



Greetings from the Rees Centre's (University of Oxford, Department of Education) December newsletter! This month, we're excited to bring you a line-up of new publications and news from the Centre.

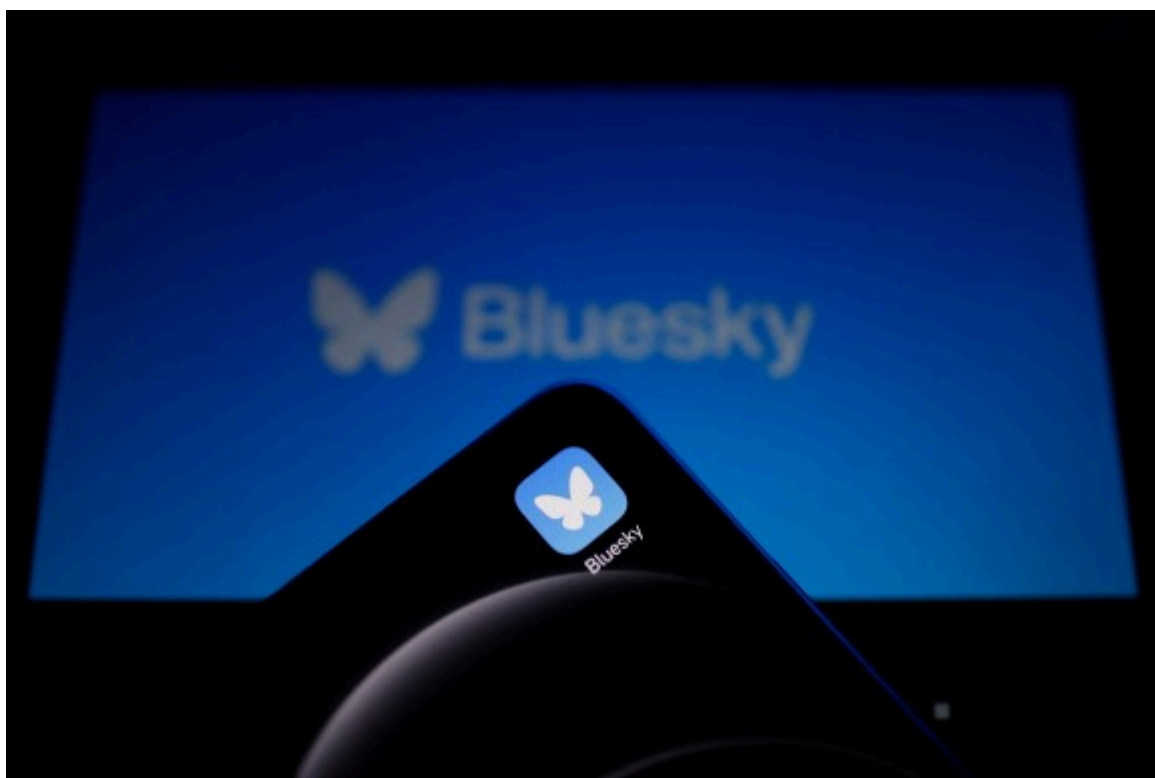


Rees Centre Five-Year Strategy

In [Teresa William's blog](#), she wrote about the 5 strategic objectives that will help us achieve our mission of producing high quality and relevant research and evidence that enables practitioners, policymakers and the research community to understand and improve children's social care and education.

- To increase the academic output from our work so that we contribute fully to the theoretical and empirical scholarship needed to understand the particular needs of children and young people supported by children's social care, and to test approaches which might better respond to those needs.
- To work with practice communities in education to develop and deliver research studies which respond to the challenges they face and lead to improvements in the educational experience and outcomes of care-experienced children and young people.
- To work with practice communities in children's social care – including foster carers, kinship carers and adoptive parents – to develop and deliver research studies which lead to practice improvements to achieve stronger and more stable relationships, and improved lives for children and young people supported by these services.
- To work with national and local policy makers and 'evidence intermediary' organisations to identify and address the systemic barriers and enablers to improving the experiences and outcomes of care-experienced children.
- To make the Rees Centre a welcoming, stimulating and supportive place for its partners – staff, academics at Oxford and beyond, communities of practice and most of all the young people and their families/carers we exist to help – to share and contribute to learning and ideas for the future.

[Download our report.](#)



We are on Bluesky!

We're excited to announce that the Rees Centre is now on Bluesky. With many researchers joining the platform, we'll be sharing our reports and findings there in addition to posting on X. Stay connected with us by following [@reescentre.bsky.social](#) and we'll follow you back.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Rees Emeritus Professor wins interdisciplinary hub award

Rees Centre Emeritus Professor Harriet Ward is a key member of a team that has received an interdisciplinary award from the Social Sciences Division at the University of Oxford, for their project to promote developmental recovery for infants who have suffered significant harm as a result of adverse childhood experiences.

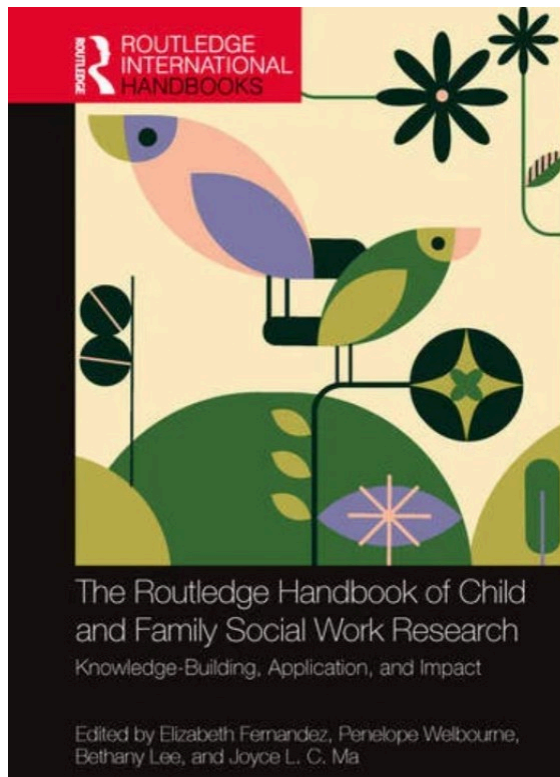
The interdisciplinary hub has been awarded almost £40,000 by the OUP John Fell Fund.

The team has identified an urgent need to:

- Support all adults involved in these babies' lives – whether they are birth parents, kinship carers, foster carers or adoptive parents – in terms of providing intensive input to meet their developmental needs;
- Improve practice across health and social care in terms of supporting this vulnerable group of infants.

[Read more about the hub on our website.](#)

RECENT REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS



The Routledge Handbook of Child and Family Social Work Research

This Handbook, published in August 2024, offers an authoritative overview of research and scholarly



Adoption report from the President's Public Law Working Group published

Professor Julie Selwyn has been a member of the Working Group and contributed specifically to the recommendations for changes in contact between adopted children and their birth families.

The report outlines key recommendations aimed at improving practice and policies in England and Wales in 4 key areas:

- Changes in actively considering whether face-to-face contact with the birth family can continue post-adoption order.
- A national protocol for access to case records to simplify and remove the variability

literature in child and family social work. It incorporates up to date key research, theoretical concepts and empirical evidence from around the world. You can also read a chapter written by Professor Harriet Ward and Helen Trivedi on 'Facilitating permanence and promoting the wellbeing of abused and neglected children through open adoption from care'.

[More on the book.](#)

in practice.

- The law on international adoptions to be consolidated in one single Act of parliament and guidance issued.
- National strategy on ensuring adoptions with consent are not subject to long delays.

[Read the report.](#)

Section heading



Explainer story: Children's Information Project

The Children's Information Project is shifting gear and moving from working alongside the four local sites to develop information use projects to a more evaluative stage where we distil, evaluate and share learning. To mark this transition, the Nuffield Foundation has commissioned an 'explainer story', a first step in communicating to a wider audience what this work is and why it is important.

[Read the explainer story.](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

We are hiring! Exciting opportunities are available to join the Rees Centre, where we produce impactful research and evidence to improve children's social care and education.

We are looking for:

- Senior Academic Research Leader in Children's Social Care Research
- Research Fellow (Statistician)
- Research Centre Manager

Application deadline: 13 January, 12 midday.

[Visit our website for full job descriptions and application details.](#)

BLOGS

Next steps in implementing the Rees Centre strategy

Senior research fellow Teresa Williams recently blogged about the Centre's new 5-year strategy and shares plans to develop working groups to help generate exciting research ideas and areas for collaboration with academic colleagues within the Rees Centre, in University of Oxford's Department of Education and beyond.

[Read the blog on our website.](#)

Developing your early career researcher profile and skillset

DPhil student Lucy Robinson has put together 13 blog posts together with fellow student from the Department Joanna Rankin, covering a range of themes related to developing your researcher profile and skillset. These move from reflecting on your positionality, through attending and presenting at your first conference, to planning the next steps in an academic career.

[Read the blog on BERA Bites.](#)

Contribute blogs to our website

Do you have valuable insights or experiences about children in social care and education? We would love to hear from you! Contribute a blog post of 500–800 words and help spark meaningful conversations. To submit your piece or discuss your ideas, get in touch with [Teresa Williams](#) or [Kristina Khoo-Rhodes](#).

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE INCLUDED IN OUR NEWSLETTER?

Do you have an upcoming conference you'd like to promote or resources that could benefit our community? We'd love to hear from you! Send us the details, and we'll feature them in our bi-monthly newsletter. Let's work together to keep our community informed and connected! Email kristina.khoo-rhodes@education.ox.ac.uk



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