

## Call for papers.

### **Special Edition: Rediscovering Family and Kinship: new directions for social work theory, policy and practice.**

#### Guest Co-Editors

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**Target Publication date:** Spring 2013

The concepts of family and kinship are central to social work research, policy and practice yet they are often treated unproblematically. The study of family relationships has undergone a renaissance in the last two decades within the disciplines of sociology and anthropology and this rediscovery is beginning to be felt within the discipline of social work. Empirical research within the field of adoption has opened up definitions of family and kinship. Also the move towards increased emphasis on kinship care has necessitated a re-examination of the meaning of family relationships and nature of family practices. In addition, there have been a number of studies that have challenged the orthodoxy embedded within heterosexist assumptions about what constitutes a 'proper' family. This special edition will be an opportunity to both review developments within the conceptualization of family and kinship in social work and begin to shape the agenda for future research, policy and practice.

#### **The Aims of this Special Edition are:**

1. To provide analyses of contemporary conceptualizations of family and kinship and their implications for child and family social work;
2. To showcase recent empirical research that relates to any aspect of kinship or family relationships;
3. To explore international/cross cultural issues in relation to kinship.
4. To encourage a cross-disciplinary debate (both academic and practice disciplines) regarding the application of these insights within future research, policy and practice.

#### **Guidance for contributors**

# CHILD & FAMILY SOCIAL WORK

Potential contributors are invited to submit manuscripts that address the aims of the Special Edition. We seek to attract a diverse set of papers that have relevance across a number of child and family social work policy and practice areas such as adoption, fostering, and kinship care, the impact on family life of mental illness, substance misuse or domestic violence, multigenerational adversity and family separation and reunification. However, the key focus of this special edition is on exploring new developments of theory and concepts within these diverse contexts. More specifically authors could include:

- Analyses that extend our understanding of the perspectives of those involved in child placement (e.g. children and their siblings, birth parents, grandparents, foster and adoptive parents, practitioners).
- Analyses that explore private and public daily practices related to family life and social work practice.
- Analyses of the influence of structural inequalities on family relationships.
- Analyses of the relationship between family ties (or family like ties) and outcomes for children.

Manuscripts should normally be a maximum of 7,000 words, including abstracts and references, although shorter papers will be welcomed.

Deadline of first submission of papers: 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012.

If prospective authors would like to discuss possible papers, please email the guest editors in the first instance and include a short abstract.

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