Affect and embodiment in children’s film events

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In this paper children’s film events in preschool is under study. The empirical material consists of 12 months ethnographic participant observations from preschool where the researcher took part in children’s own filmmaking practices in three ways: as provider of the actual situations where children were given film cameras for their own exploration, as a filming observer of the children’s exploring, and as an observer of children’s own presentations of what their own explorations were about. A theoretical starting point is Rosi Braidottis (2002, 2011) concept nomadic subject and her call for a materialist theory of becoming. We juxtapose this with materialist theories of childhood pointing to new ways to conceptualize what it might mean to ‘become with’ as a child in contemporary society (Lee 2005). When combining these theories children’s bodies, in this paper, are regarded as (material) organisms entangled with other human and non-human bodies. In film events where children’s own bodies interact with other non-human bodies and objects, multiple forms of affect is produced. These affects are fundamental for the embodied human and non-human actions taking place, as well as for the production of child subjectivities. Children are, we suggest, in their own exploration of filming practices in their own film events, nomadic subjects affected by other organisms (bodies) they themselves affect. To understand such processes of affective becoming we, in the analysis, focus on the children’s movements and stillness in the film events. The first question posed in the paper regards the choice of methodology: how can theoretical concepts like affect, movement and stillness be brought into an empirical analysis of children’s film events? The second question regards the understanding of childhoods produced in the film events: What is the role of affect, movement and stillness in children’s becoming with a film event in preschool today?

Keywords: childhood, materiality, Affect, film events