Children's Studies Research Seminar

Co-hosted with Discipline of Philosophy



The Phronimos Child: Exploring Practical Wisdom in Childhood through Philosophical Inquiry

Vittoria Martignago, University of Modena and Reggio-Emilia and Reggio Children Foundation



My doctoral research is grounded in Moral Philosophy, particularly in Virtue Ethics (VE). I investigate Character Education (CE), with the aim of exploring how the cultivation of phronesis (practical wisdom) may be rooted from an early age through the theory and methodology of Philosophy for Children (P4C).

VE offers a promising approach to CE by placing character and virtue at its core and emphasizing their cultivation throughout life, starting from early childhood (NE, II.1, 1103b24). Central to this process is phronesis, which harmonizes character and guides action. Contemporary philosophical debates propose different accounts of practical wisdom (Miller, 2023), recently addressing its potential cultivation from an early age (Tornero et al., 2026).

In my research, I investigate the possibility of bridging a unitarian account of phronesis (De Caro et al., 2018, 2021, 2025) with the P4C framework (Lipman, 2003). I also explore the actual possibility of this connection starting from a young age thanks to the Community of Philosophical Inquiry methodology. In this talk, I will argue that multimodal thinking – critical, creative, and caring – can be understood as an excellent type of thinking, ergo a phronetic one.

Wednesday November 18th, 12pm
THB-1001 The Bridge Room, Hardiman Research Building



Vittoria Martinago is a PhD student in "Reggio Childhood Studies" at the University of Modena and Reggio-Emilia (Italy), in partnership with Reggio Children Foundation. With both a B.A. and a M.A. degree in philosophy, her current research interests focus on Moral Philosophy, Virtue Ethics, Philosophy of Education, Character Education, Philosophy for Children, and Childhood Studies. She is also a P4C facilitator both in school contexts and in broader communitarian settings. Her latest project, Inquiry on the Self, was developed using books from the transfeminist micro-library "Gardenia – Circolo Arci." She also truly enjoys reading picture books, illustrating and watching animation movies.

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