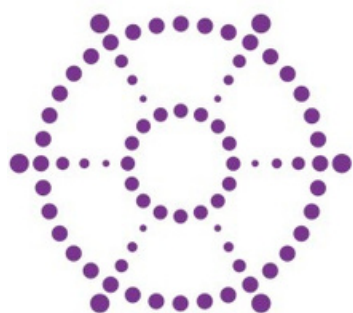




ACTIVITY SUMMARY

2022-2023



TCRU
Thomas Coram
Research Unit

OUR MILESTONES

1973

TCRU is founded by Jack and Barbara Tizard at the Institute of Education as a multidisciplinary social research unit. They led ground-breaking work about young children and early years services.

1983

TCRU is an ESRC Designated Research Centre. A Department of Health funded study 'the Day Care study' was an early example of mixed methods working. Concerns around racism become very central to work at the unit.

1993

Department of Health funds TCRU researchers to conduct local authority research into services for children under five.

2003

Much European Union funded activity leads to cross-national projects including the founding of the International Network on Leave Policies and Research.

2013

Big changes ahead as UCL merger is on the horizon (2015) leading to most TCRU staff moving from research contracts to standard academic contracts which include teaching.

2023

41 staff with a range of social science backgrounds have their home base at TCRU, nested in the UCL Social Research Institute. Major research funders include the NIHR, ESRC, Leverhulme and Nuffield Trust.

ABOUT TCRU

Leaders of research with children, young people, parents and families, the Thomas Coram Research Unit (TCRU) is highly regarded for its policy impact. Our research projects continue to utilise a variety of innovative social research methods, ranging from ethnographic studies of migrants' everyday lives to international comparisons of parental leave policies and impact studies of services for children and families using linked administrative data. We are strongly international in our collaborations and networks.

2023 is our 50th Anniversary Year. TCRU was established in 1973 by the psychologist Professor Jack Tizard and grew out of a critique of the institutionalisation of the care of young children in health and education settings.

We have a long history of researching those children and families that are most vulnerable to economic and social adversity. Today, TCRU's research areas include children's wellbeing and children's services; gender, work and diverse families; and migration. Our multi-disciplinary UCL research centre has a wealth of expertise in a wide range of research methods and a particular tradition in cross-national and multi-method research designs. We teach and supervise undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD students across the social sciences.

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AREAS OF RESEARCH

Children's wellbeing: services and practices, including early childhood education and care, education and other services for looked after children and care experienced young people, health services for families, young people's identities and transitions, social pedagogy.

Gender, diverse families and work including parental leave, motherhood and fatherhood, reproduction, gender equality and fluidity, family diversity, poverty and food poverty, work-family-care reconciliation

Migration including urban diversity, migrant experiences, and access to services, citizenship and belonging, place-based inequalities, children's language brokering, transnational families and practices.

Researchers in the unit often work across these three areas.

Social Research For Our Times - UCL Press, 2023 - brings together different generations of researchers from TCRU. Running through the book is the key strategic question: what should be the relationship between research and policy?

We have partnerships, knowledge exchange networks and close working relationship with a range of local, national and international organisations including: CORAM, Donor Conception Network, European Institute for Gender Equality, Foundling Museum, International Labour Organisation, Migrants' Rights Network, OECD, Counterpoint Arts, South London and Maudsley Foundation Trust, UNICEF, and many local authorities.

CHILDREN'S WELLBEING: SERVICES AND PRACTICES

Selected current research projects (in collaboration with other partners)

ActEarly: Early Life Changes to Improve health and wellbeing for Children (2019-2024), UKPRP funded research consortium

·Healthy Livelihoods and Healthy Learning joint theme lead: Inequalities of Access to Early Childhood Education and Care

- Play in Urban Spaces for Health (PUSH) (2023-2024) NIHR Programme Development Grant
- Healthier Wealthier Families in East London: feasibility and acceptability study (2023-2024) London Borough of Tower Hamlets and East London Foundation Trust
- Fair Food Futures (2023-2025) NIHR Public Health Research Fair Food Futures in Tower Hamlets | IOE - Faculty of Education and Society - UCL - University College London

Coastal Youth: Exploring the Impact of coastal towns on young people's life chances (2023-2026) UKRI-ESRC

NIHR Children and Families Policy Research Unit

- Measuring child development at the 2-2½ year health review in England: available tools, stakeholder priorities and feasibility of implementation
- How can we use the community services dataset (CSDS) for research into health visiting?
- Start for Life: Tackling inequalities in child development at age 2

Physical punishment and child outcomes in the UK – a mixed methods study (2023-25), Nuffield Foundation

Indicative publications

Cameron, C., Hauari, H., Heys, M., Hollingworth, K., O'Brien, M., O'Toole, S., Whitaker, L., Garnham, A., & Fortey, C. (2022). A tale of two cities in London's East End: Impacts of COVID-19 on low- and high-income families with young children and pregnant women. In K. Garthwaite, R. Patrick, M. Power, A. Tarrant, & R. Warnock (Eds.), *Covid Collaborations: Researching Poverty and Low-Income Family Life during the Pandemic* (1st ed., pp. 88-105). Bristol University Press. <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctv2mvg2qn.14>

Cameron, C., Hauari, H., Hollingworth, K., O'Brien, M., & Whitaker, L. (2022). Young children's lives in East London through the pandemic: Relationships, activities and social worlds. *Children & Society*, 00, 1-17. <https://doi.org/10.1111/chso.12652>

Fridkin, L., Fonts, N. B., **Quy, K.,** & Zwiener-Collins, N. (2023). Understanding effects of COVID-19 on undergraduate academic stress, motivation and coping over time. *Higher Education Quarterly*, 00, 1–15. <https://doi.org/10.1111/hequ.12425>

Harron, K., Cavallaro, F. L., Bunting, C., Clery, A., Kendall, S., Cassidy, R., Atkins, J., Saloniki, E.-C., Bedford, H., & **Woodman, J.** (2023). Study protocol: Evaluation of the 0–5 public health investment in England – a mixed-methods study integrating analyses of national linked administrative data with in-depth case studies. *BMJ Open*, 13(4), e073313. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2023-073313>

Mc Grath-Lone, L., Etoori, D., Gilbert, R., Harron, K. L., **Woodman, J.,** & Blackburn, R. (2022). Changes in adolescents' planned hospital care during the COVID-19 pandemic: Analysis of linked administrative data. *Archives of Disease in Childhood*, 107(10), e29–e29. <https://doi.org/10.1136/archdischild-2021-323616>

McIvor, C., Vafai, Y., Kelly, B., O'Toole, S. E., Heys, M., Badrick, E., **Iqbal, H.,** Pickett, K. E., **Cameron, C.,** & Dickerson, J. (2022). The Impact of the Pandemic on Mental Health in Ethnically Diverse Mothers: Findings from the Born in Bradford, Tower Hamlets and Newham COVID-19 Research Programmes. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 19(21), 14316. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph192114316>

O'Connell, R., Brannen, J., Ramos, V., Skuland, S., & Truninger, M. (2022). School meals as a resource for low-income families in three European countries: A comparative case approach. *European Societies*, 24(3), 251–282. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14616696.2022.2078498>

Rieger, K. L., Reimer-Kirkham, S., Burton, B., Howell, B., Liuta, N., **Sharma, S.,** Smoker, S., Tuppurainen, A., Lounsbury, K., Kreiter, E., Dixon, D., Anthony, R., Bradbury, S., Hiemstra, D., Wilkinson, K., Hilton, M., & Slavutskiy, O. (2023). Arts-based spiritual care in healthcare: A participatory, scoping review. *The Arts in Psychotherapy*, 84, 102027. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aip.2023.102027>

Simon, A., Penn, H., Shah, A., **Owen, C.,** Lloyd, E., **Hollingworth, K.,** & **Quy, K.** (2022). *Acquisitions, Mergers and Debt: The new language of childcare. Main Report* (p. 76). UCL Social Research Institute, University College London. <https://www.nuffieldfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/The-new-language-of-childcare-Main-report.pdf>

Sousa, D., & **Moss, P.** (2022). Introducing the special issue on 'Comparative studies in early childhood education: Past, present and future'. *Comparative Education*, 58(3), 287–296. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03050068.2022.2071019>

GENDER, DIVERSE FAMILIES & WORK

Selected current research projects (in collaboration with other partners)

'Ensuring equitable access to and experiences of parental and associated leaves at UCL' (2022–23), UCL Grand Challenges

Parental Leave and Social Sustainability (2022–26), EU-COST CA21150

The Parental Night Shift: Gendered Inequalities in Night-time Care in the Era of Intensive Parenting (2023–2026), Kone Foundation

Co-directing of the UCL Centre for Human Reproduction leading the Repro@UCL

A multidisciplinary exploration of personal narratives and scholarship”
Leverhulme Emeritus Fellowship, 2023–2025, The Leverhulme Trust.

Indicative Publications

Benchekroun, R. (2022). Caring through a screen: Caring for kin under lockdown. *Families, Relationships and Societies*, 11(1), 3–18. <https://doi.org/10.1332/204674321X16293510454010>

Bower-Brown, S. (2022). Beyond Mum and Dad: Gendered Assumptions about Parenting and the Experiences of Trans and/or Non-Binary Parents in the UK. *LGBTQ+ Family: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, 18(3), 223–240. <https://doi.org/10.1080/27703371.2022.2083040>

Brannen, J., & O'Connell, R. (2022). Thinking about the Future: Young People in Low-Income Families. *Societies*, 12(3), 86. <https://doi.org/10.3390/soc12030086>

Duvander, A.-Z., & Koslowski, A. (2023a). Access to parenting leaves for recent immigrants: A cross-national view of policy architecture in Europe. *Genus*, 79(1), 8. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s41118-023-00187-9>

Duvander, A.-Z., & Koslowski, A. (2023b). Access to parenting leaves for recent immigrants: A cross-national view of policy architecture in Europe. *Genus*, 79(1), 8. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s41118-023-00187-9>

Faircloth, C. (2021). *Couples' Transitions to Parenthood: Gender, Intimacy and Equality*. Palgrave Macmillan Cham. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-77403-5>

Faircloth, C., Twamley, K., & Iqbal, H. (2022). 'Er, not the best time': Methodological and ethical challenges of researching family life during a pandemic. *Families, Relationships and Societies*, 11(1), 39–43. <https://doi.org/10.1332/204674320X16073443900591>

- Frost, D. M., & LeBlanc, A. J.** (2023). How stigma gets “in between”: Associations between changes in perceived stigma, closeness discrepancies, and relationship satisfaction among same-sex couples. *Journal of Social Issues*, 79(1), 129–146. <https://doi.org/10.1111/josi.12571>
- Frost, D. M., & Meyer, I. H.** (2023). Minority Stress Theory: Application, Critique, and Continued Relevance. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 101579. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.copsyc.2023.101579>
- Koslowski, A., & O'Brien, M.** (2022). Fathers and Family Leave Policies: What Public Policy Can Do to Support Families. In M. Grau Grau, M. las Heras Maestro, & H. Riley Bowles (Eds.), *Engaged Fatherhood for Men, Families and Gender Equality. Healthcare, Social Policy, and Work Perspectives* (pp. 141–152). Springer International Publishing. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-75645-1_7
- O'Brien, M., & Uzunalioglu, M.** (2022). Parenting leave policies and a global social policy agenda. In I. Dobrotić, S. Blum, & **A. Koslowski** (Eds.), *Research Handbook on Leave Policy* (pp. 67–81). Edward Elgar Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781800372214.00015>
- Peltola, M., & **Phoenix, A.** (2022). *Nuancing Young Masculinities: Helsinki Boys' Intersectional Relationships in New Times*. Helsinki University Press. <https://doi.org/10.33134/HUP-16>
- Phoenix, A.** (2023). Making diversity visible in often unrecognised family practices. *Families, Relationships and Societies*, 12(1), 31–48. <https://doi.org/10.1332/204674321X16710964087570>
- Phoenix, A., Brannen, J., & Squire, C.** (2022, July). Researching Family Narratives. *Methodspace*. <https://www.methodspace.com/blog/researching-family-narratives>
- Phoenix, A.,** Dylan Kneale, B.H. (2022). Social participation and social support practices of older men from minoritised ethnic groups: Lessons for social isolation and loneliness initiatives. *Men and Welfare* (pp. 227–241). Routledge.
- Twamley, K., Faircloth, C., & Iqbal, H.** (2023). COVID labour: Making a ‘livable’ life under lockdown. *The Sociological Review*, 71(1), 85–104. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00380261221138203>
- Twamley, K., Iqbal, H., & Faircloth, C.** (Eds.). (2023). *Family in the Time of COVID. International perspectives*. UCL Press. <https://www.uclpress.co.uk/products/184219>
- Zadeh, S.,** Jadva, V., & Golombok, S. (2022). Documenting Families: Paper-Work in Family Display among Planned Single Father Families. *Sociology*, 56(5), 859–875. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00380385211073238>

MIGRATION

Selected current research projects (in collaboration with other partners)

Migrants and Solidarities: Negotiating deservingness in welfare micropublics (2020–24), Nordforsk

UK reception policies and practices vis-a-vis Ukrainian refugees (2022–23), UCL

Institutionalising inclusive and multicultural education in the context of mass displacement: Experiences of Ukrainian refugee teachers in Lublin, Poland (2022–23), UCL

Partition of Identity: An exploration of Belonging in Pakistani Bengalis, 1971–Present (2020–23), AHRC

Anthropologies of Extortion (2021–26), ERC Advanced Grant

Mothering in a hostile environment: From ethnographic research to crafting pathways to impact (2022–23), ESRC

Social reproduction in the shadows: Making lives with “no recourse to public funds” (2023–2026), ESRC

Indicative Publications

Migration and Society, Volume 5, 2022, **Mette Louise Berg** is co-editor.

Aissatou, Prokopiou, E., Leon, L., Abdullayeva, M., Mirfat, Osman, Iyambo, P., Rosen, R., Rebin, **Meetoo, V.**, & Zak. (2022). Stories Too Big for a Case File: Unaccompanied Young People Confront the Hostile Environment in Pandemic Times. *Sociological Research Online*, 27(3), 550–558. <https://doi.org/10.1177/13607804211064914>

Benchekroun, R. (2023). Strategic mothering in a hostile environment: How hostile immigration policies shape mothering, belonging and citizenship in the UK. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 1–22. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2023.2193253>

Berg, M. L. (2022). Anthropological Perspectives on Superdiversity: Complexity, Difference, Sameness, and Mixing. In F. Meissner, N. Sigona, & S. Vertovec (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Superdiversity* (1st ed., pp. 15–26). Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780197544938.013.2>

Berg, M. L., Zschomler, S., Verdasco, A., Neergaard, A., & Gruner, L. (2022). *Ukrainian refugees and the Nordics* (p. 55). NordForsk. <https://norden.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1650360/FULLTEXT03.pdf>

Brannen, J., & O'Connell, R. (2022). Experiences of food poverty among undocumented parents with children in three European countries: A multi-level research strategy. *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, 9(1), 42. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-022-01053-3>

Cherstich, I. (2023). Smoking, Praying, Killing: The Politics of Boredom in Post-Revolutionary Libya. In C. Al-Khalili, N. Ansari, M. Lamrani, & K. Uzel (Eds.), *Revolution Beyond the Event* (pp. 73–101). UCL Press. <https://doi.org/10.14324/111.9781800081185>

Dickson, E., Rosen, R., & Sorinmade, K. (2023). Hunger or indebtedness? Enforcing migrant destitution, racializing debt. In P. R. Gilbert, C. Bourne, M. Haiven, & J. Montgomerie (Eds.), *The entangled legacies of empire* (pp. 131–140). Manchester University Press. <https://doi.org/10.7765/9781526163455.00020>

Khanolkar, A. R., **Frost, D. M.**, Tabor, E., **Redclift, V.**, Amos, R., & Patalay, P. (2023). Ethnic and Sexual Identity-Related Inequalities in Adolescent Health and Well-Being in a National Population-Based Study. *LGBT Health*, 10(1), 26–40. <https://doi.org/10.1089/lgbt.2021.0473>

Manoussaki-Adamopoulou, I., Sedacca, N., **Bencheikroun, R.**, Knight, A., & Saavedra, A. C. (2022). Reflecting on Crisis: Ethics of Dis/Engagement in Migration Research. *Migration and Society*, 5(1), 124–135. <https://doi.org/10.3167/arms.2022.050111>

Rea, J. (2023). Social relationships, stigma, and wellbeing through experiences of homelessness in the United Kingdom. *Journal of Social Issues*, 79(1), 465–493. <https://doi.org/10.1111/josi.12572>

Redclift, V. (2022). Abjects or Agents? Camps, Contests, and the Creation of “Political Space.” In A. L. Bolles, R. Gomberg-Munoz, B. C. Perley, & K. Vacanti Brondo (Eds.), *Anthropological theory for the twenty-first century: A critical approach*. University of Toronto Press.

Redclift, V., Rajina, F., & Rashid, N. (2022). The Burden of Conviviality: British Bangladeshi Muslims Navigating Diversity in London, Luton and Birmingham. *Sociology*, 56(6), 1159–1175. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00380385221090783>

*Shortlisted for the Sage Prize for Innovation/Excellence.

Sharma, S. (2023). ‘She taught me how to do it properly’: Religious practices in Muslim sister relationships. In N. Slee, D. Llewellyn, L. Taylor-Guthartz, & K. Wasey (Eds.), *Female faith practices: Qualitative research perspectives*. Routledge.

Sharma, S., & Reimer-Kirkham, S. (2022). In plain view: Gender in the work of women healthcare chaplains. *Social Compass*, 69(4), 631–647. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00377686221105770>

MEET THE TEAM

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Artist in Residence

Nora Wuttke

Academic staff

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Deniz Arzuk, Research Fellow

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Mette Louise Berg, Professor of Migration and Diaspora Studies

Claire Cameron, Professor of Social Pedagogy

Igor Cherstich, Lecturer in Social Anthropology

Eve Dickson, Research Fellow

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Victoria Redclift, Associate Professor in Political Sociology

Sonya Sharma, Lecturer in Sociology
Clare Stovell, Lecturer in Sociology
Katherine Twamley, Associate Professor in Sociology
Andrea Verdasco, Research Fellow
Jenny Woodman, Associate Professor in Child and Family Policy
Sophie Zadeh, Associate Professor in Social Psychology
Silke Zschomler, Research Fellow

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Edmée Ballif - Postdoctoral Visiting Research Fellow
Julia Brannen, Emerita Professor in the Sociology of the Family
Jill Bradbury, Honorary Research Fellow
Alison Clark, Honorary Senior Research Fellow
Rebecca O'Connell, Honorary Professor
Petteri Eerola, Honorary Research Fellow
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