New Research Projects, Grants and Awards

**Cathy Nutbrown** was awarded a research grant of £86,256.64 from the Economic and Social Research Council. The project *A Framework for Early Literacy Development with Parents: Opportunities, Recognition, Interaction and Models* continued the strong record of Family Literacy work in the School and involves the new adaptation of a particular framework which was developed several years ago in the School of Education. Cathy has also launched a web-site of archive materials used on the REAL project and current family literacy work which is Big Lottery funded and conducted in partnership with the *National Children’s Bureau*. The web-site [http://www.real-online.group.shef.ac.uk](http://www.real-online.group.shef.ac.uk) was funded with HEIF4 funding (£9816).

**Laurie Petch** was awarded £10,000 *Proof of Concept* funding (University of Sheffield’s Knowledge Transfer) for his innovative programme ‘Griffin quest: a School-based therapeutic intervention for children with high anxiety’.

**Rachael Levy** is currently engaged in a *Boys and Reading* project which is part of the *Collaboration Sheffield Project*. This involves research with a secondary school and three of its primary feeder schools which aims to support teachers in raising children’s confidence and motivation for reading.

**Tim Corcoran** was awarded a *Meeting of Minds Fellowship of the British Educational Research Association* (September 2010-April 2011).

Research Conferences and Seminars

*Conferences hosted by the Centre*

The Centre’s *Early Childhood Education* Team hosted the 4<sup>th</sup>. Annual Morning Conference, *Threads of thinking: Schemas and young children in learning* (20<sup>th</sup>.)
November 2010). Due to excessive demand this was repeated to another capacity audience on 26th February.

**Cathy Nutbrown** hosted the ESRC funded conference, *Early Literacy Work with Families: Opportunities, Recognition, Interaction and Models* on 24th May. This was attended by a capacity audience of 150 and launched her ESRC project.

The Centre’s **Educational Psychology** Group hosted the conference, *Thriving and surviving in changing times: Critical praxis to redefine social justice* on the 1st July. This was organized in partnership with the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Group of Principal Educational Psychologists. Keynote speakers were Professor Emmy van Deurzen (University of Middlesex / Dilemma Consultancy) and Dr. Sonia Sharp (Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, Sheffield City Council).

**International Conferences and Papers presented by Centre members**

**Tim Corcoran** presented two papers at the 40th Australian Association for Research in Education International Conference, at the University of Melbourne, 29th November – 2nd December. ‘Health inclusive education’ and ‘Between the classroom and the clinic: Teachers’ talk about school-based mental health promotion’.

**Cathy Nutbrown** gave two papers at the American Educational Research Association meeting in New Orleans, (April 2011).

**Tim Corcoran and Tom Billington** gave a joint research seminar in the School entitled *Critical educational psychology: Enabling conditions in theory and practice* (7th June). This was in advance of their presentation at the 13th Biennial Conference of the International Society for Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology (June 27th) held at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in Greece in which they convened a Symposium with Professor Jeff Sugarman (University of Vancouver) and Dr. Stephen Vassallo (the American University, Washington).

**Research publications**

Billington T. (forthcoming) ‘Constructing critical resources for research and professional practice with young people: Feeling, thinking, learning and neuroscientific narratives’. *Qualitative Research in Psychology*


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**Keynote presentations and other invitation activities**

**Tom Billington** presented the 29th. Annual Vernon Wall Lecture at the *Psychology and Education Division Conference, British Psychological Society* (Milton Keynes, 13th November 2010).

**Tom Billington** also gave a Public Lecture ‘Feeling, thinking and learning: Neuroscientific narratives’ at *St. Catherine’s High School, Malta* (May 5th.).

**Cathy Nutbrown** gave a series of invited lectures and seminars at the invitation of the Ministries of Early Childhood in Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania, Australia and attending meetings with senior policy makers who are currently reviewing early childhood policy (Melbourne, Adelaide, Hobart and Sydney). Cathy also provided an
opening Keynote address to the annual *Melbourne Early Childhood Education Conference* (3rd June).

**Jools Page** gave a Keynote presentation at the *Birmingham Under-Twos Conference* (17th February) and is also to be a Keynote speaker at the *Nuremberg Nursery Convention* (6th-9th July).

**Research ‘in the pipeline’**

Centre members are currently working on research funding proposals in the following areas:

‘Young children’s attitudes towards literacy’,
‘Reducing the social victimization (bullying) of young people diagnosed ASD: Identifying good practice’,
‘Psychological assessments of young people in the care system: a pan-European study’.

These projects are being conducted with colleagues in other Departments at Sheffield as well as other Universities.

**Research engagement with policy and practice**

**Tom Billington** and Mike Pidd (Arts and Humanities Research Unit) ran a Knowledge Transfer Project in conjunction with the Merseyside Family Justice Council. This has now been approved by the Ministry of Justice (Billington, T. and Pidd, M, 2010, ‘Developing an on-line data-base of expert witnesses’). Once the pilot phase is successfully completed the database may be developed into a national resource base.

**Cathy Nutbrown** has written a series of short articles for practitioners to be published in *Teach Nursery* between July and October 2011.

**Cathy Nutbrown** is a member of the OFQUAL early years’ advisory group on assessment and also contributed to the UK government-commissioned Tickell Review of the Early Years' Foundation Stage.

**Jools Page** has published ‘Let’s talk about love: the need for professional love in paid childcare’ in *Early Education* (Spring, 2011).

**Journals**

Centre members are editors and reviewers for several academic journals. Most recently **Tim Corcoran** has been invited to join the Editorial Advisory Board for the *International Journal of Inclusive Education*. 