



Discipline of Gender, Work and Social Inquiry

Biological postcards: The popularisation of Barker's hypothesis

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Gender, Work & Social Inquiry

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LIGHt Life Course and Intergenerational Health Research Group

Intergenerational health (biological ↔ social)

Life course perspective on health

Gender roles & gender relations

- The politics of mothering/delayed motherhood

Early origins of adult health and disease

Inequalities in health

- Indigenous women
- Obesity, gender and social class

Politics of the child

Media discourses on scientific studies of pregnancy and maternal obesity.





- “Blame your mother if you’re overweight. Sounds Freudian and perhaps a little mean, but a breakthrough study on obesity indicates the path to becoming a podgy adult begins in the womb”

(Taranaki Daily News, July 2007).



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The under-nutrition hypothesis

- Barker's hypothesis
- Foetal and infant origins
- Early origins
- Developmental origins

- Maternal under-nutrition, underweight babies and adult chronic disease – in the context of socio-economic environments.





The over-nutrition hypothesis

- “Maternal obesity increases the transfer of nutrients across the placenta, inducing permanent changes in appetite, neuroendocrine functioning, or energy metabolism ... the implications of these findings are formidable: the obesity epidemic could accelerate through successive generations *independent* of further genetic or environmental factors”.

(Ebbeling et al. 2002: 475)





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STUDY | Health problems passed on through generations

Mothers' smoking gun

Weight

OBESITY

Child neglect linked to feeding

Of

Louise Hall and Kylie Bell

Julia Medew

WOMEN who do not breastfeed their infants are nearly four times more likely to neglect and their child, a study of Australian women has found.

The analysis of about 6000 Queensland mothers and their

born of bad diet in pregnancy

from mothers on fatty diets. Other monkeys were allowed to give birth, and

The monkey study could have a significant impact on the advice

Light mums putting babies at greater risk

to-be urged to diet

Obesity can start in the womb

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Obesity: a mother of a problem

Working mums

Obese mums a risk

Memo to mum: Your children are what you eat

ds 'tot'

Quarter

Obese mums 'harmful'
baby fertility

Gulp, Fat kids? Yes, mum's the word

are what your grandmother ate

Blame your mother

Mum

ding

community groups
ed of responsibility
funding would be
sidents' behaviour
government plan to
ons in indigenous

follows a depart-
f Aboriginal public
by Indigenous Af-
Mal Brough, amid
crowding is contri-
nce in indigenous

nts to fund Aborigi-
rough state and
ments and encour-
responsibility, in an
the common situa-
ople living in three-
es, departmental
firmed.

s, as many as 30
ily and extended
live in one house,
harmony and poor
erbatating violence.
rstood to be under
clude channelling
state governments
aboriginal commu-
s, where staff may
d friends.

n under considera-
indigenous housing
undergo training
And funding could
litional on fewer
the houses.

nt review comes as
ory Chief Minister
highlighted "over-
g" as a key contri-
amily violence, in a
hn Howard at the

ted the Prime Min-
putting underlying
lack of opportunity
mmunities on the



Tight fit: Ursula Burns, at Hopevale Aboriginal community in far north Queensland, with four of the 10 members of her family who share her three-bedroom home



Martin should attend Mr Brough's summit.

Speaking out against Aboriginal violence, Mr Mundine rejected as "a total load of nonsense" a defence that the sexual abuse was

as "not a bad idea" suggestions that the army should become involved in building infrastructure in run-down communities.

And he accepted that some communities might have to consider

Site 'unfit for animals'

Tony Koch

MORE than 40 of the 205 houses in the Hopevale Aboriginal community

Ursula Burns is a resident. Her brick house is solid. But with 10 people living in it, it is a tight fit.