

## WEBINAR:

# Parenting in high risk contexts - global view

**Date: Wednesday 29.11.2023**

**Time: 16.30 pm – 18.30 pm (Helsinki +2CET; LONDON CET 14.30pm-16.30pm )**

Parenting can be stressful and challenging across contexts, and is made even more difficult when families face financial insecurity, poverty, racism, discrimination, and other systemic stressors. Countries employ disparate approaches to address economic and social issues in efforts to support vulnerable families, yet families continue to face inequities. This topic calls for further examination as major contextual stressors plague families across the globe. In this way, a comparative multi-country perspective is helpful in understanding parents' risk and resilience in the face of stressors. Framed in an Ecological Systems perspective, this webinar will explore parenting among vulnerable families across multiple countries as well as supports and policies employed across contexts to mitigate families' risk. Scholars from the United States, Finland, South Africa, and Poland will join the webinar to present and discuss their research on parenting in high risk contexts.

*The webinar is free of charge and organized in zoom.*

[Register here](#) (a zoom link will be sent to registered participants).

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## Program

Opening, Professor Amy Claridge & tenure track-professor Mia Tammelin

An Examination of Supports for Families in Poverty in Finland and the United States Through the Lens of Ecological Systems Theory (Professor Amy Claridge, Central Washington University, USA & tenure track – professor Mia Tammelin Tampere University, Finland)

Motherload, a silent pandemic: Amplifying the voices of low-income women in South Africa, Professor Ameeta Jaga, University of Cape Town, South-Africa

African American Parents' Strategies to Manage and Resist Racism-Related Stressors, Associate Professor Sharde Smith, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, USA

Childcare regimes in Europe from the Perspective of the unemployed parents, Assistant Professor Anna Kurowska, University of Warsaw, Poland

Closing

## Abstracts

**An Examination of Supports for Families in Poverty in Finland and the United States Through the Lens of Ecological Systems Theory (Professor Amy Claridge, Central Washington University, USA & tenure track – professor Mia Tammelin Tampere University, Finland)**

Abstract: Financial insecurity and poverty are problems across the globe, even among high-resourced nations. Countries employ disparate approaches to address the issue of poverty and to support vulnerable families. In this paper, we will use the Ecological Systems Theory to analyze and compare approaches to support vulnerable families in Finland and the United States, two high-resourced nations with substantial differences in rates of poverty and in approaches to support for vulnerable families.

**Motherload, a silent pandemic: Amplifying the voices of low-income women in South Africa, Professor Ameeta Jaga, University of Cape Town, South-Africa**

Abstract: The majority of mothers in South Africa are low-income. They perform care work in challenging conditions exacerbated by the country's extreme income inequality, apartheid spatial planning, and neoliberal economic policies. Our pilot project, a co-designed photovoice project partnering with the Western Cape Government (WCG), Flourish — a women's rights group, and low-income mothers, aimed to understand low-income mothers' intersecting vulnerabilities and improve their quality of life. The pilot revealed a labour-induced mental burden, we termed 'motherload'. In their precarious contexts, the unpaid care work they perform is mostly invisible, multiplicative, mentally draining, inadequately supported, and occasionally traumatic. Its full complexity is under-recognised in policy.

**African American Parents' Strategies to Manage and Resist Racism-Related Stressors, Associate Professor Sharde Smith, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, USA**

Abstract: This presentation will examine the various strategies that African American parents use to manage and resist the effects of racism-related stressors in order to create a more supportive and inclusive environment for themselves and their children.

**Childcare regimes in Europe from the Perspective of the unemployed parents, Assistant Professor Anna Kurowska, University of Warsaw, Poland**

Abstract: It has been over two decades since the emergence of studies on (child)care regime typologies in Europe. However, the vast majority of these studies typically adopt the perspective of an average worker when assessing parenting leave and childcare policies, thus overlooking parents outside of the labor market. In our study, we aim to explore how the identification of childcare regimes and the classification of countries into regime types in Europe might change if we take the perspective of an unemployed couple. In our study we employ a novel approach by utilizing fuzzy clustering, a method not previously used in the literature. Furthermore, we draw on a novel data source to examine childcare accessibility, encompassing countries from underexplored regions, such as the Balkans. This allows us to offer a more comprehensive and inclusive analysis of childcare policies on Europe

