

Visit to the London Knowledge Lab

Alexandra Cochrane visited the Centre for the Study of Children, Youth and Media, housed in the London Knowledge Lab, on November 12. Renowned for producing some of the most influential studies on young people's use of media technologies, researchers at the Centre are at the forefront of their field.

The London Knowledge Lab houses researchers from the Institute of Education and Birbeck College. Computer, education and media postgraduate students work in the facility. The Centre for the Study of Children, Youth and Media largely concentrates on young people and new media, although doctoral research into television is still on-going. Current research interests among staff and students include media and popular culture, computer games, media, education and citizenship, media production, new media, gender, ethnicity and media and Media Studies as a school subject.

The Centre is directed by Professor David Buckingham, one of the pioneers of media education in the UK. Pick up a book or a journal article on children and the electronic media, and the likelihood is that Buckingham will be referenced. He is the author, co-author or editor of 21 books and more than 170 articles; Buckingham's impressive list of publications ranges from *Children Talking Television: Making of Television Literacy* (1993), to *The Making of Citizens: Young People, News and Politics* (2000) to his most recent book *Youth, Identity and Digital Media*, published this year.

Buckingham is currently chairing the Department of Children, Schools and Family committee. He explained that this group is looking at the commercialisation of childhood in the UK, how this will affect children's well-being now and in the future. The resulting literature review will influence future policy making. Prof Buckingham is also researching the use of civic websites promoting citizenship among young people set up by government bodies across the EU. He secured funding to research youth media culture in the UK, as part of a nine-country project.

In addition to supervising PhD students, the Centre for the Study of Children, Youth and Media, runs courses for Master's level students on various aspects of the children and media.

For more information on the Centre for the Study of Children, Youth and Media, go to www.lkl.ac.uk.