

Conference Convenors and Contact Information

(Re)Discovering Childhood emerges out of an ARC-funded project at the Australian Catholic University, headed by Professor Shurlee Swain and Associate Professor Margot Hillel in the School of Arts and Sciences. The project is entitled, “Child, nation, Race and Empire: A Critical Analysis of Child Rescue Narratives in Britain, Australia and Canada, 1850 – 1915.”

Professor Shurlee Swain
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Professor Swain graduated from the University of Melbourne in 1977 with a doctorate in history, having earlier completed a BA (Hons) and a Diploma of Social Studies from the same institution. After working for a number of years in the social work field, she returned to teaching in the tertiary system. She has since taught in the areas of Australian Studies, History and Gender Studies at Deakin University, the University of Melbourne and Australian Catholic University. Some of her significant works include, with Julie Evans, David Philips and Patricia Grimshaw, *Equal Subjects, Unequal Rights: Indigenous Peoples in British Settler Colonies, 1830 – 1910* (2003) and, with Renate Howe, *Single Mothers and their Children: Disposal, Punishment and Survival in Australia* (1995). Her 2002 work with Dorothy Scott, entitled *Confronting Cruelty* (2002) cemented her reputation as an internationally recognised historian and scholar in the field of child welfare.

Professor Margot Hillel
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Professor Margot Hillel is an internationally-recognised scholar of children’s literature. Her PhD on children and childhood in Australian children’s literature drew together her interests in history and literature. She has been an active member of staff at the Australian Catholic University since 1985, where she is currently Head of the School of Arts and Sciences (Victoria). She regularly reviews children’s literature in a variety of journals as well as on radio. Prof Hillel is Immediate Past President of the Australasian Children’s Literature Association for Research and an elected member of International Research Society for Children’s Literature. Her recent chapters in *Change and Renewal in Children’s Literature* (2004), edited by T. van der Walt, (2004) in *Exploring the British World: identity – cultural productions – institutions* edited by K. Darian-Smith, P. Grimshaw, K. Lindsey and S. Macintyre, in *Genre, Performance and Playfulness* edited by K. Mallan and S. Pearce, with Carole Carpenter and T. van der Walt in *Children’s Literature Global and Local* (2005), as well as numerous other articles and chapters, are significant contributions to the field of childhood studies and literary analysis.

For all matters relating to the organisation and administration of the conference, please contact:

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