



## EUROPEAN NETWORK OF MASTERS IN CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

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### What's new

- Queen Belfast university: Why Children's Rights matter
- Norwegian Centre for Child Research: Master of Philosophy in Childhood Studies

Don't miss the opportunity:

Lecture Series: Making Children's Rights Real

04/12/2013

Children and Youth Reports in the UN Monitoring Process, Berlin, Germany.

CREAN Website launched. Here you will find all the information about the [CREAN project](#)



This newsletter is supported by:



**Save the Children**  
Sweden

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Dear ENMCR network members and network interested,

In this edition of the newsletter you can read about the event organised by the Queen University Belfast entitled Children's Rights Matter and about the Call for Papers from our Partner Universidade do Minho. Moreover you can read about the impressions from a participant at the first CREAN Conference held in Madrid.

If you have any suggestions, comments and / or ideas for improving the newsletter you can use our email address: [info@enmcr.net](mailto:info@enmcr.net)

Sincerely,

Rita Nunes (Editor)

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### Queen Belfast University: Why Children's Rights Matter

The purpose of this event was to further develop understanding and awareness of children's rights in Northern Ireland. This topic should be of interest to anybody working with Children and Young People in voluntary, community, statutory and academic organisations.

This free open event took place on November 26<sup>th</sup> at the Queen's Belfast University. The first session was chaired by Laura Lundy, from the Centre for Children's Rights and had as guest speakers Jonathan Bell and Jennifer McCann. They presented the topic: Children's Rights: Next steps for Northern Ireland. Afterwards John Tobin, University of Melbourne presented: *What are children's rights and why do they matter?*

The second session *Engaging with UNCRC Reporting* followed. Margaret Rose McNaughton spoke about: *State engagement with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child*. Later on, Patricia Lewsley-Mooney dealt with the topic: *To safeguard and promote the rights and best interests of children and young people: the role of UNCRC reporting for NICCY*. Moreover, the role of NGO's was analysed through the input on the *NGO alternative reporting and lobbying* and the session 2 finished with an input on *Young people's reflections on engaging the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child*. The afternoon session was marked by the panel discussion and two contributions on: *Effective NGO engagement with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child* and *Working towards the next NGO alternative report*.

### Stockholm University: Problematising participation and voice: Foucauldian perspectives in Child and Youth Studies

This event will take place on

December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at the Stockholm University. Giving voice to children and youth and to facilitate their participation in public and domestic life is, politically, taken for granted in today's discourse. Emancipation, justice and citizenship can be said to be dependent upon such aspirations. But what is the price-tag for this political agenda? What are the effects of such an advocacy for voice giving? What are the costs of a seemingly compulsory activity directed towards young people? In this presentation of three studies a more problematized picture emerges, in the contexts of minority language speakers, selection of talents in sports and children in advertisements for sustainable consumption.

For further information consult: [www.buv.su.se/comparativechildhoods](http://www.buv.su.se/comparativechildhoods)

### University of Minho: Call for Papers ATEE

The University of Minho, Braga, Portugal, will host the Association for Teacher Education in Europe (ATEE) annual conference 2014, taking place in August, 25 to 27.

The 2014 ATEE Annual Conference focuses on Transitions in Teacher Education and Professional Identities and it aims at fostering a deep discussion of several issues related to the conference theme.

Proposals for oral presentations and posters will be welcome on February and March. Texts relative to papers and posters presented at Conference will be refereed and, if accepted, published in the conference proceedings.

The ATEE Annual conference offers an opportunity to share and discuss research with people from all over the world. Besides, due to the nature of this organization, based on Research and development Centers (RDCs, it also offers an opportunity for the establishment of joint research projects development and paper

publication.

The conference target population is made of teacher educators, teachers, prospective teachers and other professionals somehow related to teacher education or to the teaching profession.

More information on the conference theme, important dates and other relevant issues is available from the conference website:

Proposals for papers/presentations at the conference may be submitted in two categories:

- empirical research
- theoretical study

An empirical research is typically focused on qualitative and/or quantitative data. A theoretical study is focused on educational issues and/or reviews of the literature.

Abstracts must be submitted by e-mail ([atee2014@ie.uminho.pt](mailto:atee2014@ie.uminho.pt)) from February 1 to March 31.

### Norwegian Centre for Child Research: Master of Philosophy in Childhood Studies

Are you interested in children's everyday lives and in childhood as a social and cultural phenomenon? Would you like to know about children's lives in different parts of the world?

What about the changing conditions of childhood in the era of globalisation?

If so, the international master's programme in Childhood Studies might be perfect for you. For more information, please visit this website:

[www.ntnu.edu/studies/mpchild](http://www.ntnu.edu/studies/mpchild)

Application deadline for international applicants: 1 December 2013.

Application deadline for Norwegian/Nordic applicants: 15 April 2014.

Further information on the admission [here](#)



### CREAN Conference: Impressions of a participant: What makes a child a child?

The CREAN conference in Madrid was comprehensive from several aspects. The list of interesting presentations was long. Researchers from multiple disciplines and different countries presented findings and results from recent studies both in plenary sessions and within three parallel elective seminars on various themes: Research methodology about children's rights, ethic questions and children's participation in research. Many of the presentations during the CREAN conference concerned methods, ethics and obstacles when to conduct studies with children and young people. They touched upon contexts and areas where children can and should be involved in the design of studies, and they also highlighted different perspectives which may be interesting to investigate when involving children in research.

However, there were two specific aspects that I found especially interesting that I have included in my present work at home.

Although the areas and approaches differed, I experienced that an overall and recurring theme was the definition and perception of the child. Several of the presenters referred to it as a dilemma, an obstacle or a discourse in their research. One or two of the presenters equated the perception of children today with the (historical) perception of women, where they were seen as incompetent, non-autonomous and non-legal.

For example, I participated in a debate on how caregivers/parents can affect the outcome of research by not approving certain elements of the

research. The children are protected by their guardians and at the same time they lose the right to choose or decline to participate. It becomes a matter of protection and ethics vs. legality and autonomy.

Children are often grouped together into one homogeneous group. Several of the presenters highlighted the difficulties of a few children representing an entire population of children. Children as a group consist of individuals of different ages with different personalities, opinions and interests. It would be hard to believe that anyone would use a small hand-picked group of adults to represent all other adults in a study.

One lecturer talked about how children are often described in research as the others, which could reinforce inequalities and power relations rather than even them out. The same lecturer raised the question of what would happen if the children themselves conducted research. Would it be valued as much as if it was conducted by adults? And what does the answer to that question tell us about our current views of children?

For me it was made clear during the conference that the perception of children is constantly in development. It has surely developed over time: today children are not looked upon as pets, or as passive recipients. Nor do we see childhood as an 18-year long haul to adulthood. But we still have a long way to go and the reflexivity in research about children's rights became prominent during the conference.

It was pointed out on a few occasions that the CRC was developed by adults, not the children themselves. In a presentation, it was mentioned that the CRC, in some aspects, perhaps even reinforces the gap between children and adults and may help to elucidate children as the others. This means that the CRC needs to be seen as a "living" instrument in the continuous development and

highlighted in a reflexive perspective. The second aspect is about the theme of the conference: From theory to practice. Or as Kirsten from the Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed it: How can we make it (the research) useable for practitioners? In that sentence she put the finger on many of my own thoughts during the conference.

As an employee of a NGO, I had the role as one of the practitioners during the conference. I was able to repeatedly identify direct applications for many of the findings that were presented to both my own and my colleagues' activities – everything from methods to new results that we could use directly into our advocacy work towards politicians and policy makers. But how do we as practitioners make use of all this phenomenal research? If I hadn't participated in the CREAN conference, I would never have had the opportunity to take part in discussions on some of the subjects that I now actually use in my work. I asked some of the presenters for more information about their studies, results and methods. But it was difficult to gain more knowledge because of the fact that the findings weren't always translated into English.

I wish that in the near future more will be discussed about the hows. How do we build bridges between research and practitioners? How do we build an international platform for gaining more knowledge?

By: Mary Douglas  
Project manager,  
Young voices  
Save the Children Sweden

## General News External

**9th African MAEJT Meeting**

From October 21 to November 2, 2013, in collaboration with the Burkina Faso Association of Working Children and Youth (AWCY) National Coordination and in partnership with Enda Third World, Youth in Action, AMWCY held its 9th General Assembly on the theme: «let's build peace everywhere and at all time».

The objective of the meeting was to assess the progress of children's rights and the impacts of WCY's activities and to set new directions for the Movement to continue children's protection.

The meeting was attended by WCY delegations and facilitators from 26 countries. During two weeks of work, participants exchanged and shared experiences and knowledge on child rights, child protection, child participation, vocational training and employment for working children and youth. The results emanating from the exchanges show that the AMWCY realizes both progress in the actions on child protection and in its expansion. Also on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013, the children from member countries of African Movement of Working Children and Youth (AMWCY) that participated in the

consultation of the World Bank on the projects it finances, participated in a virtual meeting via Skype to exchange with their friends in Asia on the outcomes of this consultation.

At the closing ceremony, the authorities and partners in attendance unanimously praised the AMWCY's achievements in carrying out actions namely in terms of child protection and training of working children and youth CY to ensure them a better future. They also committed to support and/or continue to work in synergy with AMWCY, as long as they remain committed to their goal.

## Funding / Prizes / Research Opportunities

**Call for abstracts: Access to Play**

The 19th International Play Association Triennial World Conference will be held between 20-23 May 2014 with the theme of "Access to Play", hosted by Active Living Association. The aim of the conference is to put the child's right to play, which is already laid down by law, on the public agenda in Turkey, to make this issue considered as a right and to clear the way for new decision making about the child's right to play and academic studies.

We invite you to submit papers within the scope of three conference sub themes (please see below) which will open a new door for a child's right to play. Sub Themes:

1. Why Play?
2. Play Spaces
3. Play and Media

Abstract Submission Guideline:

- Texts must be in English or Turkish
- Maximum 250 words
- Minimum 3, maximum 5 keywords
- Abstracts must be in PDF format
- Abstracts must contain only text; images and graphics/diagrams must not be placed in text
- The maximum number of submitted papers or abstracts accepted per author is two.

You can click on *Abstract Form* and *Workshop Form* on the website; forms should be sent to [info@ipa2014.org](mailto:info@ipa2014.org) by adhering to the abstract submission guidelines. You will receive a confirmation email after your submission. Deadline for submission: **December 31, 2013**

**Call for submission on child, early and forced marriage**

The OHCHR would like to request any relevant information for the preparation of their report from the following: civil society organizations and networks, national human rights institutions (NHRIs), scholars, research institutions and policy think tanks, community movements, children and youth organizations and networks.

In particular, views and information would be welcome on:

- a) How States are implementing their obligations under international human rights conventions and international human rights treaties on child, early and forced marriage at the national level;
- b) Steps taken to prohibit child, early and forced marriage as well as examples of positive experience and

challenges encountered at the national level in adopting policies, measures and implementing strategies to address this issue;

- c) Policies, projects and measures undertaken at national and sub-national levels, including by United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, civil society and other relevant stakeholders to promote the elimination of child, early and forced marriage specifically including action taken to address the issue in practicing communities, and to address or mitigate its impact, making specific reference to the outcomes of such policies, projects and measures;
- d) Surveys, assessments and studies carried out at national and sub-national level on the prevalence of child, early and forced marriage and/or its impact on the human rights of women and girls;
- e) Recommendations on or examples of good practices regarding possible appropriate measures and strategies to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage.

Please send your submission to the Women Human Rights and Gender Section of OHCHR by e-mail ([akufuorowusu@ohchr.org](mailto:akufuorowusu@ohchr.org) and [vbirga@ohchr.org](mailto:vbirga@ohchr.org)) by 15 December 2013.

## Publications

**Psychological First Aid Training Manual for Child Practitioners**  Save the Children Sweden

The *Psychological First Aid Training Manual for Child Practitioners* was developed by Save the Children Denmark for the Child Protection Initiative, to facilitate training in psychological first aid with a focus on children. It is aimed at developing skills and competences that will help child protection staff reduce the initial distress of children who have recently been exposed to a traumatic event. The training targets Save the Children staff, partners, and professionals such as teachers, educators, health and social workers etc., and volunteers working directly with children in emergencies or in the aftermath of conflicts, natural disasters and critical events.

ISBN: 978-87-91682-43-8

**Child Protection and Psychosocial Work in Middle- and High-Income Countries**  Save the Children Sweden

How applicable are psychosocial and protection programmes to high- and middle-income countries?

Save the Children has expanded large-scale emergency responses to high-income countries – such as Australia, Italy, Japan, Spain and the USA – and to middle-income countries – such as the Philippines, Chile, Brazil, China and Libya.

But the efficacy of psychosocial programmes in these contexts has been little explored. Should Save the Children continue to provide psychosocial programmes after disasters in these countries? How should we ensure that these responses are effective?

This report comes from a comprehensive research project that has explored these questions.

Report available [online](#)

**The Impact of Fostering on Foster Carers' Children - An international literature review**

The new international report published by the Rees Centre at the University of Oxford authored by Luke Nikki, Sebba Judy and Höjer Ingrid. This review of the international research on the impact of fostering on foster carers' children was undertaken in order to identify the ways in which carers' children might be more effectively prepared and supported when their families are fostering.

Available [here](#)

**Protecting children's rights in criminal justice systems: a training manual and reference point for professionals and policymakers**

Children in conflict or contact with criminal justice or welfare agencies either as children in need of protection, children at risk, on arrest, during trial, in detention or as victims and witnesses, are often in a vulnerable position, unaware of their rights or unable to enforce them. How these children are treated by the system is a critical factor in determining how they will be reintegrated into their families, schools and communities.

Protecting children's rights in criminal justice systems is designed to strengthen the capacity of those involved in working with children involved in the justice process and will be relevant for a wide range of professionals and policymakers.

Based on international and regional standards, it provides a practical approach to addressing issues that arise for children in criminal justice systems, illustrated by examples from other countries and including challenging and thought-provoking questions and case studies at the end of each topic.

Available [here](#).

**Creating a non-violent juvenile justice system**

This report has been written to address the growing epidemic and global magnitude of the violence being experienced by children in juvenile justice systems. Whilst aspiring to clarify the many ways in which governments are failing to protect children in conflict with the law, the report also presents a non-violent vision of juvenile justice. Further information [here](#).

**Toward a World Free from Violence: Global Survey on Violence Against Children**

A Global Survey report to assess progress in the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against children, conducted under the auspices of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children. The Survey is the first comprehensive attempt to assess progress in preventing and eliminating violence against children since the 2006 UN Study on Violence against Children. It provides a strategic insight into how far the world has come toward ensuring children's protection from violence and, crucially, what still needs to be done to give every girl and boy the opportunity of enjoying a childhood free from violence. The Global Survey drew on regional processes and initiatives and was informed by reports received from more than one hundred States. It is a significant source of information on national measures and initiatives designed to advance implementation of the recommendations of the UN Study.

Available [here](#)

## Upcoming Dates

**DECEMBER**  
**04/12**

Introduction to child protection investigations, London, UK.

**DECEMBER**  
**10/12**

Sociology of education seminar series, Institute of Education, London, UK.

**JANUARY**  
**08/01**

Children's Rights Movements in Paraguay, Berlin, Germany.

**JANUARY**  
**28/01**

A avaliação nas primeiras idades, Lisbon, Portugal.

**MAY**

20/05 to 23/05  
 Access to Play, Istanbul, Turkey.

**DECEMBER 2013**

- 03/12 to 04/12: Results in Advocacy: an advocate's guide to impact assessment, London, UK:
- 04/12: Children and Youth Reports in the UN Monitoring Process, Berlin, Germany.
- 04/12: What 15-year-olds know and what they can do with what they know, online.
- 05/12: Problematizing participation and voice: Foucauldian perspectives in Child and Youth Studies, Stockholm, Sweden.
- 05/12 to 06/12: Childhood and Migration: Gendered and generational perspectives, Vetcha, Germany.
- 09/12: Cooperation between parents and schools: preventing early school leaving, Brussels, Belgium.
- 09/12: A qualidade das interações em contexto familiar e de creche e o desenvolvimento sociocognitivo da criança, Lisbon, Portugal.
- 11/12: Partizipation und Selbstbestimmung von Kindern und Jugendlichen im Wirtschaftsgeschehen: Schüler\*innengossenschaften und Youth Banks, Berlin, Germany.
- 13/12: Gemeinsam für Bildung, Berlin, Germany.
- 18/12: Die BMZ- und UNICEF Initiative »World We Want« – Beteiligung von unten oder von oben organisiert? Berlin, Germany.

**JANUARY 2014**

- 07/01: A Infância da Filosofia: aconselhamento filosófico para o pré-escolar, Lisbon, Portugal.
- 15/01: Parlamentarische Vertretung von Kinderinteressen – 25 Jahre Kinderkommission des Deutschen Bundestages Berlin, Germany.
- 22/01 to 23/01: Symposium on family policies from four EU Member States - Family policies matter! - National policies against poverty and social exclusion of families, Brussels, Belgium.
- 22/1: Monitoring durch eine Nationale Menschenrechtsinstitution – Erfahrungen als Monitoring-Stelle zur UN-Behindertenrechts-Konvention, Berlin, Germany.

**FEBRUARY 2014**

- 05/02: Best practice in commissioning and delivery for children, young people and families, London, UK.
- 19/02 to 21/02: Child Poverty, Public Policy and Democracy, Mexico DF, Mexico .
- 27/02 to 28/02: Involving Children and Young People in Research and Consultation, Edinburgh, UK.

**MARCH 2014**

- 14/03 to 16/03: 9th Global Conference Creative Engagements: Thinking with Children, Prague, Czech Republic.
- 27/03 to 28/03: Using creative methods in research with children and young people, Edinburgh, UK.

**AUGUST 2014**

- 25/08 to 27/08: Transitions in Teacher Education and Professional Identities, Braga, Portugal

**SEPTEMBER 2014**

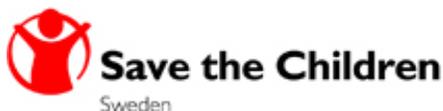
- 29/09 to 01/10: 7th Child in the City Conference, Odense, Denmark.

Dear Network Members,

Please send us your agendas for the coming months as well as publications, funding and prizes or any other topic so we can include them in our newsletter ([info@enmcr.net](mailto:info@enmcr.net)).

#### SAVE THE CHILDREN RESOURCE CENTRE

Save the Children's Resource Centre is an online portal, with updated and reliable information on Child Protection and Child Rights governance. The portal is available to the public and gives access to over 4.000 quality assured publications, articles and other materials in one convenient location. The Resource Centre also give you the possibility to upload and publish your own materials. Usage is free of charge. Visit the resource centre [here](#)



Save the Children, thank you for making this newsletter possible!

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#### Job and Internship Opportunities:

- Senior Advocacy Advisor** at Save the Children  
Deadline: **3 December 2013**
- Advocacy and Communications Trainee** at Plan International  
Deadline: **4 December 2013**
- Human Rights Officer** at United Nations - Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Deadline: **5 December 2013**

#### How to join ENMCR?

It is possible to join the European Network of Masters in Children's Rights as a member at any time. ENMCR was established in 2004 by five European Universities with the support of Save the Children Sweden (SCS). In the meantime 31 universities are members of ENMCR. ENMCR is collaborating with the Latin American Network of Masters in Children's Rights, which currently comprises nine universities in eight Latin American countries and is also supported by SCS. Furthermore, ENMCR is in contact with academic study programmes on children's rights in other parts of the world, e.g. in the MENA region.

#### Why is it worthwhile joining our network?

In becoming a member you will work with children's rights experts from all over Europe (and Latin America). We have been cooperating as a network for almost ten years and you will be able to build on the longstanding experience of our members. You will get an insight into children's rights from a variety of perspectives and disciplines. The member universities offer higher education in childhood studies and children's rights, at undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate levels. Some members offer full study programmes in children's rights, others offer modules, seminars or intensive courses. You will have access to knowledge in establishing study programmes, as well as to teaching materials developed in the network. We have implemented several European Union funded projects on children's rights themes and organize conferences, workshops and short intensive programmes in the same field. You will have access to all materials published in the frame of ENMCR, such as the monthly electronic newsletter Children's Rights news (CRnews), reports from projects, materials from conferences and workshops, etc.

To become a member of ENMCR, simply send us a letter of intent, in which you name what you believe you and your institution can contribute to and gain from our network. In addition, please include an outline of your child rights related programme and/or courses. It is important that you name a contact person at your institution for correspondence purposes. Our members contribute to ENMCR's work with an annual membership fee of 300€ which covers the daily expenses of the network.

Please send the letter to:  
European Network of Masters in Children's Rights (ENMCR)  
c/o European Master in Childhood Studies and Children's Rights  
Freie Universität Berlin  
Habelschwerdter Allee 45  
D- 14195 Berlin, Germany

