



# **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE): Advancing Theory, Policy and Practice**

## **An International Conference**

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018**

**Nottingham Trent University  
Nottingham, UK**

**Call for Papers**

**Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE): Advancing Theory, Policy and Practice  
An International Conference**

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**CALL FOR PAPERS**

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Since the mid-1990s, there has been an increasing international academic and policy interest in better identifying and responding early to risk factors in childhood and adolescence as a means to mitigate against problems in later life. In policy and practice, prevention is now commonplace across health, education and welfare services, much of it focused on individual behavioural modification and early intervention programmes. These approaches are often underpinned by academic work that favours longitudinal and cohort studies, together with a predisposition to the 'what works' potential of clinical trials work.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) offers one such example where early childhood trauma is linked to negative outcomes on a range of indicators in adulthood spanning health, crime, relationships, education and employment: As Bellis et al (2013: 81) note:

*'Exposure [to identified] ACEs has been associated with poor health outcomes including substance use, mental ill-health, obesity, heart disease and cancer, as well as unemployment and continued involvement in violence...[and] the impact of ACEs appears to be cumulative, with risks of poor outcomes increasing with the number of ACEs suffered'.*

Having gained significant ground in the USA, where much of the underpinning research originates, there is increasing international interest in its deployment.

The economic, social and moral case for early intervention is compelling, especially when set against the costs of late intervention. Yet such approaches are not uncontentious, raising significant ethical and methodological questions. Too often, much needed debate is dampened by the overwhelming need to *do something* in the context of significant pressures on frontline services that engage with children, young people and families at risk.

This international conference aims to:

- Encourage and expand debate about the theoretical, ethical and methodological issues related to the use of ACE in work with children, young people and families.
- Review research and evaluative evidence that considers the positive use and impact of ACE.
- Consider the challenges of using ACE for policy makers and practitioners.
- Encourage dialogue between academics, policy makers and practitioners, and identify new research questions.
- Invite participants to consider alternative approaches to understanding risk and resilience in a community context.
- Consider ACE in the wider context of knowledge around risk and resilience, from multi-disciplinary perspectives.

The conference is inter-disciplinary and international in scope, open to academics, policy makers, practitioners and other interested stakeholders.

**We now invite submissions for the presentation of papers, discussion or seminar panels, practitioner focused workshops or posters. We would welcome submissions that address the aims of the conference.**

## Submissions might include a focus on:

- Presenting findings from research or evaluation studies into the use and/or impact of ACE.
- Insights from theoretical, ethical or moral considerations into ACE and other early intervention measures.
- Experiences of using ACE and/or similar approaches in practice.
- Alternative models that challenge dominant risk-based approaches.
- Social or personal issues that have been overlooked by ACE and other risk-based approaches.

## Formats

- **Papers** should be planned for an oral presentation of 20 minutes and will be delivered in parallel sessions with time for questions and discussion.
- **Panels** should be planned for one hour, with a focus on a theme related to the conference aims, drawing on different speakers and where possible, engaging the audience. We would particularly welcome panels that attempt to bridge academic research, policy and practice.
- **Workshops**, of an hour in length, will be primarily aimed at practitioners attending the conference and should focus on practice issues or development.
- **Posters** will be on display in the exhibition space throughout the conference with a dedicated session for presenters to discuss their work with conference participants.
- **Other formats** – ideas for other formats are welcome, please do get in touch with any ideas.

## To submit your abstract/proposal, please complete our online form at

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ACENovember18> by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2018. We'll endeavour to notify you on or before Friday 17<sup>th</sup> August if your submission has been successful.

## Outputs

The conference team will be producing a website, live blog and social media feeds throughout the conference. Presenters will be asked to share their materials on this dedicated web space and may be invited to produce a guest blog or media interview during or after the event. We are also considering plans to submit a proposal for a special edition journal on ACE, further details of which will be sent to successful presenters. We are keen for this conference to spur action in research, policy and practice and have timetabled facilitated action workshops throughout the conference to enable cross-disciplinary and cross-interest discussions to occur. In addition to any new project ideas that arise, these workshops will be documented and disseminated.

## Conference programme and costs

Attached to this call is a draft conference programme. The costs for attending the conference is £275 for two days that covers attendance, refreshments, lunch, a conference dinner and a conference pack. A small number of bursaries, offering a substantial discount, will be offered to postgraduate research students who present at the conference. Presenters will be required to book their place by the end of August to ensure they are included in the final programme.

## About the conveners

- **Professor Sir Al Aynsley-Green Kt** is Visiting Professor of Advocacy for Children and Childhood at the Nottingham Centre for Children, Young People and Families. Among his many distinguished roles in public life, he was England's first Children's Commissioner.
- **Dr Jason Pandya-Wood** founded the Nottingham Centre for Children, Young People and Families in 2016. For 20 years, he has been involved in researching, teaching about and working with children and young people.

## More information?

- Please do get in touch with the conference organisers if you have any questions. You can write to us at [ncyopf@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:ncyopf@ntu.ac.uk) or ring us on +44 (0) 115 858 5503.

**Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE): Advancing Theory, Policy and Practice**  
**DRAFT PROGRAMME – SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

**Day One: Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November**

Time	Activity
09:00	<b>Registration and coffee</b>
09:30	<b>Conference welcome</b>  Professor Edward Peck Vice Chancellor, Nottingham Trent University
09:40	<b>Setting the scene</b>  Professor Sir Al Aynsley-Green Visiting Professor in Advocacy for Children and Childhood
10:00 – 11:30	<b>Plenary Session 1: ACE in Context</b>  <b>Antecedents of adult morbidity and mortality: programming of adult ill health</b> Professor Alan Lucas University College London  <b>Reflections on the evidence base for ACE</b> Dr Warren Larkin (invited) Clinical Lead for Department of Health Adverse Childhood Experiences Programme  <b>ACE in public health policy</b> Janine Roderick Lead for Public Health and Policing, Public Health Wales
11:30	<b>Break, networking and market place</b>
11:45	<b>Plenary Session 2: Mechanisms of ACE</b>  <b>Epigenetics and ACE</b> Professor Sue White Professor of Social Work, University of Sheffield  <b>Parenting and ACE</b> Matt BATTERY Chief Executive Officer, Triple P (Positive Parenting Programme) UK
12:30	<b>Action Workshops on Plenary Sessions 1 &amp; 2</b>  Working in small group to consider the research, policy and practice implications of ACE
13:00	<b>Lunch, networking and market place</b>
14:00	<b>Plenary Session 3: Keynote Speech</b>

Time	Activity
	<b>Rewiring the Damaged Brain: Professor Michael M. Merzenich</b> Professor Emeritus, University of California San Francisco and Creator of BrainHQ
14:45	<b>Plenary Session 4: Implications of ACE (Panel)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insights from the NHS</li> <li>• Economic considerations</li> <li>• Controversies</li> <li>• Ethics</li> <li>• Policy</li> </ul>
15:45	<b>Coffee and Action Workshops on Plenary Sessions 3 &amp; 4</b>  Working in small group to consider the research, policy and practice implications of ACE
16:30	<b>Feedback from Action Workshops in main hall and summation of day one</b>  Professor Sir Al Aynsley-Green
19:00	<b>Conference Dinner</b>

### Day Two: Friday 23rd November

Time	Activity
09:30	<b>Welcoming remarks and reflections</b>  Dr Jason Pandya-Wood Director of External Engagement, School of Social Sciences, NTU
09:40	<b>Plenary Session 5: Mapping and Building Communities for Children and Young People</b>  Dr Pippa Rowcliffe Human Early Learning Partnership, University of British Columbia, Canada  The Nottingham Experience  Perspectives from the Early Intervention Foundation (Invited)
10:40	<b>Parallel Sessions 1</b>
11:40	<b>Break and market place</b>
12:00	<b>Parallel Sessions 2</b>
13:00	<b>Lunch and market place</b>
14:00	<b>Plenary Session 6: Issues in Risk and Resilience</b>  1. Bereavement and grief

	2. Bullying 3. Crime
15:00	<b>Coffee and Parallel Sessions 3</b>
16:00	<b>Action Workshops on Plenary and Parallel Sessions</b>  Working in small group to consider the research, policy and practice implications of ACE
16:30	<b>Feedback from Action Workshops in main hall and summation, closing remarks</b>  Dr Jason Pandya-Wood
17:00	<b>Drinks reception and entertainment</b>