

The Irregular School – Does placement matter anymore?

Roger Slee

Abstract

In this presentation to the National Council for Special Education Research Conference in Dublin I will address the urgency of exclusion as a social and educational problem. The Irregular School was proposed as a means for challenging legacies of educational exclusion expressed through a division of regular and special schools. Both were formed in specific historical conditions and are struggling in new times. The playful offering of the notion of the irregular school was simply an invitation for us to see how we might jettison the vestiges of the past that erect barriers to the inclusion of all children in schooling. I will draw from recent work in Australia and Ethiopia to issue a number of challenges for all of us engaged in education in a world that is steadfastly tearing itself apart.

Biographical Note

Roger Slee was a Vice-Chancellor's appointment to a Chair of Education at the University of South Australia. He has previously held research chairs at The University of Western Australia, Goldsmiths College University of London, Victoria University and the Institute of Education UCL where he was the Chair of Inclusive Education. He has holds an honorary chair in critical studies in education at The University of Auckland in New Zealand.

Roger is the Founding Editor of the *International Journal of Inclusive Education* and is on the Editorial Boards of many other journals. He has recently stepped down from being the Chair of the Board of Directors for Children and Young People with Disabilities Australia.

He is currently working on major inclusive education projects in Ethiopia and Queensland. He has advised governments and education authorities in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Kosovo, Montenegro, Greece, England, India, Iraq and Jordan.

Roger was formerly a Deputy Director General of the Queensland Ministry of Education and Dean of Education at Goldsmiths, The University of Western Australia and Magill.

He is the author a number of books and is currently working on The Inclusive Education Workbook for Routledge and a book on Ethics and Inclusive Education with Gordon Tait.