

ISSA 9th annual Conference Budapest

**Constructing a Democratic Professionalism :
Child Care Practitioners as ‘Actors of Change’, a
study of video narratives from the seventies until
now**

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Practitioners as 'Actor of Change' in the Process of Professionalization



-Study about practitioners view on emerging role transformation

-Practitioner: co-constructor of knowledge, active role in construction of professionalism

-Action research oriented towards change, critical reflection and participation can increase professionalism

Practitioners as 'Actor of Change' in the Process of Professionalization



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- **Ghent University: 30 years action research in childcare sector**
- **Video as tool to make practice visible**
- **26h video interview from 1980 until now analysed- 4 hours selected**



Practitioners as 'Actor of Change' in the Process of Professionalization

- **Seventies: dominant medical discourse, cool distant interpretation of professionalism**



Practitioners as 'Actor of Change' in the Process of Professionalization



- **Beginning eighties: major changes: experimenting to find new interpretation –**
 - **participation nurtures professionalism**
 - **researchers as pedagogical counsellors**
 - **practitioners become actors of change**

Practitioners as 'Actor of Change' in the Process of Professionalization



- **1985- 1991: 'refresher course optimism'**
less focus on need for a bachelor training



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1995: action research around diversity
-expands interpretation of professionalism
-'Encounter of the other'



Practitioners as 'Actor of Change' in the Process of Professionalization



2002: Gender neutral construction of professionalism

- away from mother-like practice
- broader interpretation: focus on out door and social function





Which factors make from a practitioner on secondary level an actor of change?

- Support from pedagogista's / researcher/ pedagogical counsellor
 - Analysing practice:
 - Construction of professional identity towards outside world
- The development of action-oriented competences: change the existing practice



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• **Professionalism grows best within islands of democracy/ communicative spaces ((Moss 2005; Rinaldi, 2005, Dalli, 2008; Gallardine, 2008))**

Minor and major politics come together in Diversity project (1995- 2004)

• **Pitfall !!!**

Believe in potentialities of low qualified practitioners → proces of deprofessionalisation

Recent publications on professionalism



- **Special issue on professionalism
EECERA (Urban, Dalli, 2008)**
- **Miller, Cable, (2008) Professionalism in
the Early years**
- **Children in Europe in 13 languages:
(Peeters, Moss, in press)**
- **Peeters, J. (2008) The Construction of a
new profession**



**Thank
you for
your
attention**

**To believe in the
world again
(Foucault)**

