

Care and Coronavirus

A necessary book for indeterminate times. Viewing childhood through the prism of Covid, these interdisciplinary and international contributors marry research and experience to provide intimate views of how existing health inequalities are not only brought into relief – but can be effectively addressed – to better serve young people, families, and communities in pandemic eras. Informative, provocative, and grounding for those charged with caring about the very future of care.

—*Rachael Stryker*, Professor, Department of Human Development and Women's Studies, California State University, East Bay, USA

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Series Editor: Sam Frankel, Western University, Canada

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Care and Coronavirus: Perspectives on Childhood, Youth and Family

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

For our families

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Contents

About the Editors	xiii
About the Contributors	xv
Acknowledgements	xxiii

Chapter 1 Introduction: Care, Childhood, Youth and Family in the Context of Coronavirus	1
<i>Tom Disney and Lucy Grimshaw</i>	

Section 1: Early Systems of Care

Chapter 2 Children’s and Parents’ Experiences of Care During the Pandemic: An International Review	19
<i>Fabio Dovigo</i>	
Chapter 3 Childcare, Responses to Poverty in Preschool and a ‘New Normal’ After COVID-19 Pandemic?	39
<i>Donald Simpson and Sandra Lyndon</i>	

Chapter 4 COVID-19 Anxiety and Early Childhood Development: Reflections From Practitioners in Early Years Settings	55
<i>Charmaine Agius Ferrante and Elaine Chaplin</i>	

Section 2: Children and Young People’s Health and Wellbeing

Chapter 5 Experiences of Vulnerable Girls From an Informal Settlement in South Africa During COVID-19 Lockdowns	65
<i>Lucy Currie, Sibusisiwe Tendai Sibanda and Athenkosi Mtumtum</i>	

Chapter 6 Children’s Care for Public Health and Politically Expedient Care for Children in Aotearoa New Zealand’s COVID-19 Pandemic	81
<i>Julie Spray</i>	

Chapter 7 We Were the Only Ones Still Seeing Families, We Just had to Be Creative About How! A Reflection on Health Visiting Practice During the COVID-19 Pandemic	97
<i>Frances Gunn</i>	

Section 3: Parents as Subjects and Recipients of Care

Chapter 8 A Simple Life? Parents’ Early Narratives of Babies Raised During the COVID-19 Pandemic	105
<i>Laura Bellussi and Siân Lucas</i>	

Chapter 9 ‘I Don’t Have a Lot of Choice . . . My Boss He Still Likes to Go to the Office Everyday Pretty Much’ – Exploring the Impact of COVID-19 on Parents’ Decision-Making When Planning Care During Their Child’s First Year	121
<i>Clare Matysova</i>	

Chapter 10 Family Life, Covid and Care: A Conversation Between Parent and Child	137
<i>Fiona Ranson and Cuong Nguyen</i>	

Section 4: Schooling as Care

Chapter 11 Caring and Schooling in the Time of COVID-19	145
<i>Tom Disney, Lucy Grimshaw and Judy Thomas</i>	

Chapter 12 ‘Take Care Everyone!’ Care Ethics at Work Whilst Homeschooling and Caring for Children During the COVID-19 Pandemic	163
<i>Lucy Grimshaw, Kay Heslop, Kirstin Mulholland, Vikki Park, Jill Duncan, Jaden Allan, Cathryn Meredith and Christopher Warnock</i>	

Chapter 13 Teaching During Lockdowns	181
<i>Linzi Brown</i>	

Chapter 14 Precarious Schooling and COVID-19	185
<i>Jason Burg</i>	

Section 5: Young People Navigating Care and Control Beyond the School

Chapter 15 Virtual Hearings and Their Impact on Children’s Participation in Decisions About Their Care and Protection	191
<i>Catherine Nixon, Kirsty Deacon, Andrew James, Ciara Waugh, Zodie and Sarah McGarrol</i>	

Chapter 16 Everyday Life, Informal Care and Grassroots Sports Clubs	209
<i>Stephen Crossley</i>	

Chapter 17 Youth Work During Covid Lockdowns	225
<i>Alison Ní Charraighe, Kelly Coates, Shannon Devine and Elisha Sanchez</i>	

Final Commentary

Chapter 18 Childhood and Care in the Time of Coronavirus, A Commentary	233
<i>Rachel Rosen</i>	

Index	243
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Andrew James, Ciara Waugh and Zodie are Board Members of Our Hearings, Our Voice; an independent children and young people's Board for the Children's Hearings System. It exists to ensure that the voices of children and young people are included in decisions about meaningful change within the Children's Hearings System and to ensure that any proposed changes are implemented in a way that does not disadvantage the Rights and participation of children and young people. Since becoming Board Members Andrew, Ciara and Zodie have played an active role in trying to improve the experiences of children and young people coming to Hearings. Information about the range of work that Andrew, Ciara and Zodie are involved in can be found at www.ohov.co.uk

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Cathryn Meredith has practised and taught mental health social work for 25 years, and none of this prepared her for parenting through the pandemic. She leads Northumbria University's Approved Mental Health Professional (AMHP) and Best Interests Assessor (BIA) provision within the Department of Social Work, Education and Community Wellbeing. Her scholarly interests lie in social approaches to mental distress and the emerging discipline of Mad Studies. She

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Cuong Nguyen was living with Fiona Ranson when COVID first appeared in the United Kingdom; he is Fiona's foster son and was a care leaver, still living with her at the time. In this chapter he reflects on how COVID impacted on his time at home. Cuong was attending college and had a part time job, which both came to a halt during COVID. He recalls monitoring responses from elsewhere in the world and comparing these to what was happening in the UK, which made him more anxious about Covid. Later he returned to work, where there were robust COVID measures in place.

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Fiona Ranson fostered young people who were unaccompanied and seeking asylum in the United Kingdom (known as UASC). The young people were in her care and remained in her care as ‘care leavers’ during COVID. Having previously worked as an education improvement adviser with responsibility for the achievement and provision of ethnic minority children in schools, including those seeking asylum in the UK; Fiona undertook her PhD in Northumbria University where she examined experiences of care of UASC, via participatory arts based research with carers and carried out a policy review.

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