



WE CAN DO MORE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE IN EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN

NEW DIRECTIONS AROUND ARTMAKING IN CZECH EARLY-YEARS SETTINGS



NEW MATERIALISM

1. Human nature is material, multiple, non-hierarchical, non-binary, and non-linear
2. Knowledge is relational, entangled, and in a state of becoming
3. Ethics enact and account for the commitment to a non-essentialist ontology

CONTEXT

- The study is conducted in three early-years settings: a public nursery, a family centre, and a charity-run clubhouse.
- The location is a small, economically deprived community in the Czech Republic experiencing effects of poverty and deep rooted racism
- The settings run inclusive learning programs that aim to help children, most of whom are Roma, access mainstream education using artmaking as a central practice

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. How is social inclusion and exclusion around artmaking made and lived?
2. What can different artmaking settings in one community tell us about processes of social inclusion and exclusion?
3. How can attending to the processes of social inclusion & exclusion help us think differently about social justice in early-years education?

NEW MATERIALIST ETHNOGRAPHY

- Inquiry into small-group cultures through committed long-term relational engagement
- Methods and analysis shaped by New Materialist ethico-onto-epistemology

FIRST FINDINGS

- Openness to change through more-than-human interactions is vital to inclusion
- Socially just artmaking does not rest in practice, it rests in encounters

AIMS

- To advance our understanding of the nature of educational inequalities around central practices in early years settings, such as artmaking
- To develop our understanding of democratic encounters in early-years settings
- To highlight socially-disadvantaged, young learners' contributions to social life and practices in their classrooms
- To bring attention to the material nature of our interactions and how objects actively shape our social practices

METHODS

1. Participant observations
2. Video recordings
3. Inter-views

