MADELEINE ARNOT

Conference ‘The politics of compassion and belonging in a shifting global world: education, asylum and the 'non-citizen' child’

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This paper considers the impact of migration on a society and its effect on children - both the citizen child and the non-citizen child. Drawing on the UK experience but paper considers the realities behind government policy that tries to shape a politics of belonging that excludes the 'undeserving' foreigner child (the migrant, the bogus asylum seeker) whilst at the same time public rhetoric around compassion and caring for those who are deserving. Findings from two empirical projects offer insights into the effects of hostile immigration policy on the relations between children in school, the ways in which asylum-seeking children and the families are understood by teachers and by 'host' citizen children and how citizen children mobilise media and government discourses to emphasise with yet also reject the stranger child.

Professor Madeleine Arnot is an internationally recognised sociologist of education specialising in social justice issues in education. She has directed European projects on gender citizenship, adolescent masculinity, student voice, migration and poverty. She is currently Acting Director of the Centre for Education and International Development responsible for a major international project focused on Youth, Gender and Citizenship in Ghana, Kenya, India and Pakistan. Her recent publications include a co-authored book Asylum, Education and the 'Non-Citizen' Child: the politics of compassion and belonging (Palgrave, 2010); Educating the Gendered Citizen (Routledge, 2009); (co-edited) Gender Equality in a Global Context: conceptual frameworks and policy perspectives (Routledge, 2008) and Reproducing Gender (Routledge Falmer, 2002).