

Presenter biographies

Child Maintenance

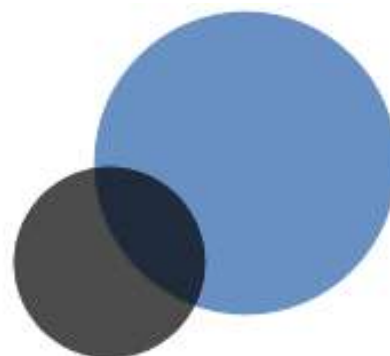
International Perspectives and Policy Challenges

An ESRC International Research Seminar Series.

Seminar 3. Gender and Social Change in Developing

Regions: Managing Obligations to Children in Separated Families. 27 June 2014.

University of York, York, UK. ESRC Award: ES/L000792/1.



Kay Cook

Dr Kay Cook is a Vice Chancellor's Senior Research Fellow at RMIT University in Melbourne, based in the Centre for Applied Social Research. She has a particular interest in the intersections between social policies and family life. Dr Cook's work explores how new and developing social policies such as welfare-to-work, child support and child care policies, transform relationships between the state, individuals and families. Kay's Australian Research Council funded work on single parents' welfare to work transition; family daycare workforce reform; and the problematic nature of child support receipt have been taken up at a national level. She has contributed to the development of the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2010 General Social Survey, the Australian Law Reform Commission Inquiry into Family Violence and Commonwealth Law, and a current Parliamentary Inquiry into the Child Support Program. She is the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Family Studies and Co-Convenor of The Australian Sociological Association 'Families, Relationships and Gender' thematic group. Finally, Kay is highly regarded internationally as an expert qualitative researcher. She is a Member Scholar of the International Institute for Qualitative Methodology and contributor to the SAGE Encyclopaedia of Qualitative Research Methods and second edition of the Handbook of Interview Research.

Laura Cuesta

Laura Cuesta is a PhD candidate in Social Welfare and a Graduate Research Fellow of the Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. She holds a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in Economics from Universidad de los Andes (Bogotá, Colombia). Laura has been a junior researcher at the Center of Economic Development Studies and the National Consulting Center (Bogotá, Colombia). She also has experience in the design and implementation of social policies from her work at the National Planning Department, the Ministry of Social Protection, and the Ministry of Finances and Public Debt in her native Colombia. Laura is interested in the role of

public policies in the wellbeing of disadvantaged children and families. Her current research looks at the effects of child support policy; international approaches to child support; and the interaction of child support policies with welfare programs. Her dissertation examines the effects of child support on the wellbeing of custodial-mother families in Colombia.

Shanshan Guan

Shanshan Guan is a first year PhD student in The University of York. She has finished two Master degrees both from The University of York. One is MA in Management (2010-2011) and another is MRes of Social Policy (2012-2013). Her current PhD thesis is about the ability of social enterprises working with migrant children in China. Are they effective alternatives to government in delivering public service to migrant children? Her research interests also include the challenges and difficulties confronted with migrant families; education policies for migrant children in China; the nature of social enterprise in China; and how to measuring social impact.

Hung-ju Lai

Hung-ju Lai is currently a 2nd year PhD student in Social Policy Sciences Department, University of Bath. She was a practicing social worker in the area of single mothers in Taiwan. Her current PhD thesis title is *Adult Never-married Single Mother in Taiwan and Their Experience of State Welfare*. It comes from her working experience that unwed mothers seem to suffer more in a traditional society in terms of social stigma than other mothers when searching for help. Her current research interests include gender issues; single-parent family; family policy in East Asian context; and family sociology.

Sung-Hee Lee

Sung-Hee completed her PhD at the University of Bath in 2013 with the title of 'The Impact of Gender Politics on the Socialisation of Care in South Korea'. Her current research focuses on understanding the characteristics of the care provision systems implemented in different policy regimes across East Asia and Europe. The research agenda includes further exploration of the reasons underlying policy shifts towards the socialising of care responsibilities for older and disabled groups like those who need long term care.

Prior to beginning her PhD at Bath, she studied social policy and research methods on PhD programme at Chung-Ang University in Seoul and taught as a lecturer in different universities in South Korea (2006-2009). In addition she was involved as a research assistant with a local government project in South Korea entitled 'Accreditation System Indices in Elderly Care Services' (Sep-Dec 2005). She also worked as a research associate on a central government project run by the Ministry of Health and Welfare in South Korea entitled 'Family Day Care' that undertook a comparative approach with European countries, mainly the UK, France and Belgium (Feb 2007 - Aug 2008). She has also participated in an international project as a research associate (Feb 2007 - Mar 2011); the East Asian Database Project.

Daniel R. Meyer

Daniel Meyer is the Mary C. Jacoby Professor of Social Work and an Affiliate of the Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. He holds a PhD in Social Welfare and graduate degrees in Social Work and Business. In addition to his faculty appointment in the School of Social Work, he has been a practicing social worker and a policy analyst for US Department of Health and Human Services. He is currently a Visiting Scholar at the University of York. His current research interests include the effects of child support policy and welfare reforms; international approaches to child support; multiple-partner fertility and other demographic changes in US families, and how much individuals know about the social policies that affect them. He is Principal Investigator, with Maria Cancian, of the Child Support Research Agreement, a long-standing agreement to conduct policy-relevant research in collaboration with the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families. He and Professor Cancian are also leading a team evaluating new approaches to child support policy for fathers in eight US states. He is a member of the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare.

Gillian Pascall

Professor Emeritus of Social Policy, University of Nottingham. Relationships between welfare states and gender have been at the centre of my research and publication, since *Social Policy: A Feminist Analysis* in 1986. Research with Professor Anna Kwak at the University of Warsaw on *Gender Regimes in Transition* studied gender and parenting in the changing social policy environment after communism (Policy Press 2005). *Innovative Policies for Gender Equality at Work* (2006) supported by the European Social Fund, drew comparative social policy into a national context, exploring the relevance of a range of European policies to lower paid workers in England. Most recently, *Gender Equality in the Welfare State?* (Policy Press 2012), analysed the male breadwinner model in terms of power, employment, care, income and time, while *Gender and Welfare States in East Asia: Confucianism or Gender Equality?* (Palgrave Macmillan 2014), was co-edited with Sirin Sung, Queens's University Belfast.

Vanessa Ríos-Salas

Vanessa Ríos-Salas is a PhD student at the School of Social Work at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. She holds a MA in Applied Economics. Currently, she is a Project Assistant at the Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, where she works with Lonnie Berger, Maria Cancian, and Dan Meyer in several projects related to child support and child welfare in the U.S. Her current research interests include family changes and child support policy, and teenage labour, education and fertility decisions, with a special focus on Latin America.

Diego da Silva Rodrigues

Diego da Silva Rodrigues holds a BA in Economics from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul and a MA in Applied Economics from the Federal University of Juiz de Fora, Brazil. At present, he is a PhD candidate in Economics at the University of Kent at Canterbury, UK, where researches about family economics, specially about the effects that childcare policies and educational reforms have on the mothers' labour supply and their potential differences between developed and developing countries.

Christine Skinner

Dr Christine Skinner has over 20 years' experience as a social policy academic and her main research interest focuses on child maintenance/ child support policy. She has explored parents' child maintenance obligations using both quantitative and qualitative methods and was a member of the team that produced the path-breaking national survey of separated fathers in 1999. Christine has led, advised and directed influential studies at national, and international levels and is highly regarded in her field attracting commissions from a number of prestigious organisations including; the Economic Social Research Council, the Department for Work and Pensions, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, The Nuffield Foundation, and Gingerbread. On many occasions she has acted as an expert policy advisor on government funded research projects and advised the Government's Work and Pensions Select Committee inquiry into child support policy. Most recently, she was a member of the Coalition Government's 'Family Support Services Expert Steering Group' which developed innovative relationship support services for separated parents for implementation under the Welfare Reform Act 2102. Currently, she is Principle Investigator (PI) directing a series of six ESRC international research seminars over two years (2014-16) '*Child Maintenance: International Perspectives And Policy Challenges*' (ESRC Award Ref: ES/L000792/1).

Sirin Sung

Dr Sirin Sung is a Lecturer in Social Policy in the School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work at Queen's University Belfast. Her main research interest includes gender and social policy, gender and employment, work-life balance policies, and gender and welfare state in the UK, Europe, and East Asian countries. From 2003 to 2005, she was involved in various ESF research projects at the Manchester Business School, University of Manchester. From 2005 to 2006, she was also involved in an ESRC funded research project on 'Within Household Inequalities and Public Policy' at the Department of Social Policy and Social Work at the University of Oxford. She has been awarded the Leverhulme Study Abroad Fellowship in 2010 – the research focused on 'Gender and welfare state in the UK and US:work-family balance issues'. Her recent publications include 'Dimensions of financial autonomy in low to moderate income couples from a gender perspective and implications for welfare reform' (with Bennett, F. 2013), in *Journal of Social Policy*, and an edited book 'Gender and Welfare state in East Asia' (with Pascall, G.) in 2014.

Qiong Xu

Qiong Xu received her PhD in sociology of family from Institute of Education, University of London in 2012. Her thesis explores Chinese adolescent girls' relationships with their fathers. Her PhD research analyses the family lives of girls and their fathers at key points of historical change and in the life course of young people and fathers living in Shanghai. It examines daughters' and fathers' perspectives of father-daughter relationships among two cohorts of girls aged 13/14 and aged 16/17 in Shanghai. It seeks to understand how girls and fathers construct their identities as teenagers and as fathers; their family practices; and how they negotiate parental authority and adolescent independence. A multi-method research design was employed: four focus groups, a questionnaire survey with girls (N=767) and their fathers (N=599), seventeen semi structured interviews carried out separately with daughters and their fathers. The analysis of the data was also both quantitative and qualitative: both SPSS and Nvivo were used to analyse the data. Its contribution is to map the patterns of the family lives of girls and their fathers at key points of historical change and in the life course of young people. Its contribution to knowledge also rests on exploring the applicability of western theories about changing family practices and relationships in a different context.

Her published research includes *Journal of Family Issues*. She has presented papers in many international conferences including British Sociological Association Annual Conference and American Association for Asian Studies.