ANNUAL REPORT
2015–2016

CSWIR
THE CENTRE FOR SOCIAL WORK INNOVATION AND RESEARCH

UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX
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Welcome to CSWIR

The Centre for Social Work Innovation and Research (CSWIR) has been established to advance the discipline and profession of social work in changing times. Through the work of its members, CSWIR gives expression in the field of social work to the international, interdisciplinary and inter-professional research commitments for which the University of Sussex is celebrated.

The Centre provides a context in which all those involved in research and professional development, policy making and service leadership and in direct practice itself can come together to progress common agendas. Working at the interface of theory, policy and practice, and taking an inclusive and imaginative approach to research methods, CSWIR is intended to be a home for anyone invested personally or professionally in enhancing social work and its future. CSWIR members work closely with colleagues in global, national and local government and with research bodies and service agencies keen to partner with us to improve knowledge, understanding and improvement. A significant and growing number of associate researchers, visiting scholars and doctoral researchers contribute to the work of the Centre.
Social work in changing times
Social work aims to secure social justice and equality of life chances for people whose personal, family and wider social lives are under threat.

Social work seeks to make its impact through the use of enabling relationships which are distinguished by their ethical integrity as well as by any particular type of technical knowledge, skill or method brought to bear to achieve change. The commitment of social work locally and globally to engage with people as ‘fellow citizens’ rather than simply subjects of concern stirs up much debate. What should be the scope of the professional role and the authority and resources invested in it? How should social work be organised and governed? Which modes and methods of practice work best?

Where the struggle for equality of social citizenship itself is expressed and mediated afresh, in the context especially of the globalisation and digitalisation of relationships, these debates are intensified. New modes of governance and practice in social work are being proposed locally and globally. The need for innovation is apparent in changing times. So too is the requirement that novel ways of addressing new threats and opportunities for social justice and social citizenship through social work intervention, are rigorously researched.

CSWIR has been established to encourage and support innovation in social work, understood as a theory and practice alike, which is evidence-based and ethically defensible.

In our inaugural Annual Report we introduce ourselves and our work and celebrate our achievements to date.
Research streams, highlights and projects
CSWIR plans and activities during our inaugural year have become consolidated within four substantive research streams.

**Research Streams:**

- Reshaping policy thinking and social work practice governance, systems and methods;
- Responding to social inequality and injustice in times of crisis;
- Re-imagining the psychosocial dynamics and digital mediation of the social work relationship;
- Extending and innovating social work research methodologies

Each of these streams addresses the core Centre commitment to making better sense of the relationships generated by social work in order to secure social justice for vulnerable and exploited citizens across a wide range of practice contexts, both local and global.

Methodological diversity and innovation are at the heart of CSWIR ambitions for social work research and the theory, policy and practice it supports. We report here also on work in progress on new methods and approaches to illuminating social work practice and its purposes and impact.

In each case we highlight key areas of research and provide brief details of projects and initiatives Centre members have been engaged on in the past year or so.

You can get in touch with project leads in each case or find out more on the CSWIR website [www.sussex.ac.uk/socialwork/cswir](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/socialwork/cswir)
Reshaping policy thinking and social work practice governance, systems and methods

Drawing on both international comparison and local studies of practice innovation CSWIR research teams are engaged actively in evaluating and developing a number of national and local government programmes of reform to social work policy and practice. The development of more effective systems and methods of safeguarding the human rights as well as the personal well-being of vulnerable adults and children is the central focus of this research stream. Re-imagining the social work role and task at the interface with health, criminal justice and other aligned disciplines and professions is a core task here. Impact on policy thinking and on direct practice systems and methods are the dual practical aims of this work.

**HIGHLIGHT 1:**
MOVING BEYOND THE ‘RISK PARADIGM’ IN MENTAL HEALTH

The ‘mentality of risk’ can obscure and distort the lived experience of mental health problems. The multiple structural disadvantages those living with mental illness experience are exacerbated and perpetuated, generating specific dilemmas for mental health practitioners and those in mental health leadership roles. Foregrounding mental health risks as issues of human rights and social justice can help policy makers, managers and practitioners to ‘speak back’ to the distortions of the risk paradigm. CSWIR members have a longstanding commitment to speaking back to the risk paradigm in this way, in critical and practical terms alike.

**PROJECT TITLE: BEYOND THE RISK PARADIGM IN MENTAL HEALTH POLICY AND PRACTICE**

During the past year the CSWIR contribution in this field has centred on co-editing (with colleagues from the Universities of Tasmania, Connecticut and Kent) one of three books exploring the dominance and impact of ‘the risk paradigm’ respectively in mental health, child protection and criminal justice policy and practice contexts. The first of these volumes, ‘Beyond the Risk Paradigm in Mental Health Policy and Practice’, brings together researchers, practitioners and mental health service users to engage critically with how ‘risk thinking’ has come to dominate discourses and practices in the mental health field. Highlighted in particular are the theoretical, policy, ethical and practice controversies that arise in work with ‘risky’ and ‘at risk’ populations and individuals. This book, and the series, are now in press and due to be published in early 2017.

**Research funder:** Book contract with Palgrave

**Further information:** e.sharland@sussex.ac.uk
HIGHLIGHT 2: REFORMING ADULT SAFEGUARDING IN THE CONTEXT OF SELF-NEGLECT

Cases of self-neglect are complex and pose ethical and practice dilemmas for social workers and other practitioners, who must negotiate between the demands of respect for autonomy and of a duty to promote safety and wellbeing. A diversity of factors contribute to self-neglect and services have not always adequately engaged with the complexities of individual autonomy and decision-making in these circumstances. Self-neglect presents distinctive challenges in assessment, intervention, multiagency working, risk management and safeguarding governance.

PROJECT TITLE: IDENTIFYING AND LEARNING FROM BEST PRACTICE IN SELF-NEGLECT

In collaboration with the University of Bedfordshire, CSWIR members have carried out research with practitioners, managers and people in situations of self-neglect, and collated and analysed the learning from a set of serious case reviews, which has laid the foundations of an emerging evidence base for self-neglect work within England. Findings have shed light on the lived experience of self-neglect, identified promising approaches to engagement with people who self-neglect, shown the need for strong legal literacy, suggested mechanisms for coordinating inter-professional intervention, and emphasised the importance of organisational support for timely involvement with individuals. Work is ongoing with Safeguarding Adults Boards and the organisation Research in Practice for Adults (RiPfA) to ensure that the lessons from the research findings feed through into frontline practice.

Research funder: Department of Health, UK
Further information: d.orr@sussex.ac.uk

HIGHLIGHT 3: REFORMING CHILD PROTECTION WITH CHILDREN’S RIGHTS IN MIND

Revival of intense public concern cross-nationally about the prevalence of neglect, abuse and (sexual) exploitation of children has generated a significant challenge to the hegemony of long established policy and practice assumptions in child protection in many service jurisdictions. England is no exception and CSWIR members have been at the forefront alongside statutory bodies and colleagues in partner research centres in making sense of the new political conjuncture and its impact on social work and allied professional roles and tasks. Comparative policy perspectives are being brought to bear in this expanding body of work, which asks fundamental questions about the distinctive nature of the contribution of social work to new articulations of inter-disciplinary and multi-professional theory and practice in safeguarding children and supporting family life. A core consideration here is how best to re-design practice systems which might contain and channel legitimately and effectively the tension between contrasting rights attaching to children, understood with their parents as being active participants in achieving safety and self-determination in family life.
PROJECT TITLE: EVALUATING THE ROLE AND IMPACT OF INNOVATIVE MODELS OF INTERFACING BETWEEN THE NHS AND CHILDREN’S SOCIAL CARE

In collaboration with public health researchers at the University of Warwick Medical School and colleagues at Loughborough University, Centre for Child and Family Research (CCFR), a review of the literature and case study evaluation of innovative models of safeguarding was undertaken for the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR). Project findings confirmed that despite policy exhortation in support of better alignment of (public) health perspectives and social work little progress has been made on the ground in embedding this thinking into practice and evaluating impact, especially from the perspective of children and parents as agents in the protection process. The main finding from the CSWIR-led review was that safeguarding should be understood as a process involving dialogue as well as diagnosis. ‘Dialogic integrity’ should be a key commitment informing service development and framing evaluation research. Further work has continued on case studies of effective practice with the full project report due soon.

Research funder: Department of Health, National Institute of Health Research, UK
Further information: b.a.luckock@sussex.ac.uk


Working alongside the OCC and with colleagues in three local authorities in England (Brighton and Hove CC, Oxfordshire CC and Sandwell MBC), a team of CSWIR researchers is exploring ways in which a child’s-rights centred approach to safeguarding can be developed effectively, in the context of ‘sexual exploitation’. With social anxiety and political demands intensified in recent years there is a risk that children will be positioned too simply in policy and practice once again, being seen as ‘objects of concern’ alone. The ‘See Me, Hear Me Framework’ is distinctive in seeking to secure for children not only their right to safety in the face of newly identified threats but also their right to a say in the process. Foundational here is the role played by trusting relationships formed with ‘child protection’ professionals, including social workers and police. How can operational practices and organisational systems be designed to support such relationships in these anxious and fraught encounters, where the pressure is on to show quick results?

Further information: m.lefevre@sussex.ac.uk or k.hickle@sussex.ac.uk
Research funder: Office of the Children’s Commissioner, UK

PROJECT TITLE: INNOVATION IN CHILDREN’S SOCIAL CARE, DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION, (2015-2020)

The University of Sussex represented by CSWIR (in collaboration with the University of Sussex Centre for Innovation and Research in Childhood and Youth (CIRCY) and the Andrew and Virginia Rudd Centre for Adoption Research) has been contracted by the Department for Education to undertake implementation and impact evaluations of four ‘Stage 1’, Innovation Programme projects. This £200m two-stage, five-year reform Programme is expected to stimulate the design and implementation of effective practice systems and interventions and their embedding in agencies across England, such that social work impact is enhanced. The three Stage 1 studies led by CSWIR members focus on new approaches to social work practice with children, from first involvement designed to support family life at home (Islington LBC), through to practice designed to achieve ‘early permanence’ for children who have to live elsewhere (Cornerstone, Coram).
Findings will be reported later in 2016. In the meantime, Stage 2 of the Programme through to 2020 is now underway and CSWIR members are working closely with three local authorities and one independent user-led organisation to align Centre research expertise with local project leadership and development to secure funding for further innovation.

Further information: b.a.luckock@sussex.ac.uk or k.hickle@sussex.ac.uk
Research funder: Department for Education, UK

PROJECT TITLE: EMPOWER FAMILIES

Kristine Hickle will be providing a 2-year evaluation of Safer London’s (London-based charity org.) new programme named ‘Empower Families’ aimed at supporting parents and carers of children and young people identified as having experience (or at risk of) CSE.

Further information: k.hickle@sussex.ac.uk
Research funder: Safer London, UK

PROJECT TITLE: ‘SCALING UP AND DIGGING DOWN’: EXPLORING DEVELOPMENTAL ISSUES ARISING IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FAMILY NURSE PARTNERSHIP MODEL

Introduced in 2007 under the auspices of the Department of Health, the Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) is a licensed, intensive, preventive home visiting programme offered to vulnerable young mothers having their first baby. FNP commences its support in early pregnancy and continues until the child is two years old, seeking to develop attuned, emotionally supportive relationships, especially between the primary care giver and the child. The programme goals are to improve antenatal health, child development and economic self-sufficiency and it is delivered by specially trained family nurses. Three large scale research trials have shown significant and consistent short and long term benefits to children and parents. However, as systems can be as, if not more, difficult to alter than people it is imperative that research is undertaken that explores the obstacles to and opportunities for integrating the FNP model into the FNP specific organizational structures and the wider structures underpinning public health programmes and services available to young children and their parents in England. Such research, however, is complicated by the impact of the professional and societal anxiety underpinning work with vulnerable families, and particularly defenceless infants on organisational functioning. To explore these issues the collaborative studentship is developing a fine-grained, qualitative methodology that will complement the current, largescale evaluation of the FNP project.

Drawing on psychosocial and ecological theoretical frameworks the research will adopt an innovative approach to understanding the implications of complex organisational dynamics on the implementation of the FNP model. Founded on the premise that organisations are comprised of visible and invisible practices and structures that arise in response to the anxiety inherent in the organisation’s primary task, the study will explore, through a psychosocial lens, the nature and extent of the dynamics operating ‘beneath the surface’ of the organisations in which the FNP model operates.

Further information: g.ruch@sussex.ac.uk
Research funder: Collaborative studentship between University of Sussex and Family Nurse Partnership
Responding to social injustice in times of political crisis

Political crises have formed the contexts locally and globally in which social work as both a theory and practice has been and continues to be imagined and implemented. These crises themselves surface where previous ways of addressing social injustice under conditions of modernity and globalisation begin to breakdown.

CSWIR members are working on research projects which explore the implications for social work of diverse aspects of the lived experience of those people most threatened in their citizenship and rights and personal wellbeing under conditions of political crisis. In some cases an historical perspective is taken in making sense of the parameters of the ethical and sometimes spiritual challenge for social work of crisis and change. Other work is focused on the urgent attention required once again by the social dislocations and personal tragedies caused by war and natural disaster in the context of growing global inequality.

HIGHLIGHT 4: RESPONDING TO POLITICAL CONFLICT, NATURAL DISASTERS AND OTHER EXTREME EVENTS

Movements of people across countries and continents due to political conflicts are now taking place on an unprecedented scale. Natural disasters become more likely with the escalation of climate change. The CSWIR commitment to explore the implications of ‘extreme events’ of these and other kinds for citizen rights, social justice and personal wellbeing has been actively engaged. The impact of political conflicts and natural disasters on social work is an under-theorised and under-researched domain. Centre members are active with colleagues locally and globally in developing a research programme alongside policy and practice interventions based in the concept of ‘engaged scholarship’.

PROJECT TITLE: SOCIAL WORK AND EXTREME EVENTS NETWORK (SWEE)

Support for people facing natural disasters and political conflicts presents an on-going challenge for both countries directly affected by such extreme events and those trying to provide assistance when they happen. Contemporary practices during such extreme events have several common traits. First, the majority of emergency and even long-term support is mainly provided by international organisations, rather than local governmental organisations and other local stakeholders. Second, because of this, existing knowledge is about relevant support is not necessarily generated or held by local experts and support agencies. While they do collaborate on such endeavours, the majority of knowledge is held and shared on international and supranational level. Finally, while there is evidence and knowledge regarding emergency responses, less is known about the support for long-term reconstruction and support in countries affected by political conflicts and natural disasters.

Extreme events such as natural disasters and political conflicts do not impact all groups in the same manner. People who use social services, such as children (particularly children without parental care), people with disabilities (including people with mental health problems), and older people’s existing support needs increase and/or require specialist attention within the broader community level responses. During 2015/16, the Network member activities mainly focused on the promotion of the Network existence and to define the joint research agenda. Future planned research aims to explore effective processes of long-term social service reconstruction following natural disasters and extreme events, with a particular focus on the experiences of service users such as children without parental care, people with disabilities and older people.

Research funder: University of Sussex
Further information: r.a.maglajlic@sussex.ac.uk
Re-imagining the psychosocial dynamics and digital mediation of the social work relationship

**Highlight 5: The Dynamics of Social Work Face-to-face Communication**

There is a substantial body of knowledge about the circumstances surrounding social workers’ interventions with children particularly in relation to child protection. In stark contrast far less is known about how social workers communicate with children in ordinary, everyday practice, the challenges they encounter in this process and the sense that social workers and children make of their interactions and conversations. Of particular note is the absence of detailed empirical data on what social workers do in their everyday encounters with children and their families. To date we have relied largely on the retrospective reflective accounts of participants in these social worker-child encounters. We have some ideas as to what happens (children are overlooked or inadequately engaged with), how it happens (parents’ use of space, and physical presence to exclude child from conversation) and why it happens (time pressures, power, intimidating emotional dynamics, exposure to risk, fear of what might be said and what to do with what is said). What is missing is the direct observation of everyday social worker-child interactions. The first two of these studies explore how social workers communicate with children in their ordinary, everyday practice and how the social workers and children experience and understand these encounters. The third explores technology-based ways of enabling children to explore and convey to professionals their sense of their relationships with people in their lives.

**Project Title: Talking and Listening to Children**

In collaboration with colleagues at the Universities of Cardiff, Edinburgh and Queens, Belfast, CSWIR researchers are concluding a four UK nations, ESRC funded project exploring social workers everyday interactions and encounters with children. Generating ethnographic, interview and video stimulated recall data, the project is filling an important gap in our knowledge of ordinary everyday practice and how it can be understood developed and enhanced.

*Research funder: ESRC, UK*

*Further information: g.ruch@sussex.ac.uk*

**Project Title: Learning from the Communication Process Between Social Workers and Children to Improve Social Work Practice**

The home visit to families is a key tool for assessing and working with families and is the place most conversations with children occur. However, little is known about what really goes on during these encounters. This pilot study is testing the feasibility of social workers videoing their interactions with children in the family or foster home and then subjecting it to Conversation Analysis, a linguistics-based method of micro-analysing talk. Children and social workers are also asked to comment on the videos of their encounters. Having now successfully engaged two local authorities in the pilot, and learned how to overcome practical and ethical complexities, further funding is being sought to extend the project. By learning more about the ways in which social workers can navigate sensitive topics in challenging circumstances with children who may be angry, frightened or anxious, we aim to establish a model for good practice.

*Research funder: Sussex University Research Development Fund*

*Further information: m.lefevre@sussex.ac.uk*
Melissa Nolas and Lel Meleyal have launched a new collaboration, the People in my Life project, with colleagues at the Free University in Berlin (Antje Rauers) and Hasselt University in Hasselt (Johannes Schoning). People in my life is an innovation project that explores relationship dynamics for social work practice. In particular, the team are experimenting with haptic technology in order to create a tablet based app that can be used with figurines to play out and track the movement of different relationships in child’s life. Over the summer the team will be testing the new app against traditional pen-and-paper approaches (e.g. ecomapping) sampling from children on the beach in Brighton.

**Research funder:** Jacobs Foundation  
**Further information:** s.nolas@sussex.ac.uk

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**Highlight 6: Death and the Social Work and Allied Professional Response**

Interdisciplinary perspectives are especially helpful in making sense of the psychosocial dynamics of social work and allied professional encounters, where death the focus of concern. The sociology of ‘emotional labour’ emerges as a substantive and theoretical resource for thinking about the difference between effective and ineffective ways in which emotion is managed in practice encounters triggered by death. This is the case especially, perhaps, where a ‘rapid response’ is required of the professional role. Working alongside partners at the University of Chichester and Child Bereavement UK, CSWIR researchers are launching a major strand of work on death, dying and social work. A conference is planned for the autumn and a Special Interest Group will be established. Once again the focus falls on the gaps in the education and training curriculum in social work and elsewhere and on the development of novel approaches to fill them.
**PROJECT TITLE: MEETING CHILD DEATH AT WORK**

Sudden, unexpected child death in the home is an event which reaches to the centre of concerns about the balance to be struck in multi-professional practice between systematic statutory investigation and sensitive support. Foundational doctoral research undertaken from a psychosocial perspective is being combined with a systematic review of the field at the interface with sociology to support the development of new theory and practice in this field. The ‘Rapid Response’ after a child’s death includes forensic investigation from police, health, and social care professionals, followed by a series of multi-agency meetings leading to a Child Death Review. Although the needs of bereaved parents and other family members are meant to be respected within this process, the evidence is that professionals own struggle to cope with the demands of the emotional task can leave families having to deal with the aftermath largely unsupported.

**Research funder:** University of Sussex  
**Further Information:** Tish Marrable l.f.marrable@sussex.ac.uk /Denise Turner d.turner@sussex.ac.uk

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**HIGHLIGHT 7: DIGITAL SOCIALIZATION AND THE SOCIAL WORK CURRICULUM**

CSWIR members continue to take lead roles in innovating social work curriculum development. During the past year research attention at Sussex has been focused in particular on the pressing need for ‘digital socialisation’ to be recognised as a priority for social work training and continuous professional development. A programme of work is now underway in which direct practice experience is being used in a variety of innovative ways to advance the theory and practice of digital socialisation in social work.

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**PROJECT TITLE: #ASYENGAGE**

Supported by the University of Sussex Research Opportunities Fund, #ASYEngage brings together CSWIR researchers and social work practitioners in East Sussex, Brighton and Hove and the voluntary sector, to explore the ways in which newly qualified workers encounter digital platforms within their practice. Research participants have kept reflective blogs and used these to record significant incidents precipitated by social networking or digital technology. The result has been a vivid record of the practice challenges and opportunities created by digital technology. Work is now underway, funded by the Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF) and undertaken in association with the Sussex Digital Humanities Lab, bringing practitioners, learning technologists, social work students and developers in skills sessions aimed at developing a bespoke digital curriculum for social work education. This project featured in The Guardian Social Care Network: [https://www.theguardian.com/social-care-network/2016/apr/07/social-workers-social-media](https://www.theguardian.com/social-care-network/2016/apr/07/social-workers-social-media)

**Research funder:** University of Sussex  
**Further Information:** Denise Turner, d.turner@sussex.ac.uk
Extending and innovating social work research methodologies

Methodological innovation in research data collection and analysis is central to CSWIR concerns. The development and consolidation of the (inter-)disciplinary professional identity and status of social work in both the academy and the field is a pressing concern. Leadership by Centre members in the revival of psychosocial research methodology for social work and the use and development of systematic review methodology in social work curriculum development and knowledge creation in social work more generally is well known. Collaborations with the ESRC and SCIE were a core part of ground work done at Sussex to secure a more reliable evidence-base for social work. Taking a systematic approach within and between qualitative and quantitative methods of enquiry is a central objective of CSWIR practice.

**PROJECT TITLE: SOCIAL WORK OVER TIME**

This Nuffield Foundation funded project, undertaken in collaboration with colleagues from Universities of Cardiff and Lancaster, has used secondary analysis of four national longitudinal cohort or panel surveys (British Household Panel Survey, Longitudinal Study of Young People in England, Millennium Cohort Study and the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children) to look at the predictors and outcomes of routine social work use among children and parents in Britain since the early 1990s. The project explores the predictors and outcomes of routine social work use among children and parents in Britain since the early 1990s. Large scale quantitative analysis of this sort is relatively rare in UK social work research. Use of these national datasets is even rarer. But they have unique potential to allow us to follow children and families over time, and to compare the circumstances and outcomes of those who use social work with similar others in the general population who do not. This research has produced some expected and some unexpected findings. Among the predictors of social work contact were single parenthood, divorce or separation, parents’ poor health or disability, homelessness and precarious financial circumstances. Teenagers were more likely to receive social work if they were female, mixed race, came from lower socio-economic status families or had special needs or poor relationships with their parents. More surprising, and at face value concerning, was that in general families and children who had contact with social workers reported worse mental health, wellbeing and educational outcomes than others who appear to have experienced similar adversities but did not have social work contact. How might we explain these findings? Is the self-report method of the original surveys sound in itself? We do not know how and why contact with social work took place, nor about the focus of the intervention or the family and social circumstances in each case. What is now clear is the need for much better longitudinal data about social work than we still have, and better linkage of this information to social work administrative datasets.

**Research funder: Nuffield Foundation, UK**

**Further information:** e.sharland@sussex.ac.uk

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**HIGHLIGHT 8: ACCOUNTING FOR IMPACT IN SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE AND EDUCATION**

Interdisciplinary perspectives are especially helpful in making sense of the psychosocial dynamics of social work and allied professional encounters, where death the focus of concern. The sociology of ‘emotional labour’ emerges as a substantive and theoretical resource for thinking about the difference between effective and ineffective ways in which emotion is managed in practice encounters triggered by death. This is the case especially, perhaps, where a ‘rapid response’ is required of the professional role. Working alongside partners at the University of Chichester and Child Bereavement UK, CSWIR researchers are launching a major strand of work on death, dying and social work. A conference is planned for the autumn and a Special Interest Group will be established. Once again the focus falls on the gaps in the education and training curriculum in social work and elsewhere and on the development of novel approaches to fill them.
PROJECT TITLE: DEVELOPING AND EVALUATING ‘MENTALIZING’ CAPACITY AND SKILL IN QUALIFYING SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

Attachment theory provides a developmental account of the psychosocial dynamics of the social work relationship in practice. The evidence-base for the salience of core concepts, such as ‘reflective functioning capacity’ and ‘mentalization’, used in this approach to ‘relationship-based’ practice is now well-developed in clinical professions in psychotherapy and psychology. Undertaken in collaboration with clinicians and researchers at the Anna Freud Centre, London, and social work educators and statisticians at the University of East Anglia, this Department for Education, National Prospectus Grants Programme-funded project developed and trialled a novel measure of reflective functioning/mentalization capacity for use in social work education and beyond.

Research funder: Department for Education, UK
Further information: b.a.luckock@sussex.ac.uk

HIGHLIGHT 9: ‘MANY MINDS’

The School of Education and Social Work was keen to become a Founding Institutional Sponsor of the new Association for Psychosocial Studies, which emerged out of the Psychosocial Studies Network in 2014: http://www.psychosocial-studies-association.org/about/ CSWiR members have taken the lead in convening and supporting a ‘Many Minds’ forum at Sussex, in which new frontiers of psychosocial research methodology are being explored. New methodologies are being applied within funded faculty research projects and doctoral work alike, providing and exciting new set of synergies across all levels of research in the Centre.

PROJECT TITLE: SUPPORTING ADOPTIVE FAMILY LIFE THROUGH THE SOCIAL WORK RELATIONSHIP

A growing body of psychosocial work uses longitudinal observational methods to examine everyday practice in social work. This doctoral research employs a single case study design to illuminate the significance of the relationship between a social worker and a prospective adoptive parent. Drawing on methods from within the tradition of infant observation developed at the Tavistock the emotional dynamic of ‘adoption support’ as observed and experienced by the researcher is tracked over time. Consistent with the method, stakeholders in adoption are brought together as a ‘Many Minds’ group to examine observation notes in a facilitated and structured forum. This group acts as a research body through which emerging themes from the observation experience are noted, examined and considered over time.

Research funder: ESRC/CoramBAAF
Further information: Louise Sims
l.m.sims@sussex.ac.uk
Seminars and events
CSWIR has promoted and hosted a number of research seminars and events during our extended inaugural year 2015-2016.

**Making Sense of Child Sexual Exploitation and the Service Response in the US and the UK**

Dr Kristine Hickle, Lecturer & Barry Luckock, Senior Lecturer, Department of Social Work and Social Care, University of Sussex

Date: 9 March 2015

Seminar Recording: [https://connectpro.sussex.ac.uk/p25575299/](https://connectpro.sussex.ac.uk/p25575299/)

**Tory Social Work: A Weillian Perspective**

Dr Russell Whiting, Lecturer, Department of Social Work and Social Care, University of Sussex

Date: 13 April 2015

Seminar recording: [https://connectpro.sussex.ac.uk/p79846459/](https://connectpro.sussex.ac.uk/p79846459/)

**Relationships and Reciprocity in the Research Process: Exploring the Role of Containment**

Gillian Ruch, Professor of Social Work, Department of Social Work and Social Care, University of Sussex

Date: 26 May 2015

Seminar recording: [https://connectpro.sussex.ac.uk/p93077782/](https://connectpro.sussex.ac.uk/p93077782/)

**Preparing to Meet Child Death at Work: Workshop and Research Information Session**

Dr Denise Turner and Dr Tish Marrable

Date: 5 June 2015

Seminar recording: unavailable

**What Do Oil Disasters in the Gulf of Mexico, Three Mile Island, and Boeing 747s Have to Do with Social Work? Close Calls, Near Misses, and What They Tell Us About Managing Risk**

Dr Lel Meleyal, Lecturer, Department of Social Work and Social Care, University of Sussex

Date: 8 June 2015

Seminar recording: unavailable

**Revitalizing the History of Children's Welfare: Can Archival Texts and Photographs Be Used as Evidence?**

Dr Adrienne Chambon, Professor Emerita, University of Toronto

Date: 15 September 2015

Seminar Recording: Part 1 - [https://adobeconnect.sussex.ac.uk/p77trjwi97/](https://adobeconnect.sussex.ac.uk/p77trjwi97/) and Part 2 - [https://adobeconnect.sussex.ac.uk/p9treveezm2/](https://adobeconnect.sussex.ac.uk/p9treveezm2/)

**Reimagining Social Work: Innovation, Research and Impact**

Professor Judy Sebba, Director of the Rees Centre (Research in Fostering and Education), Department of Education, University of Oxford

Date: 12 October 2015

Seminar Recording: [https://adobeconnect.sussex.ac.uk/p34pz6ni50o/](https://adobeconnect.sussex.ac.uk/p34pz6ni50o/)
RESEARCHING GENDER AND SEXUAL IDENTITIES: INSIGHTS FROM SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY FOR SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

Yasin Koc, CSWIR Research Fellow, University of Sussex

Date: 26 October 2015
Seminar Recording: https://adobeconnect.sussex.ac.uk/p352qktl35p/

SUPPORTING THE TRANSITION TO FIRST TIME PARENTING: PROMOTING INNOVATION IN PRACTICE AT THE MENTAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE INTERFACE – A NETWORK EVENT

Alex Goforth, Professor Susan Ayers, Professor Jane Barlow, Dr David Orr.

Date: 6 November
Seminar recording: unavailable

SOCIAL WORK WITH REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS: CURRENT PRACTICES, RESEARCH AND CHALLENGES

Rachel Larkin, PhD Researcher, University of Sussex / Hiba Nour, Social Work student, University of Sussex / Millie Kerr, Practice Manager, Young People’s Services, West Sussex County Council / Alice Macnair, Caseworker & Graham Davis, Social Worker, Brighton and Hove County Council

Date: 7 December 2015
In collaboration with: the School of Applied Social Science, University of Brighton
Seminar Recording: https://adobeconnect.sussex.ac.uk/p997a1g1zuw/

SOCIAL WORK IN A GLOCALISED WORLD: EMERGENT ISSUES, METHODOLOGIES AND RESPONSES

Dr Mona Livholts, Associate Professor, Department of Social Work, Linkoping University, Sweden

Date: 14 March 2016
Seminar Recording: https://adobeconnect.sussex.ac.uk/p4nnx7btmvs/

RE-FRAMING CHILD MALTREATMENT: FROM RISK TO INEQUALITY

Professor Paul Bywaters, Social Work and Health Inequalities Network, Coventry University

Date: 16 May 2016
Seminar Recording: https://adobeconnect.sussex.ac.uk/p7s14ztm0da/

COUNTING THE EFFECT OF SOCIAL WORK: QUANTITATIVE APPROACHES REVISITED

Workshop Leader: Yasin Koc, CSWIR Research Fellow, University of Sussex

Date: 18/31 May 2016

A QUICK GUIDE TO ATTACHMENT THEORY

David Shemmings OBE, Professor of Child Protection Research, Centre for Child Protection, University of Kent

Date: 16 June 2016

THE REASONS FOR USE PACKAGE: A SIMPLE TOOL FOR COMPLEX CONVERSATIONS

Kevan Myers, Senior Clinician, NEXUS Dual Diagnosis Advisory Service, Australia

Date: 4 July 2016
Publications and other academic outputs
CSWIR makes a significant contribution in enabling social work to consolidate and develop an (inter-)disciplinary and (inter-)professional identity and impact locally and globally.

**ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP ROLES**

The Centre provides editors for two international social work journals:

*Child & Family Social Work (Editor: Dr. Michelle Lefevre)*

Child & Family Social Work publishes original and distinguished contributions on matters of research, theory, policy and practice in the field of social work with children and their families. The Journal gives international definition to the discipline and practice of child and family social work.

*Journal of Social Work Practice, Psychotherapeutic Approaches in Health, Welfare and the Community (Co-editor: Professor Gillian Ruch)*

This is the Journal of the Group for the Advancement of Psychodynamics and Psychotherapy in Social Work (GAPS). It promotes the use of psychodynamic and systemic perspectives to explore and explain social work practice and relationship-based practice. It publishes papers based on empirical research, theory and practice experience from the UK and around the world.

CSWiR members also take on roles to edit special editions of leading journals. Dr Denise Turner recently edited a special issue of Social Work Education on social work and social media.

CSWiR members continue to take other leading editorial roles to support the development of social work and social work education internationally:


Four Centre members (Braye, Sharland, Taylor and Thomson) are Fellows of The Academy of Social Sciences, the National Academy of Academics, Learned Societies and Practitioners in the Social Sciences.

Sharland was elected Chair of the European Social Work Research Association in April 2016, and will take up the Chair in March 2017.

**CSWiR PUBLICATIONS BY RESEARCH STREAM**

**RESHAPING POLICY THINKING AND SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE GOVERNANCE, SYSTEMS AND METHODS**


Hickle, K. (2016). Resiliency and women exiting sex trade industry work. Journal of Social Work. (Accepted for publication)


Hickle, K., & Hallett, S. (2016). Mitigating harm: considering harm reduction principles in work with sexually exploited young people. Children and Society. (Accepted for publication)


RESPONDING TO SOCIAL INEQUALITY AND INJUSTICE IN TIMES OF CRISIS


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**RE-IMAGINING THE PSYCHOSOCIAL DYNAMICS AND DIGITAL MEDIATION OF THE SOCIAL WORK RELATIONSHIP**


Media-Enhanced Learning Special Interest Group and Sheffield Hallam University, pp. 73–77.


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**EXTENDING SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES**


DOCTORAL COMPLETIONS

Bukari, S. (2016) Parts Unknown: An Exploration of Fishers’ Social Constructions of Child Labour in Ghana, PhD

Shaw, J. (2016) Socialism by grace: the new visibility of postsecular social work, DPhil

OTHER ACADEMIC OUTPUTS

RESHAPING POLICY THINKING AND SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE GOVERNANCE, SYSTEMS AND METHODS


RESPONDING TO SOCIAL INEQUALITY AND INJUSTICE IN TIMES OF CRISIS


RE-IMAGINING THE PSYCHOSOCIAL DYNAMICS AND DIGITAL MEDIATION OF THE SOCIAL WORK RELATIONSHIP


EXTENDING SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES


Exchanging knowledge and making an impact
Our aim is to enable and model effective ways of generating impact from work undertaken together to mutual advantage. This includes the joint development of knowledge transfer and exchange plans and impact strategies, the contribution of research expertise through research and other committee memberships and network activities and the provision of consultancy services to support practice improvement strategies.

During 2015–2016 knowledge exchange activities were undertaken and more enduring partnerships of one kind or another established and consolidated locally, nationally and internationally across each of our research streams.

**KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES**

Hickle, K. (2016) Invited presentations to Sussex Police Knowledge Exchange Seminar (150 attendees) on ‘See Me Hear Me’ pilot and evaluation project; and on ‘Child Sexual Exploitation in the USA: Contexts, characteristics, & complications.’

Hickle, K. (2016) Invited to join the Child Sexual Exploitation Regional Threat Group, the regional group of police leads for all South East Forces, including the City of London, and National Crime Agency. Hickles is the only invited academic/research member


Orr, D. (2015) Working with People who may be Self-neglecting and Resistant to Care, Keynote Speaker, Mental Capacity and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Conference, Croydon, 23 October 2015


INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES AND GOVERNMENTAL AND OTHER BODIES


UK GOVERNMENT AND OTHER STATUTORY AND ALLIED AGENCY PARTNERS

CSWIR contributes directly to government and other statutory and allied agency policy making and practice development plans through research consultancy and committee and expert group memberships.

Luckock, B. (2014 – ongoing) Brighton and Hove City Council, Academic consultant for child and family social work service reform


PROFESSIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND ACTIVIST NETWORKS

Hickle, K. (2016) is the Southeast Academic Representative with the CSE and Policing Knowledge Hub based at the University of Bedfordshire’s International Centre: Researching Child Sexual Exploitation, Violence, and Trafficking

Hickle, K. (2016) is on a clinical advisory group for Brighton-based Mankind Counselling, a charity organization providing counselling services to sexually abused men, and will be evaluating their newly implemented psychoeducation group, which is a relatively new way of delivering services in the field (specifically for men)

Luckock, B. (2009 – ongoing) Chair, CoramBAAF, Research Group Advisory Committee

Luckock, B. (2012 – ongoing) Sussex Local Family Justice Board

Maglajlic, R. (2016 – ongoing) Member, Social Services in the Context of Conflict Network

Maglajlic, R. (2016) Initiator and co-ordinator, Joint social work statement and call for action regarding refugees and asylum seekers, co-signed by all four UK social work associations (APSW, BASW, JUC SWEC, SWAN) http://www.socialworkfuture.org/campaigns-events/437-refugee-welcome-joint-statement-and-call-for-action


Maglajlic, R. (2016 – ongoing) Trustee, Voices in Exile, a Sussex organisation providing support for destitute migrants and co-ordinating the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Reallocation Programme in Sussex

Meleyal, L.F. (2015 – ongoing) University of Sussex project partner to The Collaborating Centre for Values Based Practice (in regulation) at St Catherine’s College, Oxford

Meleyal, L.F. (2015 – ongoing) Social work/social care advisor to the Accreditation Board of the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE)
Members and associates
DIRECTORATE

The Centre Director is Barry Luckock (Senior Lecturer in Social Work and Social Policy), supported by Yasin Koc (CSWIR Research Fellow) and Claire Durrant (Research Fellow)

STEERING GROUP

Professor Gillian Ruch (Social Work and Social Care) (Chair)
Professor Janet Boddy (Education)
Professor Jo Bridgeman (Law)
Professor Jackie Cassell (Brighton and Sussex Medical School)
Professor Jo Moran-Ellis (Sociology)
Dr Bonnie Oliver (Psychology)
Louise Sims (Social Work/PGR Representative)
Dr Denise Turner (Social Work and Social Care)
Professor David Weir (Informatics)
Bella Wheeler (Social Work and Social Care/PGR Representative)

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY GROUP

The International Advisory Group is being established currently

SUSSEX ACADEMIC STAFF

The following were active members of CSWIR research projects and activities during the inaugural year:

Professor Robin Banerjee (Psychology)
Professor Janet Boddy (Education)
Professor Emerita Suzy Braye (Social Work and Social Care)
Dr Rachel Burr (Social Work and Social Care)
Dr Henglien Chen (Social Work and Social Care)
Dr Kristine Hickle (Social Work and Social Care)
Ms Sharon Lambley (Social Work and Social Care)
Dr Michelle Lefevre (Social Work and Social Care)
Mr Barry Luckock (Social Work and Social Care)
Dr Reima Ana Maglajlic (Social Work and Social Care)
Dr Tish Marrable (Social Work and Social Care)
Dr Lel Meleyal (Social Work and Social Care)
Professor Jo Moran-Ellis (Sociology)
Dr Sevasti-Melissa Nolas (Social Work and Social Care)
Dr David Orr (Social Work and Social Care)
Professor Gillian Ruch (Social Work and Social Care)
Professor Elaine Sharland (Social Work and Social Care)
Professor Emerita Imogen Taylor (Social Work and Social Care)
Professor Rachel Thomson (Social Work and Social Care)
Dr Denise Turner (Social Work and Social Care)
Professor Charles Watters (Social Work and Social Care)
Dr Russell Whiting (Social Work and Social Care)

RESEARCH FELLOWS

Dr Vinnarasan Aruldoss
Ms Claire Durrant, Impact Acceleration Officer
Ms Anna Ridgewell
Dr Christos Varvantakis
VISITING RESEARCH FELLOWS

Dr Fenghuaqin, School of Teacher Education, Nanjing Xiaozhuang University, China: Comparative study of child protection in China and England (March – August 2015)

Dr Chris Hall, Durham University: Social Work communication in practice (June 2014 – June 2017)

Professor Randi Juul and Inger Sophie Hsuby, Faculty of Health Education and Social Work: Social Education and Child Welfare Work Program, Trondheim (September – December 2015)

Dr Mona Livits, Linkoping, Sweden: Social Work in a Glocalised World, (January – August 2016)

DOCTORAL RESEARCHERS

CSWIR supports social work doctoral research undertaken on the Doctor of Social Work (DSW) and PhD in Social Work and Social Care courses.

DOCTOR OF SOCIAL WORK

Simon Abbott: How do Social Work Approved Mental Health Professionals use the law in action?

Jacqui Carlebach: Title to be confirmed

Paul Dugmore: Acknowledging emotions and being able to bear them: A study into the practice of social work with children

Lorraine Ellames: Dementia care training: the view of dementia care workers

Matthew Ellis: Young people, harmful sexual behaviour and identity: How do young peoples’ narratives develop during treatment for harmful sexual behaviour?

Helen K. Evans: In what ways is the concept of “preparation for independent adult life constructed by leaving care workers in the context of their practice with young people as they leave the care system? Risthardh Hare: A Realistic Evaluation of the implementation of a systemic therapy course in a statutory social work setting in relation to work with domestic violence

Tirion Havard: Beyond geographical boundaries: the covert role of mobile phones in maintaining power and coercive control in the domestic abuse of women

Mark Holloway: Acquired Brain Injury: The lived experience of relatives

Fiona K. Johnson: The systems approach to serious case reviews: Has it improved learning?

Rachel Larkin: Social Work with Separated, Migrant Young Women in the UK

Alberto Poletti: An exploration of how child protection social workers in England and Italy mediate between the emotional demands of their work and professional requirements of their role in order to practice safely and competently. An analysis of two case studies

Joanna Rowles: How do social work students develop skills of professional judgement?

Silinaziso Sibanda: Title to be confirmed

Makhan Shergill: How do Newly Qualified Social Workers (NQSWs) describe the emotional and subjective aspects of their transition to the workplace, and what factors and processes influence their experience?

Naomi Sotendorp: Title to be confirmed
PHD IN SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL CARE

Millicent Ayeh-Danquah Koomson: Youth at risk of smoking and illegal drug use: a comparative study of use by immigrants in Sweden and UK

Leethen Bartholomew: Accusations of child spirit possession and witchcraft: Experiences and outcomes for non-accused children within the same family network

Andrew Cheng: Making it Ours: an exploration of a Participatory Action Research project, set in a community regeneration charity, building service user and practitioner co-production in aspects of the executive functions of community development

Rachel Clarke: Living well with dementia: Sustaining psychological wellbeing in working family carers

Jenny Hewitt: Exploring the Power of Youth through their Words and Worlds: How young adults’ public constructions Intersect with the political and personal

Andrea Jones: Why and how do older people choose to live in intentional communities in the South of England?

Alexandra Kountouri: Understanding the breast cancer journey: narratives of Cypriot women

Gemma North: Assessing for bruises on the soul: an exploration of child protection social work with intrafamilial emotional abuse

Cynthia Okpokiri: First-generation Nigerian Immigrant Parents and Child Welfare issues in Britain

Rachael Owens: Scaling up and Digging down – exploring developmental issues arising in the implementation of the family nurse partnership model

Tasleem Rana: Against the odds? A case study of developing community participation with vulnerable inner-city children and young people

Louise M. Sims: What can be learned from the practice encounter in adoption support social work?

Roma Thomas: Doing Boy Work? Young masculine subjectivities and professional practice

Bella Wheeler: Spaces after modernity: a systems-based examination of narrative and identity formation and environments for health and cohesion

Elsie Whittington: Participatory process with young people: an exploration of sexual consent
LOCATION

The Centre for Social Work Innovation and Research (CSWIR) is located within the Department of Social Work and Social Care in Essex House on the University of Sussex campus. The University is situated on a modern campus on the edge of the South Downs National Park near the lively seaside city of Brighton and Hove. London is one hour away by train, and there is easy access to Gatwick and Heathrow airports.

Centre for Social Work Innovation and Research
School of Education and Social Work
Essex House
University of Sussex
Falmer, Brighton
BN1 9QQ

For further information about CSWIR, visit: www.sussex.ac.uk/socialwork/cswir

CSWIR DIRECTOR
Barry Luckock:
b.a.luckock@sussex.ac.uk

CSWIR RESEARCH FELLOW
Yasin Koc:
yasin.koc@sussex.ac.uk

CSWIR BLOG
www.socialworkatsussex.wordpress.com

CSWIR ON TWITTER
@USSocialwork
@USSWbookgroup

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