



# RESEARCHING MARGINALISED FEMININITIES: WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO LISTEN TO MEN'S VOICES?

BSA PANEL - ANNA TARRANT AND MICHAEL R.M WARD  
MARGINALISED MASCULINITIES AND THE POSSIBILITIES OF CARE ACROSS THE LIFE COURSE

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# OVERVIEW

The Studies

Intrusive presence - *I don't watch Top Gear, I don't watch anything about cars*

Different voices: *Who should do the dishes now?*

Asking young men: *Parenthood, class and place*

# THE STUDIES

Mothers and daughters on the margins

Our Changing Land

Young parents

Visual methods: artistic or creative methods to represent their worlds

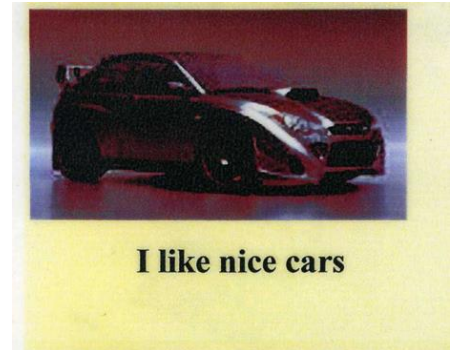
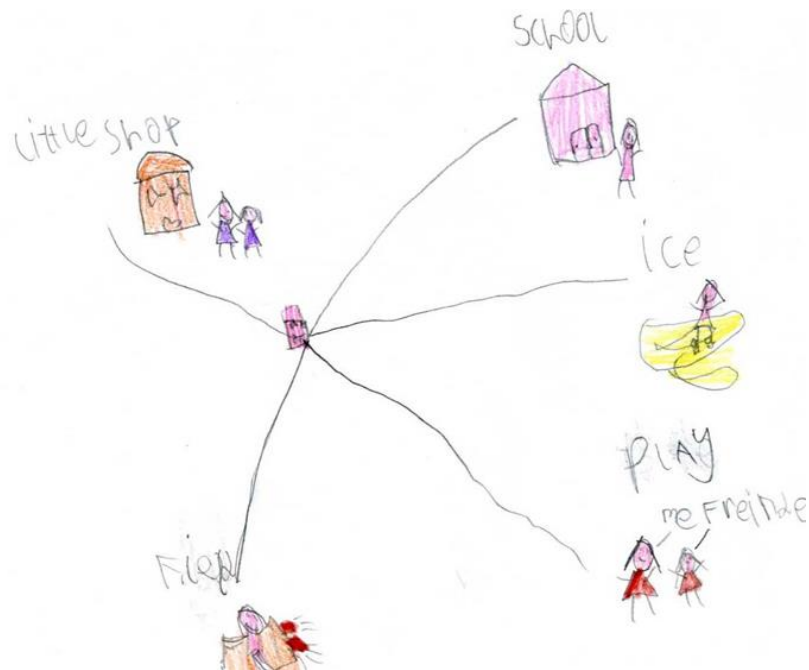
Visual Artefacts (Grant et al. 2017; Hurdley 2006; Tarrant 2016)

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

Emotion stickers (Gabb and Fink 2015); Collaging (Awan 2007; Mannay 2010);  
Sandboxing (Mannay et al. 2015)

# WHO STEPS IN WHEN THE RESEARCHER STEPS OUT?

Bryony: (reading from the collage) *I like nice cars, who put that on there? I know I like nice cars but, I don't really really really like them ... I don't watch Top Gear, I don't watch anything about cars*



# INTRUSIVE PRESENCE

When the 'intrusive presence' of the researcher steps out of the site of visual data production this leaves a space that is often filled by the 'intrusive presence' of significant others

But, if social science serves as a prerequisite for a multiplicity of understandings of the complexities of lived experience, which are continuously configured, then family and family relations undoubtedly mediate individual identities and experiences

Rather than trying to exclude 'intrusive voices', perhaps it would be more useful to examine the ways in which they can act to further our understandings

# FURTHER UNDERSTANDINGS

Presentation of self (Goffman 1959)

Engender a particular kind of intimate viewing public

Idealised form of Bryony's life presented by Bryony's stepfather

Enactment of family togetherness

Idyllic holidays and consumer lifestyles, an idealised form, a presentation of what a young girl in a caring, successful and secure family should both 'like' and 'have'

Acceptable Welsh masculinity (Scourfield and Drakeford 1999; Ward 2015); 'long-shadow of hegemonic masculinity' (Doucet 2004, p. 279) – breadwinner and provider – gendered acceptable girlhood femininities

# OUR CHANGING LAND

Gender, class and identity

Our Sister's Land

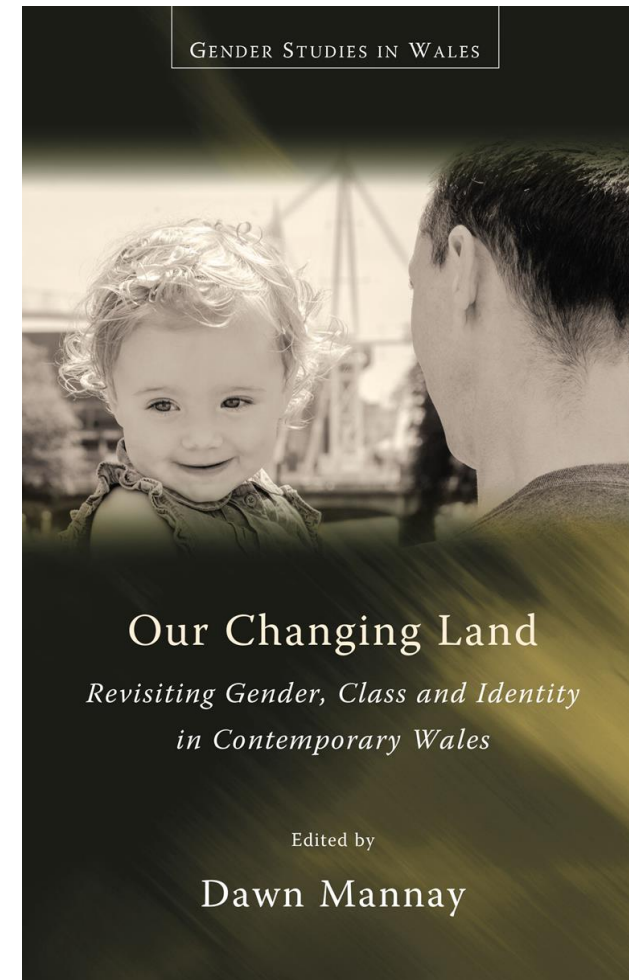
Beyond women authors

Beyond the ivory tower

Young people

Artist, photographer, filmmaker, music

Space for different voices



# WHO SHOULD DO THE DISHES NOW?

Everyday negotiation of feminized identities in the private space of the home

Impossible expectations and the emotional cost of maintaining acceptable forms of motherhood, domesticity, paid work and working-class femininity

Young people, young men, young fathers

Affective routines of everyday family life (Wetherell 2012)

Not fixed in traditional, outdated gendered discourses

'Men are, in fact, radically revising caring work, masculine conceptions of care, and ultimately our understandings of masculinities' (Doucet 2006, p.238)





# STIGMA, CLASS AND MOTHERHOOD

Figure of chav mum circulates within a wide range of media, celebrity media, reality television, comedy programming on British television, consumer culture, print media, literature, news media, films, and “chav hate” websites

Through the figure of chav a new publicly sanctioned wave of middle-class contempt for the lower classes is bodied forth (Tyler 2008)

Impacts on public perceptions and social policy

Class is not a protected characteristic



# YOUNG FATHERS/YOUNG MOTHERS

*'Been sat on the bus with the baby and he'll be crying and stuff and I kind of feel, or may I just feel like in myself that people are looking down on you or like I don't know you feel like under pressure'*

*'When I was doing it I felt all eyes on me, this is fucking um I'm just changing a nappy um obviously I've changed loads, like I done something wrong I don't know what it was, but I made like a proper basic mistake that I'd never done before its just because I felt so under pressure with all these people watching me like, because I almost felt like they were expecting me to fuck up and then I did'*

*'I went to the doctors before, took the kids to the doctors, he kept telling me what to do, like as if I didn't understand, as if I couldn't, or I wasn't grown up enough'*

*'yeah, we just gets fobbed off... there not looking at it from your situation, your not treated like actual people, like human beings'*

# CLASS, PLACE, MASCULINITY

*'Even the kids are looking at you like, who are you, you know like kids can look at you, and I swear like one time I looked up and every kid was just like that at me staring, I think its like what's a bloke doing in here'*

*'One or to proper real good dads prim and proper dads like, you know what I mean not saying that we're not prim and proper dads, but I mean like them type of men, like men like that'*

*'When you see like um, I don't know what it is but when you see a dad with a kid on their own, I don't know its just normal that like, you see mums on their own you don't think anything of it, you see a dad on their own with a kid you think he's just got him for the day or something'*

*'You do get positive comments as well, they do say its nice to see a father getting involved and that'*

# SUMMARY

Intrusive presence

Invited presence

Intersections of gender, class, place

Marginalised and caring femininities

Marginalised and caring masculinities

Points of difference

Doubly disadvantaged – but also congratulated - duality

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