

**Do., 15.01.2026, 16:15 -17:45 Uhr**

**Professor Vicki Harman, University of Reading, UK**

***“You don't want anything to happen to them on  
your watch”: Intensive Parenting and  
Grandmothers’ Roles, Practices and Emotions***

This lecture explores the ways in which the intensification of parenting and the notion of children at risk have influenced grandmothers’ narratives and practices. Interviews with grandmothers in England who regularly look after their grandchildren, reveal that their practices are framed around the notions of children to be protected, educated and entertained. Such notions demonstrate that aspects of grandmothers’ roles as protectors, educators, playmates and confidants involved negotiations with parents around the ideal of ‘putting the child first’. The analysis shows that intensive parenting has influenced grandmothering but the way in which this is enacted reveals resistance to certain aspects of intensive parenting which were seen as incompatible with the grandmother role or unhelpful for building and maintaining relationships with grandchildren.