

CREAN Conference

Collaborative Research in Children's Rights

Fostering Dialogue Between Academia and Society

25-26 April 2024

Foundation Campus Biotech, Geneva, Switzerland

RATIONALE

Since the field's emergence, many research projects in children's rights studies have been set up as a result of intensive collaborations between researchers with civil society and governmental actors. Besides slowly gaining credentials as an academic field of interest, including the development of more and more sophisticated theoretical frameworks, innovative methodological approaches and critical perspectives, the social relevance of the collaborative research projects undertaken in children's rights can explain the enduring success of children's rights studies within the university. Examples of collaborative research include studies undertaken in collaboration with governmental agencies, including national monitoring bodies or children's ombuds offices, with a wide range of UN entities such as UNICEF, the World Health Organization or the Committee on the Rights of the Child as well as with a broad range of national and international civil society actors.

During its plenary sessions, the 2024 CREAN Conference wishes to engage with the design, research questions, involved actors, funding and impact of the different ways in which collaborative research has been undertaken. We propose using 'Collaborative research' as all-encompassing term that designates those research projects that have been set up to foster dialogue between academia and society and form part of the province of knowledge brokering. After looking at the possible definitions of collaborative research, including but not limited to action-research, policy-oriented research, applied research, cooperative research, bottom-up research, translational research, participatory research or citizen science, we will present and discuss several examples of research in children's rights that has been developed by academic actors together with civil society and governmental

partners. What are the strengths and weaknesses of this kind of research? What is the relation between solution oriented and curiosity driven research? How can collaborative research invigorate academic teaching, and vice versa? What are the differences and similarities between collaborative research, science communication, outreach efforts and continuous education?

In addition, several sessions are scheduled that are devoted to the presentation and discussion of education and research activities in the broad field of children's rights studies. During a poster session, CREAN members will present their academic teaching activities in children's rights, including at bachelor and master level, elective courses, summer schools or continuous education programmes. During parallel sessions, we will discuss ongoing projects led by Ph.D. researchers, early career researchers and established researchers, offering an opportunity to assess the diverse and rigorous work currently being conducted in the interdisciplinary field of children's rights and childhood studies.

Audience

This conference, which is part of the activities developed by the Children's Rights European Academic Network (CREAN), is open for CREAN members as well as for other interested participants. We particularly invite policy-makers, staff members of NGOs, international organizations and researchers and teachers who work on themes related to childhood, children's rights, human rights studies and cognate academic fields.

Children's Rights European Academic Network (CREAN)

This is the bi-annual conference of the Children's Rights European Academic Network (CREAN). CREAN aims to further enhance the academic field of children's rights as an interdisciplinary field of studies. The network is composed of European higher education institutions that work together to support the development of education, research and outreach activities. Through its networking activities, CREAN acts as a platform for the promotion and exchange of information on scientific research and fosters research collaborations between its members.

PROGRAMME

Thursday 25

8.30 - Registration

9.00 – Welcome

Dr. Stéphane Berthet, Vice-rector University of Geneva

Prof. Karl Hanson, Chair, Steering Committee CREAN and Director, Centre for Children’s Rights Studies (CIDE), University of Geneva

9.20 – Conference Introduction

Dr. Roberta Ruggiero, Academic Coordinator of the CREAN Coordination Office and Director of the Children’s Rights Academy, Centre for Children’s Rights Studies (CIDE), University of Geneva

9.30 – Plenary session: Collaborative Research

Facilitated by **Dr. Roberta Ruggiero**

Prof. Frédéric Darbellay, Associate Professor in Inter- and Transdisciplinary Studies at the University of Geneva and Vice-Director, Centre for Children’s Rights Studies (CIDE), University of Geneva – *“Crossing Disciplinary and Academic Boundaries: Collaborative Research as a Protean Concept”*

Dr. Claire Shewbridge, Centre for Educational Research and Innovation OECD - *“Opportunities and Challenges for Collaborative Educational Policy Research”*

10.30 – COFFEE BREAK

11.00 – Plenary session: Collaborative Children’s Rights Research

Facilitated by **Prof. Natália Fernandes**, Member Steering Committee CREAN, University of Minho, Portugal

Dr. Roberta Ruggiero - *“Collaborative Research and Informed Children’s Rights-Based Policy”*

Ms. Agata D’Addato, Head of Programmes, Eurochild – *“Collaborative Research and Child Rights Advocacy of Civil Society”*

Prof. Lucia Jimenez, Universidad de Sevilla, Department of Developmental and educational psychology – *“The European Family Support Network (EurofamNet) as a Collaborative Research Process”*

Dr. Elina Stenvall, Director, preventive work - SOS Children’s Villages Finland *“The Role of Collaborative Research in the Child Rights-Related Policy of the Council of Europe”*

12.00 – Open debate

12.30 – LUNCH BREAK

14.00 – 15.30 – Parallel sessions – 1st Slot

Chair **Prof. Dagmar Kutsar**, University of Tartu, Estonia

15.30 – COFFEE BREAK

16.00 – 17.30 – Parallel sessions – 2nd Slot

Chair **Prof. Ton Liefwaard**, Member Steering Committee CREAN, Leiden University, Netherlands

17.30 – 18.30 – Open Bar and Posters

19.30 – DINNER

The restaurant address will be communicated via email

Friday 26

9.00 – 10.30 – Parallel sessions – 3rd Slot

Chair **Prof. Karl Hanson**, Chair Steering Committee CREAN, University of Geneva, Switzerland

10.30 – COFFEE BREAK

**11.00 - 12.40 – Plenary Symposium: The Dilemmas of Children’s Rights
Research in Practice**

Facilitated by **Prof. Kay Tisdall**, Member Steering Committee CREAN, University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom

12.40 – 13.00 – Closing