



University of  
**Kent**



UNIVERSITY OF  
**Southampton**

**London South Bank  
University**

## **THE USES AND ABUSES OF BIOLOGY: NEUROSCIENCE, PARENTING AND FAMILY POLICY IN BRITAIN**

Friday 28 March 2014

Room B04, 43 Gordon Square, Birkbeck, University of London, London

**9.30—10.00am** Arrival and registration

**10.00—10.30am**

Ellie Lee, Welcome and Introduction to the day

Nell Whiteway, 'The Uses and Abuses of Biology Research Programme'

**10.30am—12.00pm** Keynote Lecture: Distortions of Neuroscience.  
Lecture by John T. Bruer, Respondents: Steven Rose and Clodhna  
O'Connor. Chair: Ellie Lee

**12.00pm—13.15pm** Lunch

**13.15—14.45pm** Introduction to the Afternoon followed by  
presentations on two 'Uses and Abuses of Biology' research studies,  
'Brain Science and Early Intervention' and 'Biologising Parenting:  
Neuroscience Discourse and English Social and Public Health Policy'.

Chair for afternoon, Professor Ann Phoenix, presenters are Jan  
Macvarish, Professor Val Gillies and Nicola Horsley

**14.45—15.00pm** Break

**15.00—16.15pm** Perspectives on the problems of early intervention.

Panel discussion, with an introduction on 'Practitioner Views' by Val  
Gillies and Nicola Horsley. Panellists are John Bruer, Frank Furedi, Pam  
Lowe and Sue White

**16.15pm** Closing remarks: Ann Phoenix

## Biographies

Professor John T. Bruer, President of the James S. McDonnell Foundation in St. Louis, author, *The Myth of the First Three Years: A new understanding of early brain development and lifelong learning*

Frank Furedi, Emeritus Professor of Sociology University of Kent, author of *Paranoid Parenting and Authority: A Sociological History*

Professor Val Gillies, member of the Weeks Centre for Social and Policy Research, London South Bank University and Participant in the 'Uses and Abuses of Biology' Research Programme

Dr Nicola Horsley, member of the Weeks Centre for Social and Policy Research, London South Bank University and Participant in the 'Uses and Abuses of Biology' Research Programme

Dr Ellie Lee, Reader in Social Policy, University of Kent, Director, Centre for Parenting Culture Studies and Participant in the 'Uses and Abuses of Biology' Research Programme

Dr Pam Lowe, Senior Lecturer in Sociology, Aston University, Associate, Centre for Parenting Culture Studies, and Participant in the 'Uses and Abuses of Biology' Research Programme

Dr Jan Macvarish, Founding Associate, Centre for Parenting Culture Studies, University of Kent and Participant in the 'Uses and Abuses of Biology' Research Programme

Dr Cliodhna O'Connor, PhD student in the Research Student Division of Psychology & Language Sciences, University College London and Participant in the 'Uses and Abuses of Biology' Research Programme

Professor Ann Phoenix, Thomas Coram Research Unit, Institute of Education, London

Professor Steven Rose, Emeritus Professor of Physick, Gresham College London, co-author *Genes, Cells and Brains: the Promethean promises of the new biology.*

Sue White, Professor of Social Work (Children and Families) at the Institute of Applied Social Studies, University of Birmingham

Dr Nell Whiteway, Co-Ordinator, the Uses and Abuses of Biology Programme, Faraday Institute, Cambridge