Care-work (for children and adults) is undertaken within families across the globe. It is highly gendered. The extent of care-work being undertaken on a daily, and often nightly, basis is staggering and provides a blunt reminder that most of us will care for someone close to us at some point in our lives. The importance of such care-work is fundamental but difficult to measure, especially as it has historically gone unrecognised in any material sense. Yet most will agree that care-work is crucial. Indeed, care-giving/dependent relationships are, as Martha Fineman (2004) argues, a universally inevitable part of the human condition. Although the nature of care-work has altered in many ways, this basic fact is not specific to any time or place in history. Yet, how to best support working families with care-giving responsibilities is an ongoing challenge for individuals, families, employers, and policy-makers across the globe. It has a particular importance for women, who often depend upon this support to facilitate labour market participation.

This mini track is an open call to all those working in this key area: for example, papers might highlight the challenges, assess strategies / their implementation in practice or offer alternative solutions. The track is not limited to a particular sector or country. It welcomes global perspectives, intersectionality perspectives and any papers exploring particular or broad issues surrounding working families with care-giving responsibilities.

Suggested topics include but are not limited to:

- the challenges / obstacles facing those who attempt to balance care work and paid employment
- an assessment of strategies (e.g. individual, legal, workplace-focussed) that have been implemented to help alleviate the tensions that can exist for working families
- a discussion of potential solutions to the ongoing paid work/care-giving conundrums that plague that lives of many working families
- Intersectionality perspectives
- moving away from stereotypical care-roles (eg stay-at-home Dads)

**Professor Grace James** joined Reading Law School in 2002. She was awarded her PhD from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, in 1999 where she also worked as a Research Fellow. Professor James was awarded a grant from the Nuffield Foundation to research pregnancy-related unfair dismissal litigation at employment tribunals in England and Wales and in 2007 she was awarded AHRC Research Leave to complete a monograph with regard to this work. In 2010, she was awarded AHRC funding to establish a research network to consider law's engagement with working families (Families And Work Network - FAWN - with Professor Nicole Busby at Strathclyde University).

**Submission details**

In the first instance a 300 word abstract is required, to be received by 11th September 2019. Please read the guidelines at [http://www.academic-conferences.org/policies/abstract-guidelines-for-papers/](http://www.academic-conferences.org/policies/abstract-guidelines-for-papers/)

Submissions must be made using the online submission form at: [https://www.academic-conferences.org/conferences/icgr/icgr-abstract-submission/](https://www.academic-conferences.org/conferences/icgr/icgr-abstract-submission/)

If you have any questions about this track please email the mini track chair: c.g.james@reading.ac.uk

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