

FRIDAY

April

7

3:30 p.m.

Gambrell 153

Reception
Gambrell 428

Playing Connect the Dots with Marjorie (Candy) Goodwin

Join us for a panel discussion and talk

Co-Sponsored by

*The Department of Anthropology and the College of Arts and Sciences
Play Themed Semester Spring 2023*

A Call for an Ethnography of Childhood

Abstract: In this presentation I consider the importance of ethnography for understanding children's lives. My focus is on children interacting with other children in the peer group. By examining the embodied language practices children use in interaction with one another the creativity with which children orchestrate their everyday activities becomes visible. I problematise two prominent ideas put forward by psychologists that have influenced studies of gender and language in research on moral behaviour in children for some time: Piaget's (1965 [1932]) writings about children's games and Gilligan's (1982) ideas about a 'different voice' among females. Ethnography allows access to the lived experiences of children interacting with their peers. We discover that girls exhibit a heightened concern with rules in games, with notions of justice and a concern for equality, reciprocity and fairness. They put into place elaborate vernacular processes for sanctioning those who violate their local community norms. In dealing with peers, they can also practice elaborated processes of exclusion and bullying, exhibiting anything but a tendency towards the "care orientation" hypothesized by Gilligan. The value of ethnographic study is that we can hear the voices of the children themselves as they articulate their social organization for each other. This permits a more nuanced view of children's social worlds on streets and in playgrounds.



Panelists:

Ignasi Clemente Pesudo, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Hunter College

Jill Kushner Bishop, PhD Founder and CEO of Multilingual Connections

Keith Murphy, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, UC Irvine

Jennifer Schlegel, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology & Sociology, Kutztown University

If you would like to attend via Zoom please email either Monica Barra (mbarra@seoe.sc.edu) or Atieno Adongo (adongoa@mailbox.sc.edu) for a link.