

RESEARCH PRESENTATION

Encounters with Extinction: Thinking with Thrombolites and Children

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Abstract

The Earth is amid an acceleration of extinction with an estimated one million species being at risk of extinction within the next 25 years. Extinction is not far removed from children; it is part of children's present everyday lives and futures. This presentation reports on a research project in which young children visited a local extinction event: the endangered Noorook Yalgorup-Lake Clifton thrombolites in south-western Australia. Taking a 'curious practice' approach described by Donna Haraway, we speak about our visits with the children and how we used stories of these visits to think through post-Anthropocene pedagogies and possibilities for thinking about cultivating new ethical and responsible relations with the nonhuman world.

Acknowledgement

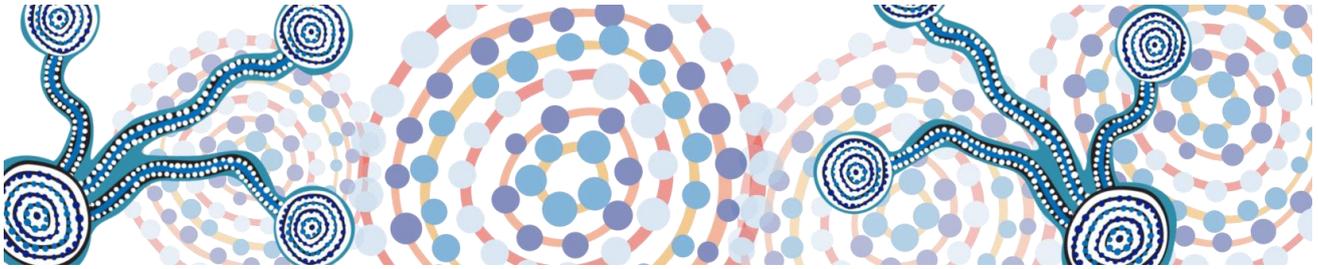
We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet and pays respects to their Elders past and present.

Speaker Profile

Jane Merewether is an early childhood education research fellow at Edith Cowan University. Her research, which has been published in national and international journals and books, explores children's relations with the human and nonhuman world. Jane's work draws on her 18 years of practice as an early childhood teacher informed by the educational project of Reggio Emilia, as well as childhood studies, feminist new materialisms, and environmental humanities.

Brad Gobby is a senior lecturer in the School of Education at Curtin University. His research and teaching interests include education policy, politics and pedagogies for the Chthulucene. His recent books include *Powers of Curriculum: Sociological perspectives on education* (co-editor), and *Teaching: Dilemmas, challenges and opportunities* (co-author).

Annette Nykiel PhD is an artist-researcher wondering about the interdependence of ecological systems, including her own, in near-coastal wetlands and ancient salt lakes of the arid lands. She is



interested in raising awareness of the value and importance of relating to the materiality and non-human agency of non-urban spaces. She wanders between urban, regional and remote areas in a variety of roles as a maker, geoscientist, artworker and research assistant. Her solo exhibition won FRINGEWORLD Visual Art Award, 2018; recent publications include How ethical is a ball of string: the embodied ethics of creative practice-led bricoleuse (book chapter).

Website links

→ <https://www.ecu.edu.au/schools/education/staff/profiles/post-doctoral-research-fellows/dr-jane-merewether>

