



NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2010

30TH ANNUAL SRIP CONFERENCE: LEUVEN, BELGIUM 8-10TH SEPTEMBER 2009

We are very pleased to announce that this year's conference will be held at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (K.U. Leuven) in Belgium. Founded in 1425 by Pope Martin V, K.U. Leuven is both the oldest existing Catholic university in the world and the oldest university in the Low Countries. Leuven is near Europe's capital Brussels in the heart of Western Europe and is famous for its beautiful medieval buildings including the amazing 15th century Town Hall. The city has a brand new museum (the 'M') and a lively café scene in the Oudemarkt. Following the 12km 'scientific walking route' (the WetenStappen) around the city is a great way to see Leuven, keep fit and provide food for thought at the same time.

>> Visit the conference website www.srip2010.org for more details of the conference location, social events and submission information. To register your initial interest in attending the conference and to be placed on the mailing list please go to the conference website and complete the *mailing list form*.

>> Visit Katholieke Universiteit Leuven at www.kuleuven.be/english/

>> For more on the attractions of the city of Leuven including the WetenStappen visit www.leuven.be/en/



"Fonske" Fountain of Knowledge, Leuven

**** First call for submissions ****

This year the conference theme is "**30 Years of Reproductive and Infant Psychology**". We would therefore particularly welcome submissions for symposia or papers that consider how perspectives on the psychological, behavioural, and social aspects of reproduction, pregnancy, birth and infancy have changed in this time. As usual we also welcome submissions for symposia, papers and posters on all relevant topics of interest to SRIP from researchers, students or practitioners.

Presenting at the conference

Please visit the conference website at www.srip2010.org for details about submission. Submission deadlines are:

Symposia - 1st March 2010

Paper - 1st May 2010

Poster - 1st May 2010



Great Market Square (Grote Markt), Leuven

CONFERENCE BURSARIES

SRIP supports a number of bursaries for students and NHS staff. Bursaries include conference fees, travel and accommodation up to a maximum of £300. To apply for a bursary, write to the SRIP Secretary* specifying the bursary type (see below) and detailing the support required. **All bursary applications to be received by Friday 25th June 2010.** Applications will be considered on an individual basis by the committee.

Student Bursaries

Anyone currently undertaking an undergraduate degree, masters by research, PhD or a professional doctorate is eligible to apply. Preference will be given to students presenting a paper/poster and to those who have no, or limited, funds available to support conference attendance. Include a letter from your supervisor supporting your application and saying what benefits you will get from attending.

NHS Staff Bursary

This bursary is to support conference attendance of NHS staff who are actively engaged in research or in implementing research into clinical practice. Please include

a supporting letter saying what benefits will occur from you attending.

STUDENT PRIZES

Each year the Society awards prizes for undergraduate and post graduate research. The subject of the research may be any aspect of reproduction, birth or infancy. As well as a cash prize, winners present at the SRIP conference (full conference fee covered by the Society) and receive £200 towards conference travel and accommodation.

2009 Prize winners

SRIP Prize: Lori-Anne Zammit graduated in 2009 as a Midwife from the University of Malta. Lori-Anne's dissertation *"First-time fathers' perceptions of childbirth preparation and experiences of childbirth"* was based on survey data obtained from first-time fathers living in Malta.

Postgraduate prize: Katherine Fenlaugh Wright who graduated as a Clinical Psychologist from the University of Leeds in 2009. Katherine's thesis *"Which features of cystic fibrosis might inform pregnant women's prenatal testing decisions?"* used Q Methodology to explore how the views of people living with cystic fibrosis and their families can inform the development of prenatal testing information for the condition.

SRIP Prizes 2010

Details for each prize are given overleaf and on the SRIP website. All prize entries will be automatically considered for submission as a poster presentation. **All entries should be submitted by Friday 25th June 2010.**

SRIP Prize

This prize will be awarded for the best research dissertation submitted as part of an **undergraduate degree, masters by research, or equivalent level professional training** (e.g. MBBS). **The SRIP Prize winner will receive £150.** It is expected that the dissertation would be no longer than 15000 words.

SRIP Postgraduate Student Prize

This prize is awarded for the best research thesis submitted as a full or partial requirement for a **postgraduate degree**, including M.Phil, D.Clin.Psy., PhD, and other similar awards. **The Postgraduate Student Prize winner will receive £250.** For further details on the Postgraduate Prize please contact the SRIP secretary*.

Dissertations and theses should be entered in the year they are submitted for the degree or training course or in the following year. The dissertation/thesis should be submitted to the SRIP secretary* in the form required by your institution. All entries should include by a 250 word abstract and a 500 word summary. All entries must be accompanied by a letter from the supervisor of the research drawing attention to its strengths.

***Information and Applications: Anita Hughes, SRIP Secretary, University of Nottingham, Academic Division of Midwifery, B Floor, East Block, Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham. NG7 2UH**

REPORT ON THE 29TH ANNUAL SRIP CONFERENCE, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, 9-10TH SEPTEMBER 2009

Last year's conference was held at the Copthorne Hotel in Newcastle. Eighty delegates from Australia, Finland, Iceland, Malta, Netherlands, Poland and the UK attended. The Copthorne turned out to be an excellent conference venue and most delegates also stayed at the hotel. The more informal events including the conference dinner were very well attended, providing delegates with the opportunity to meet new people and to catch up with old friends and acquaintances.



Conference lunch on the Quayside

The conference theme was **"Working with Inequality and Families at Risk"** and the programme featured several related sessions and symposia including ones on mental health in pregnancy, working with at risk parents and families, and anthropological perspectives on risk related infant care practices. The theme attracted a number of delegates new to SRIP conferences and we had some very positive

feedback from them. We also had papers from a wide range of other topics including prenatal testing, infertility, birth and pregnancy care, predicting child health and wellbeing, and infant feeding. Abstracts of conference papers and posters presented were published in the August issue of the Journal of Reproductive and Infant Psychology (Volume 27, No. 3) and are accessible online via the *ejournal* section of the JRIP website (see www.srip.ac.uk).

The SRIP lecturer award was presented to **Professor Pauline Slade** in recognition of her extensive work on psychological issues relating to reproduction, pregnancy and the post-natal period. Pauline presented on the links between attachment patterns and post-traumatic stress following childbirth.

The keynote talk was delivered by **Dr PO Svanberg**, a Consultant Clinical Psychologist. Dr Svanberg was awarded an OBE in 2008 in recognition of his work in the area of parent-infant mental health. His research and clinical work focuses on primary prevention and early intervention. Dr Svanberg's presentation included some fascinating (and moving) footage of mother-infant interactions taken from his research into attachment and work on supporting 'baby mindfulness' in new parents.

We had an excellent selection of over 20 posters on display at the wine reception and throughout the conference. The prize for the best poster (voted for by delegates) was awarded to **Maxine Parkinson** and **Annuncia Skeldon** from Wirral CAMHS. The poster, entitled "The teenage brain meets the baby brain" described the pilot of a group intervention for teenage parents that aimed to address the need for identifying attachment quality in mothers and their babies and strengthening their developing

relationship. Our thanks go to publishers Taylor and Francis for sponsoring the wine reception and the poster prize, and to Robert Drewett for tasting and selecting the wine.



Poster prize winners Maxine and Annuncia

Conference organisers asked for feedback on the new two-day format. On the whole most people preferred this to three days in light of the difficulties of getting funding. The downside was that there was a little less time for informal social networking activities.

The 2009 Conference Team (Louise Bryant, Debbie Carrick-Sen, Lesley Daniels, Robert Drewett, Teresa Kelly and Gillian Weir).



2009 conference delegates

SRIP RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT GRANT AWARDS

The Society was pleased to award two grants for research development workshops to be held in early 2010.

Understanding regional variations in antenatal screening uptake: the perspectives of those at the forefront of the UK National Fetal Anomaly Screening Programme. Janet Hirst, Louise Bryant, Jenny Hewison and Barbara Potrata (University of Leeds).

The workshop will bring together midwives in practice and academics from the social sciences to explore factors which may explain the variation by region in uptake rates for Down's syndrome screening using the Yorkshire and Humber Strategic Health Authority as a case example. The main output from the workshop will be candidate research questions to take forward into grant proposals and studentships. The workshop will be held in Leeds in March 2010.



Beyond ESMEE (The European Survey of Maternity Expectations & Experiences) Josephine Green (University of York) and Helen Baston (Sheffield Hallam University)

Building on development work previously supported by SRIP, this workshop held in Ghent, Belgium in January 2010 brought together research collaborators from across Europe to further develop the theoretical underpinnings of ESMEE and to support future funding bids.

****2010 CALL FOR APPLICATIONS****

DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR A RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT GRANT?

SRIP welcomes applications for grants to support single occasion research development workshops in any area of interest to the Society (see the "About us" section on the website www.srip.ac.uk). The Society will provide up to £1000 to help cover travel and accommodation for participants and other small incidental costs. Applications can be made at any time. At least one of the organisers must be a member of SRIP. If you have an idea for a research development workshop then further details about the grant criteria and how to apply can be found on the 'Funding' page of the SRIP website at www.srip.ac.uk.

JOURNAL NEWS

The Journal of Reproductive and Infant Psychology (JRIP) continues to receive a diverse range of submissions, and more on parenting and infancy than has been the trend over recent years. International submissions are encouraged by the Editors and these have also increased. Submission turn-around time continues to be good. **Please note** that the instructions to authors

have changed slightly, with the aim of (1) having slightly shorter papers and (2) shorter and more succinct titles.

Visit the JRIP website at www.srip.ac.uk/journal for more information about the Journal.

Maggie Redshaw, Editor-in-Chief
Colin Martin, Co-Editor

SRIP COMMITTEE NEWS

After seven years as SRIP Chair **Ken Gannon** stepped down at the 2009 AGM held at the conference in Newcastle. On behalf of the committee and all SRIP members past and present we would like to say a huge thank you to Ken for his hard work and commitment to the Society.

Ken has always made a point of welcoming and supporting new members. During his time as Chair a number of new schemes to promote the Society and encourage research development and implementation have been instigated, for example the research development grants, student awards, and conference bursaries. In 2005 the SRIP conference went to mainland Europe (University of Amsterdam) for the first time. Ken also held the post of JRIP Editor and continues to sit on the Editorial Board. He has guided the Society during difficult financial years and has always aimed to ensure that SRIP funds are used innovatively, but appropriately and in the interest of members.

The committee has highly valued his calm, diplomatic style and we are very pleased that Ken will remain on the committee for a short while. We sincerely hope that he will stay connected to the Society. He has now definitely earned the right to relax and enjoy himself at future SRIP conferences!

Louise Bryant was elected as the new Chair of SRIP at the 2009 AGM. Louise is a lecturer in the psychology of health care at the Leeds Institute of Health Sciences, University of Leeds. She has been a SRIP member for over 10 years and a committee member since 2003.

SRIP Treasurer **Chris Newsome** left the committee this year to take up a new position with the VSO in Cambodia as a Newborn and Child Health Advisor with a local Non-Governmental Organisation called Reproductive and Child Health Alliance (RACHA). We would like to thank Chris very much for the efficient way she performed the essential role of Treasurer and wish her well in her latest and most worthwhile venture. For information about the work of RACHA visit <http://www.racha.org.kh>.

Lesley Daniels (School of Healthcare, University of Leeds) has now taken over as SRIP Treasurer - thank you Lesley.

SRIP MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

If your contact details change please email the SRIP membership administrator Gillian Weir: Email: gillian.weir@ncl.ac.uk.

Please note that we can **no longer** accept payments by **American Express Cards**.

Finally, see you in Leuven.....

