

Dr Ben Grey - Curriculum Vitae



- ✦ **Co-director, Cambridge Centre for Attachment (2012 -):** I am involved in carrying out expert assessments of risk, parenting, and attachment, for the Family Courts. Our work specialises in the integration of evidence based, research validated methods of assessing attachment and family functioning, with assessment and intervention in this field. My training includes administering and classifying the *Adult Attachment Interview (AAI)*, the *CARE-Index*, the *Parent Development Interview (Reflective Functioning)*, *Attachment Story Stems*, and the *School Age Assessment of Attachment (SAA)*, and I have been accredited as reliable in these measures. I have also developed and validated the *Meaning of the Child Interview (MotC)*, as part of my doctoral research. Since 2002, I have frequently reported in Family Court Proceedings as an expert witness in matters relating to attachment, parenting, risk assessment, family relationships, contact in private and public law and other decisions relating to children. I also have a specialist interest in Autism, and longstanding experience of assessing families where parent(s) and/or children have a learning difficulty.
- ✦ **Trainer.** I have conducted training for CAF/CASS, NAGALRO, BAAF, Local Authorities, and at conferences.
- ✦ **Visiting Lecturer, University of Roehampton.** I teach on the Msc Course in Attachment Studies, and as a PhD supervisor in the Department of Psychology.
- ✦ **Founder member of the International Association for the Study of Attachment (IASA) (www.iasa-dmm.org)**

Qualifications

- ✦ **PhD in Psychology, (University of Roehampton), 2014**
- ✦ **MA in Social Work with Distinction, (Warwick University), 1997,**
- ✦ **Diploma in Social Work (CCETSW), 1997**
- ✦ **BA (Honours) in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Oxford University) 1992**
- ✦ **I am a member of CoramBAAF Adoption & Fostering Academy and CoramBAAF legal and research groups**
- ✦ **I am registered on the HCPC's register of Social Work professionals, no. SW 24891**

Previous Employment

- ✦ **Assessments and Interventions Manager, Family Care (2008 – 2012)**
I managed a skilled, multi-disciplinary team conducting expert assessments and interventions in Family Court Proceedings and related matters. I was also responsible for the development of evidence-based practice throughout the organisation (a voluntary sector childcare organisation working across all areas of need) and for the quality assurance of court reports.
- ✦ **Children's Guardian and Reporting Officer (2000 – 2008)**
Self employed Contractor to the Children and Families Court Advisory and Support Services (CAF/CASS) from its inception in 2001-2008, Member of the West Sussex GALRO 2000 - 2001.
- ✦ **Hampshire County Council (1997 – 2000) and Hampshire's Adoption Panel (North Hampshire Panel)**
Children and Families' Social Worker for the team that covered the busy Leigh Park area, Havant
- ✦ **Hertfordshire Autistic Community Trust (1995 – 1997)**
Residential Social Worker for autistic young adults
- ✦ **Member of the NAGALRO Council, and Company Director of NAGALRO**
NAGALRO (www.nagalro.com) is The Professional Association for Family Court Advisors and Independent Social Work Practitioners and Consultants seeking to promote standards in this field. I am a former member of the editorial board of the NAGALRO's journal 'Seen and Heard'.

Assessment of Parenting and Risk

I have over 20 years experience of working with Children and Families. I am familiar with Child Protection and Looked After Children Procedures, and have taken part in numerous Case Conferences, Reviews and Planning Meetings. As a Guardian, and Consultant Social Worker, I have assessed the care provided to children in many families. As a Guardian in Adoption Proceedings, and former member of Hampshire's Adoption Panel, I have a good awareness of issues relating specifically to assessing carers in adoption and fostering. I have experience and training in working with children and adults with disabilities, and have particular interest and training in issues relating to Autism. I have written 100's of reports and statements for the family courts in England and Northern Ireland, and am experienced in giving evidence to the Court at all levels.

Assessment of Attachment in Children and Adults

In addition to my experience in Social Work, I have over 15 years of further psychological training, research, and study (to PhD level), in the field of parent-infant mental health. I have specialised in the application of recent developments in attachment theory and research to assessment of children and their families. I have been trained, and been accredited, in a full range of research validated procedures assessing the relationships of adults and children, from birth to adulthood (see above, and www.attachment.services).

Research and Teaching

I have developed, researched, and validated the *Meaning of the Child Interview* (MotC: Grey 2014, Grey and Farnfield 2016, in press), a procedure for classifying parenting interviews in order to understand parent-child relationships, assessing risk and resilience. This is now taught as part of the University of Roehampton's MSc in Attachment Studies, the only postgraduate course in attachment. I am involved in training social workers, psychologists, therapists and other professionals in this procedure, and on the subject of attachment and family relationships more generally, for Local Authorities and the voluntary sector, as well as the University of Roehampton, where I am a Visiting Lecturer. I have presented at many conferences, nationally and internationally.

I have collaborated with leading academics in developing our work and supporting research in the field. In particular, I have worked with **Dr Pat Crittenden**, Family Relations Institute, Miami, former pupil of Mary Ainsworth, now herself an international authority on attachment, developer of the Dynamic Maturational Model of Attachment (DMM). With Dr Crittenden and others, I helped develop a protocol for assessing attachment in adults and children in Family Court proceedings, through IASA (the International Association for Study of Attachment). The protocol was tested over a 4-year period involving reports submitted to 15 judges in 5 different countries internationally. I am a co-author of the paper on the protocol, published in the *Journal of Forensic Practice* (Crittenden et al. 2014). In association with **Dr Stephen Farnfield**, Senior Lecturer in Attachment Studies, Roehampton University, I was part of the validation of a method to classify pre-school attachment story stems.

Publications and Academic Posters

- ✦ Grey, B (1997), *'Just Therapy'*, Social Care Association, an examination of the use of therapeutic methods in Social Work
- ✦ Grey, B (2001) 'Called to Account', *Family Law Journal*, No. 12, December
- ✦ Grey, B (2005) 'Long Term Fostering or Adoption? A Research Review', *Seen and Heard*, Vol. 15, no. 4
- ✦ Grey, B (2006) 'Attachment Theory – A Family Court Practitioner's Tool – Developing an Attachment Minded Practice', *Representing Children*, Vol. 18:2
- ✦ Grey, B (2007) 'Attachment in Adults: A Useful Concept in Family Court Proceedings', *Seen and Heard*, Vol. 17, no. 3
- ✦ Crittenden P., Grey, B. (2010, 2013) 'Assessing Parental Competence in Family Court Proceedings using the DMM-AAI' Poster presented to the 2nd Biannual Conference of the International Association of Attachment in Cambridge, August 2010 and (2013) "DMM-AAI Differentiates Adults with Mental Illness, Child Protection, & Criminality" Poster presented to the 25th Association for Psychological Science (APS) Annual Convention, Washington DC, May 23-26, 2013
- ✦ Grey B (2010) 'The Meaning of the Child in Parenting Interviews: A comparative study using the Parent Development Interview and the CARE-Index' Poster and seminar presented to the 2nd Biannual Conference of the International Association of Attachment in Cambridge, August 2010
- ✦ Crittenden, P. M., Farnfield, S., Landini, A., & Grey, B. (2013). 'Assessing attachment for family court decision-making: A forensic protocol for empirically-based evidence regarding attachment'. *Journal of Forensic Practice*, 15(4).
- ✦ Grey B. (2014) *'The Meaning of the Child to the Parent: The Development and Validation of a new method of classifying parenting interviews for the nature of the parent-child relationship'*, PhD thesis, London: University of Roehampton
- ✦ Grey, B and Farnfield, S (2016), 'The Meaning of The Child Interview (MotC) – A new procedure for assessing and understanding parent-child relationships of 'at risk' families', *Clinical Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, DOI: [10.1177/1359104516633495](https://doi.org/10.1177/1359104516633495).
- ✦ Grey B and Farnfield S (in press), 'The Meaning of the Child Interview (MotC) - The initial validation of a new procedure for assessing and understanding the parent-child relationships of 'at risk' families, *Journal of Children's Services*, accepted for publication