



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **IU sociology professor to present childhood lecture March 18**

Dr. William A. Corsaro, the Robert H. Shaffer Class of 1967 Endowed Professor of Sociology will lecture on "The Future of Childhood" as part of the Liberal Arts Distinguished Lecture Series. The Corsaro lecture will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 18, in Mitchell Auditorium located in the USI Health Professions Center. His lecture is possible with support from the AKD International Sociology Honors Society.

"The Future of Childhood" lecture will discuss themes including the quality of life for children, cross-cultural comparisons of childhood, historical trends regarding childhood, children's work and leisure, and economic conditions for childhood. Video clips from Dr. Corsaro's field research will be shown.

Dr. Corsaro received his Ph.D. in sociology from the University of North Carolina in 1974. He specializes in the areas of sociology of childhood, children's worlds and peer cultures in a cross-cultural perspective, early childhood education, and socio-linguistics. For nearly 25 years, he has conducted extensive ethnographic fieldwork of children's peer cultures and educational processes in preschools and elementary schools in the United States and Italy. Dr. Corsaro taught at the University of Bologna, Italy and lectured at several universities in Western Europe. He was a Fulbright Senior Research Fellow in Bologna, Italy in 1983 - 1984 and he won the President's Award for Distinguished Teaching at Indiana University in 1988.

Dr. Corsaro has published numerous books including *The Sociology of Childhood, Friendship and Peer Culture in the Early Years, Interpretive Approaches to Childhood Socialization, and Children's Worlds and Children's Language*. He published articles and book chapters in *American Sociological Review, Conflict Talk, Annual Review of Sociology, Child Care in Context: Cross Cultural Perspectives, Social Psychology Quarterly, Sociology in Education, Sociological Perspectives in Social Psychology, American Journal of Community Psychology, Ethnography and Human Development, International Journal of Comparative Sociology and Childhood: A Global Journal of Child Research*.

A panel discussion on various topics of childhood will be held from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, March 17, in Mitchell Auditorium, located in the USI Health Professions Center. This event is free and open to the public and will serve as an introduction to the Corsaro lecture.

Panelists Dr. John Gottcent, professor of English, John Gibson, instructor in English, Maggie Felton, instructor in psychology, Dr. Jane Meyer, associate professor of education, and Dr. Jonathon Epstein, associate professor of sociology, will discuss topics concerning religious shaping, the child in literature, the child as a worker, and early education for children. Dr. Stephen Zehr, chair of the Sociology Department and associate professor of sociology, will serve as moderator.