

Citizenship Study Group

Minutes of the 5th meeting of the Citizenship Study Group held at the Europa Hotel, Nicosia, Cyprus, on 27 May 2008

Present: Nicola Taylor and Anne Smith (CIC, New Zealand), Anne Graham, (CCYP, Australia), Anne Trine Kjørholt and Håvard Bjerke (NOSEB, Norway).

Apologies: Irene Rizzini and Udi Butler (CIESPI, Brazil), Brad Shipway and Robyn Fitzgerald (CCYP, Australia), Mohammed Shaheen (Palestine).

Brief update of each country's work on this project: Nicki provided a summary of the previous meeting in Dunedin (August 2007) and the key activities since undertaken. These have primarily focused on the completion and editing of our book and the following other publications:

- Nicki and Anne have had a paper published recently - Taylor, N.J., Smith, A.B., & Gollop, M. (2008). New Zealand children and young people's perspectives on citizenship. *The International Journal of Children's Rights*, 16(2), 195-210.
- Håvard is continuing to work on his PhD thesis – this will be completed in 2009.
- Anne, Brad and Robyn are intending to submit an article on the Australian data before the end of 2008.

It was agreed that most avenues for publishing are now exhausted.

Update on publication of book: The manuscript for the *Children as Citizens? International Voices* book was delivered to the publisher (the University of Otago Press) on 20 December 2007. We are currently awaiting receipt of the proofs, which will then be circulated to the authors of each chapter for checking. The book will be published later this year. The publisher has meanwhile produced a small flyer that we can use to promote the book internationally. Anne Smith distributed copies of this promotional flyer to those present. Nicki will check with Pernille about having the citizenship book promoted on the Childwatch website once the publication date is confirmed.

Final preparations for the Cyprus Conference panel presentation: Study group members were in Cyprus to attend the Conference on *Child and Youth Research in the 21st Century: A Critical Appraisal* at the European University in Nicosia, from 28-30 May 2008. Final preparations were made for our three-paper Panel Presentation on *International Perspectives on Children's Understanding of Citizenship* (scheduled for Wednesday 28 May):

1. Nicola Taylor and Udi Butler: Highlights of the voices of children in six countries
2. Håvard Bjerke and Anne Smith: Conceptualising children as citizens: Empirical perspectives on theoretical debates

3. *Robyn Fitzgerald, Anne Graham and Brad Shipway: Policy and practice implications of children's citizenship*

Future Study Group Plans

It was felt that with the publication of the book the work from this phase of the Citizenship project was now complete. There was, however, strong support for the Citizenship study group merging with other Childwatch study groups to collaborate on a new, but related, project in the future. In this regard, the previous email correspondence from Pernille Skotte, Roger Hart and Jan Mason concerning joint participation initiatives between our respective study groups was noted and supported. We wondered if it would be possible to link with a democratisation in schools proposal as this would fit nicely with the citizenship and participation initiatives already undertaken within the Childwatch network.

2009 Childwatch Key Institutions Meeting: The Citizenship study group is keen to present their work at this meeting and the lessons we have learnt about the benefits and challenges of doing collaborative international research projects within the Childwatch network. It would be helpful if information could be provided in advance of the 2009 KI meeting about the stage the other Childwatch study groups on child and youth participation have reached with their projects. We are hoping that time will be provided on the KI meeting agenda for the existing study groups, and other KIs interested in participation, citizenship or school democratization, to meet together to explore possibilities for future collaboration. KIs will also need to give consideration to funding possibilities to undertake further empirical research. The use of postgraduate students may be one avenue to explore for the undertaking of field work associated with future Childwatch projects. We also need some advice from the Childwatch Board about the funding for study group members to attend the KI meeting in 2009 (particularly for those who are not directors of their centres).

Berlin conference: Håvard has been invited to present a paper on his citizenship research at the European Science Foundation conference on *Children's participation in decision making: Exploring theory, policy and practice across Europe* being held in Berlin, Germany, from 16-18 June 2008. This invited conference is being convened by Kay Tisdall and Manfred Liebel.

Thanks to Nicki and Anne: The group acknowledged the enormous amount of work undertaken by Nicki Taylor and Anne Smith over the years to bring the citizenship project to such a strong conclusion.

Dinner: The meeting concluded with dinner at a local restaurant where we all enjoyed a wonderful Cypriot 'meze' experience.