



(Research on Lifestyles, Values and Environment)  
UNIVERSITY OF SURREY, Guildford, Surrey GU2 7XH

## **FORTHCOMING SEMINAR**

**Tuesday 11 November, 2008, 1300-1400**

45b AZ 04  
University of Surrey

**Bronwyn Hayward**

### **Growing Greens? Children's attitudes to citizenship, environment and climate change: The New Zealand experience.**

Much research on children and the environment aims to 'correct' children's apparent 'misperceptions' or 'lack of knowledge' about sustainability. This approach however ignores the socio-political realities of many children in developed countries who have grown up in strongly neo-liberal policy environments.

As 'children of the market', young citizens frequently express a strong sense of individual responsibility for their environment but have had few opportunities to participate in, or even observe binding democratic action to address hazardous environmental change.

This paper discusses the results of focus group interviews with New Zealand children aged 9-11 years from a variety of different education and social economic settings and considers the policy implications of their diverse attitudes to their environment and citizenship. Discussion asks: has neo-liberalism eroded resilience and increased the vulnerability of future generations to hazardous environmental change?

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