

Summer 2004

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Centre for Equity and Innovation in Early Childhood C.E.I.E.C

CEIEC News

<http://www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/LED/CEIEC/>

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AN APOLOGY

Several work pressures combined to prevent issues 3.4 (Dec. 2004) and 4.1 (March 2005) of CEIEC News being published. We're very sorry about this. We're now back on track and issue 4.2 should hit your screens in July as scheduled.

REGULAR FEATURES

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CHILDREN'S VOICES IN POLICY AND IN PRACTICE

The CEIEC is running a one-day conference: 'Children's Voices in Pedagogy and Policy-Making', featuring Professor Peter Moss, from the University of London.

Professor Moss works at the Thomas Coram Research Unit at the University of London's Institute of Education. His recent work includes *From children's services to children's spaces: public policy, children and childhood*. (2002) (with P. Petrie) and *Beyond quality in early childhood education and care: postmodern perspectives* (1999) (with G. Dahlberg and A. Pence).

Peter Moss is the keynote speaker for the day, which also features the CEIEC's own research about how to ensure that children's voices are heard in policy and in practice.

'Children's Voices in Pedagogy & Policy-Making'
Monday 20th June, 2005
9.00 am - 3.30 pm

The University of Melbourne
Elisabeth Murdoch Lecture
Theatre A
Cost: \$100 (FT students \$85)
More information:
<http://www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/LED/CEIEC/>
Registration: Janet Treweek:
j.treweek@unimelb.edu.au

Contesting early

childhood – a new series
Peter Moss and Gunilla Dahlberg edit 'Contesting Early Childhood', a new series of books published by Routledge.

During the CEIEC's one-day conference, 'Children's Voices in Pedagogy and Policy -Making', Peter Moss will officially launch the latest book in the series. *Doing Foucault in Early Childhood Studies: applying post-structural ideas*, by CEIEC Director **Glenda MacNaughton**, has contributions by several researchers associated with the Centre. *Doing Foucault* presents research and case studies showing how teachers and researchers have brought post-structural ideas into classrooms.

Other titles in the 'Contesting Early Childhood series are:
Dahlberg, G. & Moss, P. (2004) 'Ethics and politics in early childhood education.'
Penn, H. (2005) 'Unequal childhoods: young children's lives in poor countries.'
Rinaldi, C. (2005) 'In dialogue with Reggio Emilia: dialoguing, listening & researching.'

More information:
www.routledgefalmer.co.uk

A Rolfe Roadshow?



Dr. Sharne Rolfe

The CEIEC's **Sharne Rolfe**'s recent book, *Rethinking attachment for early childhood practice: promoting security and resilience in young children* is creating considerable interest.

In July, Sharne goes to London at the invitation of the International Attachment Network (IAN) to give an address, 'Attachment in Early Childhood Settings'.

In May, Sharne presented the keynote address to the annual Western Australia SUPS conference in Perth at the invitation of the Ethnic Child Care Resource Unit of West Australia's Dept. of Family and Community Services. The conference theme was 'A Sense of Belonging' and Sharne's paper examined links between Attachment Theory, caregiving and children's belongingness, security and resilience. Her follow-up workshops explored how Attachment Theory can support cross-cultural similarities and differences in caregiving and attachment practices.

CEIEC's new Visiting Scholar

Elizabeth Wood, Reader in Early Childhood Education, University of Exeter (UK), was CEIEC Visiting Scholar in May.

An early childhood specialist who has taught 3-7 year old children, Elizabeth now teaches in various post-graduate, early childhood and primary programs. Her research interests include teachers' thinking and classroom practice; play's role and value; transitions between phases; the policy-practice interface in early

childhood education; socio-cultural orientations to learning; gender and under-achievement.

Elizabeth's publications include *Play, Learning and the Early Childhood Curriculum* Sage Publishing, 2005. [2nd Edn.] (with Jane Attfield.); and *Teaching Through Play*. Open University Press, 1997. Elizabeth co-write *Teaching ...* with Neville Bennett, with whom she conducted research into transitions and research into teachers' theories.

THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF EQUITY & INNOVATION IN EARLY CHILDHOOD.

The CEIEC's online journal.

Vol. 1 Issue 2. Out now.

Contents include:

- Marcelle Townsend-Cross (with the Waltja Tjutangku Palyapayi Organisation) "Indigenous Australian perspectives in early childhood education."
- Gay Wilgus "The best of intentions? A critique of programs for immigrant children in three Parisian early childhood classrooms."
- Michel Vandebroek "Diverse aspects of diversity: a European perspective."
- Gail Masuchika Boldt "Parenting and the narcissistic demands of whiteness."
- Revolutionary Planning Group "The RPG Manifesto."
- Bevan Cassady "Keynote address to the 2004 Indigenous Education Conference."
- Margaret Coady "Children born of Assisted Reproduction Technologies and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child."

The CEIEC Visiting Scholar program has attracted academics from around the world.

Scholars benefit from the chance to work in new surroundings and to exchange views with new colleagues in early childhood studies & services. The CEIEC benefits from the infusion of international ideas and perspectives.

For more information, contact the CEIEC's Jane Page:
j.page@unimelb.edu.au



Dr. Elizabeth Wood

Research with a difference to make a difference

A SPECIAL REPORT FROM MALAWI!



Normally, each edition of *CEIEC News* introduces the work of one of the Centre's postgraduate students. In this edition, however, we feature a report from **Hyacinth Kulemeka**, from Malawi.

Hyacinth was the featured postgraduate in *CEIEC News* 1.3; and in *CEIEC News* 2.3 she told of her achievements since her return to Malawi in 2003.

Here, Hyacinth reports more progress in the early childhood field in Malawi.

Greetings to everyone at the CEIEC! Early childhood development (ECD) in Malawi is changing significantly. I am excited at these events and I hope that we continue to grow from strength to strength.

2003. The United Nations (via UNICEF) commissioned an international study on Violence Against Children in Malawi as a children's rights issue. I conducted the study for Malawi's Ministry of Gender Child Welfare and Community Services and in October 2003, I submitted my Report to the UN.

2003 – 2004. Malawi developed a National ECD Syllabus and a National ECD Training Manual (funding and technical support from UNICEF). Previously, no-one had been responsible for training ECD staff, so most providers are private and untrained. However, we have piloted the Syllabus and Training Manual and a 'Train the Trainer' workshop has run in each of Malawi's three regions. So now Malawi has trained ECD staff!

February 2005. We reviewed the ECD Operational Guidelines (with financial support from UNESCO) to ensure high-quality

outcomes; and we are lobbying the government to implement and enforce the Guidelines.

March 2005. Malawi hosted a UNICEF Regional Training Workshop for ECD experts from nine countries in Southern Africa. The workshop introduced the new UNICEF ECD Resource Pack ... and reinforced some issues I tackled in my research at the University of Melbourne!

April 2005. Malawi's Ministry of Education organized a National Conference to examine how education can respond to current needs. I attended a Regional Workshop that planned the Conference; and I was invited to present a paper. In 'Managing an Effective Early Childhood Education', I argued strongly that the first three years of life are vitally important and proposed ways forward, including bridging the gap between home/preschool and primary school.

As a result of the conference, the Ministry of Education will implement an Early Childhood Education program; and Malawi's next Education Plan will include specific proposals about early childhood education.



THE CEIEC HAS A NEW LOCATION!

We've moved! In January 2005, the CEIEC moved to the Ground Floor, East Wing of the Dame Elisabeth Murdoch building, on the University of Melbourne's Parkville campus.

Previously, CEIEC staff were

dispersed in various locations. Now, they work together in neighbouring offices on the University's main campus. Early results include broader participation in projects, closer collaboration ... and higher coffee bills! Do come and visit!

London: children's voices heard in policy

CEIEC people at large!



CEIEC Research Associate **Dr. Sheralyn Campbell** was keynote speaker at *Throwing the baby out with the bathwater*, an early childhood social justice conference in Sydney in March. Here she is (right) on a panel at the conference with CEIEC Research Associate Ms. Elizabeth Dau (centre) and CEIEC doctoral student Miriam Giugni (left).

Suzanne Hood presented a paper on *Research on children and young people's participation in the UK* on 21 April at the University of Melbourne's Youth Research Centre. The CEIEC's **Dr. Kylie Smith reports.**

Suzanne, a researcher from the UK, discussed her research on participation by children and young people that appeared in the State of London's Children Reports (2001 & 2004). She linked this work with the UK government's policies for children and the (London) Lord Mayor's Strategy for Children and Young People in London.

Suzanne argued strongly that most government policies about children and young people focus

on outcomes (for children teachers and parents); and rarely consider the quality of children's lives in the here-and-now.

Of course, we must plan for the future or risk being its victims and this is as true for government policy-makers and curriculum planners as for the rest of us. However, this shouldn't imply a disregard for children's present well-being. If we asked young children what makes them happy, sad, upset or excited in their day, how would they respond? Why aren't these sorts of questions being asked as a part of planning our future together?

More information on the State of London's Children Reports: www.london.gov.uk

CEIEC'S CHINA CONNECTION CONTINUES TO DEVELOP

The CEIEC has hosted two visits by staff from the Chinese Welfare Institute (CWI), which is based in Shanghai.

In February, a group of CWI officials and policy-makers visited the CEIEC in its new premises in Carlton, in Melbourne. The group came to the CEIEC as part of a study tour of Australia, examining various aspects of research and training in early childhood education and services.

The visit to the CEIEC mixed presentations and seminars about the Centre's work; together with discussions about how the CWI and the CEIEC can collaborate further.

In May, the CEIEC welcomed a

group of 18 teachers and Directors of early childhood centres in Shanghai. The occasion was a two-day custom-built professional development program on Innovation in Early Childhood Curricula.

The May program mixed formal presentations and seminars with visits to selected early childhood centres in Melbourne.

Regular readers of CEIEC News will know that this is the latest in a series of such programs that the CEIEC has run for the CWI. Now, professional development programs for the CWI are almost annual fixtures; CEIEC staff have visited CWI centres in Shanghai; and CWI colleagues presented at the PECERA conference that CEIEC hosted in Melbourne in July 2004.



CWI visits CEIEC in February ...



... and again in May (CEIEC's Merlyne Cruz at centre).



CONFERENCE CALL 1/2005

“Reconsidering Rights and Relationships: Honouring the child, honouring equity (5)”

“Conference Call” appears in each edition of CEIEC News. It keeps you up-to-date with outcomes & developments from the last CEIEC conference and the planning for the next one.

In a “Conference Call”, conference participants – past and future – can exchange views about issues linked with the conference. For example:

- If the last CEIEC conference inspired you to act – from reading a book to changing a regime – tell us.
- If the next CEIEC conference can help your work, tell us.

A “Conference Call” can:

- continue discussions from the last conference
- call for action on issues raised at the last conference
- suggest Special Interest Groups & Learning Circles for the next one.

A “Conference Call” puts you in touch with CEIEC’s constituency.

Contact Patrick Hughes:
patrickh@deakin.edu.au

CEIEC will run its fifth annual conference - ‘**Reconsidering rights and responsibilities**’ - between Thursday 17 and Sunday 20 November 2005 at the University of Melbourne’s Carlton campus.

The theme, ‘Honouring children, honouring equity’ underpins each CEIEC annual conference. This conference features CEIEC’s commitment to grass-roots change and its characteristic mix of speeches, seminars, posters, media screenings stalls, workshops and entertainment.

‘Reconsidering ...’ will include early childhood staff, trainers, managers, resource/advisory staff, academics, researchers, and policy-makers from across Australia and from overseas.

CONFERENCE THEMES

Building respectful relationships with children and communities

Creating equity with/for children: resistances and responsibilities

Social justice and reciprocity in relationships with children

Relationships, rights and early childhood pedagogies

Innovative ways to enact children’s rights.

New to conferences? **CEIEC Mentors** can help you prepare your proposal and/or your session.

Contact: GlendaMacNaughton
gmmacn@unimelb.edu.au

We’re on the Web!

‘Reconsidering ...’ has a page on the CEIEC website:
www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/LED/CEIEC/conf05

Look here for the first ‘Call for proposals’, which invites proposals for papers, workshops, posters, etc.

CEIEC also invites inquiries from groups and organizations wishing to run a stall at the conference and/or to launch books, videos, DVDs, CD-ROMs or other goods and services that are directly relevant to the conference aims and themes.

For your
Diary

5th CEIEC
CONFERENCE
17 - 20 Nov. 2005

July 22 Deadline for proposals
August 14 Notification of acceptance of proposals
October 3 Deadline for ‘early bird’ registrations.

Today! Ask for information:
Janet Treweek
education-ceiec@unimelb.edu.au

“Pushing Boundaries To Make A Difference: Honouring the child, honouring equity 4”



(Back, L-R) *Gunilla Dahlberg, Michel Vadenbroek.*
(Front, L-R) *Glenda MacNaughton, Johanna Wynn (Acting Dean, Faculty of Education), Moira Rayner, Cairo Arafat.*

CEIEC ran its fourth annual conference between Thursday 11 and Sunday 14 November 2004 at the Sydney Myer Asia Center in Melbourne. The conference title was “Pushing the boundaries to make a difference”.

More than 120 people attended from all sectors of the early childhood field. Policy-makers, managers and practitioners joined researchers, academics, trainers and consultants.

As in previous CEIEC conferences, many sessions featured collaboration between two or more sectors, and each session attracted an audience from across the area.

Most of the keynote speakers (photo above) came from overseas; and significant numbers of the presenters & participants came from outside

Australia. The overseas interest in the CEIEC is often because people visit the Centre’s web site and find the page dedicated to the forthcoming conference:

www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/LED/CEIEC

Some papers will appear in The International Journal of Equity and Innovation in Early Childhood, the CEIEC’s online journal:

www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/LED/CEIEC/members/IJEIEC/index

Revolution in the ranks!

The Revolutionary Planning Group launched its Manifesto at the 2004 conference! Anne Houghton reports.

The Revolutionary Planning Group (RPG) emerged from CEIEC’s 2003 conference. We spent 2004 building a network of contacts and developing the RPG Manifesto, which we hope will encourage early childhood professionals to change how they plan for young children.

No-one expects early childhood professionals to be rousing, revolutionizing or radical, so we decided to launch our Manifesto in suitably revolutionary style.



The RPG at the conference

We marched onto the conference floor to the strains of

“The Internationale”, dressed in black with red scarves and waving red banners!

We hope that the RPG Manifesto provokes some discussion within the early childhood field – we’re looking forward to it!

For more on the RPG: yaz@netconnect.com.au

Revolutionizing Planning : The Seminar Series.

Planning for early childhood programs is trapped in checklists and ruled by outdated ideas. The RPG’s professional development series aims to change this.

25 February 2005

“New ideas, old ideas?”
(Developmentalism or ?)

8 April 2005

“Being brave.”
(Dealing with legal issues)

27 May 2005

“Making changes.”
(What to do? How to start?)

24 June 2005

“Visions for the future.”
(Imagining new ways to plan)

Place, time and cost

Dept. of Human Services
Level 12, 555 Collins Street
Melbourne. 1.30 – 4.30 p.m.
(Includes afternoon tea.)
\$120.00 for the series.

Bookings to ...

Brian Newman
Children’s Services
The University of Melbourne
228 Queensberry St. 3053
(Cheques payable to The University of Melbourne)

More Information

yaz@netconnect.com.au

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