



Lifelong Learning Centre

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Seminar Series

Re-imagining child protection: Another way is possible



Interested?

This event is FREE and open to anyone with an interest in this topic.

Please register at

reimaginingchildprotection.eventbrite.co.uk

For more information, please contact Georgina Collins on
0113 3436892 /
g.collins@leeds.ac.uk

Presentation and discussion with

Professor Brigid Featherstone

Professor of Social Work, University of Huddersfield

and film presentation and discussion with

Amanda Boorman

Founder, The Open Nest

Wednesday 11 November

6.00—7.45pm

(refreshments available from 5.30pm)

University of Leeds

This *Re-Imagining Child Protection* seminar will feature a presentation and discussion from Professor of Social Work Brigid Featherstone followed by a film presentation and discussion by adoptive mum and founder of adoption support charity The Open Nest, Amanda Boorman.

Brigid Featherstone will begin the seminar by exploring key trends in policy and practice since the Children Act 1989 and argue for the need to stop feeding 'the risk monster' and focus on what is needed to support families to flourish and care safely. Brigid will explore the evidence that it is the most deprived children who are most likely to be removed from their families of origin and communities, and the impact that austerity is currently having on their welfare and safety. Brigid argues for a paradigm shift which makes the policy and practice links between social work, public health and social policy. This will require a move away from an over-emphasis on individual risk factors towards a concern with the material and support that are vital if children are to be cared for safely and to flourish.

Amanda Boorman's presentation will explore the range of issues which the nature of modern adoption brings about. Getting to the heart of a child's life story is very often frustratingly difficult, with social work teams, birth families, foster parents and adoptive parents rarely able to join the dots together or find the jigsaw pieces of history lost in the chaos of the past. In Amanda's presentation of her powerful film *Severance*, she will give an intimate insight into her own experience of adoption and raise questions as to the role which social care plays in adoption and beyond.

This seminar will be of particular interest to students of Children & Family Studies, Childhood Studies, Learning & Teaching, Social Work and Professional Studies and those working in the statutory and voluntary sector supporting children and vulnerable families.

Professor Brigid Featherstone

Brid Featherstone took up her post as professor of social work at the University of Huddersfield in October 2015. She is the co-author, with Sue White and Kate Morris, of *Re-imagining child protection: towards humane social work with families* (2014) and is currently carrying out research on the links between deprivation and outcomes for children's' and families' experiences of services.

Amanda Boorman

Amanda qualified as a social worker at Bradford University with a specialism in working with marginalised groups. She then went on to gain a first degree and the Armes Prize from Leeds University for a Cultural Studies degree in which she explored the representation of minority groups in the media and popular press. After working in the voluntary sector Amanda went on to adopt and long term foster two siblings with developmental trauma and complex needs. That journey led to Amanda founding an adoption support charity which campaigns for the rights of adopters but more specifically for support to adopted people and their birth families. The Open Nest Charity uses creative ways of raising awareness including documentary, animation and art. It also provides therapeutic spaces for traumatised children and young people.
www.theopennest.co.uk

