

Making Parents? Human reproduction and family life in contemporary society

A joint event from the British Sociological
Associations Human Reproduction and Families and
Relationships Study Groups
Friday 11th December 2015
University of Roehampton, London

Confirmed keynote speakers:

[Dr. Nicky Hudson](#) (Reader in Medical Sociology, Lead
Reproduction Research Group, De Montfort University)

[Dr. Ellie Lee](#) (Reader in Social Policy, Director, *Centre for
Parenting Culture Studies*, University of Kent)

Call for Abstracts

Whilst 'Parenting Culture' and 'Assisted Reproductive Technologies' are now well-established subfields of sociological scholarship, so far, the common threads between these two bodies of work have not been significantly explored. Taking 'reproduction' as the locus of this comparison, this study day hopes to showcase novel contributions from scholars working in either field who are interested in creating such connections. In particular, we seek papers exploring the ways contemporary cultures of parenthood create an appetite for these technologies, just as technologies simultaneously contribute to shaping those very cultures.

In developing the links between these two bodies of scholarship, we welcome theoretical, methodological, and empirical papers engaging with topics and themes that include, but are not limited to:

- Parenthood and identity, including narratives of expected, desired and disrupted reproduction
- Gendered expectations and experiences of reproduction and parenting
- The intensification of reproduction and parenting
- Parenting and/as the individualization of a social problem
- Expertise, consumerism and anxiety in cultures of reproduction and parenting
- Dissonance between expectation and reality: negotiating (perceived) stigma, shame and judgment

- Cross-cultural perspectives on historical shifts in reproduction and parenting
- Alternative routes to parenthood and family life

Abstract submission

Please send abstracts of up to 250 words by 23rd October to the conveners via charlotte.faircloth@roehampton.ac.uk

Abstracts significantly over the word count will not be accepted

The abstracts will be anonymised and reviewed by conveners from the two groups, taking into account the suitability of the topic, the stage of the research process (where appropriate) and the significance of the finding or arguments to the study day.

Abstracts will then be ordered in to the presentation slots available. Presenters will be allocated 15 minutes presentation time, which will be followed by five minutes for questions.

Conference details

The conference will take place at Roehampton University in London. Information about finding the university can be found [here](#).

Please contact Charlotte Faircloth with any queries
E: charlotte.faircloth@roehampton.ac.uk

Insert other
logo here if
required