

Dr AOIFE O’HIGGINS

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EDUCATION

DPhil Education (Funded by the Rees Centre) **2018**

University of Oxford, Rees Centre, Department of Education

Thesis: What are the risk, promotive and protective factors for the educational outcomes of children in care?

MSc Evidence Based Social Interventions (awarded with distinction) **2011-12**

University of Oxford, Department of Social Policy and Interventions

Dissertation: What is the impact of placements on the psychological outcomes of separated children? An international systematic review (distinction)

MA Refugee Studies (awarded with distinction) **2008-10**

University of East London

Dissertation: Reconceiving the needs of refugee children in care

BSc Mathematics with Management **1999-02**

University of Manchester

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Rees Centre, University of Oxford **Since 2018**

Research Assistant: The effectiveness of an enhanced book gifting intervention for improving reading outcomes for children in care (ESRC funded: ES/P008240/1). Principal investigator: Professor Paul Connolly (Queen’s University Belfast)

Rees Centre, University of Oxford **Since 2017**

Research Assistant: The education of unaccompanied refugee minors in care in England, funded by the John Fell Fund. Principal investigator: Dr Ellie M Ott (University of Oxford)

Rees Centre, University of Oxford **2013-2015**

Research Assistant: The Educational Progress of Children in Care in England (funded by the Nuffield Foundation: EDU: 41524). Principal investigator: Professor Judy Sebba (University of Oxford).

Centre for Research on Education & Community, University of Ottawa 2014-16

Research Assistant: Researching the Education of Children in Care in Ontario. Principal investigator: Robert J Flynn (University of Ottawa, Canada)

Social Sciences Division, University of Oxford 2012-14

Seminar co-ordinator: Being Young: interdisciplinary student network researching youth

The Children's Society 2012

Consultant Researcher: RISE: Meeting the needs of male victims of trafficking in London

The Children's Society 2012

Consultant Researcher: Researching service provision for migrant care leavers in London, funded by the Strategic Legal Fund for Refugee Children and Young People

The Children's Society 2010

Consultant Researcher: The Experiences of undocumented young people in London

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Departmental Lecturer: Community Analysis and Large-Scale Interventions 2018

Masters in Evidence Based Society Interventions and Policy Evaluation, Department of Social Policy and Intervention, University of Oxford

Seminar Convener: Evidence in Public Policy 2016-18

Masters in Public Policy (MPP), Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford

**Nominated for Best Seminar Leader at Oxford University (2016 and 2018)

Workshop convener: Working with children in care 2013-17

Post Graduate Certificate Education (PGCE), Department of Education, University of Oxford

Workshop convener: Systematic Reviewing for the Social Sciences 2013-17

Doctoral Training Centre for Social Sciences, University of Oxford

Guest Lecturer (annual): Social Work with Refugees and Asylum Seekers 2008-17

School of Social Work, University of West London

Workshop facilitator: Research Training Skills for Social Sciences 2013-16

Doctoral Training Centre for Social Sciences, University of Oxford

Workshop facilitator: Systematic Reviews and Research Skills Training 2013-16

Department of Education, University of Oxford

Guest Lecturer (annual): Social Work with Refugees and Asylum Seekers 2008-11

School of Social Work, University of East London

PUBLICATIONS

- O'Higgins, A. (2018). Analysis of care and education pathways of refugee and asylum-seeking children in care in England: implications for social work. *International Journal of Social Welfare*.
- Luke, N., & O'Higgins, A. (2018). Is the care system to blame for the poor educational outcomes of children looked after? Evidence from a systematic review and national database analysis. *Children Australia*.
- O'Higgins, A., Ott, E. M., & Shea, M. W. (2018). What is the Impact of Placement Type on Educational and Health Outcomes of Unaccompanied Refugee Minors? A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of the Evidence. *Clinical Child and Family Psychology Review*. <http://doi.org/10.1007/s10567-018-0256-7>
- Tessier, N. G., O'Higgins, A., & Flynn, R. J. (2018). Neglect, educational success, and young people in out-of-home care: Cross-sectional and longitudinal analyses. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 75(Supplement C), 115–129. <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2017.06.005>
- O'Higgins, A., Sebba, J., & Gardner, F. (2017). What are the factors associated with educational achievement for children in kinship or foster care: A systematic review. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 79, 198–220.
- Sebba, J., Berridge, D., Luke, N., Fletcher, J., Bell, K., Strand, S., Thomas, S., Sinclair, I., O'Higgins, A. (2015) *The educational progress of looked after children in England: Linking care and educational data*. Oxford: Rees Centre
- Luke, N., Sinclair, I. & O'Higgins, A. (2015) *The Educational Progress of Looked After Children in England. Technical Report 2: Relating Care to Educational Attainment and Progress*. Rees Centre: Oxford.
- O'Higgins, A., Sebba, J. & Luke, N. (2015) *What is the impact of being in care on the educational outcomes of children? A systematic review*. Oxford: Rees Centre
- O'Higgins, A. (2015) Book Review: Safeguarding Children from Abroad: Refugee, and Asylum-Seeking Children. *International Journal of Migration, Health and Social Care*
- O'Higgins, A., & Evans, R. (2013). Change 4 me? Young refugees' and migrants' research on social inclusion in London. In M. Matsumoto (Ed.), *Education and disadvantaged children and young people : education as a humanitarian response* (pp. 53–74). London: Bloomsbury Academic.
- O'Higgins, A. (2012). Vulnerability and agency: Beyond an irreconcilable dichotomy for social service providers working with young refugees in the UK. *New Directions for Child and Adolescent Development*, 2012(136), 79–91. <http://doi.org/10.1002/cad.20012>
- O'Higgins, A. (2011) The Destitution of Young Refugees. *Oxford Monitor* Vol.1(2)

AWARDS AND GRANTS

PI: Fostering a Shared Understanding of Educational Success for Children in Care

The Oxford Research Centre for the Humanities (TORCH) (£10,000)

The Canada Foundation: travel award for invited talks to University of Ottawa

St Cross College: travel award for visiting research fellowship to University of Ottawa

Rees Centre: DPhil scholarship

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

- 2018**
- School of Social Work Trinity College Dublin, Ireland**
Paper: The role of aspirations for the educational outcomes for children in care
- Centre for Research on Education & Community, University of Ottawa, Canada**
Paper: Risk and protective factors for the educational outcomes for children in care
- 2017**
- International Foster Care Research Network, Paris-Nanterre, France**
Paper: Analysis of carers' aspirations for educational outcomes of children in care
- Institute of Public Policy Exchange, London**
Paper: The Educational Progress of Looked After Children in England
- 2015**
- Université de Strasbourg, Strasbourg, France**
Paper: Evidence Based Practice in Education: What is it, why is it important and what you should do about it
- International Foster Care Research Network, Siegen University, Germany**
Paper: How do foster carers promote educational outcomes of children in care?
- 2014**
- European Scientific Association on Residential and Family Care for Children and Adolescents**
Paper: What are the risk and protective factors for the education of children in care? Findings from two systematic reviews
- 2012**
- Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS)**
Paper: Reconciling vulnerability and agency of young refugees in the UK
- 2011**
- Canadian Association Refugee and Forced Migration Studies**
Paper: Reconceiving the Rights and Needs of Young Refugees
- 2010**
- Canadian Association Refugee and Forced Migration Studies**
Paper: Safeguarding and refugee children in the UK (panel chair)
- BASPCAN**
Paper: Destitution and safeguarding young refugees.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Oxford Pregnancy and Parenting After Loss Support Group** **Since 2018**
Founder

Oxford Refugee Health Initiative, Oxford	Since 2017
Consultant: Capacity Building and Project Management	
St Francis Primary School, Oxford	Since 2014
Vice-Chair of Governors, link governor for Safeguarding, Assessment and Staff Well Being	
The Children's Society, London	2009-2011
Young Refugees' Advocate	
Wandsworth Social Services, London	2007-2009
Leaving Care Personal Advisor (Refuge Children)	
Detention Action	2005-2007
Colnbrook Detention Centre Project Work and Volunteer Coordinator	

OTHER SKILLS

Languages: French & English (native), Spanish (fluent), Portuguese & German (intermediate)
 Software: Microsoft packages, SPSS, STATA, *Mplus* and Nvivo