Wednesday, November 18th, 2015, Noon

300 Satterlee Hall

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Reading to Children: Individual Responsibility and Collective Action

Abstract: Content analysis of popular women's magazines published since the 1920s portrays a growing insistence of reading to children to “ready” them for school. Coupled with an understanding of global expectations of preparing children for school (Larocque & Darling, 2012) and longitudinal scholarship on family involvement in schools (Lareau, 2105), this finding troubles a moral imperative to read to children prior to school enrollment. Moreover, it raises the question of reaching a proper balance between individual responsibility of parents to prepare children for school and the collective responsibility to care for society’s children.