

Early Childhood Education in an Era of Climate Change: Learning to Inherit With(in) Relational Worlds

September 23, 2025(Tue) 9:30-11:00 (JST)/ 17:30-19:00 (PT)

Online Webinar

Simultaneous interpretation available, Free of charge,
Advance registration required

This is the third seminar on early childhood education in an era of climate change. Collaborative researchers from Japan, Canada and Sweden will come together and bring you a seminar from Thompson Rivers University (Kamloops, BC Canada). Professor Veronica Pacini-Ketchabaw and pedagogists Teresa Smith and Narda Nelson will speak on Learning to Inherit With(in) Relational Worlds.

Organizer's greetings and introduction of speakers

Sachiko Asai (Professor, the University of Tokyo / Director of CEDEP)

In the first part of the webinar, Professor Pacini-Ketchabaw will highlight complexities and ethical considerations within a common worlds approach to early childhood education (ECE) in Canada. In particular, she will focus on enlivening situated practices of inheriting that are rooted with(in) the land, while inaugurating new trajectories with young children, families, and early childhood educators (ECEs).

In the second part, pedagogists Teresa Smith and Narda Nelson will share examples of how they work alongside educators to "inherit well" within western Canadian contexts. Teresa will complexify relations between toddlers and caterpillars with a pedagogical project that troubles human-centric ways of being in ECE. Narda will trace pedagogical moments in a 3-5 year old classroom foregrounding connections between children's concerns about global fire and flooding events and local more-than-human worlds. Throughout the webinar, the group will emphasize pedagogists' role in preparing to meet the conditions of our times and worlding new possibilities in ECE.

Lecture: Early Childhood Education in an Era of Climate Change: Learning to Inherit With(in) Relational Worlds

Veronica Pacini-Ketchabaw (Professor, Western University in Ontario, Canada)

Teresa Smith (Pedagogist, BC Early Childhood Pedagogy Network)

Narda Nelson (Pedagogist, the University of Victoria Child Care)

Discussion: **Sachiko Nozawa** (Project Professor, the University of Tokyo / CEDEP)

Gunilla Dahlberg (Professor Emerita of Education, Stockholm University)

Bodil Halvors (Program Director for Preschool Teacher Education, Stockholm University)

Ingela Elfström (Former Lecturer at Stockholm University)



Veronica Pacini-Ketchabaw is a professor of early childhood education in the Faculty of Education at Western University in Ontario, Canada, and co-director of the BC Early Childhood Pedagogy Network. Her writing and research contribute to the Common Worlds Research Collective (tracing children's relations with places, materials and other species) and the Early Childhood Pedagogies Collaboratory (experimenting with the contours, conditions and complexities of 21-century pedagogies).



Teresa Smith is a pedagogist with the BC Early Childhood Pedagogy Network, working with children, educators and families in Secwepemcú'lecw, in the interior region of British Columbia, Canada. Teresa's pedagogical work emphasizes everyday relations between human beings and more-than-human neighbors. She envisions early childhood education as a place where human beings live vibrantly as one among many earthly species in creative response to the multiple and overlapping crises and potentialities of 21st century life.



Narda Nelson is a pedagogist with the University of Victoria Child Care. Drawing on her background in gender studies and upbringing in Treaty 8 territory (northern Alberta), she takes an interdisciplinary approach to early childhood with a particular focus on reimagining ethical futures with plant, animal, & waste flow relations in early childhood. Narda is a PhD student with Western University's Faculty of Education, and a member of the Early Childhood Pedagogies Collaboratory & Common Worlds Research Collective.

Registration:

www.cedep.p.u-Tokyo.ac.jp/eventlisting/symposium/20250923seminar/

