The focus of Susan Wright’s research has been predominantly on the learning of young children through artistic domains. She has been particularly interested in the embodied cognitive and emotional processes of children which are mediated through symbolic representation using artistic tools. This has included preschool and early primary school children’s improvisations/compositions using a musical synthesiser, children’s depictions of happy/sad constructs through drawing, and a longitudinal study of children’s drawings of what the future might be like.

Classroom-based research has included the development of the Singapore Arts Education Coding Scheme for systematic observation and evaluation of agency, pedagogy and modality in school-based contexts, and several large-scale case studies of Singapore Ministry of Education policy initiatives and implementations. Currently, she and colleagues in Arts Education at the University of Melbourne are embarking on case studies of Primary School teachers’ application of arts-rich practice, supported by immersion-based professional learning and in situ mentorship. The focus of her presentation will be on ‘researcher as interlocutor’ and how to surface the voices of children through graphic-narrative-embodied play. Examples of children’s embodied, metaphoric and abstract thinking will be provided and opportunities for discussion will be encouraged.

Monday 28 May 2012: 4–5pm
Tennant Block Common Room, Karori Campus

Please RSVP to pam.ritchie@vuw.ac.nz if you plan to attend.