CONFERENCES

International Association for Feminist Economics
conference

In June 2008, Dr Jennifer Baxter attended the 17th conference of the International Association of Feminist Economics (IAFFE) in Torino, Italy. The range of topics covered at the conference was vast, and included numerous papers of interest to AIFS. For example, key topics included women’s involvement in the labour market, elder care concerns (a significant issue for European countries) and child care. Addressing the latter theme, Dr Baxter presented a paper co-authored with Dr Matthew Gray titled Parents Who Don’t Use Childcare: Who Provides the Care in Working Couple Families with Infants? The conference was a terrific opportunity to meet researchers from around the world and discuss common interests, and to showcase the work of AIFS, and the potential of the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children.

While overseas, Dr Jennifer Baxter also attended the UK Social Policy Association conference, "Challenging Boundaries", in Edinburgh. Interestingly, there was some overlap in themes covered by this and the IAFFE conferences, although approached from different perspectives. Women’s employment was again covered, including a keynote presentation by Ann Orloff titled Feminism for a Post-Maternalist Era: The Gender Equality Project in Europe and America. Other papers addressed topics related to work and family, including grandparent care of children, welfare to work, retirement and employment opportunities for older workers.

GROWING UP IN AUSTRALIA

The third round of interviews for Growing Up in Australia: The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children have been underway for most of 2008. While interviewers have been busy “in the field”, Institute researchers have been busy publicising the results of the study at various conferences and have also been forging links with other related studies.

Several conference papers have been presented recently that use LSAC data. Dr Jennifer Baxter presented a paper jointly prepared with Dr Matthew Grey titled Parents Who Don’t Use Childcare: Who Provides the Care in Working Couple Families with Infants? at the 17th conference of the International Association for Feminist Economics in Rome, Italy (see report above). On 30 October, Dr Matthew Gray made a presentation to the Australian General Practice Network Forum: Early Years Longitudinal Study: What’s the Data Saying? and Professor Alan Hayes made an address to the 2008 Sir Harold Wyndham Lecture on 17 October, titled Divided Nation? Why Educational Opportunity is an Engine of Social Inclusion.

LIFE AT 3

The Institute is pleased to be associated with the Life at 3 series, produced by Film Australia (now Screen Australia) in association with Heiress Films, which tracks 11 families through their ordinary routines and milestones, and looks at the impact on their lives of things such as parents’ relationships, finances, work, health and education.

The series draws on the experience of Growing Up in Australia, and input to the program is provided by Institute researchers, both through conducting the Growing Up in Australia interviews with the families (Carol Soloff and Ren Adams), and by providing the study data that forms the backdrop to the study (Sebastian Misson and Diana Smart). The two episodes of Life at 3 were re-screened on ABC1 during September and the “Fighting Fat” and “Bad Behaviour” episodes of Life at 3 were screened during October 2008.

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