

Dr Lucy Robinson – Combining parenthood with a PhD – Transcript

I don't even know how I did it really. I think I approached doing a PhD a bit like how I approached working and doing my undergraduate degree with children, which was just – it's a job, just treat it like a job. Get up in the morning, what are the bits of preparation that you need to do.

In some ways it was quite difficult emotionally, I think working and having children is always difficult. I think if you're a single parent it's even harder and it felt sometimes like a bit of an indulgence but at other times it was really practical. So I didn't have anything better to be doing with my evenings than to be working. Actually coming and doing my postgraduate studies, particularly my MA really gave me a kind of interesting, supporting, community, family of choice that I might not had access to if I was only hanging out with small kids.

So in terms of social life it was actually really great; in terms of finances the two things worked together for me to my advantage. So I had access to benefits as a single parent that I wouldn't have had as a postgraduate student, all of that stuff is now gone, however. So there were points that it worked really well together I think but at the cost of any sleep, or any social life.