

CFPR Lunchtime Seminar Series 2017

Childhood, Emotion and Public Life

Children and emotion have long been ignored in the public sphere literature as well as in public life, because both have been presumed to lack reasoning and thought. Drawing on recent scholarship and theoretical developments in the study of 'emotions', I consider how a focus on emotion offers us valuable insights and new perspectives on understanding the relationship between childhood and public life. In this presentation, I try to unpack this argument and identify ways in which different emotions can mediate childhood and public life. Our analysis reports on findings from ERC funded Connectors Study, a longitudinal ethnography that employed creative methods (photography, drawing, mapping among others) with 45 children aged 6-9 years in three cities: Athens, London and Hyderabad. The analysis draws on our multimodal data that was created over a period of 18-months spent hanging out, playing and doing research activities with the children in the study. We operationalised 'the relationship between childhood and public life' using sociological (Habermas, 1989; Sayer, 2011) and political science (Flyvbjerg, 2001) literature that asks us to conceptualise our relationship to the public sphere as one of concern for the things that matter to us. I map out emotional encounters in which children's embodied emotions on what matters to them are made public. The contribution will focus on the sociality of emotion, the meanings attributed to those emotions by children, and how that is helpful to develop a context sensitive understanding on children's relationship to public life.



by Dr Vinnarasan Aruldoss,
Post-doc Research Fellow, Sussex University

Vinnarasan Aruldoss is a Post Doctoral Research Fellow for 'Connectors Study' at Sussex University. He is mainly responsible for carrying out qualitative, ethnographic, longitudinal research in Hyderabad (India) besides his theoretical and methodological contributions to research. Before joining Sussex, he obtained his doctoral training at The University of Edinburgh in Social Policy with a particular focus on children's lived experiences in early years services. Prior to that, he worked for several years with a number of civil society organisations, government departments and multilateral agencies as a social development practitioner in India. In particular, he directly worked with children after 2004 Tsunami in South Asia: directed the implementation of community based psychosocial intervention programme for Medicines Sans Frontieres (MSF-B), and involved in the implementation of UNDP's Human Development Programme at Planning Commission, New Delhi. He also worked with several non-profit organisations on a range of social development and humanitarian issues such as education for all, educational disparities, child protection, disaster response and preparedness, rights of the children living in the margins of the society and so on. He has published mainly in the fields of sociology of childhood, political sociology, early years education and childhood policy.

Chaired by: A/Prof Tracey Skelton, Dept of Geography, NUS

Date: 27 Oct 2017, Friday | Time: 12.00nn - 1.30pm

All are Welcome! Refreshments will be served. Registration is required.

Register at <https://tinyurl.com/y7jbteb4> by 26 Oct 2017