cabinet Office Review of Early Intervention.

Graham was born and bred in his constituency and after 'a chequered educational career' became Member of Parliament for Nottingham North in 1987. He served as a spokesperson in six front bench briefs in opposition; during the first Labour Government was sentenced to 5 years in the Whips Office for thinking too much. As a 'recovering whip' he has subsequently devoted

his time to trying to democratise the UK and to popularise the gospel of Early Intervention. He wrote *Reinventing Democracy* and *The Last Prime Minister-being honest about the UK Presidency* as well as co-authoring a book on early intervention, entitled, *Early Intervention: Good Parents, Great Kids, Better Citizens* with Iain Duncan-Smith. He is also Chair of the Political and Constitutional Reform Select Committee which scrutinises the remit of the Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg.



Graham led the pioneering Early Intervention programme in his city of Nottingham as the essential compliment to the local mainstream health, skills, children's and anti-crime strategies 'cutting off the supply of those without the abilities to attain'.

#### Preventing Poor Children from Becoming Poor Adults

Frank Field MP

**Abstract:** Frank will be talking about his work on the Review on Poverty and Life Chances which resulted in the publication of *The Foundation Years Preventing Poor Children Becoming Poor Adults*.

**Biography:** **Frank Field** was the Director of the Child Poverty Action Group 1969-1979 and has been a Member of Parliament for Birkenhead since 1979. He was also Chairman of the Social Security Select Committee in the run up to the 1997 election, Minister for Welfare Reform in the first part of Blair's Government, and more recently asked to report to the Prime Minister on Poverty and Life Chances.

The titles of his last two books are *Attlee's Great Contemporaries*: *The Politics of Character*,

## Reflections on the Conference Themes

Dr Katherine Rake OBE (*Family & Parenting Institute*)

**Abstract:** In her talk, Katherine will reflect on some of the main themes of the conference, drawing on insights from both research and practice. She will invite us to consider afresh what helps and what hinders families, what kinds of support are most effective across the generations, and what can be gained by taking a life course and longer term view of these issues.

**Biography:** Katherine took up her post as Chief Executive of the Family and Parenting Institute in October 2009. She has a strong background in social policy and research and is passionate about improving families' well-being. Katherine previously spent seven years as chief executive of the Fawcett Society. Prior to that she was a Lecturer in Social Policy at the LSE and seconded to the Women's Unit, Cabinet Office where she edited a ground-breaking report on women's lifetime incomes: Katherine has advised the Prime Minister's Policy Unit, HM Treasury and a variety of other Government departments. She is a regular broadcaster and has contributed to a wide range of print media. In 2008, Katherine was awarded an OBE for services to equal opportunities, an Institute of Directors 'Good Director' Honour and the Social Policy Association's Annual Award for Outstanding Contribution from a Non-academic.

### Parallel Sessions: Day Two

#### Supporting Children & Young People

### Below the Breadline: Research and Support for Children in Poverty

Puja Darbari (*Barnardo's*)

**Abstract:** Discussion about child poverty in the UK is often somewhat detached, offering statistical data on how far family incomes fall short of the Government's poverty line and speculating about the economies families have to make. This rarely captures the daily, grinding poverty that nearly 4 million children in the UK currently experience. Barnardo's year-long study followed 16 families living in poverty in the UK. By tracking these families over a period of time this study reveals the details of how they deal with money and the challenges they face in making a low income meet the diverse, and sometimes unpredictable, needs of family life.

Participating families were Barnardo's service users (or former service users) and were living in poverty at the start of the project. This was determined by an initial financial assessment based on income and family size and calculated using the Government's poverty measure. Barnardo's works directly with more than 100,000 children, young people and their families every year through 400 projects across the UK. They aim to reduce the impact of poverty on children, young people, families and communities through social, economic and community action. Around one-third of their work focuses on the alleviation of poverty which is an inescapable element of nearly all their work.

**Biography:** Puja Darbari is UK Director for Policy, Research and Media at Barnardo's. Puja joined Barnardo's in June 2008 as Assistant Director of Communications and was appointed UK Director in May 2010, leading on Barnardo's policy, research and campaigning and media activities across the UK.

As UK Director Puja is responsible for influencing external policy and practice on behalf of the organisation and for growing awareness and support for Barnardo's in the media. Prior to joining Barnardo's Puja Darbari worked as Press Secretary to Liberal Democrat leaders Sir Menzies Campbell MP and Dr Vince Cable MP and Account Director for communications agency Forster.

### Following Fathers: The Experiences and Support Needs of Young Dads

Carmen Lau Clayton (*University of Leeds*) & John May (*Children Leeds*)

**Abstract:** Concerns about youthful fertility are not new and in the 21st century, teenage pregnancy continues to permeate British political interest. In 1999 the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy was established with the aim of reducing young parent's social exclusion, by increasing the number of support services available. However much of this support focuses upon the mother, while young fathers are relatively underserved and unsupported. We currently lack qualitative insights into the lives of young parents. Furthermore we know little of how the lives of teen fathers unfold over time, how they adapt to their dual status as both young people and parents and what impact policy interventions, or other kinds of support, may be having on fathers as they face the challenges of entering and sustaining early parenthood.

This paper will report on a Qualitative

Longitudinal project, conducted as part of the ESRC funded Timescapes study, which is intensively tracking a small sample of teen dads in varied circumstances as they negotiate the transition to fatherhood and beyond. The research is being carried out in collaboration with a local authority support service in a Northern UK industrial city, through whom the sample was recruited. Preliminary findings from the research will be presented, and located in the context of existing social research and the broad context of early years policy interventions.

**Biographies:** **Carmen Lau Clayton** is a Timescapes Research Fellow for the Young Lives Project at the University of Leeds. Her thesis was concerned with the UK Chinese diaspora which looked at generational and cultural patterns for various British Chinese households. Specifically, British Chinese parenting, children's agency and intimacy levels between parents and children. Carmen also works at Leeds Trinity University College as an associate senior lecturer in child and family welfare studies. Carmen's research interests include childhood, young people, family life, personal relationships, ethnicity and culture.

**John May** has worked within Education for over 10 years, and has worked with some of the most vulnerable young people within the city. He currently works for Leeds LA, supporting school age fathers. Within this role he identifies their education needs as well as other areas where they may need support. This role has been recognised nationally as well as locally in regards to good practice. He has also worked alongside organisations, such as the Fatherhood Institute and Young People in Focus. His work here helps inform professionals about different ways of engaging this particular group, as well as more local services through the Teenage Pregnancy Board in Leeds.

In addition to this John is heavily involved in initiatives aimed at reducing teenage conception. This work includes on site health services and delivering SRE to schools across Leeds. He is currently a member of the Men's Health forum in Leeds and Chair of the Boys and Young Men's Forum.

### Family-Nurse Partnerships: Principles, Practice, Impact

Kate Billingham (*Department of Health*)

**Abstract:** The Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) programme is cited as an early intervention programme with one of the strongest evidence base. The FNP starts in early pregnancy and

ends when the child reaches 2. It is a voluntary intensive home visiting programme offered to first time vulnerable young mothers.

The Government wants to double capacity to a minimum of 13,000 places by 2015. This session will describe the content and development of FNP and share the learning from FNP in England.

**Biography:** **Kate Billingham** originally trained as a paediatric nurse before becoming a health visitor. As a health visitor she worked in a number of northern cities before setting up a health project for young parents in Nottingham in the 1980s. Since then, she has worked in primary care and public health before joining the Department of Health in 2001 as Deputy Chief Nursing Officer. In 2007 Kate became Project Director for the Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) Programme. She is also a visiting Professor at Kings College, London and Trustee of the Queens Nursing Institute.

### Supporting Parents & Families

#### Home-Based Family Support: Addressing the Needs of Vulnerable Families

Rhian Beynon (*Family Action*)

**Abstract:** This session will offer a view of where home-based family support lies in the mix of Government policy and local initiatives for vulnerable families, and the challenges and opportunities of the changing commissioning environment.

Rhian will look at the role and impact of voluntary organisations in providing family support drawing on findings from Family Action's family support services and those of other voluntary sector organisations.

**Biography:** **Rhian Beynon** is Head of Policy and Campaigns for Family Action, a charity which has been supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged families since 1869 through a range of grants and services. Rhian has been working for campaigning organisations for 15 years including Amnesty, Age Concern England, Christian Aid, and the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants. At Family Action she leads a team who use the experiences of the charity's service users and practitioners to campaign for better services and welfare support for vulnerable parents and their children.



## Sustaining Support for Parents with Complex Needs

Zoe Munby & Elizabeth Young (Home Start)

**Abstract:** This presentation will outline the individually negotiated approach to supporting families over time which is at the centre of Home-Start's practice. The Home-Start family support network recruits, trains and matches over 15,000 volunteers to support 34,000 families with young children, mainly in families' homes. A recent study of Home-Start in the Netherlands drew attention to the importance of individual's patterns of change over time rather than the more classic group mean analysis undertaken to demonstrate effectiveness.

This presentation will focus on the journeys families take during the time which they are supported by Home-Start across the UK. Mapping or charting these journeys is part of the process of support co-constructed between families and Home-Start and methods are currently being introduced to depict these journeys, by recording family life events and milestones. The journey can last over two years but more typically lasts 6- 12 months and often bridges a period of transition for the family. Case studies will be presented which illustrate this and some will be drawn from a particular project focusing on families who were affected by financial hardship.

Home-Start UK's approach to monitoring the family journey poses challenges as support over time introduces many 'intervening variables'. However, it is families with complex lives who often need support that is not time limited.

**Biographies:** **Dr Zoë Munby** is Director for Learning and Quality at Home-Start. Her role involves consultation on, formulation of and training in family support practice across the Home-Start network. Recently this has included providing practice guidance and training support around the introduction of an electronic monitoring and evaluation system [MESH] across the Home-Start network which captures real time data on the families' journey of change. Her background is in adult learning and development, originally as an historian with an interest in participative community history.

**Dr Elizabeth Young** is Director for Research and Policy at Home-Start. One of the main elements of her role in this post is the introduction of the electronic monitoring and evaluation system [MESH]. Prior to this she has worked in the NHS

and academia. Her professional background is in nursing and medical sociology and she has an interest in researching sensitive topics, focus group methodology and more recently in evaluation and organisational development.

## Tough Love for Families: How well are Family Intervention Projects working?

Clarissa White (*National Centre for Social Research (NatCen)*)

**Abstract:** A national network of Family Intervention Projects (FIPs) was set up as part of the Respect Action Plan, launched in January 2006. These initial projects aimed to reduce anti-social behaviour (ASB) perpetrated by the most anti-social and challenging families, prevent cycles of homelessness due to ASB and achieve the five Every Child Matters outcomes for children and young people. They were subsequently rolled out to work with other types of families with multiple problems with the aim of preventing youth crime, tackling child poverty and addressing inter generational worklessness.

Families are supported by a dedicated 'key worker' who coordinates a multi-agency package of support and also works intensively with family members to help them overcome their problems. The intensity of the engagement and the trust that is established between key workers and families enables FIPs to use an 'assertive' and 'persistent' style of working to challenge and support families.

Local authorities are now building on the core features of the FIP model as they develop an array of family intervention services.

The presentation will:

1. Trace the development of FIPs
2. Assess the evidence on FIPs
3. Identify the features that appear critical to the success of FIPs
4. Reflect on the methodological challenges of monitoring and evaluating FIPs and family intervention services

**Biography:** **Clarissa White** is a Research Director in the Children and Young People Team at NatCen. Clarissa has over 19 years of experience as a social policy researcher. Much of this work has concentrated on research with children, young people and their families and she is currently establishing a centre of expertise for families within NatCen. She is a qualitative research and evaluation specialist. She has recently returned to NatCen after spending 2 years at the Department for Education managing the Families Research and Analysis Team.



## 'That Bit of Help': Better Outcomes for Older People

Gillian Crosby (Centre for Policy on Ageing)

**Abstract:** This presentation is based on work by the Centre for Policy on Ageing, commissioned by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, that looked at how local authorities with less money can support better outcomes for older people. This session aims to provide examples of imaginative, affordable and effective ways of supporting older people and in particular where there has been some local authority involvement and where examples have been evaluated to varying degrees. A relatively small amount of tailored help, which is sustained over time, can often make more of a positive difference to older people's lives than the more intensive support provided over a short time.

Established in 1947 by the Nuffield Foundation the charity Centre for Policy on Ageing has been working to promote the interests of older people through research, policy analysis, its library services and the dissemination of information – and always by drawing directly on the experiences of older people themselves to enhance the sharing of knowledge and good practice in all sectors.

**Biography:** Gillian Crosby is Director of the Centre for Policy on Ageing (CPA) and has developed the unique information resources, called AgeInfo, to establish an evidence base for the field of ageing.

She has written extensively on a range of issues concerned with ageing and participated in numerous projects, most recently exploring older people's vision for long term care; age discrimination in health and social care services; promoting the financial wellbeing of older people; independent living for older people with high support needs; prevention and early intervention strategies; and the health and well-being benefits of dance.

Gillian is on the Editorial Boards of *Ageing and Society* and also *Working with Older People*. She sits on several advisory and research groups, including the UK Advisory Forum on Ageing and is a trustee of inControl and a commissioner on Westminster's Social Care Commission.

## A Better Life: Alternative Approaches from the Perspective of Families and Carers of Older People with High Support Needs

Stephen Burke (United for All Ages)

**Abstract:** This presentation will be based on a paper Stephen Burke wrote for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation's 'A Better Life' Programme while he was chief executive of Counsel and Care. The programme seeks to identify alternatives to residential care for older people with high support needs. Stephen Burke spoke to family carers of older people to get their views on how care and support could be improved. They wanted their own role to be much better recognised by professional carers and to be consulted, involved and supported much more. In addition to improving care homes, they wanted a wider range of housing options, better homecare and support in the community. 'Looking inside and outside the box' challenges professionals to make better use of existing resources.

Since the end of 2010, Stephen Burke and his wife Denise have been setting up a new social enterprise, United for All Ages, to bring older and young people together to build stronger communities. One of the key themes of United's work is 'shared caring' - looking at different ways families can reciprocate and support caring across the generations. Stephen Burke will also talk about this work.

**Biography:** Stephen Burke is director of United for All Ages, a new social enterprise bringing older and young people together to build stronger communities ([www.unitedforallages.com](http://www.unitedforallages.com)). Previously he was chief executive of Counsel and Care, the national charity working with older people, their families and carers, and of Daycare Trust, the national child care charity. He is currently co-chair of Grandparents Plus, treasurer of the Older People's Advocacy Alliance, and a trustee of NAAPS and Foundations Independent Living Trust. He has almost thirty years' experience working for national organisations and has been a councillor and leader of a London borough and vice-chair of a primary care trust.



## The 'Generations Together' Programme: Principles, Practice, Impact.

Alan Hatton-Yeo & Louise Middleton (*Beth Johnson Foundation*)

**Abstract:** Generations Together was a major government funded programme working with 12 Local Authorities in England to explore what forms of intergenerational programmes were most effective and how this work could be mainstreamed at the end of the grant phase. This presentation will review the programme, the findings and the lessons learnt in terms of systemic approaches to embedding intergenerational practice in local authorities. Drawing on evaluation evidence the presentation will also describe what forms of intergenerational initiatives are most effective and what the outcomes were for participants.

Founded in 1972 the Beth Johnson Foundation has an enviable history of innovation in the field of ageing that links policy, practice and evidence. Fundamental to its approach is placing value on the contribution that older people make to each other and to Society. Currently its main themes of work include specialist advocacy for people with Dementia and carers, its Positive Ageing programme that is looking at ageing across the life course and work on Intergenerational Practice for which it enjoys an international reputation. To find out more go to: [www.bjf.org.uk](http://www.bjf.org.uk) and [www.centreforip.org.uk](http://www.centreforip.org.uk)

**Biographies:** **Alan Hatton-Yeo** Director of the Beth Johnson Foundation, originally worked in Special Education in roles that included Principal Education Advisor to the organisation now known as 'Scope'. He worked as a freelance consultant before joining the Foundation in 1998. He has written widely on intergenerational practice and volunteering. Current roles include Honorary Research Fellow at Keele University and Chair of the International Consortium for Intergenerational Programmes.

**Louise Middleton** is the manager at the Centre for Intergenerational Practice, for the Beth Johnson Foundation. She joined the Foundation in 2002 as the National Development Officer for the UK Older People's Advisory Group that was part of the Better Government for Older People Programme. Since then she has taken a leading role in the development of Intergenerational Practice at the Foundation developing the national infrastructure to support the England programme and providing expert advice, guidance and support to organisations and programmes across the UK.





# Biographies: Day Two Chairs 14th June 2011

## Supporting Families over Time

**Dorit Braun**

(College of Social Work)

Dorit has worked in the voluntary and public sectors throughout her working life. Her background is in adult and community education, and she spent many years working in family and parenting education and support, latterly as Chief Executive of the charity Parentline Plus. Dorit has experience of health commissioning, service development and provision, charity mergers, governance, policy lobbying and income generation.

Dorit left Parentline Plus to work on a number of projects, and specialises in supporting not for profit start ups. She is currently Project Director for the start up phase of The College of Social Work being hosted by The Social Care Institute for Excellence.

Dorit is Chair of the Board of Trustees of the charity Working with Men, and a Non Executive Director of CWDC.

**Professor Alan Deacon**

(University of Leeds)

Alan Deacon is Emeritus Professor of Social Policy at the University of Leeds. He is an Academician of the Academy of Social Sciences and was a member of the ESRC Research Group on Care, Values and the Future of Welfare 1999-2004, and Chair of the Social Policy Association from 2001 to 2004. The focus of his work has been upon the debates about the future direction of welfare reform in Britain and the United States.

**Clem Henricson**

(University of East Anglia)

Clem Henricson is a social policy analyst who has specialised in investigating the relationship between the state and the family on which she has published widely. She has a particular interest in human rights and has assessed the Government's family policy from a social rights perspective in *The Contractual Culture and Family Services*, *Government and Parenting* and *The Child and Family Policy Divide*. She supervised the work of the Commission into Families and the Well Being of Children, and wrote its report *Families and the State*.

Clem Henricson was Director of Research and Policy at the National Family and Parenting Institute for ten years since its inception, where she established the Institute's research function, undertaking studies for the Department for Children Schools and Families, the Treasury, the Home Office the Department of Health, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the Gulbenkian Foundation and the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. She led research into family services in England and Wales, and developed a model for the future of family services which was instrumental in shaping government strategic planning in this area. She edited the Institute's research and policy publications and directed a multidisciplinary academic team of developmental and social psychologists, and comparative cultural and social policy analysts. Clem Henricson serves on international government and academic advisory committees concerned with family policy.

**Professor Bren Neale**

(University of Leeds)

Bren Neale is Professor of Life Course and Family Research in the School of Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Leeds. She specialises in policy related research on the dynamics of family life and childhood. These have included studies of the transition to marriage, family and professional care of terminally ill people, and the changing lives of parents and children following divorce. As Director of the ESRC Timescapes Initiative, Bren has been researching new conceptual and methodological understandings of time. She has contributed to advances in Qualitative Longitudinal (QL) research methods and supported the development of projects across academia, government and the voluntary sector. As part of her work in establishing the new Timescapes Archive, she has advanced a 'stakeholder' model for the archiving and re-use of complex longitudinal data. Her empirical research

under Timescapes has focused on the changing lives of young people, as part of which she is tracking groups of teenage fathers and disadvantaged black young men. She is a founding co-editor of a new international journal: *Families, Relationships and Societies*, published by Policy Press, and is an elected member of the Academy of Social Sciences.

### Sam Smethers

*(Grandparents Plus)*

Sam Smethers is the Chief Executive of Grandparents Plus and is the former Director of Public Affairs of the Equal Opportunities Commission. She has worked as a communications consultant and also has eight years experience of working in parliament. Sam is a trustee of Gingerbread. She has three children and was brought up by her grandparents.

Grandparents Plus is the national charity which champions the vital role of grandparents and the wider family in children's lives - especially when they take on the caring role in difficult family circumstances. The charity has made a number of high profile interventions into the family policy debate during recent years, challenging the focus on the nuclear model of family life and demonstrating the contribution that grandparents and the wider family make. The charity wants to see the grandparental role better recognised valued and supported and the private sector, public services and employers recognising and responding to the growing contribution that grandparents are making.

### Lisa Williams

*(Department of Health)*

Lisa Williams has over 20 years of public sector experience in health and children's services at a local, regional and national level. Most recently, Lisa led the Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health National Support Team at the Department of Health. The team was set up by government in response to the 2008 National CAMHS Review in order to provide expert improvement support to local children and young people's partnerships. Lisa is passionate about whole system approaches to commissioning and delivery of services in order to better address inequalities and improve emotional and mental health and continues to work with local areas on this as an independent consultant.

Lisa is also a Community Fellow at Brighton University (community-university partnership programme) where she supports the Community Interest Company BoingBoing ([www.Boingboing.org.uk](http://www.Boingboing.org.uk)). Lisa's role focuses on the promotion of 'resilience' research and practice based evidence and its benefits for children and families exposed to social disadvantage, including influencing policy, workforce training and front line practice.



