

# Annual Newsletter


January - December 2019

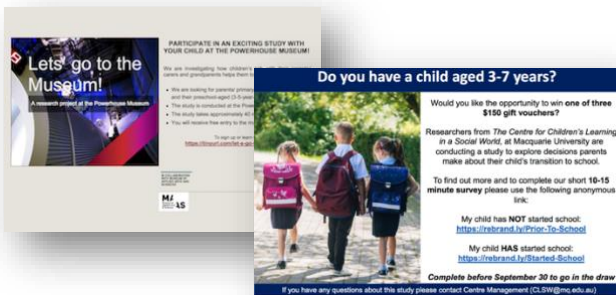
## FROM THE DIRECTORS


It has been a busy year for *The Centre for Children's Learning in a Social World*, with multiple research projects, research partnerships, and outreach activities coming to fruition. We give a brief snapshot of these below.

As we step in to 2020, we are delighted to be hosting a Society for Research in Memory and Cognition (SARMAC) regional conference, focused on reminiscing across the lifespan. We also will purchase \$50,000 worth of tests for a new educational research test library at Macquarie, and will advertise our 2020 outreach event for 200 primary and secondary teachers. A huge thank you to our research participants, funding partners, and collaborators for making 2019 a success, and we wish you a great break.

## SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH

 In May, student member Rebekah Hepburn worked with the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences to map how conversations with parents, caregivers, and grandparents foster children's learning in museums. As part of the study, 60 families were given free passes to the Powerhouse Museum's space exhibit.




 In September, we rolled out our School Choices Survey nation-wide. With over 500 respondents, parents of children soon-to-attend and currently attending school were each asked about why they chose to send their child to school when they did. In 2020 we will 'check in' with these same respondents to see if their decisions have changed over time. To find out more about this longitudinal project, please email [clsw@mq.edu.au](mailto:clsw@mq.edu.au).

## CONNECTING WITH PROFESSIONALS



A/Prof Penny Van Bergen, Dr Fay Hadley, Melinda Ferris, Anthony Fennell and Prof. Linda Harrison

 **Event Spotlight:** In November 2019 we held our annual outreach event: a free, NESA-accredited professional development evening. Our topic was:

*What's love got to do with it? Pedagogical love and care in early childhood education.*

Our expert panel included Dr Fay Hadley (Director, Initial Teacher Education, Educational Studies), Mel Ferris (Lead Teacher, Mia Mia Child and Family Study Centre), Anthony Fennell (Senior Education Officer, NSW Department of Education) and Professor Linda Harrison (Research Fellow, Educational Studies). The panel drew from their own research and practice to discuss pedagogical love and care in early childhood. Questions of ethics, school transitions, and relationship-based learning were considered.

  
180  
registrations  
total

  
National and  
international online  
engagement

(YouTube clip [here](#))

  
Attendees:  
teachers,  
academics,  
policy makers,  
students

## FIND OUT MORE

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## OUTREACH, MEDIA AND POLICY NEWS

Centre for Children's Learning in a Social World members have been busy promoting their research in the media, with more than 50 media mentions and radio interviews across the year. Our outlets include Lighthouse Magazine, Sydney Morning Herald, the Age, ABC Radio, 2SER, 3AW, The Sector, Education Matters, and the NSF-funded BrainsOn! Podcast team for children, with reach across Australia, South Africa, UK, and the USA. Our diverse topics include:

- [We underestimate young people because it's convenient](#)
- The influence of children's emotions on learning
- [Men at work, but no longer in the classroom](#)
- Memories we have for first childhood homes
- [Spooky how kids remember things](#)
- The fallibility of memory in children and adults
- [Diverse teacher workforce – an overlooked factor in students' success?](#)
- [How museums can hook children for a lifetime of learning](#)

## RESEARCH SEMINARS

This year we were delighted to host five internal and external speakers to present their research findings to the greater audience of the Department of Educational Studies.

- Dr Amy Bird (University of Wollongong) on the longitudinal Growing Up in New Zealand project.
- Dr Talia Carl (Centre for Emotional Health) on the complexities of children's antisocial lie telling.
- Dr Kazuki Sekine (Keio University, Tokyo) on how gestures can help children's comprehension in noisy environments.
- Professor Greg Leigh (RIDBC) on the impacts of early identification of hearing loss on children's outcomes.
- Professor Sheila Degotardi and A/Prof Naomi Sweller (Centre for Children's Learning in a Social World) with Dr Emilia Djonov on the influence of infants' educational environment on language development.

## PUBLICATIONS

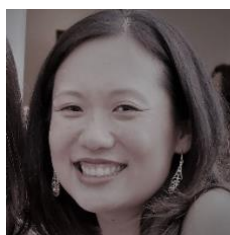
2019 was particularly productive for research dissemination, with 94 publications overall. We are especially proud to see a growing number of collaborations between senior, junior, and student centre members.

As an interdisciplinary centre, we regularly publish in leading journals across education and psychology. In 2019, these include School Psychology Review, Early Childhood Research Quarterly, Psychological Bulletin, and Educational Psychology Review. To ensure our research is accessible to professionals, we also have published in "Teacher" magazine and Education Matters.

## NEW ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

We are delighted that Mr Anthony Fennell, Senior Education Officer in the NSW Department of Education, and Mrs Wendy Shepherd, founding Director of the Mia Mia Child and Family Study Centre, each join our Advisory Board from 2019-2022. Anthony and Wendy bring a wealth of professional experience with them, and will work in close partnership with our academic advisory board members.

## FAREWELL TO...



It is with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to our founding member and Outreach Officer, Dr Carol Newall. Carol will be leaving us in January 2020 to focus on her new psychology consultancy business. This work, alongside her work with Black Dog Institute, sees her training workplaces, GPs and school psychologists around Australia in mental health literacy. Carol was integral to the establishment of the Centre for Children's Learning in a Social World and will be sorely missed. We wish her all the best in her new journey!

## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

### Engage with resources

**ENGAGE WITH RESOURCES**

- About us >
- News and events >
- Our projects >
- Engage with resources >

**Professional Development Recordings**

For those of you who are unable to attend our professional development events, we have recorded the audio and powerpoint slides.

Please be aware that listening to these events does not fulfil NESA accreditation requirements.

[What's love got to do with it? Pedagogical Love and Care in Early Childhood Education](#) For more information on this event please go to our [event page](#).

**Information Leaflets**

Sharing knowledge is an important aim of our centre. Our information leaflets focus on translating empirical research into meaningful practical information for educational practitioners and parents. We draw on the expertise of our Centre members, who each bring unique knowledge to our centre.

Please feel free to download and share.

- [Educating to Reduce Stigma](#)
- [Quality Educator-Child Talk](#)
- [Teamwork](#)
- [Communicating with Gestures](#)

**Newsletters**

To find out more about what the Centre is up to, take a look at our newsletters

- [Newsletter July 2018](#)

Our new information leaflets for parents and educators are designed to translate empirical research findings about children's development into practical recommendations. Our first four leaflets were made available at our Professional Development Evening and received a high level of interest and praise. They are now available for download via our [website](#) and social media pages.

- [Educating to reduce stigma](#)
- [Quality educator-child talk](#)
- [Teamwork and collaboration](#)
- [Communicating with gestures](#)