



Ecology of childhood
international Conference
Montréal, October 3-5, 2014
a new attitude toward children
before, birth, breastfeeding, attachment, learning, autonomy, after

PRESENTATION



Illustration 1: Catherine FOREST

This first international *Ecology of childhood* conference calls for a new attitude toward children, based on respect and trust of her/his spontaneous dispositions and personal rhythms. The central theme will be the reception given to the child at all stages of development: prenatal life, birth, breastfeeding, first bounds, learning and autonomy. Not to mention the implications of this new attitude in personal, family or social life. The main focus of this event will be both the observation of the child and recent scientific discoveries. Who would not want to be aware of conditions conducive to the emergence of countless potential which we are endowed at birth?

"A loved child, loves. A respected child, respects. A child who lives trust, trusts." ~ Edith Chabot

World-renowned speakers and authors will bring their expertise and experience on these topics: Michel Odent, Arno Stern, André Stern and Pam Larrichia, as well as Lysane Gregoire, founding president of Groupe Maman, Charles E. Caouette, co-founder of Jonathan school, and two Quebec researchers from UQAM, Marike Reid-Gaudet and Thierry Pardo. Their interventions will inform the freedom that everyone has at any time. Conference venue, this conference will brighten an important place for exchanges, discussions and meetings.

INSPIRATION

"This event, which I have contemplated for the last few years, is inspired by our sons, and I envision it as a (missing) link between all phases of life. A place to share knowledge and experiences, and a networking space for all those who work to reconnect life to this world of ours, and our fellow citizens.

Our talks will highlight the link between early life in utero, welcoming the child before birth, and their exploration of life and learning — at their own pace, and in their own unique way.

I have seen it in every moment with our children over the years, this attitude embodies life, truth, and so much love for humans and every living thing." ~ Edith Chabot

"Live together, as well as you can;
enjoy life together, as much as you can." ~John Holt, 1923-1985

"... Children are not vessels to be filled, nor a fire to ignite:
they are a blazing fire not to extinguish." ~ André Stern



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SCHEDULE

The detailed schedule will be distributed to attendees on Saturday morning

Friday, October 3, 2014: : **Amphithéâtre SH2800, Pavillon Sherbrooke, UQAM**

6:30 p.m. Welcome

7:00 p.m. Projection : alphabet - fear or love, a film by Erwin Wagenhofer

9:00 p.m. Discussion with MM. Arno and André Stern, film's protagonists

Event offered in collaboration with the CSPE (Comité de soutien aux parents étudiants de l'UQAM)

Saturday, October 4, 2014 : **Hôtel Universel Montréal – Centre de congrès**

8h00 Welcoming and registration

9h00 Launch of the *ecology of childhood* movement and manifest :

Semeurs d'enthousiasme, par André Stern

9:30 Lectures and discussion

12h00 Lunch break

1h30 pm Lectures, discussion and panel

6:00 p.m. Book launch ***Free to learn***, by Pam Laricchia, at a cocktail party hosted by Rise kombucha

Sunday, October 5, 2014 : **Hôtel Universel Montréal – Centre de congrès**

8h30 Welcoming

9h00 Lectures, panel and discussion

12h00 Lunch break

13h30 Lectures and discussion

17h00 Close



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SPEECHES AND SPEAKERS

Pre- and Perinatal Ecology

Michel Odent

« Today, in the era of primal health research, epigenetics and the revolution of the microbiome, it is possible to confirm that pre- and perinatal ecology is the most vital form of human ecology »

ODENT, Dr. Michel



EUROPE – Dad, surgeon, obstetrician, author, speaker.

Born in 1930, Michel Odent was responsible for the surgery and maternity services at Pithiviers hospital (1962-1985) and founder of the Primal Health Research Centre in London. In the 1970s he introduced the concepts of "home like birthing rooms" and birthing pools in hospitals. He is the author of the first article published in the medical literature on birth pools (Lancet 1983), the first article about the initiation of breastfeeding during the hour following birth, and the first article

applying the "Gate Control Theory of Pain" to obstetrics. He created the Primal Health Research database (www.primalhealthresearch.com) and the Womb Ecology website (www.wombecology.com) to showcase prenatal and perinatal ecology as the most vital of human ecology. He is the author of 13 books published in 22 languages.

Between nature and culture

Lysane Grégoire

In a time where the advice concerning the care of babies is such overwhelming, contradictory and in constant movement, let's examine what is a baby in an evolutionist perspective. Why is modern obstetrics and childcare so absurd? What is this famous maternal instinct. Myth or reality? A reflexion proposed to reinforce our confidence in the profound nature of the human being, this singular animal.

GREGOIRE, Lysane



QUEBEC – Mom, communicator, author, founding president of the *Groupe MAMAN* (Movement for Autonomy in Maternity and Natural Childbirth).

Lysane Grégoire trained in communication and first worked as a reports producer. As Vice President of Naissance-Renaissance, she represented the users at the assessment Board for the midwives pilot projects in 1996. In the 2000s she was Managing Director of the Association pour la Santé Publique du Québec and a member of the MSSS Lactation Consultation Table, and she helped oversee the

publication at Les Éditions du Remue-Ménage of two collections of testimonies and reflections: *Au Coeur de la Naissance*, about birth, and *Près du Coeur*, about breastfeeding. Since 2009, she has run Mieux-Naitre à Laval, a center for perinatal resources and integrating a home birth under the same roof, the first project of social economy in Quebec.

www.groupepaman.org/

www.mieuxnaitre.org/

The quality of life, from infancy to old age.

Charles E. Caouette

School, as it is actually, mandatory for all, prisoner of the industrial paradigm, prepares us for the



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working world and competitive consumerism. But, it misses seriously its first purpose which is to form blooming human beings and responsible citizens of the world.
What other paths are possible? It's time to dare and compromise ourselves!

CAOQUETTE, Charles E.



QUEBEC - Dad, Ph.D., author, speaker

Charles E. Caouette is an Honorary Professor in the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Montreal where he had taught from 1968 to 1998. He has worked in various disadvantaged and community settings. He is also recognized as a pioneer in alternative education, having co-founded Jonathan Elementary School and École Secondaire Le Vitrail. In recent years, he is particularly concerned with improving the quality of life for the elderly, or those in the process of becoming

so ... http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_E._Caouette

Not a drawing, not childish

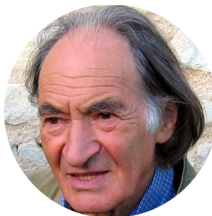
Arno Stern

Is what a child traces amazing? Is it an early stage, a sort of incomplete artistic manifestation? The product of an uncontrolled fantasy? A false outlook, half a century old, that carried on until today? So much mistakes and clumsiness committed by ignorance!

What a child traces belong to an original and universal code; it isn't the product of fantasy, nor the early stages of art.

This code - the Formulation - that emerges early in early childhood, accompanies the person for her whole life. The Formulation doesn't produce images for contemplation, it doesn't convey messages. It draws her substance in a memory hidden from inquiry. To who it is granted, thanks to the *game of painting*, lives an accomplishment. The knowledge of the Formulation gives another look at the trace, beyond cultural bias and the usual value judgments.

STERN, Arno



FRANCE - Dad, Grandpa, author, speaker.

Arno Stern, born in 1924 in Kassel (Germany) and now a French citizen, is a researcher and teacher. He was 22 years old when he began working at an institution for war orphans. Ordered to keep the children busy, he had them painting and quickly realized the vital role that this game causes, and for which he created an original design. In 1950, he was appointed UNESCO technical expert at the Bristol International Congress. In 1953, he founded the "Académie du Jeudi", which quickly

became famous. Between 1967 and 1972 he extended the field of his studies while staying with non-schooled populations (Mauritania, Peru, Niger, Guatemala, Mexico, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, New Guinea ...) and demonstrated the universality of the phenomenon he discovered. He founded a new science, Semiology of Expression, and provided a framework by creating the R.I.S.E. (the Research Institute for the Semiology of Expression) where he trains hundreds of practitioners from all parts of the world. And 2013 marked the foundation of the Institute Arno Stern (a laboratory for the observation and preservation of the child's innate dispositions).

www.arnostern.com

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2YyBSjGa1I8>

Unschooling: A humanist concept in education

Marika Reid-Gaudet

Unschooling is an education concept still unconventional in its expression, but not in its foundation.



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From Érasme to today, passed upon from the Age of Enlightenment, we'll trace the portrait of this long line of descent that is the humanist education. After a brief historic presentation, we will see how families who chose to live a life free of schooling in 2014 live.

REID-GAUDET, Marike



QUEBEC – Mom, anthropologist, master's student in sociology of education.

Marike Reid Gaudet has extensive expertise in feline caresses, she claims to achieve any cat purring in less than 5 minutes. When she had not Gros-Mignon or Fée-Poucette on her lap, she was able to study anthropology and sociology of education. Marike firmly believes that we can change the world we live in by the way we educate our children; she is passionate and writes about free education. She is Quebec representative of the international organization AERO (Alternative Education Resource Organization). She is also President of the QAHBE (Quebec Association for Home Base Education), instigator of a school-free project in Montreal and very happy mother of Loïc, 18, who joyfully practices unschooling.

Étonnement et ravissement : <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bxetw4-F4hCFcnhdGgwWjhQM2s/>

Une philosophie de vie appliquée : le unschooling <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bxetw4-F4hCFdDRPRWxhdkZselU/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_bkUzINSsts

<http://www.ecolelibre-freeschool.org/>

The contribution of an undisciplined approach in education

Thierry Pardo

Our time lacks space. Childhood, confined between the wall of the class, suffers the structural oppression of the programs, the disciplines and the authorities which promise *emancipation*, deprives him of his legitimate link with nature and a diversified and fertile social environment. This presentation approaches how a libertarian perspective can answer positively the child's aspirations for discovery, the outdoors and encounters. The author proposes the basis for an education without schooling, resulting from his experience as a parent and twelve years of research exploring the immense possibilities to an ecological approach to education.

PARDO, Thierry



QUEBEC - Dad, Ph.D. Education, associate researcher of the Centre for environmental educational research and training at UQAM (University of Quebec in Montreal) and member of socio-scientific committee for the World Education Congress on the environment Marrakech (2013). He is also a trainer for the Youth Commission of the European Union.

Thierry Pardo is the author of several essays, including "Héritages Buissonniers" (Babio) devoted to ethnopedagogy in traditional societies, and "La pédagogie de l'ailleurs ou pourquoi voyager avec ses enfants" (with Laurie Cardonnel, Michel Brûlé, 2011). His book *Une éducation sans école* (Écosociété), the result of twelve years of research, has just been published. A storyteller, in 2009 and 2010 he led the Environmental Tales Festival in Montreal, and he contributed to *Contes verts pour une planète bleue* (Michel Brûlé, 2009). He also teaches Aikido (2nd Dan, International School of Traditional Aikido) and is a sailor and musician, but he's mostly dad to two beautiful boys, Lyhèm and Eÿkèm.

http://www.refere.uqam.ca/FR/fiche_etudiant.php?id=15

http://www.revue-ere.uqam.ca/PDF/volume_9/T.PARDO.pdf



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Ecology of childhood, a life-long project

André Stern

While ecology works to find the natural in nature, the ecology of childhood endeavours to rediscover and protect the spontaneous dispositions, the rhythms and the necessities of the child, often forgotten in our days, crushed by the weight of artificial teaching, unnatural paces and destructive competition. Who doesn't wish to know the favorable conditions forming the countless potentials that we are born with? And who doesn't wish to have the consciousness of what becomes of a child who, deeply rooted in our society and it's modernity, grows in this ecology of childhood. Which teen, which adult will he become? We already imagine that a child that is seen and respected, will be an adult that sees and respects... and that he will life a profound consciousness in his roll in the big picture of nature. André stern lives since the beginning in this Ecology of childhood, from the beginning of his childhood to his own fatherhood, and delivers us a unique testimony, which isn't a personal merit, since this disposition is unique to each child - just like, inevitably, grows the mango stone soaked in water...

STERN, André



FRANCE - Dad, musician, composer, instrument maker, author, lecturer and journalist.

André Stern was appointed Director of the Initiative for Men for Tomorrow by Prof. Dr. Gerald Hüther, researcher in advanced neurobiology. He is the founder of the movements Ecology of Education and Ecology of Childhood, and Director of the Institute Arno Stern. His work in the media and his activities as a university lecturer,

with both educational professionals and the general public, address a growing interest on the part of all those who, directly or indirectly, live and work with children.

www.andrestern.com

www.ecologiedeleducation.com

<http://www.alphabet-film.com/>

Kids Aren't Clones: Exploring Our Comfort Zones

Pam Laricchia

Our children are building their own view of the world and sometimes they see things differently than we do. That's okay because with unschooling we're not looking to produce a younger edition of ourselves--we want our children to explore and grow into their unique selves. We'll talk about ways we can navigate those moments when our beliefs clash with their desires.



CANADA – Unschooling mom, author, blogger and speaker.

Pam Laricchia has been happily unschooling her three children since 2002, actively helping them explore the world through their interests and passions. She loves writing about what she's learned about unschooling and life along the way, and recently published her third book, *Life through the Lens of Unschooling*, in English. Her first book, *Free to Learn*, has been translated into French and will be launched at this first Ecology of Childhood conference! You can find her online at:

www.livingjoyfully.ca



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PANELS

Coming to this new attitude toward the child : changing paradigms

With the participation of André Stern, Pam Larrichia, Lysane Grégoire and Édith Chabot.

Édith Chabot-Laflamme



Unschooling mom, blogger, speaker.

Edith is fascinated by attitudes towards children, relationships, learning, and life, and since becoming a mom has been involved in many things related to parent-child relationships. Being a mother allowed her to see firsthand how children live and learn, and with the support of her husband, Stéphane, she has been active in life without school communities since 1999. Through observations, studies, and collecting testimonies, she questioned the relationship disconnect between parents and children that is typical of our socio-culture, and discovered that there

are, in English, phrases that describe more natural attitudes toward children: attachment parenting and radical unschooling.

By writing, translating, and comics and through meetings and conferences, **J'OSE la vie!** family team shares information to inspire and encourage parents to regain their confidence and to dare "starting from the child."

<http://journaljose.blogspot.com>

<http://ecologiedelenfance.com>

<http://ecologiedeleducation.com>

<http://andresterne.ca>

The place of the dad in the *ecology of childhood*

With the participation of Arno Stern, Michel Odent, André Stern and Alain Laferrière.

LAFERRIÈRE, Alain



QUEBEC - Alain Laferrière, a happy father of four unschooled children, is an artist using reclaimed material who graduated in Fine Arts and Interior Design from the Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu CEGEP. He also studied architecture at the University of Montreal as an audit student. He is a self-taught woodworker and co-founder of Atelier Saint-Cerf, a family owned manufacturer of toys and objects made from recycled wood that also offers creative workshops. His motto is * everything that you can imagine is feasible *. For the past two years he has been working with his

wife and children to create a living space that will be both self-sufficient and ecological. In this environment all will be able to learn and share their skills and knowledge with an overarching objective of fostering independent creativity and exchange.

You can follow his daily activities and that of his family on their blog :

<http://laviechezlesvivants.blogspot.ca/>

Or on his Instagram account.: <http://instagram.com/ateliersaintcerf>.