

# BOOK NOTES

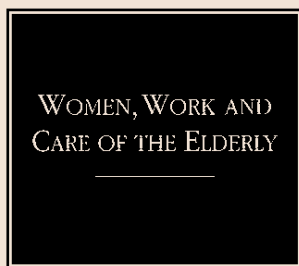
CAROLE JEAN

The following selection of books and journals on family-related topics are recent additions to the Institute's Family Information Centre. They are available through Libraries, through the Family Information Centre via the Inter Library Loan system, or for purchase from good book shops. Prices are given as and when supplied.



***Feuds About Families: Conservative, Centrist, Liberal and Feminist Perspectives*, edited by Nijole V. Benokraitis, Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, 2000. Price: US 29.95.**

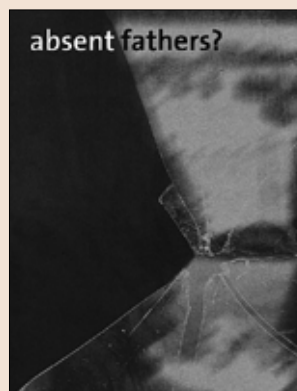
This textbook presents articles from a variety of authors on 18 different topics. Each topic has an article from the three viewpoints – conservative, centrist, and liberal/feminist. Broad subject areas covered include: marriage and family; love, sex and marriage; parents and children; work, race, ethnicity and social class; and family crises and transitions. Each individual chapter has a short introduction by the editor, as well as a list of questions to stimulate further discussion. This text would make important reading for all students of family studies.



***Women, Work and Care of the Elderly*, by Elizabeth Watson and Jane Mears, Ashgate, Aldershot, 1999. Price: \$101.00.**

This Australian research examines the experiences of a group of carers who are both in the paid workforce and caring for an elderly relative. A total of

forty women were interviewed for the study. The aims of the research were to explore how caring and paid work impacted upon one another, and how carers experienced services, programs or professional support that was available to them. Each chapter contains detailed responses from the interviewees which add to the text, and a detailed bibliography is included. This research highlights the substantial contribution to caring made by women in Australian society, and the difficulties that they face. As such it makes important reading for all of those involved in the human services field, as well as policy makers.



***Absent Fathers?*, Jonathan Bradshaw et al., Routledge, London, 1999. Price: UK 15.99.**

During the 1980s and 1990s the number of non-resident fathers in Britain increased dramatically. These fathers have often been depicted in a negative way in the media, and caused them to become a focus of government policy. As little was known about these fathers, the objective of this research study was to increase the knowledge we have about these men and their circumstances. The findings of the report are based on a national survey of more than 600 non-resident fathers in Britain, plus in-depth interviews with fathers in two sub-samples, one dealing with contact, the other with financial support. Chapters examine the characteristics of non-resident fathers; employment and income; housing; contact between

non-resident fathers and their children; payment of child support; levels of financial support; the Child Support Agency; and negotiating child maintenance. The authors conclude that while there are some fathers who are failing to support their children, many are trying to be fathers to their non-resident children. This research would make valuable reading for those involved in family law as well as policy makers, and anyone concerned with the welfare of children.

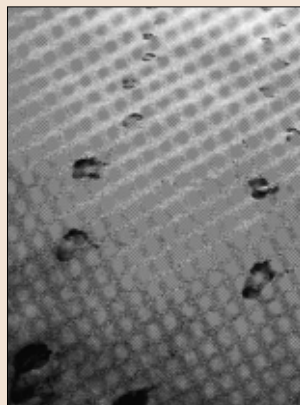


***Families and the Labour Market: Trends, Pressures and Policies*, edited by Shirley Dex, Family Policy Studies Centre, London, 1999. Price: UK 14.95.**

The impact of work on family life in Britain over the past 20 years is discussed in this report from the Family Policy Studies Centre. Part One gives an overview of the social, family and labour market changes that have occurred during this time. The changing nature of relationships and family types, industry restructuring and changes to working conditions are also outlined, changes which the authors argue have made families confront new issues with regard to combining work with family responsibilities. Part Two examines how these changes impact upon each other (for example, how people working 'unsocial hours' arrange child or elder care arrangements), and it concludes that most parents now face increasing demands on their family time. However, the authors note that despite the growth in women's employment, there has not been a commensurate decline in the amount of caring work carried

out by families. The consequences of work on families is discussed in Part Three, including the rise of dual income households, and also an analysis of households where there is no income earned. The impact that employment (or lack of employment) can have on family members health and wellbeing is also considered. The final section of the report looks at how working families can be supported through both government intervention and industry initiatives. An overview is given of UK laws as they effect work and family responsibilities, for example maternity and parental leave provisions. The role of employers in the development of family friendly policies is also discussed. This publication provides an excellent overview of the issue of work and family in Britain today. Valuable reading for policy makers, employers, employees and researchers.

of the Child Support Agency and the interrelationship between social security policy and child support. Following chapters examine the Agency from the experience of parents; the impact of the Agency on solicitors and Courts; the review and appeal process; and the Agency's influence on relationships between separating parents. Valuable reading for all involved in family law.



***Child Support in Action*, by Gwynn Davis et al., Hart Publishing, Oxford, 1998. Price: UK 15.00.**

This book presents a detailed analysis of the British Child Support Agency. From its creation, the Agency has been the subject of much media attention and public criticism. The authors aimed to 'go behind' the media hype and present a story of the Agency from all viewpoints. They were able to achieve this by interviewing the Agency's clients and their legal advisers, and through being granted access to the Agency's staff and files. The sample comprised 123 cases which were followed over a period of 18 months. The first three chapters give an overview of the history of reforms to child support laws, the creation

***Issues in Foster Care: Policy, Practice and Research*, edited by Greg Kelly and Robbie Gilligan, Jessica Kingsley Publishers, London, 2000. Price: UK 15.95.**

This collection of papers looks at the current state of foster care in the United Kingdom, and the challenges it faces in the future. It argues that fostering is an important part of an overall child care policy, but that more research is needed into the delivery and support of foster care services. Topics covered by individual chapters include: measuring outcomes in foster care; helping young people make the transition from care to adulthood; how to develop resilience in foster children; issues of foster placement breakdown; managing the behaviour of children in foster care; accusations of abuse; and alternatives to foster care. Each chapter is followed by a list of references. This collection would be of most benefit to policy makers, agencies involved in alternative care, and students of child care, as well as foster parents themselves.

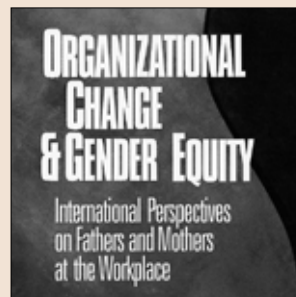
## Australia's Welfare 1999 Services and Assistance

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare,  
Canberra, 1999. Price: \$35.00.

This biennial report published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare is a comprehensive source of national data on Australia's welfare services. It contains substantial statistical data with accompanying explanatory text. The report begins by giving an overview of changes to community services themselves, and factors that affect them since the publication of the previous edition in 1997 – for example, demographic changes and changes in government policy. The rest of the chapters cover: expenditure on welfare services; work patterns within community services; children and family services; housing assistance; aged care; disability services; child



protection and child support services; and services for the homeless. The detailed nature of this publication makes it an important reference tool for all involved in the community services and welfare sector, as well as policy makers and students.



***Organizational Change and Gender Equity: International Perspectives on Fathers and Mothers at the Workplace*, edited by Linda Haas, Philip Hwang and Graeme Russell, Sage, Thousand Oaks, 2000. Price: UK 18.99.**

This collection of papers focus on work and family issues in Australia, Sweden, the United States and the United Kingdom. Chapters on the Australian situation look at the conflicting commitments of working mothers and fathers (authored by two former Senior Research Fellows at the Australian Institute of Family Studies, Helen Glezer and Ilene Wolcott); Equal Employment Opportunity and family friendly policies; and a case study of organisational change and gender equity in a

large Australian company (co-authored by Don Edgar, former Director of the Australian Institute of Family Studies). Four chapters are devoted to Sweden. These examine family, gender and social policy; women's economic equality and men's sharing of child care; organisational cultures, family and careers; and a case study of Swedish parents working for a large multinational company. Chapters by US contributors look at how work and family life can fit together; specific workplace programs and practices that address work/family and gender equity; and a case study of a US corporation in which work and family issues were used as a catalyst for organisational change. Similar themes are also covered in the three chapters which assess the UK situation. Each chapter includes a list of references, and detailed subject and author indexes are included. This volume would be of interest to those working in the area of human resources, as well as management of both private companies and government organisations.

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