Honoring the child, honoring equity 6

cultures, challenges & change in troubling times

Information for presenters and participants

Conference aims, hopes and themes
We live in troubling times. We are troubled by disagreements about our present and by uncertainty about our future. We want to do the right thing for children, but we’re uncertain about whether that means the same thing in every culture at any time. This conference invites early childhood educators, carers, policy-makers and researchers to reflect on how their work is changing. Do these changes open new possibilities to create fair and meaningful relationships with children and their families … or do they close them down? Do they create new places and spaces for equity and children’s rights, or do they make such work harder?

This conference invites you to explore the place of children’s rights, human rights and equity throughout the early childhood and children’s services field – in pedagogies, practices, programs, policies, theories and research. Share stories of hope, challenge and /or change. Inspire and be inspired. Challenge and be challenged to make a difference through your work in the field.

We invite seminars, colloquia, papers, workshops, learning circles and posters that explore questions such as:
• What troubles us and what should we trouble to honor children’s rights and honor equity?
• How can/do we act as change agents in our local contexts to make a difference?
• What are the limits and the possibilities in working for equity in diverse cultural contexts?
• What do we need to rethink and/or do differently to construct safer and fairer lives for all children?
• How do we/should work with cultural dissensions and tensions?
• How can we know the world differently in order to transform it?

We welcome diverse theoretical and cultural perspectives that challenge us to think and act differently.

Registration requirements for presenters
All presenters must register for the conference as the conference must be fully self-funded. Please register at the time you hear of your paper’s acceptance. Your paper will not be in the conference program unless registration is received prior to the conference.

Who presents?
Conference presenters are as diverse as the people who attend the conference. In 2005 nearly 50% of the presenters were researchers and nearly 50% were practitioners who had very diverse roles in the field. Some presenters are experienced presenters and some presenters every year are presenting for the first time. Each year we have presenters from diverse countries and cultures and we welcome this diversity.

Who attends?
Honoring the child, honoring equity conferences are attended by people who have diverse roles in children’s lives – researchers, teachers, carers, policy-makers, students, tertiary teachers, resource workers, government and non-government organisations, parents, activists and
advocates. Each year we have local, interstate and international delegates. This diversity makes for a lively and interesting conference.

**What do the sessions focus on?**
We welcome sessions that cater to the diversity of attendee’s interests. Sessions may focus on theory, practice, research and/or policy. Our conference’s diversity means that presenters need to be alert to the fact that they are presenting to a diverse audience. We encourage presenters to indicate the specific emphasis on theory, practice, research and/or policy of their proposed session to help attendees select sessions that are of interest to them.

**Publishing your paper**
The CEIEC (conference host) publishes a fully-refereed international on-line journal – the *International Journal for Equity and Innovation in Early Childhood* (IJEIEC). Australian presenters should note that the journal is DEST recognized as a research journal. We encourage you to consider publishing your paper via IJEIEC to share your work with an international audience beyond the conference. For submission details visit the CEIEC website or email Merlyne Cruz (merlynec@unimelb.edu.au).

**Sharing your resources via conference displays**
Registered presenters are encouraged to share your publications and other resources in our conference resource and display area. For details on how to do this please email Merlyne Cruz (merlynec@unimelb.edu.au).

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