



Loughborough  
University

Centre for Child and  
Family Research

An invitation to join the Centre for Child and Family  
Research (CCFR) for a free seminar with

**Visiting Speaker: Damien W. Riggs**

**Making matter matter: The privileging of  
genetic relatedness in the context of kinship**



**Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2016, 12 noon - 1pm**

Venue: Room B114, Brockington, Loughborough  
University, Loughborough, LE11 3TU.

**Damien Riggs** is an Associate Professor in social work at Flinders University, and an Australian Research Council Future Fellow. He is the author of over 150 publications in the areas of gender/sexuality, kinship studies, and mental health, including *Pink Herrings: Fantasy, Object Choice, and Sexuation* (Karnac, 2015). His most recent forthcoming book (with Elizabeth Peel, Palgrave Macmillan) is *Critical Kinship Studies*.

In this seminar he will explore: 'Why commercial surrogacy is increasingly seen as a viable reproductive option?', and 'Why does adoption appear to fall more and more out of favour?'. He will draw on work in the field of critical kinship studies to map out some of the ways in which a norm of genetic relatedness continues to be both centered and taken for granted. He will also explore how genetics are made to matter (or not) in the context of both surrogacy and adoption. Whilst the argument that he will present is not inherently in favour of adoption (nor is it inherently against commercial surrogacy), it nonetheless seeks to question the complex ways in which genetics are made to matter, and to explore the flexibility of the category 'genetically related' which allows it to maintain its privileged position. Given the ways in which public resources are directed towards particular reproductive or family-making options on the basis of the degree to which they are favoured or normalized (or otherwise), he will argue that thinking through the privileging of genetic relatedness has very clear real world implications.

Please RSVP to Susan Knight at [s.j.knight@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:s.j.knight@lboro.ac.uk) to confirm your attendance by Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> May 2016.