



Presidential Session: "Bridging the Disciplinary Divide:
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Bridging the Disciplinary, Cultural and Research/Practice Divides: The Joint Learning Initiative on Children and Ethnic Diversity (JLICED)

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Outline

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JLICED

Joint Learning Initiative on
Children and Ethnic Diversity



About the JLICED

The JLICED is a global network of leading researchers, policy-makers and practitioners that aims to reduce racial and ethnic divisions and conflicts and build socially inclusive and respectful communities through the promotion of effective early childhood programs.

See: www.jliced.org



About the JLICED

- Funded by the Bernard van Leer Foundation and The Atlantic Philanthropies
- Two phases:
 - Sharing and communicating existing knowledge and practice (2008-2010)
 - Facilitating the development and evaluation of new early childhood programs (2011 onwards)



About the JLICED

Work organised through 6 Learning Groups:

- Program Development (Divided Societies)
- Program Development (Conflict-Affected Societies)
- Qualitative Methods
- Evaluation
- Children's Rights
- Policy and Advocacy



Bridging Divides

- Inter-Disciplinary
 - Psychology, sociology, law, public policy, education, economics
- Cross-Cultural
 - 33 different countries
- Research/Practice
 - Academics, early childhood practitioners



Creating Common Ground

- Common goals
- Common values
 - Outcomes-focused
 - Evidence-informed
 - Children's rights-based
- Common language



Challenging Academic Dogma

Critical Research

- Qualitative
- Constructivist
- Complex
- Theoretical
- Inclusive
- Collaborative
- Emancipatory
- Democratic
- Practitioners/Activists

What Works Research

- Quantitative
- Positivist
- Simplistic
- Atheoretical
- Exclusive
- Coercive
- Oppressive
- Dictatorial
- Scientists



Looking Forward

There is a need to:

- Remember that “bridging disciplinary divides” is a means to an end, not an end in itself
- Be clear why “bridging disciplinary divides” is necessary
- Create common ground through listening, sharing and creating an ethos of mutual respect
- Challenge academic dogma by modelling out new ways of working