

# Millennium Cohort Study (MCS) Age 17 Survey: Consultative Conference

**Venue:** Nunn Hall, 20 Bedford Way, WC1H 0AL  
**Date and Time:** 16th November 2015, 10:00 to 16:00  
UCLGuest Wi-Fi, Code: MCS7conference16112015

## Agenda

- 09:30 – 10:00 Registration and refreshments (Nunn Hall)
- 10:00 – 10:30 **Introduction and Overview of MCS7 (age 17)** (Nunn Hall)  
*Emla Fitzsimons, UCL Institute of Education*
- 10:30 – 10:50 **Activities and Daily Life: An Overview** (Nunn Hall)  
*Paul Gregg, University of Bath & Helen Sweeting, University of Glasgow*
- 10:50 – 11:35 **Activities and Daily Life: Breakout sessions** (see room allocations)
- 11:35 – 11:50 Refreshments (Nunn Hall)
- 11:50 – 12:10 **Cognitive Development: An Overview** (Nunn Hall)  
*Chris Taylor, University of Cardiff*
- 12:10 – 12:55 **Cognitive Development: Breakout sessions** (see room allocations)
- 12:55 – 13:45 Lunch (Nunn Hall)
- 13:45 – 14:05 **Socio-Emotional Development: An Overview** (Nunn Hall)  
*Louise Arseneault, King's College London*
- 14:05 – 14:50 **Socio-Emotional Development: Breakout sessions** (see room allocations)
- 14:50 – 15:50 **Feedback & Discussion** (Nunn Hall)  
14:50 - 15:10 Activities and Daily Life Feedback & Discussion  
15:10 - 15:30 Cognitive Development Feedback & Discussion  
15:30 - 15:50 Socio-emotional Development Feedback & Discussion
- 15:50 – 16:00 Closing remarks

### Breakout room allocations:

Purple – Nunn Hall, Yellow – Committee Room 1, Green – Committee Room 2

## Speakers' biographies

### **Emla Fitzsimons, PI**

Professor Emla Fitzsimons is the Principal Investigator of the Millennium Cohort Study and is responsible for developing the content, design and analysis of the study. Her research is focused on human capital investment from early childhood through adolescence, particularly in understanding how early life events and circumstances affect causally later outcomes. Emla was PI of a parenting programme in Colombia, implemented by local women and evaluated by randomised control trial. She has been involved extensively in the implementation and evaluation of a nutrition programme in Malawi, which provided information on nutrition to mothers of very young children. She has used longitudinal studies including the Millennium Cohort Study to understand the impacts of breastfeeding on outcomes later on in childhood, and how factors such as divorce in childhood, family size and composition, and policies such as school subsidies and university grants, affect skill formation in the critical adolescent period.

Emla worked at the Institute for Fiscal Studies for 14 years, where she remains affiliated as a Research Fellow.

### **Louise Arseneault**

Louise Arseneault is Professor of Developmental Psychology at King's College London, the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience. Her research focuses on the study of harmful behaviours such as violence and substance dependence, their developmental origins, their inter-connections with mental health, and their consequences for victims. In the early stages of her career, she examined harmful behaviours as a developmental outcome, primarily in adolescents and in adults. Over time, the focus of her research broadened to include harmful behaviours as causes of psychiatric disorders. She has taken a developmental approach to investigate how the consequences of violence begin in childhood and persist to mid-life, by studying bullying victimisation and child maltreatment. Her work incorporates biological as well as social measurements.

Professor Arseneault completed her PhD in biomedical sciences at the University of Montreal in Canada and moved to the UK for a post-doctoral training at the MRC Social, Genetic and Developmental Psychiatry Centre. She has been working with well-known longitudinal cohorts such as the Montreal Longitudinal Cohorts, the Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health and Development Study and the Environmental Risk (E-Risk) Longitudinal Twin Study, a nationally-representative sample of families with twins in England and Wales. She has also been working with another important nationally-representative cohort, the National Child Development Survey (NCDS), with a Mid-Career Fellowship Award from the British Academy.

### **Paul Gregg**

Paul Gregg is a Professor of Economic and Social Policy in the Dept of Social and Policy Sciences, University of Bath. He is a member of the Governments statutory Commission on Social Mobility and Child Poverty. He is a Research Fellow for the Resolution Foundation and has previously been part of the Foundations work on Minimum Wages and the design of Universal Credit. He is currently undertaking a report on Full Employment for them. Paul was also a member of the ACEVO commission on youth unemployment and undertook a major review of Personalised Support and Conditionality in the Welfare Systems for the UK Dept. of Work and Pensions. He was formally a member of the Council of Economic Advisors at HM Treasury 1997-2006, where he work on unemployment, welfare reform and child poverty. Paul is director of the Centre for the Analysis of Social Policy at Bath and his research has covered Britain's performance on wages, youth unemployment, workless households, child poverty, intergenerational mobility and the drivers of social disadvantage.

### **Helen Sweeting**

Helen began life as a Clinical Psychologist, then completed a PhD on the reactions of those caring for a close relative with dementia. She then started at the MRC Unit where she's worked ever since, most of that time on a programme focusing on Youth and Health. She now belongs to a programme called Understanding and Improving Health and Behaviours in Settings and Organisations, including Educational Settings. Helen therefore has a longstanding interest in influences on young people's health and health behaviours, mostly based on analyses of quantitative data from studies which she was involved in setting up. These have included descriptions of the health and behaviours of children and young people and exploration of how they are patterned not only in respect of factors such as social class and gender, but also family life, school, the peer group, lifestyle, the media and consumerism. She has also investigated time trends in levels of obesity, psychological distress and health-risk behaviours among young people and reasons for changes in the gender patterning of self-report ill-health in early-mid adolescence.

### **Chris Taylor**

Chris is Professor of Education Policy at Cardiff University and is the Cardiff Co-Director of the Wales Institute of Social & Economic Research, Data & Methods (WISERD). Chris has published extensively on a wide range of educational issues and has undertaken research across all education sectors, from early years to higher education. This has included leading a three year evaluation of the Foundation Phase for 3-7 year olds in Wales and an ESRC study on widening access to higher education, which included a longitudinal analysis of the transition of pupils from compulsory schooling to university using national administrative data. Prior to this he was awarded an ESRC Fellowship to use the Millennium Cohort Study to compare children's development across different countries of the UK. He is currently one of the lead investigators on the evaluation of the Pupil Deprivation Grant for the Welsh Government and is the editor of one of the UK's leading academic journals in the field of education, the British Educational Research Journal.