



# TRANSITIONS IN PREGNANCY AND NEW MOTHERHOOD: CHANGING NAPPIES AND CHANGING SUBJECTIVITIES

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BSA Annual Conference 2017

Families and Relationships

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# OVERVIEW

The Projects

Methodology

Surveillance

Intrusion

Judgement

Being marked out

*My body? My baby? My choice?*

Ordinary or extraordinary conflict – identification or generational shifts

# THE STUDIES



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## Study 1

Inter-generational Views and Experiences of Breastfeeding Project

Children and Young People's Research Network

Aimee Grant, Dawn Mannay and Ruby Marzella

## Study 2

Contextualising women's risky health behaviours within pregnancy: the development of a qualitative longitudinal study using visual methods

Welcome Trust

Aimee Grant, Dawn Mannay, Melanie Morgan and Dunla Gallagher

Marginalised areas, low income families, south Wales, UK

# METHODOLOGY – STUDY 1

Interviews - six new mother and grandmother dyads (N12)

Creative, reflexive, visual data production (Mannay 2016; Rose 2016)

Nappies, sleepless nights and crying!

Visual Artefacts (Grant, Mannay and Marzella 2017)

Artefacts can tell how a particular aspect of material culture is entangled in our everyday lives (Chapman 2000)

‘Narratives and objects inhabit the intersection of the personal and the social’ (Hurdley 2006, p. 717)



# METHODOLOGY – STUDY 2

10 mothers - less than 30 weeks pregnant - follow up interview before the birth

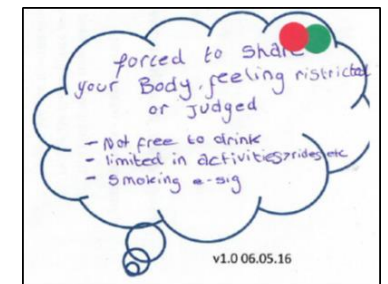
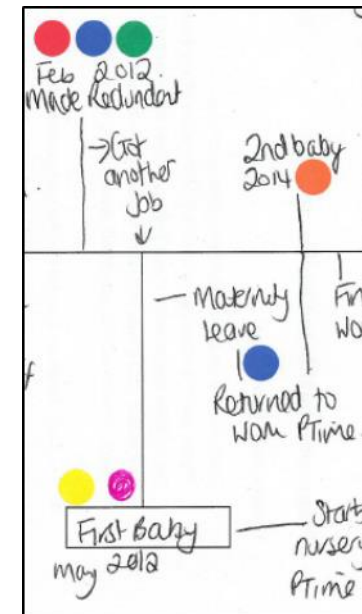
Visual methods: artistic or creative methods to represent their worlds

Timeline facilitated life history interview (Adriansen 2012; Berends 2011; Mannay and Creaghan 2016)

Emotion stickers (Gabb and Fink 2015)

Collaging (Awan 2007; Mannay 2010)

Sandboxing (Mannay et al. 2015)



# WHY THE VISUAL?

Unseen elements - introduced to mundane (but important artefacts) located in areas beyond the space selected for the interview

Fighting familiarity and defamiliarization (Delamont and Atkinson 1995)

*overshadowed by the enclosed, self-contained world of common understanding... participants were not controlled by a pre-determined schedule and they entered the interview setting with their own ideas (Mannay 2010)*

Elicitation interviews – auteur theory

Participant led – not participatory but ‘partially participatory’ (Gubrium et al 2015; Mannay 2016; Lomax et al 2011)



# 'PEOPLE TRY AND POLICE YOUR BEHAVIOUR'

'Yeah, he said: "You can't have this", "You can't have that."  
He didn't ask us what we wanted'

'When I was pregnant no one cared [laughter] you could say: "Oh I'll have a double vodka and coke with my fag" [laughter] and it was like: "Yeah, no problem" [laughter]. So it's just totally different ... people try and police your behaviour ...'

'like the kinda food police'

**Marked out** – visual signifier – 'big belly'

Intergenerational shifts – challenging difficult



# ASK YOU ANYTHING



Y'know they think that when you're pregnant they can ask you anything, and it would be: "Are you gunna breastfeed or are you gunna bottle feed?"

'Yeah my friends are really pro-breastfeeding, so as soon as Tanya said, like, "I'm pregnant" [my friend's] words were, like: "Are you breastfeeding?"'

Me and my partner went to a coffee shop and we was heating up a bottle um for (our daughter) and then the cleaner this man was, (he was) just cleaning around the tables, who worked there and he came up to me and said 'Are you breastfeeding?' and, like I said yes I was and I didn't really take offense to it but if I wasn't then I'd feel quite like...its intrusive...like I wouldn't walk up to him and say 'What did you have for your lunch today?' (laughter) like why are you asking me what my child has for milk?



# SURVEILLANCE

So um we yesterday was the first time I felt comfortable to actually get the bottle out in public and mix the bottle with people actually seeing and then to give it to him one cos everyone's watching cos they think y'know cute baby and that's what people do but I felt kept thinking oh, y'know, what are people gonna think? What are people...? And at one point, we were in one restaurant once, I was actually conscious I was hiding the powder, like I was actually doing it really secretively, mixing it

So um yeah you feel quite dirty... you feel like... yeah it's kinda like I duno it's kinda like you're just stood there pole dancing... that's how you kinda get looked at like sorta like... ooh how dirty



# I WON'T JUDGE YOU

I went out and mum had (my baby)...my (relative), we said that we was going out and she was like oh she can't go out she's breastfeeding she can't drink alcohol and I was obviously gonna pump it out and then breastfeed the next day...and it's just it's so intrusive and rude and you get so angry about it that you think d'you know what (laughs) it'd be easier just to give her a bottle from all these different inputs here and left right and left

And people say things like oh I won't judge you, and it's like oh well thank you. Yeah it's like why would you judge me? It's nothing to do with you, so why do you, why are you even saying? I didn't even know I was in a jury like...It's just so rude and that's like really close personal friends who were saying I won't judge you



# IT'S MY BODY

I had that with [partner] when I had a fag... (He said) "Well that's my baby in there." (when I was pregnant) with [youngest daughter]. Oh that was because towards the end I had [a really stressful life event] so seen as I couldn't drink, ok, I did smoke five in a row because I was a bit stressed, he was like: "You do know that's my child in there!" I went: "it's my body, so it's just tough."

I just have one when I am in the house or you know round my mums or something...you would never see me smoking a fag stood on a bus stop smoking a fag, walking in town smoking, I'll never do that [[acceptable femininities](#)]

My car is still my independence and being pregnant I know later on obviously that might become a problem but to me driving is my independence. It's my bubble, I can cry, I can smoke, I can have a McDonalds in the car you know I can listen to music, I can do everything in the car



# SUMMARY

Understanding the sociocultural context of pregnancy, motherhood and infant feeding

Understanding the lived experiences of pregnancy, motherhood and infant feeding

Infant feeding a site of moral and interactional 'trouble' (Lomax 2013)

Impossibility of an acceptable presentation of the maternal subject in public spaces

Transitional moments - identity changes based on ordinary conflict and identification (Hollway 2010)

But here – extra[ordinary] conflict, intergenerational shifts, increased surveillance, loss of ownership of body, self, autonomy and opinion

“Everyone’s property”, difficult to navigate, unlike any previous situation encountered

Class, age, legacies of acceptable femininities and motherhoods (But also universal themes)



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