Young Edinburgh Action (YEA) is an innovative approach to implementing the City of Edinburgh Council’s Young People’s Participation Strategy, the aim of which is to facilitate young people’s meaningful participation in partnership working and decision-making. YEA supports young people to identify and research issues that matter to them in Edinburgh. The findings from action research carried out by young people are shared with senior decision makers at ‘conversations for action’ where action plans are developed based on the young people’s recommendations for improving services.

YEA has developed a partnership with the Centre for Research on Families and Relationships to share the learning from this approach and to provide evidence of the impact that the project has had for individual young people, communities and services.

Two resources about YEA have been produced for practitioners and academics (with a third in development):

- An online CRFR briefing paper describes the approach and sets it in context of the Local Authority and the academic research.
- ‘YEA: It’s a Film’ explores young peoples’ experiences of being a young researcher. The film will be used to stimulate discussion among academics and practitioners about the role of young people as researchers and about young people’s participation more broadly.

View ‘YEA: It’s a Film’ at: https://media.ed.ac.uk/media/1_etof4nna

View the Briefing 85 at: www.crfr.ac.uk/publications/research-briefings/

What is CRFR?

CRFR produces research and commentary on families and relationships. It facilitates a network of researchers, and those interested in families and relationships, to promote the use of research in policy and practice.

To find out more about all CRFR research projects go to www.crfr.ac.uk/projects/current-projects/
CRFR International Conference

In June 2016 180 people from 16 countries gathered in Edinburgh for three days of stimulating discussion and knowledge exchange on the theme of ‘Unequal Families and Relationships’.

Keynote speakers included Julia Brannen, Kathleen Gerson, David Morgan and CRFR Co-director Lynn Jamieson. Conference streams included Gender, Sexuality & Identity; Family Policy & Legislation; Fatherhood; Gender & Health; and Migrant Families.

You can view the abstracts via the links at:
www.crfr.ac.uk/eventsandtraining/current-events/crfr-international-conference-2016/programme/

The Evelyn Gillan Impact Prize

The final session of the conference focussed on creating research impact and the issues faced by the public and voluntary sectors in using research to tackle inequalities. Mark Macdonald MSP, Minister for Early Years and Childcare, presented the inaugural Evelyn Gillan Research Impact Prize.

This prize, supported by the Scottish Government, was awarded in memory of our late colleague Evelyn Gillan who was a passionate advocate for using the best available research evidence in policy-making. The remit was to show how research had made a difference to children, families or personal relationships. The winning poster was ‘Enduring Love? Couple relationships in the 21st century’ by Professor Jacqui Gabb of The Open University. The runners- up were ‘The Voice of the Child in Private Law Contact Disputes in Scotland’, Dr Kirsteen MacKay, University of Edinburgh and ‘A Good Start’, Cheryl Brown and Jackie Davidson, Midlothian Sure Start.

View the winning posters at: www.crfr.ac.uk/impact-prize/
CRFR posts regular blogs by contributors from many areas of research. Below is a small selection of blogs posted in the last year. We also welcome blog contributions, related to issues surrounding families and relationships, from practitioners in all sectors. You can submit a blog proposal by emailing: Lesley.Kelly@ed.ac.uk

**Abuse**
Silencing and disclosure in child sexual abuse  
*Sarah Nelson*

**Children & young people**
Action! Young people as researchers and decision-makers  
*Kay Tisdall*

**Evidence**
Getting evidence into action: how can we understand what we already know?  
*Sarah Morton*
Learning about evidence and policy at the Scottish Government  
Rebecca Black

**Gender**
Everyone needs to “have it all”  
*Kathleen Gerson*

**Health and wellbeing**
International migration: the wellbeing of migrants  
*Philomena de Lima*

**Inequalities**
Families, intimacy and social inequalities  
*David Morgan*
Addressing inequalities across the generations  
*Julia Brannen*

**Older people**
Living in the shadows of dementia care  
*Julie Watson*

**Research**
An End to the Crisis of Empirical Sociology? Trends and challenges in social research  
*Linda McKie*

View our Storify record of the event: https://storify.com/CRFRtweets/unequal-families-and-relationships
Digital Families

Digital Families Across the Lifecourse was a programme of events held during 2015/16 in partnership with the Scottish Universities Insight Institute. It brought together researchers, policy makers and practitioners to understand and explore issues relating to the impact of digital technologies on family life and relationships. Three seminars focused on different stages of the lifecourse: childhood; parenting; and older age. The resources from the Digital Families programme, including the final report are available from http://www.crfr.ac.uk/digital-families-across-the-lifecourse/

One of the aims of the programme was to set up a Digital Families Research Network to encourage new collaborations between researchers and others to address some of the issues identified. The Network was launched on 16 November as part of the ESRC’s Festival of Social Science – an annual celebration of social science research. If you would like to join the network, please email lesley.kelly@ed.ac.uk for more information.

WOMEN’S WHISPERS

Women’s Whispers is a short film based on research by Sara Diane Lindores which challenges the way in which intra-Christian sectarianism has been almost exclusively seen as a masculine phenomenon in Scotland which takes place in public spaces. It draws on interviews from six women to explore the more subtle and everyday ways that sectarianism can impact families, friendships and intimate relationships. This film was supported by Action on Sectarianism and CRFR and funded by The University of Edinburgh.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JPHNbEkQdeo
What Works Scotland is an initiative to improve the way local areas in Scotland use evidence to make decisions about public service development and reform.

The last 12 months have been a busy and productive time. Our latest publications include a research report on building community capacity through a community links worker project in Aberdeenshire, a review of participatory budgeting in Scotland and a working paper looking at rationales for place-based approaches.

What Works Scotland and the Scottish Community Development Centre worked together on the new National Standards for Community Engagement, published in September.

Our most recent blog posts include articles on using systems thinking to tackle inequality; working with data in community profiles; insights into a new model of third sector representation in community planning; and place-based approaches.

Around 70 people came to two seminars to learn more about community-led approaches to reducing poverty. Our next event, at the start of January, is the launch of a research report on dignified food provision.

There are lots more activities planned for 2017. Follow us on Twitter @WWScot for updates or sign up to our newsletter at whatworksscotland.ac.uk

Childhood sexual abuse

Towards the end of 2016 CRFR Associate Dr Sarah Nelson delivered two seminars surrounding issues from research and practice, from her new book ‘Tackling Child Sexual Abuse: Radical Approaches’. The book aims to offer hope of more effective, imaginative means of protecting children and young people from sexual abuse.

The seminars were very successful and included time for shared discussions of problems and opportunities involved in implementing change.

Sarah’s book is available to order at https://policypress.co.uk/tackling-child-sexual-abuse
Look out for a special issue!

CRFR Co-Director Professor Lynn Jamieson is Editor in Chief of the journal ‘Families, Relationships and Society’. A special issue in November 2016 focuses on environmental issues and families.

https://policypress.co.uk/journals/families-relationships-and-societies

Evidence on bullying

Co-Director Professor Kay Tisdall gave evidence to the Scottish Parliament’s Equalities and Human Rights Committee on 10 November 2016 on the topic of bullying in schools.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k0yu08045qU

Talking and listening to children: Exploring how social workers and children communicate

CRFR Research Fellow Fiona Morrison is the lead researcher on a UK-wide research project funded by the ESRC, exploring how social workers communicate with children in their everyday practice.

Resources to support professionals are now available from: www.talkingandlisteningtochildren.co.uk

Fiona has also produced an Insight briefing for IRISS – ‘Social workers’ communication with children and young people in practice’: www.iriss.org.uk/sites/default/files/insights-34.pdf

Impact Evaluation of Bookbug

The research team is working on a two year evaluation of the Scottish Book Trust’s Bookbug Programme. They are currently visiting locations across Scotland to find out how Bookbug is working. Findings from the evaluation will help Scottish Book Trust to improve and develop the Bookbug Programme in future.

Research team:
Laura Airey, Emma Davidson (pictured), Christina Mc Mellon and Sarah Morton.
Events

Free one day conference

Young People’s Transitions: Dimensions, Difficulties and Diversity

The University of Edinburgh, April 21, 2017

The University of Edinburgh’s Childhood and Youth Studies Network and CRFR will be holding a free, one-day conference for youth researchers, policymakers and practitioners. It will seek to explore, illuminate and interrogate the complexity of young people’s lives today and ask questions relating to factors that shape the youth phase.

Speakers
The conference will feature two renowned keynote speakers: Associate CRFR Director Professor Divya Jindal-Snape, Professor of Education, University of Dundee and Andy Furlong, Professor of Social Inclusion and Education, University of Glasgow.

For more information please go to: https://caysnetwork.wordpress.com/ypt/

CPD course

Developing innovative research with children and young people

27 & 28 April 2017 • The University of Edinburgh

This course is an opportunity for researchers and others working with children and young people to explore the latest methods and debates in childhood and youth research. The course is highly participative, aiming to draw on participations’ experiences. Course participants will have access to a bespoke website, with annotated resource list. It will be delivered by Dr Susan Elsley and Professor Kay Tisdall, who have extensive expertise in research with children and young people.

Conference

New researchers conference

CRFR is delighted to announce its 8th New Researchers Conference, scheduled to take place in spring 2017. This event is always hugely popular and offers the opportunity for early career researchers to discuss research on families and relationships and present papers in a supportive environment. Further details will be available soon.

For information about all CRFR events go to: www.crfr.ac.uk/eventsandtraining
Welcome
We welcome Gordon Smith and Lisa Urquhart from the Health and Social Care Benchmarking Network, now based at CRFR.

Congratulations
Congratulations go to CRFR students Carine Le Borgne, Scott Tindall and Cara Blaisdell on gaining their PhDs.

Congratulations to Laura Airey on her new job as Post Doctoral Research Fellow in the University of Edinburgh Business School.

Goodbye
It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Paula Grieve and Brenda Saetta. We thank them for all their hard work for CRFR over the years and wish them luck in their new jobs. They are both moving to other positions within the University and Paula will continue to deal with CRFR finances.

Heather Wilkinson has decided to step down as a CRFR Co-director to focus on a new research centre. She will remain in close contact with CRFR.

Publications


New projects
CRFR is part of the recent grant (2016-19) awarded to the International and Canadian Child Rights Partnership, to explore how children’s participation can be monitored in the context of child protection. This is a Partnership Grant made by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, with Dr Tara Collins (Ryerson University) as PI.

Together (Scottish Alliance for Children’s Rights), Professor Brigid Daniels and Dr Andressa Gadda (University of Stirling) and CRFR are working together on a seminar series funded by the Scottish Universities Insight Institute. The series will address how to better implement and monitor the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Scotland.

www.scottishinsight.ac.uk/Programmes/Programmes20162017/RightsoftheChild.aspx