

## Dr Ben Grey - Curriculum Vitae



- ✦ **Senior Lecturer in Attachment Studies, Department of Psychology, University of Roehampton (2018 -).** I lecture on the MSc Course in Attachment Studies (and have done since its inception in 2012, initially as a visiting lecturer), and supervise PhD students. I am currently convenor of the Postgraduate Certificate in Attachment Based Family Assessment & Intervention.
- ✦ **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.
- ✦ **Attachment Assessor and Consultant:** My training includes administering and classifying the *Adult Attachment Interview* (DMM-AAI), the *CARE-Index*, the *Parent Development Interview (Reflective Functioning Scales)*, 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, and have been licenced to teach *Child Assessment of Play and Attachment* (CAPA: also known as narrative story stems). I have longstanding experience of using all these in assessment work with children and families, and as the basis for intervention, as well as on a consultation basis to other therapists, psychologists, social workers, and other professionals using these procedures.
- ✦ **Expert Witness:** 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 on attachment and other areas of professional practice. I teach the MotC internationally and coordinate a multidisciplinary network of professionals using the MotC in their practice and research.
- ✦ **Founder member of the International Association for the Study of Attachment (IASA) ([www.iasa-dmm.org](http://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** – Professional Qualification
- ✦ **MSc in Psychology (conversion award)**, (Manchester Metropolitan University), *in progress* – to complete 2019
- ✦ **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

- ✦ **Therapeutic Assessments and Interventions Manager, Family Care (2008 – 2012)**  
I managed a skilled, multi-disciplinary team conducting expert assessments and therapeutic 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](http://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 25 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](http://www.attachment.services)).

## Research and Teaching

I have developed, researched, and validated the *Meaning of the Child Interview* (MotC: Grey 2014, Grey and Farnfield 2017a, 2017b), 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, and around the UK and abroad by invitation. I am involved in providing ongoing support and consultancy to social workers, psychologists, therapists and other professionals in this procedure, having set up a network of those using the MotC (see also [www.meaningofthechild.org](http://www.meaningofthechild.org)). I teach regularly 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, including the International Association for the Study of Attachment (IASA) conferences in Bertinoro, Italy (2008), Cambridge (2010) and Frankfurt (2012), and the World Association of Infant Mental Health (WAIMH) Congresses in Edinburgh (2014) and Rome (2018).

I have collaborated with leading academics in developing my 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. 2013). In association with **Dr Stephen Farnfield**, Senior Lecturer in Attachment Studies, Roehampton University, I was involved in the validation of a method to classify pre-school attachment story stems (CAPA: Farnfield 2016).

## Publications

### Professional Publications

- ✚ Grey, B (1997), *'Just Therapy? Can Therapeutic Social Work be Truly Anti Oppressive'*, Surbiton: Social Care Association (SCA)
- ✚ Grey, B (2001) *'Called to Account'*, *Family Law Journal*, No. 12, December
- ✚ Grey, B (2001) *'On the wrong side of the law'*, *Community Care*, 18th November, concerning CAFCASS and the role of Children's Guardians
- ✚ Grey, B (2002) *'Turning the Clocks back – Could CAFCASS' current crisis have been avoided?'*, *Representing Children*, Vol. 14, No. 4

- # Grey, B (2003) 'Can CAFCASS change? Reflections on the Report of the Inquiry into CAFCASS by the House of Commons Select Committee of the LCD', *Seen and Heard*, Vol. 13, no. 2
- # Grey, B (2005) 'Attachment Theory – A Family Court Practitioner's Tool? Foundations', *Representing Children*, Vol. 18:1
- # 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
- # Grey (2017) 'The Meaning of the Child to the Adoptive Parent: Understanding the Contribution of the Parent to the Parent-child relationships in Adoption', *Seen and Heard*, Vol. 27:2

#### Academic Posters and Dissertation

- # Crittenden P., de Mille A., de Mille P., Grey, B., and Landini, A., (July, 2010). "Assessing attachment for family courts: A protocol for empirically-based evidence on attachment for family courts." Paper presented at the 3rd National research Conference on Child and Family Programs and Policy. Bridgewater, MA". Also presented at the 2nd Biannual Conference of the International Association of Attachment in Cambridge, August 2010
- # Crittenden P., Grey, B. (2010) '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
- # 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
- # 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 (2014), 'The Meaning of the Child to the Parent – An Inter-subjective Approach to Assessing Representations of Caregiving', Poster presented at the World Association of Infant Mental Health Conference, Edinburgh, June 2014
- # Grey, B and Gunson, J (2014), 'What's Missing? Can a multi-disciplinary approach to using attachment theory and evidenced-based procedures make visible the gaps in protecting children highlighted by serious case reviews?' Poster workshop presented at the World Association of Infant Mental Health Conference, Edinburgh, June 2014.

#### Peer Reviewed Literature and Book Chapters

- # 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 and Farnfield, S (2017a), '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*, Vol: 22.2
- # Grey B and Farnfield S (2017b), '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*, Vol 12:1

#### Under Review / In Progress

- # Crittenden P., Grey B. and Spieker S. (in press) 'Maltreating Parents' Attachment Strategies: Comparisons to Normative, Mentally Ill, and Criminal Adults' [Journal Article, under review]
- # Grey B. and Gunson J (in press) 'Invisible Children? How attachment theory and evidenced-based procedures can bring to light the hidden experience of endangered children' in Bunston W and Jones S. (Eds.) 'Supporting Vulnerable Babies and Young Children: How to Work with Complex Challenges' UK: Jessica Kingsley Publishers