



CEIEC

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

# *Post Conference Report*

## **Honoring the Child, Honoring Equity 8: Young Citizen(s), New Citizenship(s)**

*2008 International Early Childhood Conference*

### **Centre for Equity and Innovation in Early Childhood**

Elisabeth Murdoch Building, East Wing, The University of Melbourne. Victoria, 3010 Australia

**T:** +61 8344 7780 **F:** +61 3 9347 9380 **E:** [education-ceiec@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:education-ceiec@unimelb.edu.au)

**W:** [www.education.unimelb.edu.au/ceiec](http://www.education.unimelb.edu.au/ceiec)



MELBOURNE  
GRADUATE  
SCHOOL OF  
EDUCATION

# THE EVENT

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual International Early Childhood Education Conference *Honoring the Child, Honoring Equity 8: Young Citizen(s), New Citizenship(s)* organised by the Centre for Equity and Innovation in Early Childhood (CEIEC) was held from November 13 to November 15 2008 at the University of Melbourne. The conference was supported by Select Education, the Creswick Foundation and the City of Yarra. Joy Murphy was once again present to conduct the Welcome to Country ceremony and the Conference was opened by Professor Glenda MacNaughton, the CEIEC Director. Conference delegates enjoyed the sounds of the Combo Bombo Jazz Ensemble during the Welcome reception.

# CONFERENCE SPONSORS

The CEIEC would like to acknowledge the following sponsors for their generous support of the 2008 Honoring the Child, honouring Equity 8 conference:



# CONFERENCE DELEGATES

More than 125 delegates from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Pakistan, Thailand, United Kingdom and the United States of America attended the conference. This years attendees were made up of 45% academics, 22% practitioners and 10% policy-makers. Conference delegates were able to attend sessions highlighting the latest research and practices in early childhood education as well as attending several book launches. The Book Garden, the National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN), Yarn Strong Sista, Education Experience and Play to Learn provided valuable resources for conference delegates to peruse and purchase during the breaks.

# ORGANISATIONS PRESENT AT THE 2008 CONFERENCE

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's  
Services Leadership Alliance

ABSTARR

ACT Dept. of Education & Training

Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education

Bayulu Community Women's Group

Boroondara Kindergarten

Box Hill Institute

Brisbane Inclusion Support Agency

Bureau MUTANT

Charles Darwin University

City of Melbourne

City of Yarra

Community Child Care

Creswick Foundation

Department of Education and Children's Services

Early Learning & Curriculum DECS SA

Early Learning Centre, University of Melbourne

East Los Angeles College

Family Planning Queensland

Flinders University

Garndoo Jarowair-ISA Darling Downs & South West  
Q

Honeypot

Howlong Playhouse

Infants' Home Child & Family Services

Institute of Early Childhood, Macquarie University

Kingborough Family Day Care Scheme

KU Inclusion Support Agency

Lauriston Girls' School

Mahasarakham University

Marninwarntikura Women's Resource Centre

Melbourne Girls Grammar

Melbourne Graduate School of Education

Moira Family Day Care

Monash University

Open University

Pacific Oaks College

Pennington Junior Primary

Pennington Kindergarten

Professional Support Co-ordinator Queensland  
(PSCQ)  
Queensland University of Technology

Rosemont Cottage Kindergarten

Royal Children's Hospital

School of Education, Unitec

Southern Cross University

Swanston Street Children's Centre

Swinburne TAFE

TAFE NSW

Tiggers Place CCC

UCCR

University of British Columbia

University of Canberra

University of Melbourne

University of New Brunswick

University of Newcastle

University of Pregon

University of the Sunshine Coast

University of Waikato, New Zealand

University of Warwick

Victoria Curriculum & Assessment Authority

Wenona School

Whyalla Stuart Early Childhood Centre  
Kindergarten

# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

The 2008 program included a total of 4 keynote presentations and 40 sessions and workshops with 66 presenters from 6 countries. A worldwide call for papers and several invitations to key early childhood experts to present at the conference were issued. For a copy of the 2008 Honoring the Child, Honoring Equity conference program visit: [www.education.unimelb.edu.au/ceiec](http://www.education.unimelb.edu.au/ceiec)

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Karen Martin



Louise Derman-Sparks



Martin Woodhead



Wajuppa Tossa

Associate Professor Karen Martin from Southern Cross University in Australia was the opening keynote speaker on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November with her presentation entitled *Young Citizens and New Citizenships beyond 'The Apology': Different spaces with the same challenges?* discussing the nation post-Apology. Associate Professor Dr Wajuppa Tossa from Mahasarakham University in Thailand was the opening keynote speaker on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November. Her presentation *Educating Young Children through Folktales and Storytelling* gave academics and practitioners greater insight into the importance of storytelling in cultural identity as well as demonstrating practical examples using Thai/Lao folktales. Professor Martin Woodhead from the Open University in the United Kingdom gave the closing keynote presentation on Friday. His presentation, *Pathways through early childhood: respecting rights, equity and diversity*, drew on emerging findings from the 'Young Lives' project – a fifteen year longitudinal study of childhood poverty. The conference concluded with a keynote presented by Professor Louise Derman-Sparks from Pacific Oaks College in the United States of America. Her keynote presentation entitled *Keep on, Keeping on: Progress, Challenges and Possibilities for Anti-Bias Education*, explored the impact of anti-bias curriculum in early childhood and the challenges and obstacles faced by those implementing the curriculum. She highlighted the need for educators to continue to this important work. All four keynote speakers presented workshops during the conference.

"[Keynotes] all brilliant. Thank you for getting them here" – Conference delegate

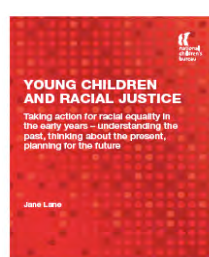
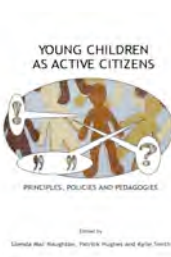
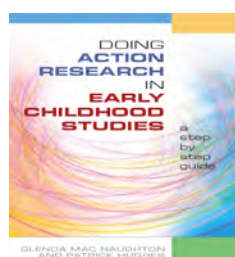
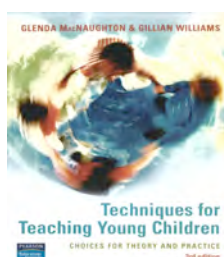
"All keynotes were absolutely inspirational and thought provoking on all fronts. They were all chosen very carefully which was most obvious – catering for varied interest" – Conference delegate

"Excellent range of topics and interesting captivating presenters" – Conference delegate

"Really good quality presentations that made me think and re-think my positioning in a number of areas" – Conference delegate

# BOOK LAUNCHES

The Honoring the Child, Honoring Equity 8 conference included several book launches over the three days. On Thursday evening Professor Martin Woodhead launched *Techniques for Teaching Young Children: Choices for Theory and Practice* by Gillian Williams and Glenda MacNaughton, *Doing Action Research in Early Childhood Studies: A step by step guide* by Glenda MacNaughton and Patrick Hughes and *Young children as active citizens: Principles, policies and pedagogies* edited by Glenda MacNaughton, Patrick Hughes and Kylie Smith. Professor Louise Derman-Sparks launched *Young Children and Racial Justice* by Jane Lane on Friday and on Saturday Ms Darcel Russell and Professor Glenda MacNaughton launched 'Please knock before you enter': *Aboriginal Regulation of Outsiders and the Implications for Researchers* by 2008 conference keynote presenters Associate Professor Karen Martin.



# PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS

Several events were held prior to the Honoring the Child, Honoring Equity 8 conference. A postgraduate seminar with Associate Professor Karen Martin was arranged as well as visits to local City Council children's services and meeting with CEIEC staff and Postgraduate students.

Date	Event
Tuesday 11 Nov / 4.15-5.15 / University of Melbourne	Professor Martin Woodhead <i>Meeting with Glenda MacNaughton and Kylie Smith: CEIEC Research Program 1 – Citizenship and Children</i>
Wednesday 12 Nov / 9.00-1.30 / City of Yarra	Associate Professor Wajuppa Tossa visited Children's Services in the City of Yarra to give storytelling presentations
Wednesday 12 Nov / 11.30-1.30 / University of Melbourne	Professor Martin Woodhead and Professor Louise Derman-Sparks were involved in a meeting about the EYLF with OCECD and VCAA personnel to inform the Victorian and national work.
Wednesday 12 Nov / 1.30-2.30 / University of Melbourne	Associate Professor Karen Martin: Postgraduate Seminar <i>Please knock before you enter</i>
Wednesday 12 Nov / 3.15-5.15 / University of Melbourne	Associate Professor Dr Wajuppa Tossa <i>Meeting with Child, Carer and Country project team</i>
Thursday 14 Nov / 3.00-4.30 / University of Melbourne	Associate Professor Karen Martin, Professor Louise Derman-Sparks, Professor Martin Woodhead and Associate Professor Dr Wajuppa Tossa <i>Meeting with CEIEC Staff and Postgraduate Students</i>

# TESTIMONIALS AND COMMENTS

“I’ve attended nearly every conference that’s been held – perhaps 6 or 7 of the 8. I can honestly say that this conference was the most enjoyable one!” –  
Conference delegate

“Great diversity and choice – too bad you can’t get to everything though!” –  
Conference delegate

“Balanced, multi-voiced and important” – Conference delegate

“Enjoyed the conversations between sessions. Food and drink great and very plentiful. Feel filled up and ready for more action” –  
Conference delegate

“It’s one conference in the year I would not like to miss”  
- Conference

“Thank you for organising a most inspirational conference. Keep up the great work” – Conference delegate

“Great variety of presentations – a pity there is so many interesting things on at the same time” –  
Conference delegate

“Very interesting and relevant presentations crammed into two days” –  
Conference delegate

“Appropriately varied, interesting and thought provoking” – Conference delegate

## *2009 Honoring the Child, Honoring Equity Conference*

We hope you can join us for the 2009 conference from Thursday 19 November – Saturday 21 November 2009 at The University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia.

More information will be available in early 2009 on the CEIEC website  
[www.education.unimelb.edu.au/ceiec](http://www.education.unimelb.edu.au/ceiec)

Email [education-ceiec@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:education-ceiec@unimelb.edu.au) to be included in the CEIEC Conference email list for updates.