

Departmental Seminar

Preschool Transition in Latin-America; Children's Voices in International Educational Research and Teachers' Psychological Wellbeing in South East Asia

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon | October 17, 2019 (Thursday)

Rm 813, 8/F, The Jockey Club Tower | Centennial Campus | The University of Hong Kong



**Dr. Angel Urbina Garcia, *PhD.*,
MPsych., *CPsychol.*, *MBPsS.*, *PGCE*,
*AFHEA***

Assistant Professor in Childhood Studies,
University of Hull, United Kingdom

Abstract

In this seminar, I will share a study which reports on the implementation of a school-based transition programme in public schools in Mexico which promoted the development of social, cognitive and fine motor skills to support the transition to first grade. Secondly, a study reports on the perceptions of parents and the practices teachers use to support children's transition and decrease children's behavioural problems. Another study shows when and where we listen to children's views and finally, I will show preliminary findings of trainee teachers' perceptions on psychological wellbeing and its impact on teaching.

These studies have led me to focus nowadays, on children's and teachers' psychological wellbeing rather than focusing -rather obsessively- on boosting pupils' academic performance. Current academic demands are putting important pressure on children and teachers across the world which has led to an increase in mental health problems reflected in higher rates of behavioural and emotional disorders. We teach children how to succeed and obtain high grades, but we do not teach them how to enjoy life or be happy**.

**See one of my latest articles:

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/09/children-happy-but-competition-instead/>

~All are Welcome~