School of Social Sciences

Workshop:

The role of the domestic violence refuge in supporting children. A German retrospective study



Presented by Professor Angelika Henschel

Leuphana University, Lueneburg, Germany

Visiting Professor to School of Social Sciences, WSU

Friday, 24th March 2023

10:00am -1:00pm(light lunch will be provided)

Western Sydney University - Parramatta South Campus Building EB.G.33 Cnr Victoria Rd and James Ruse Drive, Rydalmere

Title:

The role of the domestic violence refuge in supporting children. A German retrospective study

Abstract:

This workshop focuses on Angelika's unique retrospective research with now grown up children who had lived with their mothers in domestic violence refuges in Germany. We will first hear from Angelika reflect on her early years of feminist political activism, her continued engagement with the women's refuge movement and the centrality of these relationships in enabling her current study. Angelika will then share key findings from the study including; the importance of the friendships the children formed in the refuges, their positive relationships with the workers and residents, and of having a 'say' in day to day decisions at the refuge and finally the significance of the children being in an environment where they could see their mothers in not as 'victims' but as competent individuals able to manage their own lives. The emphasis during the workshop will be on dialogue, questions and discussion with opportunity for participants to share their own practice experiences and research.

Biographical Statement:

Professor Angelika Henschel is Head of Institute of Social work and Social Pedagogy at Leuphana University Lueneburg, Germany. Angelika's research and teaching focuses on the fields of gender studies, inclusion, and youth welfare. Angelika has a long history of social activism and feminist political work including co-founding the first women's refuge in her home town Luebeck, as well as a rape crisis collective and an organisation to bring together young women with and without disability. Angelika has maintained strong involvement with these grass roots organisations, including membership of the frauen helfen frauen association's board of directors for over 35 years. Angelika has visited Australia quite extensively over the last 20 years, conducted comparative research examining Australian and German responses to violence against women and previously held an adjunct Professor position at the University of New England.

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