



# Seminar

## Decolonising Methodologies in Researching Civic Action with Aboriginal Australian Young Children



Thursday, 7 April 2016, with Dr Louise Gwenneth Phillips

Researching young children can and often is a colonising practice, through unequal power structures with adults determining what, how and who are researched, often subjectifying and oversimplifying children for adult knowledge gain. Scientific research has a legacy of tyranny for colonised peoples across the globe. Aboriginal children have been part of the Aboriginal Australian experience of being over-researched, without permission, consultation or involvement of Aboriginal people generating, mistrust, animosity and resistance in communities. With grave concern and sensitivity to these human rights cautions, the methodology for a study on marginalised young children's civic action and learning foregrounded relationship building, over research agendas.

In this presentation, Louise will talk through her emergent responsive consultative methodology with Aboriginal Elders, educators, children and families of an Aboriginal community governed child care centre. Three vignettes from the multi-vocal ethnographic study will be storied to expose how continuing colonising practices shape what citizenship might be for young Aboriginal children. Recognition of the ongoing codes of colonialism and regulation of Indigenous peoples lives provides critical understanding of the entrenched obstructions for young Aboriginal Australian children and the affordances they seize to be active citizens.

**Louise Phillips** Ph.D is a lecturer in the School of Education, and currently on a HASS Faculty Fellowship with ISSR. Louise has more than twenty-five years of experience in early childhood education with the last eight years focussed on researching children's rights and citizenship. Louise is co-principal investigator of Civic Action and Learning with Young Children: Comparing Approaches in New Zealand, Australia and the United States (funded by the US Spencer Foundation), leading the Australian investigation of pre-schoolers' civic capabilities.

**Date** Thursday, 7 April 2016  
**Time** 12:15pm – 1.15pm  
**Room** Room 201, Level 2, Cycad Building (1018)  
**Location** University of Queensland Long Pocket Precinct, 80 Meiers Road, Indooroopilly  
(From UQ St Lucia take the 12noon [shuttle bus](#) at Chancellors Place)  
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