

CENTRE FOR SOCIAL WORK INNOVATION AND RESEARCH

Research-in-Progress

Wednesday 8 March, 12.30-1.30pm
Room 2A2, Pevensey 1

Louise Sims: PhD in Social Work & Social Care

A Bridge Between Families? The photograph as symbol and tool in social work practice

This paper discusses the role of transitional objects in adoption practice.

Using case study material, Louise examines the journey of a child's photograph to consider the extraordinary situation of a child being adopted.

Tensions in relationships, roles and tasks are brought to the fore as the photograph moves from family to family via the practitioner. Winnicott's ideas about transitional objects are used, alongside anthropological and kinship theories to highlight the emotional labor and the imaginative practices involved in these encounters.



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