

CENTRE FOR INNOVATION AND RESEARCH IN CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH

ESW Open Seminar Series

Monday 6 February / 5-6.30pm
Room 118, Jubilee Lecture Theatre

Dr Ben Fincham
Senior Lecturer in Sociology,
University of Sussex

Fun and Childhood

Fun is routinely touted as an important component of childhood. It is represented as an inalienable right for children to have fun. The degree of fun we are supposed to have in childhood distinguishes this phase of life from all the others.

The range of ways in which fun is understood in childhood is wide
belief that fun is an important pedagogic tool - through having fun and playing children tend to consolidate learning more effectively -
at the other extreme it is understood as something disruptive and in need of control.

Ben introduces the idea of 'a sociology of fun' and applies it to childhood, exploring the dichotomy of fun as both good and bad in childhood. Using data from a study on fun, he will also discuss the maintenance of particular cultural identities through the construction of childhood through memories.
