

The Centre for Research on Families and Relationships (CRFR) Blog

We use the CRFR Blog to share the latest news, information, thoughts, and resources on all areas of research related to families and relationships. We accept pieces from academics, practitioners, and policy makers. We are especially keen to encourage contributions from Early Career Researchers and can provide support with writing and promoting your work. It's a great way to share information about your research, regardless of what stage you are at.

Why blog?

Blogging is an ideal way to reach out to a wide range of different audiences to share new research, events, discuss topical issues, asking for comments or input on findings. It provides an opportunity to communicate potentially complex issues in a more informal and engaging style, and it is timely. We can comment and respond to issues on the same day they come up, we can share thoughts in a more thought-provoking way than we might in a scholarly article, and we can flag up academic articles or longer reports, and hopefully increase interest in our wider work-programme.

Before you start

Blogs for CRFR should have a link to practice, policy, research or lived experience – or a combination of these. Before you start, think about your audience and who the blog is aimed at. Please let us know this when you get in touch – depending on who you're hoping to reach, we can help. This might mean advising on how best to structure your blog post, or in making a plan of how to promote it once it is written and published.

The format

We will accept blogs anywhere between 400 and 800 words, but longer form contributions (up to 1,500) are also welcome. We always welcome a range of submission types, including reflections on personal experience as well as our more usual style of pieces informed by research or professional practice. You would also actively encourage diaries, photos, films, documentaries or other visuals. Visual pieces should be accompanied by a short piece of writing to contextual your work.

It is much harder to keep people's interest when reading electronic media as opposed to paper formats. Some good practice tips to follow:

- Make your title interesting, catchy and relevant to your audience
- Get the main points or arguments across in the first paragraph.
- Assume a more conversational/informal writing style than a traditional academic paper.

- Focus on a ‘human interest’ element rather than background information or methodology. Why should people take the time to read your blog? What might they want to know about your project? Why should they sign up to your network or get involved in your event?
- Please keep references to an essential minimum. Social media is not the place for lengthy referencing. In general, the preferred form of citation is an in-text hyperlink.

Images

Please provide an image that captures the article’s key message – this can help capture readers and will be used in publicity (for example, twitter). You can use your own photo or find a free image from the following sites:

<https://unsplash.com>
<https://www.pexels.com/royalty-free-images/>
<http://www.freeimages.co.uk/index.htm>
<https://www.freeimages.com>
<https://freerangestock.com>
<https://www.stockfreeimages.com>
<http://www.rgbstock.com>
<https://www.canva.com/photos/tag/free+photos/>

Further questions and submission

Submit your piece in Word format, along with any images, to crfr@ed.ac.uk. Please include the author’s full name, current institution and occupation in a short bio at the end of the document. Let us know if you would like your email included in the post. The contributions will be reviewed by CRFR co-directors and we aim to get back to you with decisions within a fortnight of confirmation of submission.

We will tweet your blog and send to any relevant mailing lists, including our own. We would be pleased if you could do the same. When tweeting include the hashtag @CRFRtweets. If you would like us to send your article to any specific organisations, please let us know.

If you have any questions about the blog, or what to pitch an idea, please email Dr Emma Davidson, CRFR Co-Director.