### Adult Attachment Interview: (Mary Main)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Positive (Thoughts of Self)</th>
<th>Negative</th>
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<td>Secure: Comfortable with intimacy and autonomy.</td>
<td>Preoccupied: With relationships</td>
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#### Are romantic partnerships attachment relationships?
- Hazen and Shaver (1987) among the first to examine links between early and later attachments.

- Fraley (2010) identified 3 implications of similarities:
  - would expect relationships in both cases to ‘work’ in the same way
  - might expect characteristics of adult relationships to reflect childhood experiences.

**Sensitivity as key:**
- Generally agreed that carer sensitivity (in terms of action and context) critical.
  - Acceptance vs. rejection, cooperation vs. interference, accessibility vs. ignoring are also important although parents do not need to be perfect!

#### Attachment disorder:
- Many unsubstantiated claims are made of these attachment disorders.
- Attachment disorders are formally classified but some uncertainty remains.
- Prior and Glaser (2006) suggest difficulties emerging before 5 years reflect severe neglect or multiple charges of caregiver, and lack of attachment figure at critical point.
- Less clarity on the presentation of disorders beyond this age.

**Impact of Bowlby and other theorists:**
- As social workers, consider impact of Bowlby’s assertion that ‘a bad home is better than the best institution’.
- Increased emphasis on preventing the separation of infants and their main carers.
- Policies to enable greater numbers of mothers to stay at home to look after their children?
- Historically family wage, pressure on even teenage mothers to be back in education when baby is 2 months old.
- Greater awareness of importance of ‘continuity of care’.
- Credence now given to general claim of long term outcomes of early maternal development.
- BUT intervention and positive life events can be critical.

**Role of social work:**
- ‘If a community values its children it must cherish their parents’ (Bowlby 1951:84)
- An understanding of attachment behaviour informs judgement relating to child welfare.