



centre for research on
families and relationships

CRFR News 14
Winter 2008

Parents' Week launch

Parenting practice and support in Scotland

Parenting practice and support of parents in Scotland was the focus of CRFR's activity to coincide with the Parenting Week, 20th-24th October.

A research briefing was publicised which reported that eight out of ten parents think smacking is neither useful nor effective, and that, instead, most parents of toddlers found ignoring bad behaviour the most effective disciplinary technique.

The briefing, based on an analysis of data on parenting practice and support from the Growing Up in Scotland (GUS) study, received excellent press coverage from a wide range of outlets including the *Scotsman*, *The Times*, *Metro* and the BBC.

Findings also show that 66 per cent of babies' parents who use childcare rely on grandparents to provide that care, and that older mothers increasingly struggle with a lack of that family support.

Lynn Jamieson, CRFR Co-Director and author of the briefing, said: "It is important to remember that how parenting impacts on children is a complex matter and we need to look carefully at claims that there is a 'one size fits all' style of parenting.

The outcomes for children may be as influenced by social and economic resources as they are by parenting styles. Parenting strategies may need to be very different to ensure a child's wellbeing on a housing estate affected by high levels of drug and alcohol abuse and violence than those in a middle-class leafy suburb."

To start a conversation about these issues CRFR also launched its inaugural blog looking at why the environment in which families live is important. Comment and contributions are welcome to this new discussion space on the web.

"Our Parents' Week briefing launch and blog are good examples of the way CRFR works towards contributing and stimulating debate in areas relating to our research," said CRFR Co-Director Sarah Morton.

- **Briefing 40:** Parenting Practices and Support in Scotland is available on: www.crfr.ac.uk
- CRFR blog: <http://crfrblog.blogspot.com/>

In this issue

**Households with
young children: how
housework is divided**
Stephen Hinchliffe

rr
research
round up

New Studentships

**Events
and Courses**

**People and
Publications**

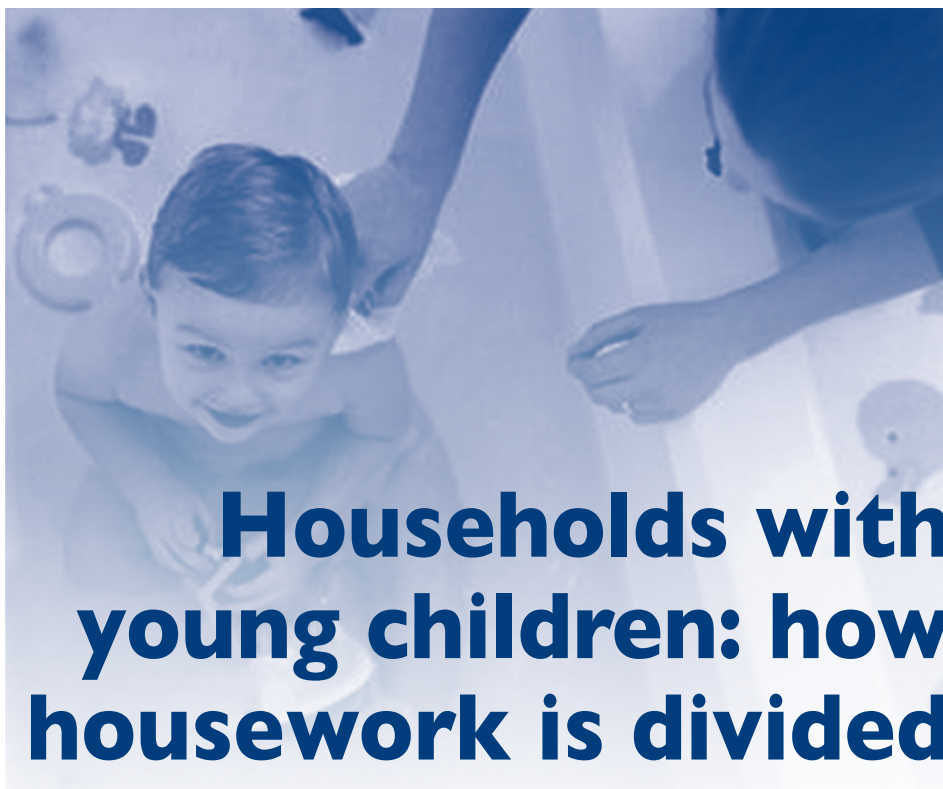


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The Centre for Research on Families and Relationships was set up in January 2001 to produce research and commentary on families and relationships relevant to Scotland and to disseminate such work widely. It receives financial support from the Scottish Government and other sources. CRFR facilitates a network of researchers and those interested in families and relationships research, produces regular research briefings and information bulletins, and holds events.

In consortium with the University of Aberdeen, The University of Edinburgh, University of Glasgow, Glasgow Caledonian University, UHI Millenium Institute and the University of Stirling



Households with young children: how housework is divided

Stephen Hinchliffe

When both partners work, who does the work in the home? Do couples divide chores and childcare according to the time each has available? Do traditional attitudes about gender roles prevail? Or is the partner with the most 'resources' (for example, income, education, job prestige, etc.) able to negotiate their way out of domestic work?

Data from a major Scottish Government funded study, Growing Up in Scotland (GUS), which looks at the lives of young children and their families, were analysed to discover if there are any answers to these questions.

GUS follows the lives of a national sample of 8,000 of Scotland's children from infancy through to their teens. This is one of the largest longitudinal studies ever done in Scotland and will provide information that will help develop policies affecting children and their families in Scotland.

GUS is funded by the Scottish Government and carried out by The Scottish Centre for Social Research in collaboration with CRFR.

This analysis, completed for an MSc in Social Policy, shows that, among parents of young children in Scotland,

women do nearly all the housework and childcare. Despite the shift in the structure of the labour market towards a one-and-a-half earner household, the traditional division of labour remains predominant. For a number of couples, the idea of a woman returning from a full day's work to do a 'second shift' at home may still hold true.

Among parents of young children in Scotland, women do nearly all the housework and childcare

Employment status of both partners is by far the strongest predictor of the domestic division of labour. The greater a mother's involvement in paid employment or education, and the less a man's involvement, the more likely it is that the divisions of housework and childcare will be more equal.

There are some theories that suggest couples use their 'resources' (factors such as income, education, job prestige, social class and age) to negotiate their way out of domestic work. The analysis of GUS data suggests that this is not the case for parents of young children in Scotland. After controlling for other factors, neither relative income nor age demonstrated any significant effect. In fact, either partner having a degree increased the likelihood of an egalitarian division of labour. Thus

parents of young children in Scotland appear to act in a more co-operative manner than more general research has found to be the case in other countries and at other times of life.

Attitudes to towards sex roles may have an impact on the way domestic labour is divided. GUS data showed that both religion and the perception of sensitivity of a woman's partner to her needs were shown to be associated with the domestic division of labour.

After controlling for other factors, being of a non-Christian religion (most of whom were Muslim in the sample) was associated with a more traditional division of both housework and childcare. Being Christian was also associated with a more traditional division of childcare, but to a much lesser extent.

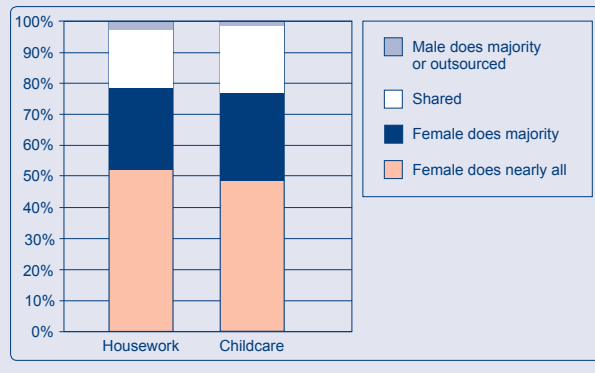
Women who think their partners are insensitive are more likely to take on the majority of both housework and childcare. The direction of any cause and effect here is not at all clear. It may be that insensitive men leave the housework to their partner, or it may be that having to do all the housework makes some women think their partner is insensitive.

Rural households are also more likely to exhibit a traditional division of both housework and childcare. Households in affluent areas are more likely to exhibit a traditional division of childcare.

Changes in the relative number of hours each partner works outside the home has an impact on the domestic division of labour. This may have policy implications.

When both partners work full-time, differences in the man's working hours appeared to be more influential on

Who does most of the housework and childcare, as reported by female respondent
(Couples with children aged around 22 months, Scotland)



the division of domestic work than differences in the woman's working hours. For example, a man working 40 hours was less likely to be involved with housework than a man working 37 hours when both their partners worked full-time. However, whether a woman worked 37 hours or 40 hours a week made much less difference to who did the housework. Policies designed to support more equitable distribution of work in the home may have greater impact if they focused on reducing men's working hours.

In the more common situation of a man working full-time and a woman working

part-time, an increase in the woman's working hours had a greater effect than an increase in the man's hours, with the man more likely to take on some of the domestic work when the woman increased her hours. Policies enabling women to increase their hours may make the domestic division of labour more egalitarian.

Workplace and childcare policies do influence the division of housework. Between the first year of GUS data collection and the second, the division of childcare has become more egalitarian. However, the division of housework has become more traditional. Policies may be improving gender inequalities in the workplace, and helping men to become more involved with their children. There is a danger, however, that rather than gender inequalities being reduced in the domestic sphere, men are simply taking on more childcare at the expense of housework. Further research is required to examine this.

Gender equality within the home is not an issue many governments attempt to tackle. Differences within the workplace are being addressed, though partly for economic, rather than equality reasons. This has a clear impact on domestic life, by influencing the time and choices available to each partner at home. While governments legislate and create policy relating to childcare and the rights of the child, they leave imbalances in the division of domestic work to the individuals concerned.

Stephen completed his MSc in Social Policy as part of an ESRC funded PhD. He will be using GUS data in the next stage of his research. See www.crfr.ac.uk/Research/phdinchliffe.htm

Policies may be helping men to become more involved with their children, though perhaps at the expense of housework

Evidence and Policy



NORFACE meeting Oslo 13th October

Delegates from across Northern Europe met to discuss the strategies and interventions employed in a range of countries to improve the use of evidence in the policy process and consider any evidence on the effectiveness of these strategies. Delegates heard presentations about work in Norway, Iceland and Scotland, and were lucky to have a guest speaker from Canada, Allan Best from the University of British Columbia. He encouraged delegates to think about ways in which we can approach policy problems as complex systems, and how we might use this kind of thinking to improve the use of knowledge. For more details see:

www.crfr.ac.uk/norface/index.html



Five themes describe our research studies

- Children and young people**
- Growing older and caring relationships**
- Families, policies, evidence and practice**
- Changing families, changing relationships**
- Health, families, well-being, and relationships**

This is a summary of progress on some of our research projects. For our full range of research activity please visit www.crfr.ac.uk

Growing Up in Scotland (GUS)

The latest Growing Up in Scotland (GUS) results will be available early in 2009 in a new format. Themed reports will allow interested parties to access GUS data in a more focused way. Reports will cover:

- non-resident parents
- childcare
- cognitive development
- food, eating and physical activity

GUS is a large longitudinal study following the lives of 5,000 children across Scotland from infancy to adolescence. Launched in 2005, GUS is providing new information to help the Scottish Government and others to develop policies and services for young children and their families. GUS is designed to provide an intensive focus on the early years. In time, information about the outcomes for children and young people will be linked to experiences in the early years, making GUS a very rich and powerful research resource.

The fourth year of data collection with participating families is now well underway. This year, parents are also being asked for their consent to link the survey data to routine

information held in NHS health records, such as immunisations. Response rates continue to be high among respondents. The data from Sweep 2 are now available from the ESDS.

For more information, please visit the GUS website: www.growingupinScotland.org.uk

Rural and Urban Solo Living: Social integration, quality of life and future orientations

Research findings based on the first phase of this two year study have been presented in Lisbon, Helsinki, Edinburgh and Manchester.

This two year ESRC funded study investigates the experiences and expectations of people living alone between the ages of 25 and 44, a period of adulthood conventionally associated with partnership and parenting. The increasing incidence of solo living in recent years has implications for many social policies and for the provision of services in rural and urban areas. The aims of the study include deepening our knowledge and understanding of the social capital and quality of life of working age adults living alone,

and to consider how this might vary in different types of rural and urban localities.

The first phase of data collection — telephone interviews with 140 men and women across Scotland using the Scottish Household Survey as a sampling frame — was completed earlier this year. The second phase of data collection, follow up in-depth interviews with 40 men and women selected from those interviewed previously by telephone, are currently underway.

For further information on the study contact Roona Simpson, at roona.simpson@ed.ac.uk



Following the success of the first year of the project, innovative resources in practice development have been created from the work done in the four project sites across Scotland. These resources include a DVD called “Who Cares?”, documentation for use in care homes to facilitate participation in those caring for older people and

GUS dissemination contract awarded

Findings from Growing Up in Scotland will continue to be disseminated by CRFR, following the award of the second stage of the GUS contract by the Scottish Government. The Scottish Centre for Social Research (ScotCen) will continue as the lead contractor for the study, in collaboration with CRFR and the MRC Social and Public Health Sciences Unit at Glasgow University. Funding has been secured to follow the younger children in GUS until they are aged nearly 8. A new birth cohort will be recruited in 2011.

a poster on palliative care. These are now available on the project's website. The learning and resources from the first year's practice development sites were launched at an event in Perth in October 2008.

Older people are cared for in a huge variety of care settings (hospital wards, care homes, day hospitals, out-patient clinics, in their own home etc). The purpose of Connect in Care is to support learning and practice development across all settings in order to improve the quality and experience of care for older people in Scotland. An e-network has been created within this project which can be utilised by all staff who care for older people. This network enables shared learning, access to resources and discussion to take place around all aspects of caring for older people. The project is funded by NHS Education Scotland and NHS Quality Improvement Scotland in partnership with the Care Commission.

Four new practice development sites will begin in the next few months. Three of these sites will be in Tayside, Shetland, and Dumfries and Galloway. The essence of the Connect in Care project is that the practice development work is shared across sectors and we are delighted that we will be working with NHS 24 and the Care Commission to facilitate better communication procedures when transferring older people from one sector to the other. This work will start in early 2009.

The project website is now well populated with a diverse range of resources and information about all aspects of the work to date.

For further information please email cic@ed.ac.uk or contact the Project Co-ordinator; Alison Forbes on 0131 651 1940 or have a look at the website at www.connect-in-care.net

Work and Family Lives: The changing experiences of 'young' families

The study is in its second year and, with eleven families (nine more affluent and two on lower incomes) now having agreed to take part, the first wave of fieldwork is well underway and will continue over the next few months as we hope to recruit at least another four low-income families.

This study aims to explore the ways in which families negotiate their work and family lives over time with the aim of deepening our understanding of how work and family issues are viewed and 'worked out' by parents and primary school-aged children living in different socio-economic and labour market conditions. There will be three fieldwork visits, involving the family members. The second wave of fieldwork also began recently. This involves conducting family group interviews in which we aim to capture any changes in the family's lives, hear their discussions with each other about work-life balance issues, and explore the impact of these on individuals' and families' relationships. Repeat individual interviews with parents and children will make up the third wave of the study.

This study is part of Timescapes, the ESRC-funded longitudinal research initiative involving five universities based across the UK (www.timescapes.leeds.ac.uk). Based on our experiences of conducting the 'Work and Family Lives' study so far, we ran a workshop at the CRFR National conference (Oct 2008) which explored the methodological, practical and ethical issues involved in interviewing multiple family members.

For further information please email alice.maclean@ed.ac.uk or go to: www.crfr.ac.uk/Research/timescapes.html

Care and Support Needs of Men who Survived Childhood Sexual Abuse

The final report of the CRFR research project with Health in Mind, Care and Support Needs of Male Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse, is now well on its way to completion. We are delighted that the Scottish Public Health Minister, Shona Robison, has agreed to open our conference on February 3, when the report will be presented. This conference will discuss key issues such as masculinity and identity, and priorities for topics including education and training, child protection, mental health services, prisons and the armed services. Male survivors will also play an active part in our conference.

For further information on the study contact Sarah Nelson at sarah.nelson@ed.ac.uk



Sue Milne with portrait of Jessie Gunson

Rosie Gibson - Artist in Residence at CRFR

Time flies as I begin my final three months already. Five people completed the first set of 'Drawing with the Right Hand Side of the Brain' sessions and the feedback was fascinating. People enjoyed having the time to concentrate and were pleased they could produce something 'half way respectable'.

A few people mentioned how relaxing and energising the hour long session was. One of the most interesting comments was on the similarities between the drawing process and research analysis. A couple of things — you need to put in the graft to get good results; and when you make a 'mistake' you can change it and get a better result, and it's ok to do that. In the research analysis it strikes me that it also involves a preciseness and a creativeness, whereby if you work with the form and shape of your data as well as the precise content you can develop a really worthwhile, in-depth analysis.

Equally fascinating is the comment on the differences: 'I guess research tends to focus on words more, but it's useful to think about how words can be a creative form as well.'

A small group are continuing the drawing sessions. We have also started a weekly lunchtime drop-in art session and started by exploring clay with a start up theme of relationships. Watch this space!

Rosie

**Rosie's blog can be found
via a link on: www.crfr.ac.uk**

Studentships at CRFR

There are a large number of postgraduate students attached to CRFR, with some based at the University of Edinburgh, and others in our collaborating institutions. Some are funded through collaborative studentships (known as CASE studentships) by the ESRC, whilst others are funded through other ESRC studentships, or other means. Here we highlight two new students.



Children and young people's experiences and support needs when affected by parental (or significant carer) alcohol misuse

Louise Hill

There are an estimated 80 000 – 100 000 children affected by parental alcohol misuse in Scotland. Research indicates that for the majority of children, parental alcohol misuse has a negative affect on their childhood but little is known about the diversity of these experiences.

Louise's research study aims to identify and explore the experiences and support needs of children and young people affected by parental alcohol misuse in Scotland. The study is an ESRC funded collaborative award with Barnardo's, a national voluntary organisation providing services to children and their families across the UK. A central aim of the study is to develop and evaluate research methods with children and young people on a potentially sensitive topic.

Louise is in her third year of doctoral study. She graduated in Social Anthropology and has an MSc in Childhood Studies from the University of Edinburgh. Previously, Louise was a Children's Rights officer working with 'Looked after children' in Greater Manchester. She worked as a researcher for Barnardo's Policy and Research Unit on a wide range of projects and has a keen interest in connecting research, policy and practice.



Children's perspectives of contact where there has been a history of domestic abuse

Fiona Morrison

The degree of contact between children and their fathers following parental separation is a sensitive and controversial subject. This is especially so where there has been a history of domestic abuse before parental separation. Fiona's PhD will explore children's own experiences and views of contact in this context.

Her PhD will use qualitative methods to explore children's experiences of contact when there is history of domestic abuse. This will also explore the factors that these children consider important when deciding if contact is beneficial and the experiences they have of services that support parent-child contact.

Fiona is currently a 1st year PhD student in Social Policy, having graduated with an MSc in Childhood Studies in 2007 from the University of Edinburgh and a BA in Community Education in 2006 from the University of Dundee. She has held a variety of posts in the voluntary sector. Prior to undertaking this studentship, she worked at Scottish Women's Aid as a Children's Policy Worker. Fiona's PhD is an ESRC CASE studentship with Scottish Women's Aid.

Consultation update

CRFR gives evidence to the Child Poverty Enquiry

As we go to press, Co-Director Sarah Cunningham-Burley is giving oral evidence to the Scottish Parliament's Child Poverty Enquiry.

She will outline points raised in our earlier submission including the need to ensure that accounts of people's lived experiences are taken into consideration when assessing progress towards eradicating child poverty. In her answer to the Local Government and Communities Committee, she will also detail relevant issues raised in much of CRFR's research.

To follow the progress of the Parliament's Enquiry see <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/lgc/inquiries/Childpoverty/index.htm>

GET INVOLVED IN THE DEBATE -

CRFR Blog launched

As part of CRFR's remit to stimulate debate around research issues, we have established the CRFR blog. Blog contributors will come from the CRFR community and Blogs will cover any issues relating to families and relationships.

'Parents, children and discipline - why the environment in which families live is still important' was the topic of the inaugural blog. Get online, post a comment and join the debate!

<http://crfrblog.blogspot.com/>

Events

Voices of male survivors conference: turning research into action

Pollock Halls • University of Edinburgh
Tuesday 3rd February 2009 • 10am - 4pm

Scottish Public Health Minister Shona Robinson will open this important conference highlighting issues around the care and support needs of male survivors of childhood sexual abuse. The findings of this major Scottish research project into the care and support needs of male survivors of childhood sexual abuse, based on life history interviews with adult survivors, and closely informed by their own perspectives will be presented. The project is a collaboration between CRFR and Health in Mind, funded by the Big Lottery Fund. Survivors will speak and leading Scottish policymakers will be invited to respond to our findings, so that proposals for practical change can be heard and discussed.

For booking details go to: www.crfr.ac.uk/events/malesurvivors.htm



New researchers conference

Pollock Halls • University of Edinburgh
3rd June 2009 • 10am - 4pm

Our fifth new researchers in families and relationships conference will provide an opportunity to discuss research issues and present papers in a supportive environment.

There will be:

- Presentations by new researchers on either substantive topics, theoretical issues, or methodological issues or innovations on families and relationships

- Opportunities to discuss work and network with peers
- Personal and career development opportunity in presenting research
- Discussion of research issues with like-minded colleagues

For booking details go to:

www.crfr.ac.uk/events/newresconference.htm

CRFR CPD courses

As part of our commitment to enhancing research skills, making research accessible and providing access to research to a wide audience, we will be offering the following CPD courses in the Spring.

The courses are open to any interested parties and are detailed below:

Evaluation in Practice (two day course)27th May 2009

Listening to ChildrenJanuary to March 2009

For further information about any of our courses please go to our website: www.crfr.ac.uk or contact Laura Marshall - l.marshall@ed.ac.uk

Growing Up in Scotland

An event to launch the findings from Year 3 of GUS will be held in Glasgow in March 2009. The event will cover the topics such as non resident parents; childcare; parenting;

and food, eating and physical activity. Keep an eye on the GUS website for further details:

www.growingupinScotland.org.uk



CRFR News

Welcome...

We are delighted to announce that Dr Kay Tisdall, who was a CRFR Associate Researcher, joined us in September as a Co-Director of CRFR. Kay's work in childhood studies and her strong links with non-academic colleagues are particularly useful additions to CRFR.

We are also pleased (and relieved) to welcome back Laura Marshall to the Knowledge Exchange team. Laura resumes her role of Training and Events Administrator after returning to CRFR from maternity leave.

Membership of our research register RoRi is open to all who work in the area of families and relationships. Other forms of association are available for those who have closer research based links with CRFR.

In 2008 we welcomed the following people to CRFR in the role of Associate Directors:

Dr Daniel Wight, University of Glasgow, Medical Research Council

Professor Nick Watson, University of Glasgow
Margaret Arnott, Glasgow Caledonian University
Lesley McMillan, Glasgow Caledonian University

Congratulations...

Sarah Morton

Congratulations go to our Co-Director Sarah Morton for receiving a distinction in her MSc. She will now continue to work towards her PhD, 'Exploring and assessing research impact in the social sciences'.

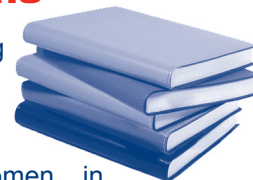


Ruth Lewis

Congratulations also to Ruth Lewis who was awarded her PhD on the project 'Time to talk? A qualitative exploration of intergenerational communication about sex and sexuality in families in Scotland' on the 14th November.

Recent publications

Lombard N (2008) It's wrong for a boy to hit a girl because the girl might cry: Investigating young people's understandings of male violence against women, in Alexander F and Throsby K (eds) *Gender and Interpersonal Violence: Language, Action and Representation*. Palgrave Macmillan: Basingstoke.



Punch S (2008) "You can do nasty things to your brothers and sisters without a reason": Siblings' Backstage Behaviour, *Children & Society*, 22: 333-344.

Backett-Milburn K, Airey L, McKie L and Hogg G (2008) 'Family comes first or open all hours?: How low paid women working in food retailing manage webs of obligation at home and work'. *The Sociological Review*, 56, 3, 479-496.

Arnott M (2008) 'Public Policy, Governance and Participation in the UK: A Space for Children?' *International Journal of Children's Rights* vol.16 no. 3 pp. 355-367.

Special Issue of *International Journal of Children's Rights* 2008 16(3) 'Children's and Young People's Participation in 'Public' Decision-Making' edited by Susan Elsley, Michael Gallagher, Rachel Hinton and Kay Tisdall.

Thanks...

After more than seven years as a Co-Director, Professor Fran Wasoff has relinquished that role to become an Associate Director of CRFR, and will continue to play an active research and strategic role in the Centre. We thank her for her crucial role in the establishment of CRFR as a leading policy-relevant research centre, and look forward to continuing to work with her in her new role.



Latest crfr research briefings

CRFR Briefing 41	December 2008	Infertility in Malawi: exploring its impact and social consequences
CRFR Briefing 40	October 2008	Parenting practices and support in Scotland
CRFR Briefing 39	September 2008	Older women and domestic violence in Scotland
CRFR Briefing 38	July 2008	The politics of family policy in post-devolution Scotland
CRFR Briefing 37	March 2008	Understanding cohabitation: A critical study of the Living Together as Husband and Wife Rule in UK social security law

Research briefings can be downloaded from our website www.crfr.ac.uk, or contact us for printed copies