

CENTRE FOR INNOVATION AND RESEARCH IN CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH

ESW Open Seminar Series

Monday 3 December, 5-6.30pm
Room 203, Fulton Building, University of Sussex

Sevasti-Melissa Nolas, Senior Lecturer in Sociology,
Goldsmith's, University of London &
Pam Thurschwell, Reader in English, University of Sussex

Childhood Publics: Idioms and genres, listening to children and adolescents

In this seminar, Melissa will draw on evidence from ethnographic fieldwork conducted between 2014-16 for the ERC-funded Connectors Study to explore the idioms mobilised by children in their encounters with public life. Thinking through the repeated call to listen to children, and the contemporary phenomenon of hearing without listening, Melissa's talk will stage a reflexive, idiomatic reading of what it means and feels like to encounter childhood through the Study's work on over 300 collective fieldwork encounters with 45 six to eight year old children living in three international cities: Athens, Hyderabad, and London.

How does one actually tune into children's worlds through attention to idiom? Pam's response will suggest that idiomatic reading might be supplemented by thinking through the genres that children and adolescents mobilize when narrating their everyday lives. Pam will draw on her current work on Anne Frank's Diary, which is often considered, unreflexively, as an adolescent "classic", but which also might suggest ways for thinking differently about childhood publics.

The presenters hope for a wide-ranging, free-wheeling conversation!

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