



Throwing the Baby Out With the Bathwater 12: Gender and the Arts

Saturday 18th July 2015

Redfern Community Centre, 29-53 Hugo Street, REDFERN

TIME	PROGRAM
8.30 – 9.00	Arrival, registration, tea & coffee
9.00 – 9.10	Acknowledgment of Country
9.10 – 9.40	A tribute to the life of Elizabeth Dau: Early childhood educator, loved activist, anti-bias pioneer <i>Associate Professor Chris Woodrow, Brigitte Mitchell, Marian Rakosi</i>
9.40 – 10.25	Annual Nick Murphie Memorial Keynote: The Composition of Batman <i>Mr Harrison Harding (Batman) and Dr Red Ruby Scarlet (Robin) - MultiVerse Creative & Performance</i>
10.25 – 11.10	The Experience of Embodying Public Spaces in a Gender Conforming and non-Queer World <i>Danny Xanadu</i>
11.10 – 11.20	Fruit and water break
11.20 – 12.05	Bush Kinder – no art supplies, no equipment, no boundaries <i>BushKinder Doug (Doug Fargher) and Hermoso Monstruo (Ben Goodes)</i>
12.05 – 12.50	Reconfiguring Quality in Early Childhood: Chronicling ‘Act’ivism through Anarchy <i>The EYLF Pirates - Awilda Longstocking, Jeanne de Clisson, Gráinne O'Malley; TechnoGastroPodess (Prof Jayne Osgood - Middlesex University London) and Seirēn Red Ruby Scarlet (Dr Miriam Giugni) with their Cat</i>
12.50 – 1.40	Lunch break
1.40 – 2.40	Industrial Relations and Political Commentary Panel: Is an educator’s place in their union? <i>Tamika Hicks (United Voice), Martel Menz (Australian Education Union), Verena Heron (Independent Education Union), Lisa Bryant (Public Commentator) and Liam McNicholas (Children’s Agenda)</i>
2.40 – 3.30	Wrap-up: On the Couch - political action gender and the arts

Keynote abstracts

Bush Kinder – no art supplies, no equipment, no boundaries

The educators at Bush Kinder have noticed the profound and positive influence the natural environment has on children. With less made and built stuff available to them the children explore gender and art with a freedom not afforded to them in a traditional early childhood service. During this workshop Doug and Ben will share their experiences through video and storytelling. Participants will be invited to add their voice to a meaningful and thought provoking discussion.

Reconfiguring Quality in Early Childhood: Chronicling ‘Act’ivism through Anarchy

‘Act’ivism is a contentious term given its association with both left and right wing politics. In this presentation a group of known, unknown, yet to be known and not to be known early childhood ‘Act’ivists offer their collective and dissenting stories of living everyday life as a different kind of early childhood teacher. We will discuss fitting and not fitting into any of the discourses that produce who we are permitted to become in our own professional community. A series of digital images and videos from early childhood teachers and researchers will be shared to prompt discussion about the relationship between everyday practice, quality as an idea, activism and two theoretical perspectives: posthumanism and postcolonialism (Giugni, 2011). The nature of this presentation is performative so that we are able to share the ways in which ‘Act’ivism for us as a group of early childhood activists is enabled through ‘play’. The ‘play script’ that pervades early childhood education is one we have picked up on to generate a kind of affect in how to blur the lines of the play scripts that shape the frameworks of the profession. The political position we occupy is drawn from Giugni’s (2013) concept of ‘Worldly Justice’. Worldly justice is an extraverted move to include more than the social (human) - so animals, plants, places, built environments, technology skies, water ships and other transportal modes are illustrated as intra-dependent in our Worldly Becomings. Knotted into this collecting collective of collections are manifestations of how blurring places (including water), bodies and the temporal structures that imbibe them produce ‘anothers’ and ‘anotherworldlinesses’ that become new and different realities to those anticipated by the early childhood community at large. We also present options for creative and imaginative ways to lobby government and influence policy through these creative means.

Industrial Relations and Political Commentary Panel: Is an educator’s place in their union?

How can we pursue a rights agenda through unionism and activism? Where do we sit now? Are we ready to take up the next set of challenges? Workers’ Rights and Human Rights are universal and indivisible, but do early childhood educators see a role for themselves as active members of their union? A long-standing grievance from the early childhood workforce is a lack of professional pay, poor conditions, and inadequate recognition for our professional identity, not only by the wider community but amongst ourselves. So where do we go from here, when our industrial rights and professional identities are under threat?

The panel will consider how we protect and advance our industrial rights by sharpening the tools in our industrial toolkit. We’ll look at an engaged membership, organising, collective bargaining, campaigning and industrial action as a means of achieving what we deserve. We’ll consider how

improvements to wages and conditions can shape and influence our professional identities. We'll discuss the barriers we face and how to overcome them. This is a session of imagining – what if we stood up and demanded better? What relationships do we need to forge and what strategies will facilitate our successes? Where do we begin? Imagine what we could achieve for ourselves and the profession, and how might this impact on children and families?

The Independent Education Union of Australia has approximately 75,000 members employed in a variety of non-government education institutions including in the Early Childhood Education sector in NSW where we have members employed as qualified teachers and directors in early childhood services both in the for profit and not for profit services.

As a union, the IEU represents both the professional and industrial issues of members and the sector and both of these roles are intrinsically linked. Currently on the industrial front, the IEU has lodged a pay equity claim for teachers employed in the sector. This will be heard along with the United Voice application. While the case commenced in 2014 it is clear that it will not be concluded any time soon, so in the meantime IEU is ensuring that members' salary and conditions are protected through enterprise agreement in the sector. Many of these agreements have resulted in EC teachers' salaries reaching parity with teachers in schools.

For a number of years the IEU has actively lobbied and campaigned for early childhood teachers to be accredited in the same way as teachers in schools. This year amendments to the relevant NSW act were made and it is expected that early childhood teachers in NSW will have be accredited by BOSTES by 2017. The IEU will be ensuring that the accreditation process meets the needs of the sector, the early childhood profession as well as protecting the rights and interests of early childhood teachers.

On behalf of members and the sector the IEU makes submissions to all levels of government and agencies including recently to the Productivity Commission review, and the review of the National Quality Framework. The IEU works actively with groups to further not only the interest of members but the sector as whole, from the recent campaign for preschool funding coordinated by the NSW Children's Services Forum as well as actively supporting such groups as Chilout.

Liam and Lisa will play the role of provocateurs on this panel, a role that perhaps comes naturally too both. They will ask questions and offer commentary around issues such as:

- Should a union be campaigning on the issue of quality?
- What role can unions play in advocating in this space when they cannot resolve the relationships between them?
- How high a priority should be given for advocacy around educators' rights?
- Do educators have the right to advocate for their rights when children's rights are not preserved?
- Does the alignment of unions with the ALP mean their advocacy message becomes tainted?
- Is pursuing workers' rights a social justice issue?

Website: www.sjiec.org

Registration Form

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The conference fee for 2015 is **\$50** per person. Please ensure you bring this payment in **cash** on the day of the conference. The conference program will be available through the website: www.sjiec.org

For **multiple registrations from the one organisation**, please use one form and enter all names in first box below. Indicate whether you would like individual receipts or one receipt made out to the organisation. Return registration form to conference@sjiec.org

Name:	
Contact Phone:	
Email Address:	
Mailing Address:	
Organisation:	
Face to face practitioner:	Yes / No
Current Position:	
Dietary Requirements: <i>(All food will be vegetarian – no meat. Please only provide other dietary requirement details if needed)</i>	

Because numbers are limited, we will notify all registrants of their success in registration as soon as possible by e-mail (this may take a few days, please be patient).

Registration of **\$50** per person is **payable on the day** of the conference with **cash only**. NB: If you register you are obligated to pay regardless of whether or not you attend on the day. This is because we will be required to turn registrants away when we reach maximum numbers. Please maintain your professional integrity.

For further information:

Registrations/Dietary requirements: conference@sjiec.org