

The Political Imaginary of the New Language of Character Education

Open seminar Wednesday 2nd December 2015, 16:15 – 18:00, room HE 231



Sheaf Road Elementary School mural

In this open seminar Dr. Judith Suissa presents her paper “The Political Imaginary of the New Language of Character Education”.

ABSTRACT: In this talk, I will explore the way the notions of improvisation and resilience are playing an increasingly central role within the contemporary educational discourse around “character education” in England. I suggest that these notions are taking on a particular meaning within this discourse, reflecting a broader social and political imaginary, and I look at some ways in which educational thought and practice could perhaps draw on a very different imaginary.

The structure of the event is the following:

- 16.00 – 16.10 Introduction by Prof. Torill Strand, Department of Education
- 16.10 – 16.50 Dr. Judith Suissa, UCL Institute of Education, London: The Political Imaginary of the New Language of Character Education
- 16.50-17.00 Comments by Prof. Lars Løvlie, Department of Education
- 17.00-18.00 Debate

The seminar will be followed by a casual reception in which we share some wine, meze and friendly conversations.

Dr. Judith Suissa is Reader in Philosophy of Education at the UCL Institute of Education, London. Her research interests are in political and moral philosophy, with a particular focus on questions to do with the control of education, social justice, libertarian and anarchist theory, the role of the state, political education, and the parent-child relationship. Her publications include *Anarchism and Education; a Philosophical Perspective* (Routledge, 2006) and (with Stefan Ramaekers) *The Claims of Parenting; Reasons, Responsibility and Society* (Springer, 2012).

