

International Perspectives on Early Childhood Education and Care

ECD/DCI 791

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Students in this class will learn about early childhood education and care in a range of countries. This knowledge of the variety and range of approaches to ECEC is in itself valuable, as it reduces provincialism and leads to a questioning of taken-for-granted assumptions. But the goal of this class is less gaining content knowledge than on the process of conducting cross-cultural research in ECEC. Students will conduct research on early childhood education and care across cultural/national contexts. The focus will be on research methods: techniques and strategies for conceptualizing research questions, conducting research, writing, and publishing in the field of comparative ECEC.

The class each week will include readings, lectures, and discussions on ECEC in a different cultural/national setting. And this will also be a “lab” class, with class time spent doing hands-on work with primary material.

The core data set we will work with is the collection of videotapes, transcripts, artifacts, and documents of the three major *Preschool in Three Cultures* studies. This collection includes 18 videotapes of typical days in preschools in seven countries as well as individual and focus group interviews with more than 1000 teachers, directors, and parents. While at its core the PSin3C approach is ethnographic, the collection of materials lends itself not just to anthropological analysis, but also to cross-national studies of child development, teaching, policy issues and other research questions. We will also work with published data from two large comparative studies: The High Scope study conducted for the IEA on preprimary education in 15 countries; and the OECD study of ECEC in 12 countries. And the DECET network (http://www.decet.org/decet_manual.pdf)

Requirements/Assignments

- 1) Participate enthusiastically and intelligently on the class Blackboard discussion site
- 2) Turn in a short (5 page) research proposal half way through the semester
- 3) Conduct research and turn in a draft of a paper (~20 pages) to be submitted for publication

Class Schedule

- 1 Introduction to the Class (and what to call it)
Comparative/international ECEC: Definitions and History
Class organization
- 2 The PSin3C approach
Readings: Introduction to *PSin3C*
 "Power and Ethics"
 "Video Ethnography"
- 3 Japan
Readings
Example of an issue-based article: Classroom Ratios
PSin3C Japan Chapter
Pedagogy of Selfhood
- 4 Japan
New Japan Chapter
Holloway; Walsh
- 5 China
China chapter in PSin3C
Crying Child
Adolescence of Chinese Kindergarten
Zhu
- 6 Writing workshop on pre-proposals
- 7 US
Old and New US Chapters
OECD report
- 8 Working with children of Immigrants
Proposals to BvLF and Spencer
OECD overview paper of John Bennett
Germany
- 9 Turkey
- 10 Mexico and Mexican immigrants
- 11 Indigenous concerns/perspectives:
- 12 Kenya

13 France

14 Presentations