Open International Research Seminar on Childcare

CHILDCARE POLICIES AND THE ISSUES OF INEQUALITY

Time: June 3rd, 2016, 9.15 a.m.–13.00 p.m.

Place: University of Tampere, Linna Building, 5th floor, room 5026
Kalevantie 5, Tampere

PERLA in co-operation with research project Finnish Childcare Policies: In/Equality in Focus organizes an open international research seminar on childcare. The aim of the seminar is to share and discuss recent and ongoing research on some current topics in the field of childhood, childcare and early childhood education both in Finland and in Britain. Our international guests from Britain (Huddersfield Centre for Research on Education and Society, University of Huddersfield) include Janet Fink (Professor of Childhood and Personal Relationships), Amanda Crow (Senior Lecturer), Jonquil Balcombe (PhD student), and Tina Froggett (PhD student).

Programme

9.15–9.20 Katja Repo: Welcome

9.20–10.00 Kirsti Karila & Katja Repo: Finnish childcare policies – the main features

10.00–10.40 Maarit Alasuutari: Introduction to CHILDCARE-project

10.40–11.20 Janet Fink: Interrogating visual narratives of child poverty

11.20–12.00 Coffee and sandwiches

12.00–12.20 Johanna Hietamäki: Families’ childcare arrangements and well-being of children

12.20–13.00 Jonquil Balcombe: Play as parents’ work: exploring parenting advice about play
Tina Froggett: Floating about in the ether: situating child well-being in early years practice
Amanda Crow: Exploring the value of collaborative pedagogy in the early years

13.00–13.30 Refreshments
The seminar is followed by GUEST LECTURE ON CHILDREN’S POLITICS AND CHILD AND YOUTH MOBILITY

Time: June 3rd, 2016, 13.30–14.45 p.m.

Place: University of Tampere, Linna Building, 5th floor, room 5026
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Children’s politics in everyday life in the city
Anne Harju, Faculty of Education and Society, Malmö University, Sweden

The paper focuses on children as political subjects. Children’s politics is explored by how children relate to, use and rework positions and identities offered to them and others in a residential narrative of ‘Swedes’ and ‘immigrants’. The empirical data come from a larger project that aimed to explore social relations in a city in southern Sweden. Four semi-structured interviews were selected, which included five children aged 11 to 16 and their parents. The results show that the participating children affect, as well are affected by, the residential narrative. They use and rework its social ranking orders and power relations when managing their everyday lives, but they also reflect on, and challenge, positions and identities offered in the narrative. The results from this minor study, and the larger project (Harju 2013), indicate that children should be recognised as political agents who are not only passive receivers of politics directed towards them, but also political actors in their own right.

Child and youth mobility – challenges for the educational systems
Anne Harju, Faculty of Education and Society, Malmö University, Sweden
Norma Montesino, School of Social Work, Lund University, Sweden

During the last years, an increasing number of newly arrived children and youth have arrived in Sweden from other continents. This migration constitutes, for the Swedish society, a new form of mobility, and challenges some of the established child protection systems constructed for acting within the geographical framework of the nation state. The taken for granted assumptions made by these institutions concerning their protective task and role, are questioned by the existence of children and youth, who assume an independent role and use mobility in their effort to improve their life project. In the project, we are studying how unaccompanied minors and young people describe their encounters with the protection systems in Sweden, and the institutionalized responses of these systems. We are especially interested of how the educational system deals with these challenges, and will therefore especially look at how child mobility is perceived and incorporated in the daily schoolwork and how children use mobility in their daily school lives.
Anne Harju has a PhD in social work and she is a senior lecturer at the Faculty of Education and Society, Malmö University, Sweden. Her research is mainly oriented towards childhood studies and the understanding of children’s everyday lives. She has also conducted studies within the field of urban studies and studies in higher education.

The guest lecture is organized by Space and Political Agency Research Group (SPARG) and Tampere Centre for Childhood, Youth and Family Research (PERLA). Both events are open for anyone interested in current topics in childhood, youth and family research.

We kindly ask you to register for the coffee service by filling out the following form by May 31st. [https://elomake.uta.fi/lomakkeet/17057/lomake.html](https://elomake.uta.fi/lomakkeet/17057/lomake.html)

For more information, please contact Katja Repo (katja.repo@uta.fi, 050 318 6199), Ella Valtavirta (ella.valtavirta@uta.fi, 050 318 7808), or Zsuzsa Millei (zsuzsa.millei@uta.fi, 040 190 4031).

You are warmly welcome!