

# Programme: From child-rearing to 'parenting': what's new about contemporary parenting culture?

**Day 1: Thursday January 8th**

**10.30-11am Coffee**

**Darwin College Foyer**

**11am-1pm Session 1 Introduction and welcome to the series/**

**Darwin Lecture Theatre 1**

**Paranoid Parenting: a roundtable discussion**

**Chair:** Ellie Lee, senior lecturer in social policy, University of Kent

In 2001 Frank Furedi published *Paranoid Parenting*, a book that set out the contours of contemporary parenting culture and explored its problems. This book generated a great deal of debate, and since its publication has influenced public discussion about 'parenting'. A new edition was published in October 2008. In this opening session Frank Furedi will set out his thesis and discuss it with opinion formers.

**Discussants:**

Jennifer Howze, editor of Lifestyle at *Times Online*, and contributor to Alphamummy, *Times Online*

Penny Mansfield, Director, One Plus One

Hugh Cunningham, Emeritus Professor of Social History, University of Kent, and author of *The Invention of Childhood* and *Children and Childhood in Western Society since 1500*

**1-2.15pm lunch**

**Darwin Seminar 14/  
Darwin lecture Theatre 3  
(DLT3)**

**2.15-3.30pm Session 2**

**DLT3**

**Chair:** Sally Sheldon, Professor of Law, University of Kent

**Paper presentation: Parental responsibility as therapy**

Helen Reece, Reader in Law, Birkbeck College, University of London

**3.30-3.45pm Break**

**3.45-6pm Session 3**

**DLT3**

**Chair:** Jane Sandeman, convenor, Institute of Ideas Parents Forum

**Panel discussion: Monitoring motherhood**

*Modernity and medicalisation of motherhood*

Dr Mary Ann Kanieski, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana

*Educated for Motherhood: natural instincts versus expert advice*

Gayle Letherby, Professor of Sociology, Plymouth University

*Childrearing against the dominant parenting culture? The practices and values of attachment parents*

Dr Emma Head, lecturer in sociology, Keele University

**6pm onwards**

**Drinks and networking**

**Seminar dinner**

## Day 2: Friday January 9th

### 9.30-10.45am Session 4

DLT3

**Chair:** Zoe Williams, columnist, *The Guardian*

**Paper presentation: The Nuclear Family as Self Fulfilling Prophecy: Representations of Kin in TV Parenting Programmes**

Ciara Doyle, PhD candidate Trinity College Dublin

### 10.45-11.15am Coffee

DS14/DLT3

### 11.15-12.45pm Session 5

DLT3

**Chair:** Margarita Leon, lecturer in European social policy, University of Kent

**Roundtable session: Boundaries of care and parenting**

Dr Janice McLaughlin, Deputy Executive Director, Policy Ethics and Life Sciences Research Centre, University of Newcastle

**Discussants:** Rosemary Henn-Macrae, West Kent Manager - Disabled Children's Service, Kent County Council

Carrie Wood, Project Manager, Special Needs Advisory and Activities Project (SNAAP)

### 12.45-2pm Lunch

DS14/DLT3

### 2-3.30pm Session 6

DLT3

**Chair:** Dr Corinne Wilson Senior Lecturer, International Studies and Social Science, Coventry University

**Panel discussion: Changing constructions of 'problem' mothers**

*Teenage parenthood and the construction of the new model parent*

Dr Jan Macvarish, Research Associate, CHSS, University of Kent

*Being a Good Mother: Morality, Age and Class*

Maud Perrier, PhD Candidate, Department of Sociology, University of Warwick

### 3.30-3.45 Closing remarks

DLT3

### 3.45-5pm Session 7 (closed)

DLT3

Looking ahead to the rest of the series: how to meet ESRC objectives

Coffee provided