

# *A Different Identity*

*An exploration of identity and subjectivity for children in foster care*

- ⌘ "Your in the clan, it's like a circle. If you take one piece out of it the circle brakes"  
( Mal Walker, Indigenous Elder)

## *A Different Identity*

- ⌘ **Developmental Theory**

Separateness  
Stages  
Normality

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- ⌘ **The Medical Model**

"Core" or "true" identity  
Ego  
Normality v's pathology

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- ⌘ **Historical Theory**

Bourgeois individual

Interests of the state  
are paramount

North American  
psychological subject

## *A Different Identity*

⌘ **Feminist approaches**

## *A Different Identity*

⌘ **Children's perspective**

Childhood is a  
construction

Universal child

"Normal" family

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⌘ **Cross-cultural research**

Political links

Self is flexible and  
fluid

Interdependence

Grounded in social and  
spiritual relations

## *A Different Identity*

⌘ **Australian Indigenous Identity**

**Related to persons,  
place and things  
beyond the  
individual.**

## *A Different Identity*

**Hybridity**

⌘ **Cultural classifications viewed as reductionist that marks  
Indigenous people as "raced" or "unraced".**

⌘ **Identity is continually reproduced in the play of history, culture and power.**

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**Hybridity 2**

⌘ **Interweaving of colonised and coloniser**

⌘ **Emergence of (a) new identity/ies**

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## **Child Placement Principle**

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⌘ **'When a group within a large, complex civilisation significantly dominates other groups for hundreds of years, the ways of the dominant group( the epistemologies, ontologies and axiologies), not only become the dominant way of the civilisation, but also these ways become so deeply embedded that they typically are seen as "natural" or appropriate norms rather than an historically evolved social construction'.**

(Scheurich & Young 1997:7)

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⌘ **Explaining visually what will happen in the workshops**

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⌘ Ensuring safety

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⌘ What to do if you feel unsafe.

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⌘ Explaining confidentiality

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**Context**

⌘ Regionally based within a statutory organisation.

⌘ Research Partnership

⌘ SPLAT

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**Research Methodology**

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**Art Therapy**

Registered Art Therapist	
Art and play are	essential
tools in	
communicating with	children
and young	people providing a
forum for their voices	
to heard.	

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### **Art groups age breakdown**

- ⌘ Group 1- 4 to 7 years
- ⌘ Group 2- 8 to 11 years
- ⌘ Group 3- 12 to 15 years
- ⌘ Group 4- 16 to 18 years

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### **Adults**

#### **Indigenous Focus Groups**

- ⌘ Group 1- Aboriginal adults including elders and young adults.
- ⌘ Group 2 -Torres Strait Islander adults including elders and young adults.
- ⌘ Group 3 -Australian South Sea Islander adults including young adults and elders.

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- ☐ Example of informed consent form

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- ⌘ Focus groups with Department of Communities workers.

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### **Anticipated Outcomes**

- ⌘ To incorporate the views of Aboriginal, Torres Strait and Australian South Sea Islander people, children and young people into Child Protection practices.
- ⌘ Review how the Child Placement Principle is translated in practice.
- ⌘ Review and change practice in how we work with children and young people.