**Monthly Seminar**

**Anthropology of Children and Youth Network**

Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, VU University Amsterdam

**Friday 12 October 2012 10.30-12.00**

VU University Amsterdam, Metropolitan Building, room Z-007

**Crossing Life’s Thresholds and Entering Liminal Space**

Dr. Colette Kavanagh,  
Cultural psychologist, published writer, and international lecturer

Life presents us with a series of threshold crossings. Paths that previously seemed safe and familiar may suddenly come to an end. Events such as an unexpected death of a child or loved one, leaving our homeland to study or work abroad, or losing one’s job or relationship may precipitate a personal crises. There is no turning back, yet crossing the threshold of change means dealing with endings and facing new challenges.

This presentation is about the deeper meaning of life’s thresholds and their potential for personal and cultural growth. It discusses the importance of *liminality*, the “in-between” transitional space where change and transformation takes place.

In addition, Colette will offer insights into Irish cultural reality and the unique way the people of her homeland deal with liminality, transition and change.

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

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