

Listening to Families: Lessons for Research

A partnership between the University of Sussex, Family Rights Group, the Network of International Women in Brighton and Hove, and Research in Practice



THE NETWORK OF
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN
FOR BRIGHTON & HOVE

research
in practice

What's happening?

Our project aims to tackle a longstanding problem in research with families:

- Families are all different. But when researchers do big, long-term studies of family lives, they often miss out families who live in more unusual, difficult or complicated situations. Their voices and experiences are made invisible in those studies.
- That's a problem because it affects how well researchers – and the people who use research (like politicians or service managers) – understand the variety of family lives, and the different kinds of challenges that families face.

Our project aims to learn how future researchers can do a better job of involving a wide variety of families in their studies. As one very important part of that work, we are setting up three Expert Panels for Parents and Carers:

- Members of the Family Rights Group Parents Panel
- Members of the Family Rights Group Kinship Carers Panel
- Members of the Network of International Women in Brighton and Hove.

We would like parents/carers on those panels to help us learn how researchers can get better at listening to families whose experiences are often invisible in studies of family life.

What happens if you join one of the Expert Panels?

Each Expert Panel will hold four 90-minute workshops in the next year. The first will be in July.

- Everyone who takes part will be given a £75 thank you voucher (of your choice) for each workshop.
- All the workshops will take part at a time that is convenient for the members.

What would you be asked to talk about?

We won't ask about your family's personal experiences. Instead, we want to learn what you think about **how researchers can get better at listening to families** and involving them in research.

We will:

- Share ideas for different ways of doing research with families – and ask your opinion.
- Discuss how researchers could do a better job of involving families with different kinds of life experience in future.
- Think about what families might want to know about taking part in research. What might make them want to take part? What might put them off? What might they worry about?

What happens to the information given in the workshops?

- Workshops will be audio recorded and a note written from the discussion by one of the University of Sussex team. The recording and notes will be kept secure in the University of Sussex's password protected online storage facility (in line with data protection law), and only accessed by the Sussex team.
- The note will only include information to help with understanding how to do better research with families. No personal information will be included in the note.

What happens at the end of the research?

- At the end of the research, in April 2024, we will hold a final event for the project in London and write a report for the funder (the [Economic and Social Research Council, ESRC](#)):
- The report will include recommendations for future research, based on our discussion with the Expert Panels and learning from other parts of the project.
- If you would like to come to the big final workshop, we will fund your costs for attending.
- If you are happy to be named in the report, we will include you in a formal acknowledgement of all our expert contributors.

Who is in the University of Sussex team?

- May Nasrawy and Linda Morrice will take part in the workshops with the Network for International Women Expert Panel
- Ali Lacey and Janet Boddy will take part in the workshops with the Family Rights Group Expert Panels.

**Janet
Boddy**



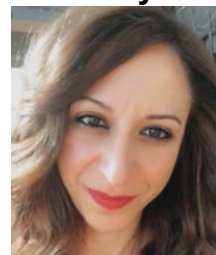
**Ali
Lacey**



**Linda
Morrice**



**May
Nasrawy**



**Rachel
Thomson**



If you have any questions or want to find out more, please contact Ali Lacey by email or phone:

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THANK YOU!