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 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

WWW.ANTHROPOLOGYOFCHILDREN.NET

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**Monthly Seminar**

**Anthropology of Children**

Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, VU University Amsterdam

**Tuesday 15 November 2011 14.00-15.30**

VU University Amsterdam, Metropolitan Building, room Z-009

”Minimising Differences – Celebrating Diversity” in Danish Schools

Ditte Strunge Sass, Brunel University

Ditte Sass investigates the Danish Folkeskole (The Danish ground school, age 6-16) as a space in which the child is simultaneously being a welfare citizen, as they consume a welfare good, i.e. education – and becoming a welfare citizen, as they learn appropriate ways of being a citizen in the welfare state of Denmark. More specifically this talk is about the notion of minimising differences (often perceived in socio-economic terms) and simultaneously celebrating diversity (often perceived in terms of culture). Ditte Sass will discuss how the streamlined, egalitarian school system will, in the aid of creating equal opportunities, identify characteristics, which are “not equal” and hence “right” and “wrong” ways of being diverse. Subsequently the school sometimes end up emphasising the very differences it set out to eradicate.