

“How to Love a Child”

The Janusz Korczak Lecture Series

Lecture #2



Co-organized by the Janusz Korczak Association of Canada
and the Faculty of Education, UBC

At the UBC Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre 2015/16
Centennial Sessions

jklectures.educ.ubc.ca

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Education

29 October, 2015
at 7:00 PM

Janusz Korczak and the Importance of Listening to Children's Voices in Education: Theory, Research, and Practical Strategies

INTRODUCTIONS:

Jerry Nussbaum, President of the Janusz Korczak Association of Canada

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Dr. Kimberly A. Schonert-Reichl, Professor in the Human Development, Learning, and Culture program at UBC and the Interim Director of the Human Early Learning Partnership in the School of Population and Public Health in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of British Columbia

MODERATOR:

Maria LeRose, Program Consultant for the Dalai Lama Center for Peace and Education

LECTURE ABSTRACT:

Throughout the literature it is increasingly recognized that a child's and adolescent's functioning in school is inextricably linked with his or her sense of belonging and connection to the school environment and his or her relationships with peers and teachers

within it. Thus, it is necessary to obtain the perspectives of children and youth regarding their school experiences and for them to be included in decisions that affect their lives in schools in explicit and authentic ways. This presentation will focus on the aspects of Janusz Korczak's work that can inform both present and future efforts to bring children's voices into schools. Included in this discussion will be some of the recent scientific findings which indicate that including students' voices not only leads to higher academic achievement, but also supports the development of their empathy, compassion, and well-being. The session will also include a panel of young children who will be asked to provide their own experiences on why this is important and give their advice to educators and others on how to include children's voices into the fabric of schooling.

PANELISTS:

Robin Kaebe, Salma Rafi, & Alexander Corless, Grade 6 students, Lord Roberts Elementary

ABOUT THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Dr. Kimberly A. Schonert-Reichl is a Professor in the Human Development, Learning, and Culture program at UBC and the Interim Director of the Human Early Learning. The author of more than 100 articles and two books, Dr. Schonert-Reichl studies the social and emotional development and well-being of children and adolescents, particularly in relation to identifying the mechanisms that foster positive human qualities such as empathy and compassion. Her recent research includes a focus on population-level data on children's social and emotional competence and resiliency, and evaluations of school-based social

and emotional learning programs. She is a fellow of the Mind and Life Institute and winner of several awards, including the Killam Teaching Prize for excellence in teaching, and the Confederation of University Faculty Associations' (CUFA-BC) Paz Buttedahl Career Achievement Award for sustained contributions over the course of a career to the non-academic community through research and scholarly activity. Dr. Schonert-Reichl is also an advisor to the BC Ministry of Education's new educational curriculum that includes a focus on Personal and Social Competency.

ABOUT THE MODERATOR:

Maria LeRose is Program Director for the Dalai Lama Center for Peace and Education. She is an award-winning television producer and interviewer, and an Adjunct Professor in the Faculty of Medicine at UBC. She received her Masters of Education from the University of British Columbia in the Department of Educational and Counseling Psychology and Special Education - with an emphasis on social and emotional development. Before embarking on a career in Journalism, Maria coordinated the first Child Abuse Prevention Program in BC, and worked in a variety of Social Service jobs including Youth and Child Care Worker, and Mental Health Worker. She has moderated panels featuring the Dalai Lama, Mikhail Gorbachev, Sir Ken Robinson and other luminaries.

This session has been co-ordinated by Dr. Kimberly A. Schonert-Reichl, Faculty of Education, University of British Columbia.

Next up: **Lecture #3 – Nov 25, 2015, 7pm**

THE EVOLUTION, CURRENT STATUS, AND FUTURE OF THE “BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD” PRINCIPLE IN THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN’S RIGHTS

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Ann Cools, Senator for Toronto Centre-York

MODERATOR:

Dr. Edward Kruk, Associate Professor of Social Work at the University of British Columbia

LECTURE ABSTRACT:

This lecture and discussion will focus on current challenges in the implementation of the “best interests of the child” standard in Canadian jurisprudence, social policy and professional practice. Article 3 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child requires member states to observe the best interests of the child as a primary consideration “in all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or

legislative bodies.” As with most articles of the Convention, however, a clear understanding and precise definition of the “best interests” concept remains elusive, to the point that it is subject to competing interpretations. Legal and political decision-makers struggle when asked to define children’s “best interests,” and their definitions often clash with what children and parents would consider to be the core elements of the concept. The “best interests” standard, however, remains central in Canadian child and family law, the development of child and family policy, and in guiding professional practice in the realms of child custody, child protection, and child care. This lecture will trace the history of the “best interests” standard in Canada, and offer guidelines for refining the concept toward a more socially just approach to child and family law, policy and practice for the future.

PANELISTS:

Experts in each of the three realms of child custody, child protection and child care: Eugenea Couture, Cecelia Reekie, and Beverly Smith.

To register for the next lecture go to jrllectures.educ.ubc.ca



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