

# GENDER EQUITY, CONFLICT AND POWER AMONG YOUNG CHILDREN: investigating children's peer and relationship cultures in the preschool and school 2012-2016

Tuija Huuki DEd.

University of Oulu/The Academy of Finland  
Post Doctoral research

This research aimed to contribute to an understanding of how gender cultures, gendered peer hierarchies, gender conflicts and compassion all mediate and shape children's relationships with each other. Building on the findings from a previous Finnish and UK pilot project on the gendered relationship cultures of five and six-year-olds, this research investigated how everyday expressions of compassion and cruelty are experienced and negotiated over time from the time the children are six until they are eight. The project generated qualitative data over two years using innovative ethnographic, participatory and creative multimedia methods. During the project, findings were shared with international experts in Hong Kong and the UK. Findings were communicated through conference papers and peer-reviewed journal articles and made accessible to teachers and other practitioners.

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