**Mildred Blaxter Post Doctoral Fellowship from the Foundation for the Sociology of Health and Illness**

Dr. Felicity Boardman

This fellowship was used to develop a pre-existing working relationship with a patient support group (The Jennifer Trust for Spinal Muscular Atrophy) with whom I worked during my ESRC funded PhD, (an interview study with 64 people living with Spinal Muscular Atrophy exploring their reproductive decisions and perceptions of their genetic risk), as well as publish peer-reviewed papers resulting from my PhD work. Three peer-review papers were submitted and accepted for publication during the course of the award :

1. ‘Knowledge is Power? The Role of Experiential Knowledge of Inheritable Disability in Genetically ‘Risky’ Reproductive Decisions’ which is accepted for publication in the ‘Sociology of Health and Illness’.
2. ‘Experiential Knowledge of Disability, Impairment and Illness: The Reproductive Decision-Making of Families Genetically At Risk’ which has been accepted for publication to ‘Health’.
3. ‘The Expressivist Objection to Prenatal Testing: The Experiences of Families Living with Genetic Disease’ which has been accepted for publication in ‘Social Science and Medicine’.

Alongside these publications, my research was presented at the ESRC’s Genomics Network Conference (London, April 2012), the Jennifer Trust for SMA’s Research Day (Warwick, July, 2012) and at ‘Rare Disease Day’ (Royal Holloway, February 2013). During this award, I also developed and submitted a research fellowship proposal to the ESRC’s Future Research Leaders scheme. This proposal builds on, and extends, my PhD study and the work completed during my Mildred Blaxter Fellowship. The proposed work involves a mixed methods study of the social and ethical implications of the extension of genetic screening for conditions of variable presentation, such as Spinal Muscular Atrophy. The proposed research builds on the data collected as part of my PhD research, transforming it into longitudinal data through additional interviews with participants. This proposal was successful and the Fellowship commenced in May 2013.