

**NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN EDUCATION**  
**TE HUNGA RANGAHAU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA**

## ***Sutton-Smith Doctoral Award 2016***



### *Jeanette Clarkin-Phillips* *University of Waikato*

Jeanette Clarkin-Phillips, The University of Waikato, is the 2016 recipient of the Sutton Smith Award for excellence in a doctoral thesis in education. Jeanette's thesis entitled "*Fighting the odds to make it even: Mapping an affordance ecosystem in a kindergarten community*" is about the way that policies and practices for, and in, a kindergarten in one of the most deprived regions in Aotearoa New Zealand provided multiple opportunities and affordances for adults to become architects of their own lives.

The examiners both praise the thesis for its high quality. The thesis is clear and coherent, beautifully written, and the research design is robust. Of particular note is the effective way in which Jeanette weaves together two theoretical frameworks, Bourdieu and Bronfenbrenner, providing the framing for the data collection. This weaving provided both text and sub-text, combining data with theory to strengthen the social justice storyline.

The thesis provides a valuable and innovative theoretical contribution to scholarship. She is able to provide a coherent and clear link between theory and data and in doing so, suggests similar models of affordance for other integrated early childhood services. Jeanette's work challenges existing policies and practices and identifies ten components of effective integrated early childhood provision. As stated by one of the examiners, these components have relevancy for the development of policy and practice in early childhood in New Zealand. The thesis was commended for its genuine and lasting contribution to the literature on integrated early childhood services.

Jeanette is thus a very worthy recipient of the 2016 Sutton-Smith Award.



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