Practice Development Webinar
July 2020 (date tbc)
Reassessing Attachment Theory in Child Welfare
Sue White
Professor of Social Work, University of Sheffield
in conversation with
James Blewett
Making Research Count at King’s College London

In this webinar, Prof Sue White will talk about her work on attachment theory in conversation with James Blewett. Participants will be invited to join in the discussion.

Sue will draw on her (2019) book on the topic to offer an analysis and summary of the uses, abuses and limitations of attachment theory in contemporary child welfare practice.

Analysing the primary science and drawing on original empirical work, she will show how attachment theory can distort and influence decision-making. She will demonstrate that the dominant view of attachment theory may promote a problematic diagnostic mindset, whilst undervaluing the enduring relationships between children and adults.

Sue will argue that attachment theory can still play an important role in child welfare practice, but that we need a radical shift toward a sophisticated understanding of the realities of human experience to inform ethical practice.