

## **VID Colloquium**

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Vienna Institute of Demography  
Welthandelsplatz 2 / Level 2  
Nathan Keyfitz Library  
1020 Vienna

### **Joanne Ailwood**

The University of Newcastle

Wednesday, 20. September 2017  
11:00-12:00am

### **"Prioritising 'care' in early childhood development"**

This paper explores care, and the specificity of care, in early years contexts, development, knowledges, and practices. All education requires care. In the field of early childhood education and care we have built a robust language for talking of the educational and pedagogical work that we do. However, we are less articulate about the centrality of care in our work. Within development work, it has become accepted to talk of Early Childhood Development, rather than early childhood education and care, prioritizing more quantifiable aspects of development such as health or nutrition. I suggest there is a need to engage with theories and ethics of care to become professionally articulate about why care matters in early childhood knowledges, identities, and pedagogical relationships. This attention to the place of care in our work is political, pushing back against the 'neoliberal cascade' (Connell, 2013) in education where care is diminished and the focus is upon individuals who are autonomous and rational citizen/workers rather than on education as an encounter between interconnected, fragile and complex humans..

### **About the presenter**

Dr Joanne Ailwood is Senior Lecturer in the School of Education, University of Newcastle, Australia. She has held academic positions at The University of Edinburgh (Scotland), Queensland University of Technology (Brisbane, Australia) and Charles Sturt University (Bathurst, Australia). She has also held positions as Adjunct Associate Professor, School of Early Childhood at Queensland University of Technology (2009-2011) and Visiting Scholar at the Moray House School of Education, The University of Edinburgh (Aug - Dec 2013). Dr Ailwood's research focuses on historical and policy analyses of early childhood education and care.