

Call for Papers:

Monitoring parents: Childrearing in the age of 'intensive parenting'

Parenthood has become increasingly 'intensive', with 'intensive motherhood' being the most striking expression of this development. In this form, parenthood is highly emotionally demanding, more and more child-centred, reliant on expert guidance and so increasingly medicalised. Parenthood has also become shaped by risk consciousness, in a context where parental actions are frequently deemed potentially risky for children.

The forthcoming event *Monitoring parents: Childrearing in the age of 'intensive parenting'*

provides the opportunity for discussion of empirical and theoretical work that explores contemporary parenting culture. The organisers hope in particular to encourage discussion of developments that have occurred over the last decade, including assessment of whether there has been further 'intensification' of the culture of intensive motherhood and, if so, in what ways, and whether this culture has come to shape the experience of fatherhood.

The main outcomes of the event are intended to be:

- Development of a network of researchers with an interest in parenting culture
- Opportunity for the emergence of collaborative research agendas and projects
- Written outputs, possibly in the form of an edited book/special issue of a journal to report papers from the conference.

We invite participants to submit papers on themes and issues including those listed below and, in particular, encourage participation from scholars based outside the UK. The conference is co-ordinated by Dr Ellie Lee (Senior lecturer SSPSSR, University of Kent), Professor Frank Furedi (SSPSSR University of Kent) and Jennie Bristow (conference organiser).

THEMES

- The 'medicalisation' of parenthood
- Parents as risk managers
- Gender and parenting/the 'intensification' of fatherhood
- The emotional management of parents
- The sacralisation of bonding
- The politics of parenting culture

The event will be held at the [University of Kent, Canterbury in Spring 2007](#). Efforts will be made to keep costs low and it is expected that the registration fee for participants will be in the region of £75 (to include refreshments for the duration of the event).

ISSUES

- The regulation of pregnancy (including diet, alcohol consumption and smoking)
- The regulation of childbirth (including the validation of 'natural' childbirth)
- Reproductive choices (including contraceptive use, family size)
- Infant feeding (including breast- and formula-feeding, weaning)
- Sleeping/co-sleeping
- The experience of the culture of advice/'parenting support'
- Childcare in the early months

If you would like further information please contact Dr Ellie Lee at E.J.Lee@kent.ac.uk

If you are interested in participating, please send an abstract of around 250 words of your intended paper to Dr Ellie Lee.
