

Throwing the Baby Out With the Bathwater 11

Saturday 14 June 2014

Redfern Community Centre, 29-53 Hugo Street, REDFERN



TIME	PROGRAM
8.30 – 9.00am	Arrival, registration, tea & coffee
9.00 – 9.10am	Welcome to Country
9.10 – 9.30am	Nick Murphie Memorial Lecture Introduction <i>Dr Red Ruby Scarlet (aka Dr Miriam Giugni)</i>
9.30 – 10.30am	Nick Murphie Memorial Lecture 'Growing Up Queer': Troubling gender binaries and normative narratives of gender - A focus on gender diversity in young people's lives <i>Professor Kerry Robinson (University of Western Sydney)</i>
10.30 – 11.30am	Keynote: Failures and making mistakes: A socially just curriculum <i>Associate Professor Felicity McArdle (Charles Sturt University)</i>
11.30 – 12.00pm	BRUNCH
12.00 – 1.00pm	Keynote: Re-configuring 'quality' in early childhood education <i>Professor Jayne Osgood (London Metropolitan University)</i>
1.00 – 1.30pm	Keynote: Seeking Justice: A Public(art) Salon <i>Dr Linda Knight (Queensland University of Technology), Tamara Cumming (Charles Sturt University) and Dr Red Ruby Scarlet (Social Justice In Early Childhood)</i>

For registration and venue information, visit our website www.sjiec.org

‘Growing Up Queer’: Troubling gender binaries and normative narratives of gender - A focus on gender diversity in young people’s lives

Professor Kerry Robinson, University of Western Sydney

What does it mean to be gender queer and what is it like to grow up as a gender diverse young person? Informed by qualitative research this presentation examines the experiences of gender diversity in children and young people and how it is perceived and negotiated by their peers, parents and educators. In addition, the relationships between gender diversity, the body, and sexuality are explored utilizing the works of Judith Butler, Jack Halberstam and other critical gender theorists. Gender diversity is becoming increasingly visible amongst children and young adults despite the stigma and abuse often attached to transgressing gender norms. Gender diversity (or gender variance) is a term used to articulate expressions of gender that do not match that predicted by one’s sex. Gender diversity can include a range of subject positions from the majority who wish only to have more flexibility in expressing or representing their gender identities, to a small fraction identifying as transgender in childhood, adolescence and adulthood. Facebook currently has over 50 category options to describe one’s gender identity, demonstrating a contemporary shift in that way that some are troubling gender binaries and highlighting the complexities of the way that many young people see their gendered lives.

Failures and making mistakes: A socially just curriculum

A/Professor Felicity McArdle, Charles Sturt University

In a time when curriculum comes packaged as tight as a drum, homogenised and bubble-wrapped, and tested, assessed, evaluated and rated — it is increasingly difficult to raise, let alone deal with, social justice. And yet, most children feel strongly about what is fair and just. This paper will suggest some ways of seeing and knowing that can create a space for listening, communicating, relationships. The arts are particularly suited to make a fit with a framework for *Belonging, Being and Becoming*, and this address will take a look at some ways in which this works — with young children, their carers, and in teacher education programmes.

Re-configuring ‘quality’ in early childhood education

Professor Jayne Osgood, London Metropolitan University

‘Quality’ is a recurring and problematic discourse in early childhood education; the most recent debates in the UK context are fuelled by The Nutbrown Review: Foundations for Quality (2012) with its focus on professional qualifications, and career pathways which (yet again) calls into question the ‘quality’ of the early childhood workforce. This paper argues that a new logic would be helpful to reach different understandings of ‘quality’ in relation to the workforce. A post-humanist logic is created by working with some concepts offered by Deleuze and Guattari: ‘assemblage’, ‘desire’ and ‘territories’ to understand ‘quality’ as rhizomatic and represented within child/adult/teacher/researcher/parent/culture/politics/class/gender assemblage. By moving away from hegemonic framings of ‘quality’ and by inviting an engagement with curiosities, human and non-human bodies, and desires, my intention is to map new territories about ‘quality’ in the context of the early years workforce and contribute to a shift in debates about how ‘quality’ looks and feels in processes of be(com)ing (Braidotti, 2013).

Seeking Justice: a public(art) salon

Dr Linda Knight (Queensland University of Technology), Tamara Cumming (Charles Sturt University) and Dr Red Ruby Scarlet (Social Justice In Early Childhood)

Salons became popular in Europe in 17th Century as sites of philosophic and literary conversation. Contemporary salons can also act as affective sites to challenge presentation and dissemination norms that hierarchise and centralise the human. For Deleuze and Guattari (1987), assemblages are shifting and decentering, so how might assemblages of chairs, tables, bodies, lights, objects, space, help to trouble conventional thinking about issues and subjects? In a contemporary context the salon engages in polyvocal, corporeal and affective activity to become a critical-cultural site for action. Join the salon, hosted by #KnightMadame, Salonniere Red and Salonniere Tamara in an open and fluid session with the Keynote speakers and other delegates. Small gatherings will allow for intimate conversations and also enable movement around the room to connect into new discussions and critical-cultural experiences. The salon will also be a live arts installation: Affective material agents will be placed throughout the space to compliment the Keynote presentations and to initiate creative reconfigurations of notions of quality in early childhood. These vocal/visual/ aural/material reconfigurations can be recorded by using free photo slideshow and animation apps (Lego Movie, PicSlide) which will be live-shared onto the Social Justice in Early Childhood Facebook site. #KnightMadame, an arts based researcher will also capture aspects of the salon on film for the creation of video art. Delegates should download the free apps prior to the salon, and join the Social Justice in Early Childhood Facebook site.