Learning session

Developing child-oriented research methods

Conducting research with children requires a reconsideration of common, adult-centred means of data collection. Margaret Mead, already in the 1920s, gathered 32,000 'spontaneous drawings' of Manus children. Drawing has subsequently evolved into a prime methodological instrument aimed at elucidating children's perspectives. The process of drawing is believed to underline children's agency and to stimulate their ownership of the research process. However, it is still undefined how data from drawings ought to be processed, how elicitation based on drawings could best be designed and how they actually contribute to theoretical knowledge on children's lives. The current seminar seeks to address these quandaries. During the discussion we will confront challenges and explore opportunities of child-oriented research methods, in order to set out an agenda for further development in this field.

For more information, contact Mienke van der Brug (m.van.der.brug@fsw.vu.nl) or Erik van Ommering (e.van.ommering@fsw.vu.nl)

The Anthropology of Children Working Group (based at VU University, Amsterdam) brings together academics and practitioners engaged in research and work with children. Through monthly seminars, the Working Group promotes child-oriented theory, methodology, and research ethics. Besides, it serves as a platform for (interdisciplinary) academic research and enhances dialogue with practitioners through joint research projects, publications and conferences.

Convenor / Dr Sandra J.T.M. Evers, Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, VU University Amsterdam.

Information & Registration / Sandra Evers at childrenseminar@hotmail.com