



Holly Powell Kennedy

Context and challenges of supporting normal birth in the United States



Fulbright Distinguished Scholar Holly Powell Kennedy Associate Professor, University of California, San Francisco School of Nursing.

This presentation will explore the context and challenges

for United States midwives to support normal birth. It draws upon Dr Kennedy's research on exemplary midwifery practice, narratives of women and midwives, an ethnography of midwifery practice in a tertiary birth centre, and a metasynthesis of qualitative research.

Holly Powell Kennedy is a 2008 UK/US Fulbright Distinguished Scholar appointed as a Visiting Senior Research Fellow to the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery at King's College London. She is an Associate Professor at the University of California, San Francisco with appointments in the Schools of Nursing and Medicine. Her research focuses on maternity practices, including those that foster women's ability to achieve normal physiologic birth. She has served as the Chair of the American College of Nurse-Midwives Division of

Research and is the Co-Chair of the International Confederation of Midwives Research Standing Committee. She is a member of the California Maternal Quality Improvement Panel.

Dr Kennedy is a Fellow in the American College of Nurse-Midwives and the American Academy of Nursing, in addition to being a retired Colonel in the United States Army Nurse Corp Reserve. She recently completed an analysis of US childbirth education literature for message about labour, birth, women's agency, and midwives. During her Fulbright Fellowship she will be conducting a study funded by the Burdett Trust for Nursing that addresses the strategies of the NHS to support normal birth and decrease unnecessary caesarean sections.

Holly can be contacted on:
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Date: Monday 14 April 2008

Time: 17.30 – 19.00

Place: Antenatal Education Room, 8th Floor, North Wing, St Thomas' Hospital

All welcome

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