

CEIEC INCREASES LINKS WITH S-E ASIA

In April, the CEIEC's Ms. Merlyne Cruz was invited to Japan and Malaysia. She used her past visits to the area to discuss potential collaborative projects with the CEIEC. Merlyne Cruz reports.

and a university lecturer. She is interested in issues of gender, children's rights, etc., so we discussed potential collaboration between her centre and the CEIEC.

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Together with Anne Houghton (Lady Gowrie, Melbourne) I visited 3 centres in Japan. At the Belle Club International Centre, we met Mr. Suzuki - owner of four early childhood centres in Nagoya and Tokyo and head of the International Centre - to discuss curriculum; and we were guests of honor in pre-school children's entrance ceremonies at the Belle Club Toyota and the Belle Club Miyoshi.

Anne and I also conducted a 3-hour professional development program for Suzuki early childhood teachers; and we were the special guests at Suzuki's staff entrance ceremony, attended by about 120 teachers and the mayor of Nagoya.



Merlyne addresses Suzuki teachers in Nagoya

In Tokyo, we visited a 75-year old pre-school centre that is developing curriculum in new ways. We met the founder's granddaughter, who as well as being the Centre's Director is also a lawyer

At the University of Malaya in Malaysia, I met Dr. Mariani Md Nor (former CEIEC Visiting Scholar) and, with her, attended a roundtable discussion with the Dean, Associate Dean and Heads of Departments in the Faculty of Education to discuss possible collaboration with CEIEC.



Merlyne (2nd right) at the roundtable discussion

I also addressed a gathering of lecturers, heads of departments and postgraduate students from University of Malaya. I discussed the CEIEC's knowledge transfer activities, our research program and our annual conference; and I set all these activities in the context of *Growing Esteem* (the University of Melbourne's development strategy).

Finally, I visited an early childhood centre for Muslim children run by the organizer of the 2007 World Forum on Early Childhood, to be held in Malaysia this month.

A UNICEF Child Friendly City has nine characteristic features: children's participation; a child friendly legal framework; a city-wide Children's Rights Strategy; a Children's Rights Unit or other coordinating mechanism; a child impact assessment and evaluation; a specific children's budget; a regular State of the City's Children Report; advocacy of children's rights; and independent advocacy for children.

HELPING MELBOURNE TO BE A 'CHILD FRIENDLY CITY'

A CEIEC team is assisting the City of Melbourne to work towards accreditation from UNICEF as a Child Friendly City.

The CEIEC team is assisting the City of Melbourne in three ways. First, it is reviewing the substantial and growing international literature on child friendly cities and on consulting children.

Second, the team is developing a website at which to find resources on child-friendly cities, frequently asked questions around child friendly cities and links to on-line study modules and surveys. Go to: <http://www.geocities.com/glendamacnaughton/VOICES/MCCcfc.html>

Finally, the CEIEC team is asking a wide range of people - including children, young people, families, City of Melbourne staff and organisations that work with children in Melbourne - how Melbourne can be a more child and youth friendly city.

In undertaking these consultations, the CEIEC team is drawing on the experience of previous CEIEC research projects that sought young children's views on a range of public issues that affect them directly.

The outcomes of the CEIEC team's work - including the findings from the consultations - will be included in a draft implementation plan through which the City of Melbourne can seek accreditation from UNICEF as a Child Friendly City.

For more information on this project: Glenda MacNaughton: g.macnaughton@unimelb.edu.au

VISITING SCHOLARS AT THE CEIEC

Dr. Affrica Taylor was a Visiting Scholar at the CEIEC for six weeks in May and June.

Affrica is a cultural geographer with an extensive background in Aboriginal education; and she currently contributes to undergraduate and graduate teacher education programs in Canberra and Hang Zhou, China. Her research uses postcolonial, queer and spatial theory to examine the socio-cultural politics of difference; and it focuses particularly on relationships between gender and sexuality and on inter-'racial' and inter-generational relations.

Affrica's recent work has explored the politics of difference that come into play when children first negotiate their places of belonging in early childhood settings. Currently, she is collaborating in projects that use queer theory in early childhood and that seek to 'trouble' the discourse of childhood innocence.

As part of her visit, Affrica ran a public seminar on 13th June titled 'Troubling Childhood Innocence'. Here, Affrica explored adult anxieties about and investments in childhood innocence; relationships between adults' desires for childhood innocence and children's sexuality; and popular culture and education as contradictory sites of childhood innocence.

Future CEIEC Visiting Scholars include **Professor Larry Prochener**, **Dr. Hillevi Lenz-Taguchi** (late 2007) and **Professor Beth Swadener** (early 2008). You can, of course, read all about them in future *Centre News*.



WESTERN KIMBERLEY PROJECT FORGES AHEAD



Participants in the third 'learning circle' in Broome

The KAPCSA project - *Learning and growing respectfully together: children, carer and country* - began in 2006 (see *Centre News* 5.4). It features 'learning circles' of early childhood staff; 'bush meetings' of local people who are interested in better services for young children; a project newsletter; and a web site.

The CEIEC is running an action research project with the Kimberley & Pilbara Children's Services Association (KAPCSA) in the Western Kimberley region of Western Australia. The CEIEC's Heather Lawrence reports.

The project's third 'learning circle' was held in Broome in June. Participants traveled long distances to think about the issues, challenges and possibilities of creating Early Childhood learning places that support strong cultural ways to educate young children. We discussed how to help children to develop strong identities,



A light moment in the third 'learning circle' in Broome

including teaching them about their country and their culture through stories. Pat Mumanjun Torres (author, teacher and researcher) shared her identity stories and facilitated the process of finding and retelling stories - both contemporary and traditional - for young children.



Participants in the third 'learning circle' in Broome

In the week beginning 9 July, over 100 women will gather in the Fitzroy Valley at a 'bush meeting' to discuss and document ideas, issues and possibilities for strengthening children's services in the West Kimberley. We all eagerly await the next step in our shared journey of learning and growing.

SOME RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS BY CEIEC PEOPLE!

CEIEC doctoral student Ms. Miriam Giugni was awarded equal second place in the University of Melbourne's Faculty of Education Student Research Prize for a research publication in 2006.

Miriam's article, *Conceptualising Goodies and Baddies through Narratives of Jesus and Superman*, was published in *Contemporary Issues in Early Childhood*, 7 (2) pp. 97-108. Her equal second place brings Miriam \$500.

The CEIEC's Ms. Jane Page has just submitted her PhD thesis

for examination!

Jane's thesis - *Children's discourses of emotions: Rethinking citizenship* - examines the emotional component of citizenship and how it can be used to argue that young children are citizens. j.page@unimelb.edu.au

CEIEC Director Prof. Glenda Mac Naughton received the University of Melbourne's Faculty of Education Award for Research Excellence recently.

The Award brings Glenda \$3,000 to support her research work.

A big CEIEC 'Well done!' folks.





The ARC's Linkage scheme supports collaborative research and development projects between higher education organisations and other organizations. It aims to enable advanced knowledge to be applied to problems.

CEIEC IN SUCCESSFUL BID FOR ARC 'LINKAGE' FUNDS

CEIEC Director Prof. Glenda Mac Naughton is in a successful bid for research funds from the Australian Research Council's Linkage scheme.

Creating culturally respectful primary schools: enhancing relationships through strategic professional learning will run between 2007 and 2009. It will assist primary teachers to create a culture and curriculum through which children respect and value cultural diversity and address differences (interpersonal and inter-group) constructively. Each school will create a team to oversee the implementation and maintenance of the changes; and each team will receive sustained professional development. The outcome will be more effective evidence-based professional learning on this topic.

Glenda will work with Prof. Liz Freeman (Education, University of Melbourne) and Prof. Eleanor Wortheim (Psychology, La Trobe); other partners are the Scanlon Foundation; the Australian Psychological Society; the Catholic Education Office (Melbourne); Haig Street Primary School; and St Anthony's Primary School (both in Melbourne).

CEIEC PUBLIC SEMINAR ON NATIONAL ECE CURRICULUM

On 6 June, the CEIEC held a public seminar titled, 'National curriculum in early childhood: what could and should be achieved?'

The seminar featured Prof. David Kirp, Professor of Public Policy at the University of California at Berkeley. Prof. Kirp was the founding Director of the Harvard

CEIEC WELCOMES ECE STAFF FROM NEW ZEALAND

On Tuesday, 26th of June, the CEIEC welcomed 23 early childhood staff from the Tauranga Regional Free Kindergarten Association, New Zealand.

The group attended an all-day professional development program in which they examined the lessons of several current CEIEC research projects about how best to work on issues of cultural and racial diversity in the early childhood curriculum.

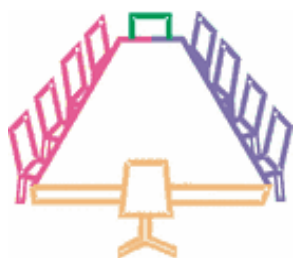
The program was presented by the CEIEC's Ms. Merlyne Cruz, Dr. Karina Davis, Prof. Glenda Mac Naughton and Ms. Prasanna Srivinasan.

The New Zealand guests were also introduced to several research-based resources that the CEIEC has developed to support teaching and learning for equity and diversity in early childhood settings. These included:

- the CEIEC's Cultural Diversity Resource
- INSPIRE - the CEIEC's on-line database of inspiring environments and practices
- the CEIEC Diversity Dolls.

Centre on Law and Education - a national law reform institution that promotes equality of educational opportunity.

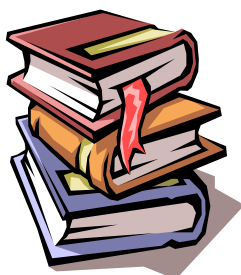
Prof. Kirp's recent books include *Does Preschool Matter?* and *The Sandbox Investment: The Universal Preschool Movement and Kids-First Politics*.



IJEIC is an on-line, fully refereed international research and policy journal published by the Centre for Equity and Innovation in Early Childhood (CEIEC).

A list of the contents of the current edition is available at: <http://www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/ceiec/members/IJEIC/index.html>

The theme of the next edition (5.2, November 2007) will be 'Gender and sexuality', edited by Dr. Africa Taylor and Dr. Mindy Blaise.



LATEST IJEIC HITS THE (VIRTUAL) STREETS!

The latest edition (5.1) of the **International Journal of Equity and Innovation in Early Childhood** is available now. It includes all the keynote addresses at the CEIEC's 2006 conference.

(i) *Editorial*. Jane Page, CEIEC

1. *Be the change you want to see (Mahatma Gandhi)* Lillian Holt, The University of Melbourne, Australia.

2. *Children's voices in confusing and challenging times*. Bill Parker, District Director, Eyre District, South Australia.

3. *Multiplicity, democracy and dialogue: from an early childhood education of predictable outcomes to a childhood education of uncertain possibilities*. Peter Moss, Thomas Coram Research Unit, Institute of Education, University of London, UK.

4. *Resisting resistance in postcolonial theory: implications for the study of childhood*. Radhika Viruru, Department of Teaching, Learning and Culture, Texas A&M University, USA.

5. *Fairytales and fantasies: the early childhood curriculum truths and their effects for seeing and assessing children*. Kylie Smith, CEIEC.

6. *Racialized migrant women's narratives on child care and citizenship: an anti-racist, transnational feminist analysis*.

Veronica Pacini-Ketchabaw, School of Child & Youth Care, University of Victoria, Canada.

7. *Group programs and counselling following parental separation: the experiences of children at Anglicare, W. Australia*. Assoc. Prof. Lisabeth Pike, Dr Alan Campbell, Dr Paul Murphy, Ms Michelle Tolson. Edith Cowan University, Western Australia.

8. *Successful transitions from prior-to-school to school for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander children*. Bob Perry, Sue Dockett, Tracey Simpson, Charles Sturt University, New South Wales, Australia; and Terry Mason, University of Western Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

NEW CEIEC PUBLICATIONS

- MacNaughton, G., Smith, K. & Hughes, P. (2007) "Rethinking approaches to working with children who challenge: action learning for emancipatory practice." International Journal of Early Childhood. 39 (1) 39 - 58.

- MacNaughton, G., Smith, K. & Hughes, P. (2007) "Early childhood professionals and children's rights: tensions and possibilities around the United Nations General Comment No. 7 on Children's Rights." International Journal of Early Years Education. 15 (2) 161 - 170.

- MacNaughton, G., Smith, K. & Hughes, P. (2007) (In press) "Young children's rights and public policy: practices and possibilities for citizenship in the early years." Children and Society.

- MacNaughton, G. & Hughes, P. (2007) "Teaching respect for cultural diversity in Australian early childhood programs: a challenge for professional learning." Journal of Early Childhood Research. 5. 189 - 204.





CONFERENCE CALL 7/2

"Transforming connections: local & global possibilities"

Honouring the child. honouring equity 7"

CEIEC will run its seventh annual conference between Thursday 15 and Saturday 17 November 2007 at the University of Melbourne. The conference title is "Transforming connections: local and global possibilities".

The stellar line-up of keynote speakers is listed below; see the conference website for more info.

Professor Beth Blue Swadener, Arizona State University, Phoenix Arizona USA

Beth is Professor and Chair of Early Childhood Education and Professor of Policy Studies in the School of Justice and Social Inquiry. Her recent titles include, *Power and voice in research with children* and *Decolonizing research in cross cultural contexts*.

Dr Gloria Swindler Boutte, Benedict College of Education, Columbia South Carolina USA

Gloria is Director of the newly-established Center of Excellence for the Education and Equity of African American students in Columbia, South Carolina. She has presented widely on diversity issues and enjoys working with teachers and schools.

Professor Paul Connolly, Queens University, Belfast, IRE

Paul is Director of Research with responsibility for the Research Cluster 'Education in Divided Societies'. He is also the Director of NFER at Queen's centre for Educational Research. One of his main research areas is diversity and inclusion in the early years.

For your
Diary

7th CEIEC
CONFERENCE
15 - 17 Nov. 2007

July 31 Deadline for proposals
August 17 Notification of acceptance of proposals
September 28 Deadline for 'early bird' registrations.

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

Ms. Sue Atkinson, University of Melbourne, Melbourne Australia

Sue is a PhD candidate examining 'Indigenous self-determination and early childhood education and care in Victoria.' Sue is an Indigenous Australian of the Yorta Yorta people, whose traditional homelands are in North East Victoria. She has worked for 30 yrs with Indigenous and non-Indigenous students from the kindergarten to Higher Education.

Dr Chris Sarra, Institute for Indigenous Leadership in Education & Development, Queensland, Australia

Chris is Director of this Institute which aims to improve student outcomes for Indigenous children beyond Cherbourg.

Conference Call appears in each edition of *Centre News*.

Conference Call previews the forthcoming CEIEC annual conference. It introduces featured speakers, highlights leading sessions and announces events associated with the conference.

The conference website has more up-to-date information and news about the conference, including backgrounds of keynote speakers and news about the sessions. The website address is at the bottom of this page.

You can make your own Conference Call. You can use this space to, e.g.,

- o contact people with shared interests;
- o announce a Special Interest Group;
- o invite collaboration.

To make your 'Conference Call', contact Patrick Hughes: education-ceiec-conference@unimelb.edu.au

SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACTS TO (deep breath!):

<http://www.aecities.com/glendamacnaughton/conf2007/submitabstractform.html>

