Welcome to the October edition of the Connect Centre newsletter. We are keen to hear about any new campaigns, major new research initiatives and opportunities for collaborations, and the best research you have recently read and we can include in our newsletter. Please send to: lradford@uclan.ac.uk

Recent Events

**South Africa**
In March 2015, the Connect Centre team brought together researchers from across the UK and South Africa at a 4 day international workshop at the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. Funded by the British Council, the workshop addressed the theme of Violence Against Women and Children in Diverse Contexts. It was led by Nicky Stanley, Connect Centre and Ingrid Palmary, African Centre for Migration and Society (ACMS), University of Witwatersrand. Lorraine Radford and Khatidja Chantler contributed plenary papers to a packed and exciting agenda. We look forward to continuing and extending our links with the researchers who took part.

**New Publication**
Recently in Belfast, Professors Nicky Stanley from the Connect Centre and Cathy Humphreys, University of Melbourne, had the opportunity to launch their new edited book: *Domestic Violence and Protecting Children: New Thinking and Approaches* London: Jessica Kingsley. This was a well attended event with many of the contributors available to discuss their work, using the PechaKucha format to describe their chapters – and there was cake!
For more about Belfast please see below. The book also contains a chapter on the PEACH study—more details on page 3.

**European Conference on Domestic Violence**
September 6—9th saw the European Conference on Domestic Violence hosted by Belfast Queen’s University. Nicky Stanley was part of the core organising group of the conference that provided a key opportunity to share the latest research and practice and service developments in the field of Domestic Violence. The Connect Centre was well-represented with a poster by Kelly Bracewell, papers by Rachel Robbins, Melanie McCarr, Khatidja Chantler and Lorraine Radford and a key note from Nicky Stanley. Pictured here are the members of the Connect Team in Belfast.
PIECES—Final Report

The final report from the project PIECES which received funding from the European Union Daphne Programme has now been published. PIECES was a 2 year initiative led and coordinated by the European Child Safety Alliance in partnership with experts in Austria, France, Lithuania, Romania, Spain and the United Kingdom. The purpose of the project was to conduct in-depth investigations of select policy issues in violence against children in the EU28, in order to provide a better understanding of how those policies are being implemented, monitored and evaluated. The project will also assist in further defining good practice in the field of children and violence.

The final report can be found here: www.childsafetyeurope.org/pieces/info/final-report.pdf

PROTECT

The PROTECT (Optimising Identification, Referral and Care of Trafficked People within the NHS) team launched the findings of their Department of Health funded study on the health and healthcare needs of trafficked adults and young people at the House of Lords on 24 September.

The PROTECT report includes findings from a face-to-face survey of 160 adults and adolescents who described their health needs and experiences of accessing health service. The mixed methods study also includes information on NHS staff’s knowledge and preparedness for responding to trafficked people as well as a literature review and a study of trafficked adults and children using secondary mental health services in South East London.

Conferences

All Connect Centre staff gave papers at the BASPCAN Congress in Edinburgh in April 2015 as well as ECDV at Belfast, Professor Lorraine Radford has:

- Given a keynote address at the LINEA Network Conference on Sexual Exploitation at Cumber-land Lodge and also at the University of Worcester, National Centre for the Study and Prevention of Violence and Abuse, which can be viewed here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ngvNTST3NjA
- Discussed in a symposium the findings from the PIECES project at the BAPSCAN conference in Edinburgh in April
- Given papers at SVRI South Africa, IPSCAN Romania and Oak Foundation Bulgaria

Kelly Bracewell, Connect Centre PhD Student has also given a paper on her research at the annual conference of the Post-Graduate and Childhood Network, University of Nottingham
**The PEACH Study: Preventing Domestic Abuse for Children and Young People**

The PEACH report has been published and is available for free download. This study by Nicky Stanley and colleagues from the Connect Centre, UCLan’s School of Health and the University of Bristol provides findings from a systematic review together with consultation and a UK mapping study.

The PEACH research found that:

- National provision of preventative interventions in domestic abuse is patchy and unsustainable despite a range of isolated good practice
- Schools must be ready to introduce preventative interventions that are supported across all aspects of school life
- A statutory basis for delivering these interventions would enable schools to take a longer-term view and achieve greater and more consistent impact
- Teachers must be equipped with specialist knowledge and skills and young people’s involvement in programme design is a key ingredient for impact

The full reference is:

**Seminar**

*Older Women’s Experience of Domestic Violence & the Care Act*

On 7 October, John Devaney, Queens University, Belfast, opened the new seminar season with a very well-attended talk on Older Women’s Experiences of Domestic Violence in Northern Ireland—which posed the question whether service providers responses could be seen as rescue or empowerment. Following the talk there was a lively discussion about how the Care Act might support or hinder working with women experiencing domestic abuse. The Connect Centre is keen to keep this dialogue going and any further comments should be directed to Rachel Robbins on robbins1@uclan.ac.uk. For further information about the Seminar Series please see the back page.

Here is John pictured with members of the Connect Centre.

**NEW RESEARCH**

The Connect Centre is delighted to have won a bid commissioned by the Scottish Government, “Understanding Forced Marriage”. The study will be led by Dr Khatidja Chantler; the co-applicants are Dr Melanie McCarry and Professor Mhairi McKenzie. Our NGO Parnters are Scottish Women’s Aid, Hemat Gryfe and Shakti. The study is scheduled to take place between September 2015 and April 2016.
Upcoming Guest Seminars:

Save the Dates

5 November  Professor Adele Jones of University of Huddersfield will be discussing Sexual Abuse Against Children in the Caribbean: Unsilencing Male Voices

2 December  Professor Nicole Westmarland, Co-director of the Durham Centre for Research into Violence and Abuse (CRiVA) presents Do Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programmes work?

3 February  Professor Catherine Donovan of University of Sunderland will be presenting Centring Love in Domestically Violent and Abusive Relationships: Reframing the Duluth Power and Control Wheel

Seminars start at 4pm unless otherwise indicated and usually finish around 5.30pm. Seminars are free, including refreshments. Reservations for seminar places can be made via Eventbrite when the respective seminar is advertised. Reserving your place will assist with ordering refreshments and notifying you of late changes.

Welcome to new Guild Senior Research Fellow Dr Rachel Robbins (pictured below) who joined the Connect Centre in July.

Farewell and good luck to Dr Melanie McCarry who left the Connect Centre in September to take up a post at Strathclyde University. We wish her all the best.

Selected Publications


Further Details and Information

If you want to join our Connect Network contact Lorraine Radford for further details. Membership is free and open to all who share our values and interests in doing and using research to end interpersonal violence. Connect welcomes applications for researchers in the UK and overseas interested in postgraduate study for MPhil or PhDs in the area of interpersonal violence. To talk informally about the benefits of PhD study at Connect contact Lorraine Radford lradford@uclan.ac.uk

TWITTER: ConnectCentre@UCLan Email lradford@uclan.ac.uk to be added or removed from the list.