

CALL FOR PAPERS

Second International Conference on Adoption Research (ICAR2)

17th – 21st July, 2006



University of East Anglia
Norwich NR4 7TJ
Norfolk, UK



*A multi-disciplinary
conference aiming to bring
together the worldwide
community of distinguished
and emerging adoption
researchers*

The conference is to be held in the English medieval city of Norwich, in the beautiful, rural surroundings of the UK's East Anglian region. The conference builds on the success of the first International Conference on Adoption Research (ICAR) hosted by The University of Minnesota in 1999.

Keynote Speakers:

Michael Rutter, Femmie Juffer, David Reiss, Hal Grotevant, David Howe, Elsbeth Neil, E. Wayne Carp, Ruth McRoy, Jesús Palacios and Miriam Steele.

Deadline for submissions:

December 19th 2005

Introduction to the conference

The adoption of children is a phenomenon of interest to scholars in numerous fields and across the globe. However, opportunities to meet and exchange ideas with other people studying adoption are limited. At ICAR2:

- the WHOLE PROGRAMME is devoted to adoption research
- international researchers from all relevant disciplines are welcome.

The goal of the conference is to bring together distinguished and emerging adoption researchers, to enable sharing of research findings and theoretical perspectives, and to encourage interaction and debate about the future research agenda. Conference participants will be drawn from a wide range of disciplines such as psychology, psychiatry, sociology, anthropology, social work, history, social policy and law. The number of conference attendees will be limited to 120, to maximise interaction and retain focus. If pressure on places requires us to do so, we reserve the right to give priority to people actively involved in adoption research.

Conference topics


The conference aims to draw together the most important messages from research about adoption as a psycho-social phenomenon. Debate will be encouraged about methodological and conceptual challenges and the future direction that research into adoption should take.

The primary topic areas will include (but will not be restricted to):

- developmental outcomes for adopted children (in infant, special needs and international adoptions)
- openness in adoption
- historical and cross-cultural similarities and differences in adoption practice
- alternatives to adoption: permanent foster care, concurrent planning
- nature and nurture: the impact of genes and environment on adopted children's development
- the needs of birth relatives
- searching and reunion
- adoptive parent recruitment; infertility, loss and adoption
- children with specialist needs e.g. minority ethnicity, disabled children.

The conference programme

The conference will be held over 5 days from Monday, 17th to Friday, 21st July 2006. The first keynote presentation, by Professor David Howe, will be held in Norwich's medieval cathedral on the Monday evening. For the next three days the morning sessions will be devoted to keynote speakers. Three linked papers will be presented by eminent adoption scholars, and a chaired debate will follow.



The programme for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons includes four 90 minute concurrent sessions (two on Tuesday, one each on Wednesday and Thursday). During these sessions we hope (depending on submissions) to offer delegates the choice of attending one of about 4 or 5 different events which could include workshops, innovative sessions or paper symposia. There will also be two poster sessions, one on Tuesday and one on Thursday.

We welcome proposals for the following presentation formats:

- Poster presentations
- Papers
- Paper symposia
- Workshops
- Innovative sessions.

We hope that most conference delegates will take an active role by presenting their research in one form or another. You are invited to submit an abstract about your work and to indicate in which format you would like to present. The reality is that about one third of delegates will be able to present in a paper symposia or workshop, and two-thirds in a poster format. Whilst the main focus of the conference is adoption research, we will also consider proposals to present other material relevant to adoption research, e.g. descriptions or analyses of adoption policies or practice.

We anticipate that some people may like to attend the conference but will not wish to submit an abstract for any of the formal presentation categories. They may like the opportunity of having an ***informal information exchange*** to share information about adoption related work or experience (e.g. information about their department or a programme or project they are working on). If you would like to participate in the conference in this way you are welcome to do so. We will make arrangements for table space to be available for such informal information exchange. If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, there will be space for you to indicate this on the registration form. You do not need to submit an abstract unless you wish to present in one of the formats below.

Presentation categories

Poster presentations

Posters will be displayed in one of two early evening poster sessions, and presenters are expected to be available during this period to discuss their poster with participants. Posters will remain on display for a further period outside of this formal session.

Poster presentations are suitable to display a range of content, including:

- completed or interim research findings
- practice evaluations or innovations
- novel methodologies.

A poster template will be available to download from the conference website for those who would like to use it. We will also be offering the facility for you to email your poster to us and we will arrange for it to be printed here, ready for you to collect (a fee will be payable – details to follow on website).

Papers

You may submit an abstract for a short paper presentation. The conference committee will group together 3 (20 minute) or 4 (15 minute) papers on linked topics into symposia and will invite discussants to chair these sessions.

Paper Symposia

Paper symposia will consist of the presentation of 3 or 4 linked papers and 30 minutes active discussion between presenters and the audience. Symposia will be chaired and the chair will lead and manage the discussion. Symposia that can include different perspectives on the same topic will be preferred to those where all presenters report from the same perspective.

Submissions for an organised symposium should be made by one lead person only (the symposium convenor) on behalf of all presenters. Symposia must include 3 or 4 papers on a related topic. The symposium convenor is responsible for:

- Submitting the individual abstracts of each of the 3 or 4 presenters, each including the name, affiliation and contact details of all presenters
- Submitting a symposium abstract summarising the theme and content of the symposium
- Chairing the session or identifying the chair/discussant.

Workshops (90 minutes)

Workshops should be presented by one person or a small number of presenters (usually no more than 2 or 3) and the emphasis should be on a presentation that encourages an exchange of ideas and experiences. Active discussion between the presenters and the audience should take place. If a workshop is based around an empirical investigation, it should have an additional focus on interesting methodology or practice issues. Other topics suitable for workshops could include the demonstration of practice tools or methods derived from research, or research methods, tools or findings using video (VHS format), CD-ROM or DVD material. Your proposal must indicate what audio-visual equipment you will require (all rooms will have PowerPoint projection facilities available).

Innovative session (90 minutes)

You may have an idea of how to use a 90 minute slot that falls outside of our description of a workshop. The committee will be happy to consider other innovative formats to fill this time period, provided your suggestion relates to the conference theme of adoption research. Your abstract must summarise what you are proposing and why. If you plan to involve a number of people, these should be identified and a lead person named.

The review process

Abstracts will be reviewed by the conference academic committee and you will be notified of the outcome by Friday, 27th January 2006. The committee will judge abstracts by the following criteria:

- fit with the conference theme
- coverage of the range of conference topics
- relevance of topic to international, multi-disciplinary audience
- clarity of abstract.

Members of the conference committee: Dr Beth Neil (University of East Anglia), Dr Gillian Schofield (University of East Anglia), Professor June Thoburn (University of East Anglia), Professor Hal Grotevant (University of Minnesota) and Professor Gretchen Miller Wrobel (Bethel University).

Abstract Submission Instructions

1. The submission deadline is **19th December 2005**. Abstracts submitted after this date will not be considered.
2. Authors are required to prepare abstracts in a word document and submit them by email to n.skivington@uea.ac.uk
3. Abstracts for *workshops, papers, posters and innovative sessions* should contain:
 - Title
 - Main author name, affiliation and contact details
 - Name and affiliation of any co-authors/presenters
 - 250 word MAXIMUM summary of your proposal
 - Clear indication of which format you prefer (i.e. poster, paper, workshop, innovative session).
4. Abstracts for *paper symposia* should be submitted by the convenor as **one** word document containing:
 - Title of symposium
 - Convenor name, affiliation and contact details
 - Name and affiliation of discussant (if this is not the convenor)
 - 250 word MAXIMUM abstract of whole symposium
 - 250 word MAXIMUM abstract of each paper with the title of paper, name, affiliation and contact details of each presenter.
5. Correspondence will be sent to the main author only, at the email address provided by the author.
6. You may only submit one abstract as the main author.
7. The Conference Committee will select submissions for papers, paper symposia, workshops, innovative sessions and posters, and will inform all applicants of the outcome by email by 27th January 2006. Conference registration is required to confirm acceptance of abstracts, and presenters must pay the full appropriate delegate rate. We encourage authors to register by 24th March 2006, in order to take advantage of the Early Bird registration rate.
8. The official language of the conference is English, and all abstracts must be presented in English.

Publication of conference abstracts on CD-ROM and conference website

All accepted abstracts for all formats will be published on the conference website, and made available to conference delegates on CD-ROM. Authors of accepted papers will be expected to submit a summary (1,000 words) of their paper to be included on this CD-ROM. Those who chose to do so may alternatively submit their whole paper (maximum 6,000 words) for inclusion on this CD-ROM. For your summary or paper to be included, it must be emailed as a word document to the conference co-ordinator n.skivington@uea.ac.uk by Friday, 2nd June 2006. All registered delegates will be sent the CD-Rom in advance of the conference. *You should also note that Adoption Quarterly (Haworth Press) will be publishing a special double issue devoted to empirical research presented at ICAR2. Deadline for the submission of completed manuscripts will be September 15, 2006. For more details see conference website.*

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT DATES:

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 19th December 2005

Notification of acceptance of abstracts: 27th January 2006

Early bird registration opens: 27th January 2006

Early bird registration closes: 24th March 2006

Registration closes: 30th June 2006

Deadline for submission of summaries and papers for inclusion on CD-ROM: 2nd June 2006.

Dates of conference: 17th – 21st July 2006

Deadline for papers to Adoption Quarterly: 15th September 2006

The conference website is at:

www.ICAR2.org.uk

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The Centre for Research on the Child and Family at the University of East Anglia is organising ICAR2 2006. We are grateful to the Nuffield Foundation and the Department for Education and Skills for their generous financial support of this conference.