

COST ACTION IS1405 BIRTH
BUILDING INTRAPARTUM RESEARCH THROUGH
HEALTH

WG- 5

Neuro-psycho-social characteristics and effects of labour events

<http://eubirthresearch.eu/>



COST ACTION IS1405 BIRTH
BUILDING INTRAPARTUM RESEARCH THROUGH
HEALTH

WG-5-1

OXYTOCIN DURING CHILDBIRTH

<http://eubirthresearch.eu/>



WG-5-1 MEMBERS JULY 2016

1. Marie Berg Sweden
 2. Bengt Bjornson Lindström Norway
 3. Magdalena Błażek Poland
 4. Janka Debreceniova Slovakia
 5. Anna Dencker Sweden
 6. Soo Downe UK
 7. Anette Ekstrom Sweden
 8. Elpida-Niki Emmanouil-Nikoloussi Cypru
 9. Hanna Gehling Germany
 10. Eleni HADJIGEORGIOU. Cyprus (VICECHAIR)
 11. Elisabeth Hertfelt Wahn
 12. Bogumila Kielbratowska Poland
 13. Alicja Kotlowska Poland
 13. Fatima Leon SPAIN
 14. Claudia Meier Magistretti Switzerland
 15. Sandra Morano Italy
 16. Christina Nilsson Sweden
 17. Dr Giedre Sirvinskiene Lithuania
 18. Mickey Sperlich USA
 19. Kerstin Uvnas-Moberg Sweden (SCIENTIFIC CHAIRMAN)
 20. Tanja Vrijkotte Netherlands
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Currently working on:

1. Oxytocin release during physiological childbirth in humans: a systematic review.
2. Physiology of endogenous oxytocin production when exogenous oxytocin is used during labour and birth at term gestation. Systematic review

Magdalena Błażek

- psymb@ug.edu.pl
- Psychologist. University of Gdansk, Poland
- Magdalena Błażek is a psychologist. She has developed scientific projects on parenting, family life cycle, and individual differences (in cooperation with medicine and law experts). She co-edited a textbook (“Challenges for individuality of XXI- st century”, 2008), and published a book in Polish: “The diagnosis of family bonds of children and adolescents”. She is currently studying family relations and malfunctioning of family, adaptation to family crisis, and psychological aspects of being a parent. Her other areas of interest include determinants of quality of marital relations and parenthood, parental attitudes, and dispositional predictors of functioning in intimate relationship. She is a member of the International Association for Relationship Research, and the Psychology and Law Section of Polish Psychological Association. She is also a Director of Family Diagnostic and Consulting Centre in Gdansk (since 2005).



Marie Berg

- marie.berg@fhs.gu.se
- Professor in Health and Care Sciences specializing in reproductive and perinatal health and Midwifery Science at the Institute of Health and Care Sciences, the Sahlgrenska Academy at University of Gothenburg, Sweden. Marie has dual registration as nurse and midwife, a dual master degree in Nursing and Public Health sciences, and a PhD in medical science. She is head of the midwifery program which is on the second cycle, and is teaching on basic, advanced and research levels.
- Marie has for over 30 years been working clinically as a nurse-midwife in various clinical settings both in primary health and hospital care, mainly at Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Gothenbrug Sweden, and also around six years in Demprcratic Republic of Congo (former Zaire). These positions have also been including project development and research roles.



Bengt Bjornson Lindström

- bengtblind@hotmail.com
- MD PhD DrPH Public Health Health Promotion Pediatrics. Associate Professor of Social Policy at Åbo Akademi. FI and Professor of Salutogenesis at NTNU, NO. Professor Emeritus
- Public Health and Health Promotion, NHV, SE. Chair of the IUHPE Global Working Group on Salutogenesis until 2016 - now Global Executive Board Member of The International Union on Health promotion and Education (IUHPE). Thesis on Quality of Life of Children and Families in the Nordic Countries (1994).
- Trying to position the biological effects of oxytocine to the salutogenic framework.



Janka Debrecéniová

- debreceniova@odz.sk
- Lawyer. Citizen, Democracy and Accountability (NGO based in Slovakia)
- Janka Debrecéniová holds a law degree from the University of Matej Bel in Banská Bystrica, Slovakia, a Magister Juris in European and Comparative Law degree from the University of Oxford, and a PhD degree from the Trnava University in Trnava, Slovakia. From 2000, she has been working for Citizen, Democracy and Accountability (www.odz.sk), an NGO based in Slovakia, as a legal expert, trainer and analyst, and from 2009 also as the Deputy Directress. She has been actively involved in many legislative and policy initiatives in the field of non-discrimination and the human rights of women. For example, she was a member (in 2007-2008) of a governmental committee that drafted a significant amendment to the Anti-Discrimination Act, and she later contributed to further legislative changes relating to this act. She has also been actively involved in various advocacy activities concerning reproductive rights of women, including in childbirth.



Anna Dencker

- anna.dencker@gu.se
- Nurse, midwife, PhD and a Postdoctoral fellow.
- Her research areas are Women's experiences of childbirth, Oxytocin treatment of slow labour progress, Latent phase of labour, Assessment of perineal tears after childbirth and Methodological Options to Support Assessment of Individualised Care (MOSAIC). Populations of interest are childbearing women and patients with fatigue. She works with quantitative methods, e.g. Randomised Controlled Trials and regression analysis. She also has knowledge and experience in instrument development/validation and psychometric analysis methods such as factor analysis and RASCH-analysis. As a part of her thesis (awarded diploma for the Sahlgrenska Academy's best thesis in 2010) she made a psychometric validation of a childbirth experience questionnaire (CEQ).



Prof Soo Downe

- SDowne@uclan.ac.uk
- Soo worked for 15 years as a clinical midwife before joining the UK University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) in 2001, where she is now the **Professor of Midwifery Studies**.
- Her research focus is the nature of, and cultures around, normal birth. She is particularly interested in the potential for unique insights from inter-disciplinary examination of the nature of physiological labour and birth from a wide range of perspectives.
- Among other funded projects, Soo chaired the recent COST Action IS1907 (iR4B), and she currently chairs EU COST Action IS1405 (BIRTH). She introduced the concepts of salutogenesis and complexity into midwifery in her edited book on normal childbirth in 2004. Soo is a member of the executive group for the recent Lancet Series on Midwifery, of the steering group of the current Lancet Series on Stillbirth, and of the WHO Technical Working Group on antenatal guidelines. She has used a wide range of methods in her research, from randomised controlled trials to Action Research and phenomenology.



Anette Ekström

- Anette.ekstrom@his.se
- Midwife, Sweden
- Anette Ekström is a Nurse and Midwife and an Associate professor in Nursing at the University of Skövde, Sweden. She received a Registered Nurse Degree (1979) from the Department of Health Sciences, University of Skövde, a Registered Midwife Degree (1988) from the Department of Health Sciences, University of Skövde, a Ph.D. degree (2005) in Reproductive and Perinatal Health from the Karolinska University, Stockholm, Sweden and an Associate Professor degree (2011) in Nursing. Her research interest is within the fields of Care science that include Nursing, Reproductive, Perinatal and Sexual Health, as well as Public Health. (Support during childbirth and breastfeeding as well as Development of instruments and methods and Complementary and Alternative Methods). She is a part of the Executive Editor of Journal of Nursing & Care (2012-still) and a Lead Guest Editor in an special issue in Nursing Research and Practice (2012-still).



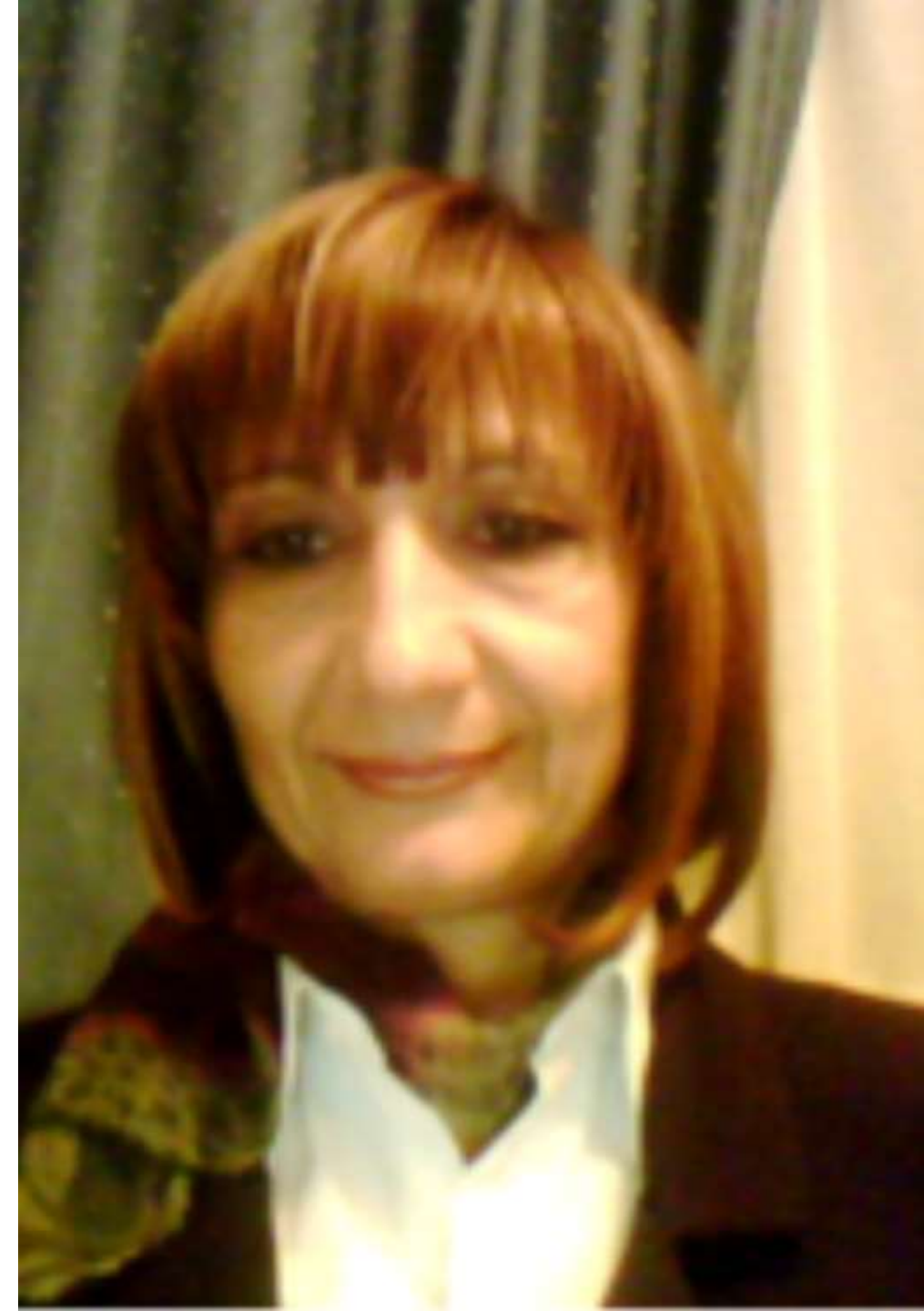
ELPIDA-NIKI EMMANOUIL- NIKLOUSSI

- E.Nikoloussi@euc.ac.cy
- Full Professor of Histology-Embryology, MD PhD, DDS PhD, Embryologist-Teratologist European University of Cyprus-EUC
- Her research activities concern all fields of Embryology and Teratology as well as Histology and Histopathology and from 1995 she is additionally working at Embryotoxicity Studies, Teratogens, Endocrine Disrupters, Environmental Toxicity and Risk Assessment in embryonic, neonatal, juvenile and adult life at all body Organs and Systems.
- She has participated in seven (7) National and International Scientific Books and presented and published more than 230 research papers in National and International Journals and Conference Scientific Annals. She is the Chair of the Health Committee of the ARISTOTELIS Unesco Center in Chalkidiki, Greece.



Eleni Hadjigeorgiou

- eleni.hadjigeorgiou@cut.ac.cy
- Midwifery educator- Special scientific officer Cyprus University of Technology
- I am a midwifery educator and I finish my PhD in Midwifery 2012. My research interests are: Birth rights, advocacy in midwifery, normal birth. I was the main researcher in four projects and I participate in two EU funded projects YSAV and BREAST.



Elisabeth Hertfelt Wahn

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- RN and RNM
- Elisabeth Hertfelt Wahn is a Nurse and a Midwife and a Senior lecturer in Nursing at the University of Skövde, Sweden. She received a Registered Nurse Degree (1973) from Department of Health Sciences, University of Uppsala, a Registered Midwifery Degree (1977) from Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, a PhD degree (2007) in Reproductive and Perinatal Health Care from the Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden. Her research interest is within the fields of Care science including Nursing, Reproductive Perinatal and Sexual Health (Support during childbirth, Development of instruments and Teenagers sexual health). Research collaboration with Catholic University, Milano, Italy (within the field Teenagers sexual health).



Alicja Kotłowska

- kotłowska@gumed.edu.pl
- analytical chemistry/metabolomics. Medical University of Gdansk, Faculty of Pharmacy, Department of Food Science
- Alicja Kotłowska is an analytical chemist and a biotechnologist. She has developed scientific projects concentrating on the metabolomic search of novel biomarkers of various endocrine disorders and diseases (Cushing's syndrome, adrenal incidentalomas, polycystic ovary syndrome) as well as on the effect of harmful exogenous agents (cigarette smoke and energizing drinks) on maternal and newborn hormonal profile. Her areas of interest concentrate on the development of novel analytical methods enabling the assessment of various hormones in different biological samples. She is also interested in evaluation of application of statistical and multivariate methods allowing to interpret bioanalytical data. Alicja Kotłowska is the author/co-author of several publications concerning steroid metabolomics as a biomarker tool for endocrine disorders. Currently, she is working on the evaluation of the relationship between maternal steroid hormones and neonatal jaundice.



Bogumiła Kielbratowska

- bogumila.kielbratowska@gumed.edu
- Midwife, Medical University of Gdańsk, Poland
- Bogumiła Kielbratowska has developed research projects on perinatal care, and preparation for parenthood (in collaboration with experts from psychology). In 2002 she won the International Chartered IBCLC and since then she has been professionally engaged in lactation consulting. She is a specialist in neonatal nursing, maternity nursing and health promotion and education. She is passionate about modern obstetrics, and analyzes the needs of parents in the care of a newborn. She is the co-author of publications on infant care. For several years, she has been working with the Department of Analytical Chemistry, Technical University of Gdansk on joint research on methods of pasteurization of milk.



Luise Lengler

- luise.lengler@t-online.de,
- Midwife, BSc(hons), MSc Midwifery. Germany
- German midwife and lecturer. She finished her European Master of Science in Midwifery study in 2013 at Medical School Hanover in Germany. Her thesis explored midwives attitudes regarding oxytocin augmentation in low risk birth. Her Bachelor of Science Honours in Midwifery study was completed in 2009 at School of Nursing, Midwifery & Community Health Glasgow Caledonian University, UK. She initially worked as a practising midwife and as a mentor of midwives in clinical practice in Germany and Switzerland.
- Her current research interests are physiological and hormonal processes that occur during normal labour with a focus on the oxytocin release during physiological childbirth and the exploration of maternal and child health



Fátima León Larios

- Fatimaleon@us.es
- Midwife, anthropologist. Faculty of Nursing, Physiotherapy and Podiatry (Seville University).
- I qualified as a nurse (2003) and midwife (2008). Bachelor in Anthropology (2007), PhD (2012). I work as Assistant Professor at Department of Nursing (Seville University (Spain)). My research interests are normal birth and prevention on perineal trauma.



Claudia Meier Magistretti

- claudia.meiermagistretti@hslu.ch
- PHD, Health and clinical psychologist, Master in Philosophy, Research director at Lucerne University
- Dr. Claudia Meier Magistretti has been trained as a clinical and health Psychologist. She also holds a Master in Philosophy. Her professional career led her from clinical and therapeutic work with young patients to prevention, health promotion and Public Health. She led projects in health promotion for schools, families, migrant groups and organisations and she directed the Department for Gender Health at the National Ministry of Health. She was a researcher at the Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine at the University of Berne, focusing Gender Health and Diversity as well as evidence based prevention and health promotion, evaluation and effectiveness measurement. She has published several books, student books, articles and government reports, mainly in German. She is currently director of research at Lucerne University of Applied Arts and Sciences and she lectures as an associate professor in several Universities of Switzerland and Austria. Her main research areas are early life care and education, prevention and health promotion, gender and diversity in health, work place health promotion and health management, effectiveness measurement and evaluation. In this COST Action, Claudia leads the Early Career Investigator Think Tank.



Sandra Morano

- Sandra.morano@unige.it
- Sandra Morano, MD, professor in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Genoa University..
- Post graduate qualifications in Reproduction Pathophysiology, in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and in Sexual Medicine She has been employed as a researcher and a consultant obstetrician in IRCCS S. Martino –IST Istituto Scientifico Tumori University Hospital where she created, and was the head of, the first Italian Birth Centre, aiming to promote continuity of women-centred care and to reduce CS rates. Her fields of interest are promotion of health and normality in pregnancy and childbirth, prevention of perineum disorders and postpartum depression, and birth places organization and phylosophy. She recently promoted the first Convention of Italian BCs in Genoa. She is the PI in Italy for Optibirth EU project. She was member of COST Action IS1907 (iR4B), and recently of EU COST Action IS1405 (BIRTH). Currently she teaches Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Medical School and Midwifery School at Genoa University, and at the Nursing School in Gaslini Hospital IRCCS. She published peer-reviewed research papers and a book "Who is afraid of Maternity?". She is member of the Italian Institute of bioethics and and member of the National Medical Committe of Italian Women Physicians.



Christina Nilsson

- christina.nilsson@gu.se
- Midwife, PhD. Institute for Health and Care Sciences at the Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg. also a midwife at Sahlgrenska University Hospital/Östra in Gothenburg.
- has dual registration as nurse and midwife, and a PhD in Health Sciences. She defended her thesis in June, 2012. The title of the thesis is: Fear of childbirth. With a focus on women's experiences of giving birth. The thesis generates evidence on the importance of previous birth experience for women with fear of childbirth, from both qualitative and quantitative perspectives. The results illustrate the complexity where women's experiences in the delivery room are central.
- main research interests are about women's childbirth experiences, fear of childbirth, birth trauma and PTSD, and support during pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period.



Zada Pajalic

- Zada.pajalic@hioa.no
- Registered Midwife, Dr in Med Sci. Norway
- I am working as associate professor at midwifery master program since 2014. Focus on my research area except COST involvement is factors for successful breastfeeding.



Giedre Sirvinskiene

- giedresirvi@gmail.com
- Psychologist. Lithuanian University of Health Sciences Lithuania
- Lecturer/ junior researcher / psychologist (crisis pregnancy programm)



Mickey Sperlich

- msperlic@buffalo.edu
- Midwifery/Social Work/Infant Mental Health. State University of New York at Buffalo
- Mickey Sperlich is an experienced midwife and researcher who studies the effects of trauma and mental health challenges on women's childbearing and postpartum experiences and outcomes. Her first research project culminated in the book *Survivor Moms: Women's Stories of Birthing, Mothering and Healing after Sexual Abuse* (Motherbaby Press). Sperlich has been a part of several trauma-focused perinatal studies, and is co-author of a psychosocial intervention for pregnant survivors of abuse; the *Survivor Moms' Companion*. She completed her PhD with a dual title in Social Work and Infant Mental Health at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan in 2014 and has recently joined the faculty at State University of New York at Buffalo's School of Social Work as Assistant Professor.



Kerstin Uvnäs-Moberg

- k_uvnas_moberg@hotmail.com
- MD, PhD.
- Kerstin Uvnäs Moberg got her MD and a PhD in Pharmacology at the Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, Sweden. She has been employed as a full professor of Physiology at the University of Agriculture in Uppsala, Sweden. She has worked with research linked to the physiology of labor and breastfeeding for more than 30 years. The focus of the research has been on the role of oxytocin and sensory stimulation, in particular stimulation of cutaneous sensory nerves during labor, skin-to-skin contact after birth and breastfeeding. She has worked with animal experiments and also studies involving humans. She has studied the physiological mechanisms involved in birth and breastfeeding and also short and long term physiological and behavioral maternal adaptations induced during birth and breastfeeding. She is also working with the role of oxytocin during human animal interaction and in menopausal women.



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WG-5-2

PSYCHOLOGY OF CHILDBIRTH

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WG-5-2 MEMBERS by JULY 2016

1. Yael Benyamini, Psychologist, Israel
2. Esther Crespo Mirasol. Midwife, Spain.
3. Luis Joaquin Garcia Lopez. Psychologist, Spain.
4. Pricilla J Hall Midwife, USA
5. Vanessa Hormazabal, Midwife Chile
6. Sigríður Sía Jónsdóttir. Midwife, Iceland
7. Maria Karmierczak. Psychologist, Poland.
8. Sigfríður Inga Karlsdóttir Midwife, Iceland
9. Aleandra Koenig Pyshcologist, Germany
10. Patricia Leahy-Warren. Midwife, Ireland.
11. Amali Lokugamage Obstetrician, UK
12. Margaret Murphy. Midwife, Ireland.
13. Marianne Nieuwenhuijze. Midwife, Holland.
14. Ibone Olza Fernández. Psychiatrist, Spain (WG-5 CHAIR)
15. Steffi Savona Ventura. Psychologist, Malta.
16. Andria Spyridou . Psychologist, Cyprus.
17. Lea Takács. Psychologist, Czech.
18. Stella Villarmeá, Philosopher, Spain

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CURRENTLY (july 2016)

- PROTOCOL Draft paper: The Psychological Experience of Physiological Childbirth: A Protocol For A Systematic Review of Qualitative Studies
- Leahy-Warren, P., Nieuwenhuijze, M., Spyridou A., Sigríður Sía Jónsdóttir, Benyamini, Y., Crespo, E., Murphy, M., Kazmierczak, M., Takács, L., Savona Ventura, S., Joaquin Garcia-Lopez, L., Olza Fernández, I.
- Protocol is registered in the International Prospective Register of Systematic Reviews (PROSPERO) (Registration CRD42016037072).
- SYSTEMATIC REVIEW: ALL STUDIES HAVE BEEN SELECTED AND EXTRACTED, STARTING DATA ANALYSIS WITH NVIVO

Yael Benyamini

- benyael@post.tau.ac.il
- Health Psychologist. Bob Shapell School of Social Work. Tel Aviv University
- Yael Benyamini, PhD, is a health psychologist and a Professor at the Bob Shapell School of Social Work at the Tel Aviv University. Her research interests are in perceptions of health and their effects on ways of coping and on physical and mental health outcomes, with a special focus on women's health issues. Her studies in this area investigated women's choices of modes of delivery, the factors related to them and their association with the subjective and objective experience of childbirth, as well as studies on coping with infertility, high-risk pregnancy and miscarriage.



Esther Crespo Mirasol

- crespoesther@hotmail.com
- Midwife/ Social and Cultural Anthropologist
- I am a Social and Cultural Anthropologist PhD student at the University of Barcelona. My current thesis focuses on the perceptions of women, couples and professionals during pregnancy, childbirth and parenthood after successful assisted reproduction techniques. I am also a practitioner midwife since 2000. I work as a midwife in the delivery suite of the Hospital Clinic of Barcelona (ICGON). Since July 2011, I am a member of the working group of midwives at the Royal College of Nursing in Barcelona.



Luis Joaquín García López

- ljgarlo@cop.es
- Ph.D. In Clinical Psychology. Associate Professor . UNIVERSITY OF JAEN. DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY.
- Ph.D. from the University of Murcia in 2000, and completed a Postdoctoral Psychology Residency in the US from 2002 to 2004. In 2005, he was awarded a 5-year (Ramon y Cajal) senior research grant from the Spanish Ministry of Higher Education and Science. Currently serves as a tenured, civil servant Associate Professor at the Department of Psychology, Division of Clinical Psychology, University of Jaen, Spain. He is a member of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, Euroscience, 'Mental Health Europe Organization' and Spanish Board of Psychology. Dr. Garcia-Lopez is the Associate Editor of Behavioral Psychology-Psicologia Conductual, a JCR journal. In addition, he is Leader of the Childhood Anxiety Team (research and clinical-based approach). His research interest focuses on the assessment and CBT treatment of emotional disorders (anxiety and depression). Dr. Garcia-Lopez conducts clinical research, supervises the research and clinical development of postdoctoral fellows in psychology, and is involved in advanced training of senior level clinicians in the application of cognitive-behavioral approaches to diagnosis and treatment of emotional disorders.



Priscilla J. Hall

- pjhall@emory.edu
- Midwife. PhD RN CNM .Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing, USA.
- I am a nurse-midwife researcher in the United States with an interest in women's emotional experience of childbirth, particularly how this is affected by feeling empowered or disempowered. I have a particular curiosity about the relationship between emotional regulation and the normal physiology of labour, especially as this relates to neurophysiology and the hormones of labour. I would like to understand the effect of stressful and negative emotion on the physiology of labour so that we might reduce the need for caesareans by attending to the emotional quality of a woman's birth experience. I also have an interest in the phenomenon of obstetrical violence and abuse that women experience during labour in some settings. My dissertation was a qualitative exploration of women's experiences of emotion and agency (empowerment) in labour. Although my dissertation was qualitative, I would like to expand my skill set to include mixed-method research. I am currently involved in a meta-analysis of waterbirth outcomes here at Emory University.



Vanessa Hormazabal

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- Midwife. Chile. University of Nottingham.
- I am a Chilean midwife with an interest in developing a research career. During the last year, I have been studying a Midwifery MSc at the University of Nottingham. During this time I realized that my motivation is to understand the relation between the physiology of labour and women expectations in medicalized contexts. My current master dissertation is a critical realist review about Chilean women's motivations for writing birth plans.



Sigrídur Sía Jónsdóttir

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- Midwife and MS in nursing. University of Akureyri, Iceland.
- Sigrídur Sía Jónsdóttir is an assistant professor in community health nursing at the School of Health Science, University of Akureyri Iceland. She holds a master's degree as a Clinical Nurse Specialist, from Adelphi University, NY, USA and a diploma degree in Midwifery from Iceland. She is also a doctoral student in Health and Caring sciences at Linnaeus University in Kalmar/Växjö, Sweden. Her main research focus is women with psychological distress during the perinatal period. She has also done some research on violence during pregnancy and gestational diabetes. She has been certified as a lactation specialist and in high risk pregnancy nursing. Her work experience reaches almost 35 years back. She was a faculty member at the University of Akureyri and a part time faculty member at the University of Iceland before she decided to pursue her current position inside the academia. She had held a position as staff midwife and a nurse, in Iceland, Norway and USA. She was Clinical nurse specialist at Hackensack Medical Center, NJ, USA. She has also held a position as a quality manager at Akureyri hospital in Iceland and been a director of midwifery for a high risk prenatal clinic at the Primary Health Care of the Reykjavik capital area.



Maria Kazmierczak

- psymk@ug.edu.pl
- Psychologist. Institute of Psychology. University of Gdansk. Poland.
- She has developed scientific projects on empathy, parenting, family life cycle, and individual differences (in cooperation with medicine and law experts). She co-edited a two-volume textbook ("Appreciating Diversity", 2007, 2008), and published three books in Polish: "Faces of empathy in the process of adaptation to parenthood"; "Faces of empathy in marriage"; "Communication in close relationships. Theory and the research tool (as a co-author)". She is currently studying empathy in the process of adaptation to parenthood, and psychological aspects of becoming a parent. Her other areas of interest include determinants of quality of marital relations and parenthood, femininity/masculinity and dispositional predictors of social functioning. She is a member of the International Association for Relationship Research (elected Member at Large 2009-2011), the European Association for Developmental Psychology, and the International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology



Sigfríður Inga Karlsdóttir

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Alexandra Koenig

- Psychologist
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- Institute of Psychology and Education Clinical & Biological Psychology, Ulm University
- Alexandra König studied psychology from 2009-2014 at the University of Ulm and the University of Bergen, Norway. From 2010-2014 a scholarship of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung was awarded to her. She wrote her bachelor thesis about child maltreatment as a risk factor for depression and PTSD in the adulthood. The focus of her master thesis was the impact of child maltreatment on cortisol und DHEA in hair. Since October 2014 she works as a research assistant at the department of Clinical & Biological Psychology at the Ulm University. Her research interest is the transgenerational transmission of child maltreatment in psychological and biological ways for mothers and their newborns.



Patricia Leahy-Warren

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- Nursing Midwifery Public Health Nursing.
University College Cork, Ireland
- Senior Lecturer, Director of Postgraduate Education and leader of the Maternal & Child Health Research Team. The purpose of our research is to support women, children, fathers and families throughout the perinatal period from preconception to the early years of a child's life in diverse social community settings. My research areas of interest and expertise are: first-time motherhood; development of an instrument on social support in the context of infant care practices; maternal parental self-efficacy; emotional well-being; breastfeeding; kangaroo care; teenage pregnancy; and preterm parenting.



Amali Lokugamage

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- Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist
- Honorary Senior Lecturer University College London
- I am a consultant obstetrician & gynaecologist based in London, UK. I am a medical educator at University College London Medical School having 3 UCL Leadership roles (deputy Lead undergraduate women's health; deputy lead vertical modules; student support tutor). My MD research was on misoprostol for labour and delivery. I am a speaker on humanising birth and my lectures are published on the WHO website. I am the author of a book called *The Heart in the Womb: An Exploration into the Roots of Human Love and social Cohesion*.



Margaret Murphy

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- Midwife/ Researcher. University Lecturer. University College Cork .
Cork University Maternity Hospital. IRELAND
- Lecturer and Doctoral student. Final year thesis qualitatively investigating parents' experiences of pregnancy following stillbirth. Research interests include pregnancy after loss, lactation education and support, teaching and learning and preparation for parenthood education. MSc thesis quantitatively explored women's postnatal experiences of professional breastfeeding support. Awards include Higher Diploma in Teaching and Learning and International Board Certified Lactation Consultant. Registered Midwife and Registered General Nurse. President of the Association of Lactation Consultants in Ireland 2012-2014; sat several national breastfeeding policy board; member of the Irish Federation of University Teachers (IFUT). Extensive senior clinical experience and credibility in all aspects of midwifery, neonatal and adult intensive care. Teaches across undergraduate, postgraduate and continuing professional development multidisciplinary programmes including midwifery, public health nursing, PROMPT Obstetric Emergency Programmes and Neonatal Resuscitation Programmes. Facilitates clinical antenatal and postnatal breastfeeding education sessions for mothers and families.



Marianne Nieuwenhuijze

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- Researcher, midwife. Head of the Research Centre for Midwifery Science. Netherlands.
- After graduation as a midwife, she worked in the obstetric department of a regional hospital. Five years later, she joined a midwifery practice with four colleagues in the south of the Netherlands. She worked as an independent midwife in the community supporting women through pregnancy, birth and in the postnatal period and doing many home births in close collaboration with other professionals. This work sparked her interest in scientific research and the underpinning of physiological birth.
- Her main research fields of interest are women's views on care, and health promotion in maternity care, with a special focus on women's mental well-being during pregnancy, birth and the postnatal period. Presently she is doing research on women's choices and decision-making in midwifery care, e.g. with regard to birthing positions and place of birth. This was also the focus of her PhD project.
- She participates in national and international research projects and was part of the European COST Action: Childbirth - Cultures, Concerns and Consequences. She was a member of the national Science Committee for Midwifery in 2009-2010. She has been a member of the national Midwifery Guidelines Commission of the Dutch midwives' organisation from 1998-2009 and chair of this commission from 2004 – 2008. Until recently, she was a member of the National Guideline Committee for Obstetrics.



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- MD, Psychiatrist, PhD. Associate Professor
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- My research has focused on the effects of intrapartum synthetic oxytocin use, perinatal neurobiological disorders and obstetric violence. I have done extensive clinical work on PTSD due to childbirth, perinatal mental disorders, birth professionals mental health and breastfeeding support. I am also a birth rights activist, cofounder or CHILDBIRTH IS OURS (www.elpartoesnuestro.es)



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- Health Psychologist. Mater Dei Hospital, Malta
- Graduated with a Masters in Health Psychology from the University of Surrey. I am currently working under supervision at Mater Dei Hospital, Malta. The cases seen are multi-faceted, and my role of health psychologist is to assist and support the patient in issues of adherence, stress, illness management, coping mechanisms, understanding and psycho- education, amongst others. I am currently working together with a Bariatric (weight- loss) surgery consultant while also developing a service in liaison with paediatric



Andria Spyridou

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- Clinical Psychologist, Health Psychologist, Researcher and Lecturer European University Cyprus School of Sciences
- During my master's I carried out a research study at the University of Granada in which I investigated the psychological state of immigrant school children in comparison to native-Spanish children. At the same period 2007-2009 I was professionally trained at the University Hospital "San Secilio" of Granada in the Early Attention Department. In September 2013, following the public defence of my thesis, entitled "Healthy mothers-Happy Children: Prenatal Assessment for Psychosocial Risk Factors Using the KINDEX in Public Health Settings in Spain, Greece and Peru", I was awarded my Doctorate in Natural Sciences (Cum Laude) by the Clinical Psychology department at the University of Konstanz, Germany. During my research I explored the impact of mother's life experience such as psychological trauma, sexual and physical abuse, psychiatric history and current psychosocial factors such as refugee/immigration status on the wellbeing of the mother and fetus and on child's development. I also investigated the influence of traumatic experiences and stressful life events on the regulation of the Hypothalamic Adrenal Axis, through a novel analysis of cortisol concentrations in hair sample. The project is currently in its initial implementation phase in Cyprus and I am especially interested to compare the findings of this study to the ones found previously especially due to the increasing xenophobia in the Cypriot society the past years.



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Doctoral studies at K.U. Leuven, Belgium, Institute of Philosophy, Husserl-Archives (Husserl and the problem of subjectivity) MA degree in Psychology (2013), MA degree in Philosophy (2003), Charles University Prague, Faculty of Arts and Philosophy. Doctoral studies at Charles University Prague, Social Psychology (Psychosocial aspects of intrapartum and postpartum care);

Grant projects: Maternity Blues: Risk Factors, Screening and Association with Postpartum Depression, 2015-2016, Charles University Science Foundation

Psychosocial climate in maternity hospitals - theory and diagnostics, 2011 – 2013, Charles University Science Foundation

Psychosocial climate in maternity hospitals and its influence of emotional wellbeing of parturients, 2010, Internal grant, Faculty of Arts and Philosophy

Co-worker at the grant project Studies on Subjectivity – between phenomenology and psychotherapy, Academy of Sciences of Czech Republic (2006-2007)

Research assistant at the grant project The Centre for Phenomenological Research, Academy of Sciences of Czech Republic (2004)



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- I am Associate Professor of Philosophy at University of Alcalá, Madrid. I have conducted research at the Universities of California, Notre Dame and Oxford. I have taught philosophy at the Universities of Saint Louis, Lund, Paderborn, Marie Curie, Humboldt and Kent. I have published on epistemology, ethics and feminist theory. I am interested in the moral and political justification of our beliefs, and in the relationship between knowledge and emancipatory action. I am currently doing research on an innovative field, the Philosophy of Birth. I am Speaker of The International Association of Women



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