



Centre for Parenting
Culture Studies

CPCSForums@Kent
Autumn 2012

These events are designed as a space for colleagues in and around Kent to come together to discuss parenting culture. We hope that they will foster some interesting cross-disciplinary conversation, and lead to collaborative events in the future. All are welcome, so please spread the word!

(1) *The construction of the Baby Boomer as a social problem*

Jennie Bristow, PhD Student in SSPSSR, journalist, and author of *Standing up to Supernanny*

Location CNW SR9

3-5 pm, Wednesday 24th October

The conflict of generations has been an issue of great interest to sociologists in Europe and the USA over the twentieth century, often taking the form of a concern about the 'problem' of youth. But in the twenty-first century, the defining preoccupation has been with the 'Baby Boomers' – that generation born immediately after the Second World War, which is now approaching retirement age. The Baby Boomer problem is seen variously as one of demographics (a large generation, whose size will result in a drain on pension funds and social care resources); cultural values (a generation seen to represent the attitudes and outlook of the 'permissive Sixties'); and personality (a generation often decried as self-absorbed and selfish).

In this CPCS forum, Jennie Bristow will discuss her postgraduate research into the ways in which the Baby Boomers have been constructed as a social problem in millennial Britain. Her research to date indicates that ideas about the Baby Boomer problem are more complex and contradictory than is often perceived in popular discourse, and that the construction of this problem has changed over the decades, according to the wider anxieties that frame the cultural imagination.

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(2) *Socialisation in Reverse: The relationship between School and the Family (Reading group)*

Location CNW SR9

Wednesday 12th December 3-5pm

Introduced by Dr Jan Macvarish, CHSS, SSPSSR, University of Kent

Readings

Furedi, F. Chapter 4 of *Wasted: Why education isn't educating*
(‘Socialisation in reverse’)

Shklar, J. (2001) ‘Rousseau’s Images of Authority (Especially in *La Nouvelle Heloise*)’ in Riley, P. (2001) (ed.) *Cambridge Companion To Rousseau*, Cambridge University Press; Cambridge (available as an e-chapter via the library)

Optional: Rousseau, J-J. *Emile*

Please contact Charlotte on c.faircloth@kent.ac.uk if you have any problems accessing the readings