## **Care and Coronavirus**

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

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## Care and Coronavirus: Perspectives on Childhood, Youth and Family

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Emerald Publishing Limited Emerald Publishing, Floor 5, Northspring, 21-23 Wellington Street, Leeds LS1 4DL

First edition 2025

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#### British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN: 978-1-83797-311-8 (Print) ISBN: 978-1-83797-310-1 (Online) ISBN: 978-1-83797-312-5 (Epub)



For our families

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**Lucy Grimshaw** is an Assistant Professor of Social Policy at Northumbria University in the Department of Social Work, Education and Community Wellbeing. Lucy is a Social Scientist whose research examines intersectional inequalities in urban spaces, communities and institutions underpinned by feminist critical pedagogy and employing participatory methods. Recent research projects have focused on children's sense of place in relation to local heritage and inequalities amongst staff and students in higher education institutions.

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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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### Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge and thank the participants and presenters at our conference 'Childhood Care and Coronavirus' held in December 2022 at Northumbria University, UK, from where the idea for this book and some of the chapters originated.

Thanks also to the Social Policy Association (https://social-policy.org.uk/) which awarded us an Opportunity Grant to fund the conference.

We would like to thank the team at Emerald for their support and the anonymous reviewers for their comments on the book proposal.

We would also like to thank our colleagues Dr Stephen Crossley, Dr Lewis Mates, Prof Liz Holt and Prof Tim Rapley.

Final thanks go to all the authors for their contributions to this book and their patience during the process.