



# IEC Research Seminars

India Research Centre in collaboration with Children and Families Research Centre, Institute of Early Childhood presents...

## Re-forming Lives: The Child on the Street and the 'Street Child' Tuesday, 23 July 2013

This paper discusses street children's lives in relation to the local materialisation of a global politics of affect. Through reading NGO efforts to secure the lives of street children within a set of more optimistic coordinates against these children's more ambiguous insertion into these projects of reform, the paper provides an opening to explore the tensions and impossible resolutions of such efforts. The impossibility of these resolutions exceed the workings of this particular NGO, and the paper reads the stable ordinariness of labor in these children's lives as produced within a longer history of postcolonial capitalism.

### Speaker profile

Dr Balagopalan's work is an attempt to critically theorise the category of Childhood by relating it to discourses of modernity, late capitalism and current transnational efforts to secure 'rights' for children. Her doctorate was an ethnographic study on the literacy experiences of street children in Calcutta and utilises the historically mediated specificity of childhood and children's experiences in different social contexts to interrogate present efforts to naturalise a particular bourgeois construction of childhood as the ideal. This work on the politics of childhood also informs her broader intellectual interests in education. She is particularly interested in issues of pedagogy and its reliance on universal constructs of childhood and their effects on the construction of identities among first generation school goers and their communities.

### For more information & RSVP

Email to [Sally.Thompson@mq.edu.au](mailto:Sally.Thompson@mq.edu.au) or call Sally Thompson on (02) 9850 9882

### Event Details

**Date:** Tuesday 23 July 2013

**Time:** 4pm - 5pm

**Venue:** X5B, Room 012, Macquarie University

### Campus Map

[http://www.ofm.mq.edu.au/pdf/map\\_colour.pdf](http://www.ofm.mq.edu.au/pdf/map_colour.pdf)

### Dr Sarada Balagopalan

Researcher at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies in Delhi and senior supervisor in the Max Weber Foundation Transnational Research Group on poverty reduction and education in India. She is also the Chief Advisor for the NCERT's middle-school Social and Political Life textbooks. Dr Balagopalan also edits *Contemporary Education Dialogue*, bi-annual interdisciplinary journal on education in South Asia.

Photowrite S. Balagopalan

