



Centre for Social Policy
AGM DECEMBER 2nd 2020
ANNUAL REPORT

This report covers the year up to December 2nd 2020 and details a seminar held at Buckfast Abbey and a zoom seminar held in conjunction with Mulberry Bush Child Care History Network. Details are also given of two seminars that had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The report also notes details of membership of Fellows.

Thanks must be given to all those who have helped maintain the programme: in particular John Diamond, Patrick Diamond, Brian Warren, Ella Baillie, Roger Bullock and Tim Hobbs.

Our Programme

The activities over the past year have been seriously affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and we are grateful for the commitment of so many Fellows who have given their time to support the design and co-ordination of the events that were able to take place.

Details of the seminars are:

December 2018

The seminar at Buckfast Abbey on December 4th and 5th had five contributions.

Nigel Lowe, Emeritus Professor at Cardiff Law School discussed an international project to harmonise European family law and construct a charter giving an 'ideal type' and standard for countries to compare themselves with others when fashioning policy

The second session showed the final version of the recording of the interview with Mervyn Murch, Emeritus Professor at Cardiff Law School, covering his life's work in reforming family law and recommendation in his recent book *Supporting Children whose Parents Separate*. This can be seen on the CSP website in the Paper/social policy section.

Matt Woolgar, consultant psychologist, then discussed the special edition of Adoption and Fostering, co-edited with John Simmonds, on The Impact of Neurobiological Sciences on Family Placement Policy and Practice. Copies of the journal were sent to fellows at their request.

This was followed by Michael Gorman, a retired virtual head for looked after children, talking about establishing this new role and its achievements so far.

Finally, Dan Lyus and Gareth Dix, South West Clore Fellows, discussed their work on social prescribing and the ways that their organisations were providing activities to complement medical treatments.

March 2020

This seminar had to be cancelled at the last minute due to the pandemic. The programme comprised:

Jenny Simpson, then at Nene University, Northampton but now at Nottingham Trent University, A reconceptualisation of 'contact' between separated young people and their families in the light of new technologies.

India Roche, Dartington Service Design Lab, Designing a refreshed victim and witness support service for children and young people - a project for the London Mayor's Office for Police and Crime.

Patrick Diamond, Queen Mary College, London, Tim Hobbs, Dartington Service Design Lab. and Roger Bullock, Centre for Social Policy, How should research, journal publications and social science teaching respond to the ideologies underpinning Brexit and political successes of Trump and Johnson?

Peter Clarke, Glebe House, Friends Therapeutic Trust, A long and winding road: establishing, experiencing and responding to a major longitudinal research project.

Discussions are underway for this to form the agenda for the zoom seminar on December 2nd and 3rd.

Cancelled seminars

May 6th 2020

A London evening seminar was planned for May 6th when Ann Gross, a leading civil servant in the DHSS and DfE and responsible for children's services, was to speak on Children's Services 1990s-2018, A Civil Servant's Perspective.

May 22nd

A joint day seminar with the Mulberry Bush Child Care History Network on the Care of Young Offenders - Progress or Decline? was planned for May 22nd but had to be postponed. It was held as a zoom seminar on October 9th and 12th. For more details see below.

June 17th and 18th

The June seminar at Buckfast was cancelled.

Care of Young Offenders Seminar

The MBCCHN/CSP seminar on the Care of Young Offenders - Progress or Decline postponed in May was held in two half day sessions on October 9th and 12th. Speakers were Jim Hyland, Jessamy Carlsson, Darren Coyne. David Lane, John Drew, Sonia Brooks, Giles McCathie and Kjetan Kasinski A report will be available shortly on the CSP website.

The place of CSP in the WHG Charity

Progress on integrating the work of the CSP and the Dartington Service Design Lab has been affected by the pandemic, but the composition of the supervisory committee, administrative arrangements, regular consultations and programme planning reflect moves in this direction.

Other contributions to the work of the Charity

The Centre has assisted the Service Design Lab in several ways. The Ethics Committee continues to provide an opinion on Lab proposals, fellows have commented on proposals and reports and provided specialist information as needed.

The CSP website

The CSP website, launched in June 2016, was made possible by a generous legacy from former CSP fellow and chair Rupert Hughes CBE and has expanded to contain four sections: About the Centre and future events, a list of fellows, reports on past seminars and papers from previous meetings (divided into policy and practice, research reviews, theoretical papers and history).

CSP elected officers

At the AGM in December 2019, John Diamond was elected chair, Brian Warren secretary and Roger Bullock hon. treasurer.

Membership

As fellows' subscriptions were suspended for the financial year 2020-21, it is difficult to know how many of them would have renewed or resigned their fellowships but the number of fellows is 47 but with the addition of trustees and the Lab director and operations manager who are fellows ex officio. We also had four new fellows just before lock down in March: Ray Jones, Professor David Gordon, Michael Gorman and Peter Clarke. Together, they represent eleven disciplines and sub-disciplines: social policy, research, social work, education, early years, mental and physical health, psychology, psychotherapy, health, youth justice and law. Plans for the Centre to provide a supportive framework for the work of the Clore South West Social Fellows are proceeding but, again, have been hampered by events.

John Diamond

Chair

December 2020