

Open Space – Call for contributions

Co-editors – Esther Dermott and Tina Miller

Open Space provides a dynamic space for critical engagement with contemporary debates, policy and practice initiatives, empirical research and recent publications in the fields of families, relationships and societies. This dialogic section will draw together different viewpoints on a topic, bringing authors into conversation with one another and providing up-to-date perspectives on local and global contexts. Contributions to this section are invited from all subject and disciplinary areas and can explore any topic that falls within the key themes of the journal.

The following guidelines provide more details for contributors:

Debate section: This section which will normally comprise 3-4 articles of 3 - 4,000 words each that address the same topic, from different perspectives and/or focusing on different dimensions of a topic. Ideas in these papers should aim to stimulate debate and can be polemical in style. The topics for discussion are open and can draw on empirical research findings, theoretical and methodological developments, the intersections of policy, practice and academic research. Articles grouped together in this section can also provide social science commentary on family and relationships issues of current concern and/or the relationship dimension to issues that are circulating in the wider public arena. Proposals for the debate section are welcome. In the first instance, please contact the Open Space editors to discuss the area and format of potential contributions.

Practice and policy reviews: These articles (3 - 6,000 words each) should map cultural and/or national family and relationship policies. This will provide an up-to-date review of governance, policy and practice developments, in different local contexts. Contributions from all global contexts are welcome and can focus on different dimensions of these contexts, including a review of policy and practice initiatives, the impacts of legislation on families and personal relationships, and the effect of globalisation in shaping local policies.

Review articles: A review article will focus on 2-3 recently published books on families and relationships, which seem likely to generate controversy, discussion or extend debate in a new direction, especially outside the normal scholarly or academic community. We especially welcome contributions that bring the authors of these books and the review article into debate with one another. As such a review article should both engage with the arguments presented in the texts and also provide a critical intervention on the topic. A review article should be 5 - 6,000 words in total.

Contributions written in an article format, that is to say debate articles and practice and policy review articles, will be subject to the normal refereeing procedure. Open Space submissions do not carry abstracts.

To submit a contribution please contact Esther Dermott (Esther.Dermott@bristol.ac.uk) and Tina Miller (tamiller@brookes.ac.uk)