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Social Research

Gender, Equality and Intimacy: (un)comfortable bedfellows?

Call for papers

1-day workshop at the *Institute of Education*, London, 7th April 2014

The topics of gender, equality and intimacy are becoming increasingly established as important subjects of investigation in the social sciences, with much of the literature pointing to their intersections in the context of personal life (Gabb 2010, Jamieson 1998, Smart 2007) and the clash between 'ideal' relationships promoted by policy and expert or self-help literature with the pragmatics of family life (Gillies 2009, Jensen and Tylor 2013). For example, while there is a commitment to encouraging 'gender equality' in working cultures and family life in contemporary UK policy, wider cultures of parenting rely on heavily gendered models of appropriate care (Dermot 2008, Faircloth 2013). This workshop seeks to explore further how such intersections of equality and intimacy are experienced by men, women and families, whether as part of a wider 'therapeutic turn' in the ethics of self-knowledge (Furedi 2004, Hochschild 2003, Illouz 2007) or as part of a modernisation project in the context of nation building (Twamley 2011).

The workshop will showcase current research from junior and mid-level academics with more senior scholars in the field invited to act as discussants. To facilitate this set-up presenters will be required to submit their full papers to a pre-assigned discussant by March 14th 2014. Confirmed discussants include Professor Lynn Jamieson, Professor Jeffrey Weeks, Dr Esther Dermott and Dr Jacqui Gabb. We anticipate producing an edited volume or special journal issue from the workshop, to include commentaries from discussants on the submissions.

Abstracts of no more than 250 words are invited which address the workshop themes of gender, intimacy and equality from a range of perspectives and disciplinary backgrounds.

Potential topics on the themes of gender, intimacy and equality include:

- sexuality and sexual practice
- economic climate and nationhood
- marriage and co-habitation
- parenting cultures, including reproductive technologies
- care-work
- queer lives
- friendship
- 'work-life balance'

Please send titles and abstracts to the organisers by **1st November 2013** (Charlotte Faircloth C.Faircloth@kent.ac.uk, Katherine Twamley K.Twamley@ioe.ac.uk). Selected participants will be informed by 1st December.