



EUROPEAN NETWORK OF MASTERS IN CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Inside this edition:

What's new

- KidsRights Index
- University of Macedonia:
Protecting Childhood in an Era
of Crisis
- Institute of Education:
Childhood and critical realism

Don't miss the opportunity:

27/03/2014 to 28/03/2014

Using creative methods in
research with children and young
people, Edinburgh, UK.

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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ENMCR

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Dear ENMCR network members and network interested,

As the year is drawing to an end, we wish you a wonderful Season
Holidays and a prosperous New Year 2014.

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

Sincerely,

Rita Nunes (Editor)

General News Internal: page 2

- KidsRights Index
- Continuous Professional Development courses on Research with
Children and Young People at The Centre for Research on Families
and Relationships (CRFR), The University of Edinburgh
- Institute of Education: Childhood and critical realism
- Stockholm University: Comparative Childhoods
- University of Macedonia: Protecting Childhood in an Era of Crisis

Alumni Notes: page 3

General News External: page 5

- DRC: Children in Armed Conflicts
- OCDE Report
- World AIDS Day
- Bulgaria: the right to live
- South Sudan: UN CRC
- Israel: circumcision
- UN CRC: 3rd Optional Protocol

Funding / Prizes / Research Opportunities: page 6

- Call for presentation: The Blackboard Teaching & Learning
Conference

Publications: page 6

- The Right to Learn: Community participation in improving learning
- EU Study on missing children: Mapping, data collection and statistics
on missing children in the European Union
- Approaches towards Inequality and Inequity: Concepts, measures
and policies

Upcoming Events: page 7

Job Opportunities and membership of the ENMCR: page 8

KidsRights Index

The International launch of the KidsRights Index took place on November 19, 2013. The KidsRights Index is an initiative by the KidsRights Foundation and the Erasmus University Rotterdam (Erasmus School of Economics and International Institute of Social Studies): "It was our wish and ambition to develop a systematic scientific approach to monitoring the status of children's rights across the world in order to promote and foster the realisation of these rights".

The KidsRights Index is the first global ranking on how countries are adhering to children's rights. The KidsRights Index is concrete, compact, constructive and adaptable. The country-ranking will be published yearly and will be made available to the public through a comprehensive website. New dimensions may be added over time to enrich the index. Country-specific recommendations can be made on the basis of the KidsRights Index.

The KidsRights Index draws on two key available sources of information: firstly, the Concluding Observations adopted by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child and secondly, UNICEF's annual State of the World's Children reports. The Concluding Observations complement the available quantitative data by adding information on the key general requirements of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. These requirements are crucial for establishing an adequate formal enabling environment for children's rights in a country. They extend to the general CRC principles that are prescribed for all implementation efforts (non-discrimination, best interests of the child, respect for the views of the child) and to the structural provision of legislation, budget, data and state-civil society cooperation. Further information [here](#)

Continuous Professional Development courses on Research with Children and Young People at The Centre for Research on Families and Relationships (CRFR), The University of Edinburgh

Interested in developing your skills in research and consultation with children and young people?

Want to explore exciting new approaches to research and consultation?

Enjoy learning in a friendly, participative and expert environment?

Would like to access useful, up to date resources?

CRFR has [3 CPD courses on research and consultation with children and young people](#).

Returning for 2014: We are offering 2 subsidised places per course (£250 reduced from £350) for those who work in voluntary organisations (only one place per organisation). Please contact Laura Marshall L.marshall@ed.ac.uk to apply.

Higher Education: potential source of training [bursaries](#)

Courses can be taken as stand alone courses or as a series of 2 or 3.

Courses delivered by Professor Kay Tisdall and Dr Susan Elsley, who have extensive experience in delivering education and training on research and consultation with children and young people.

Courses are offered as 'blended learning' with 2 days at the University of Edinburgh, an active social network website with online resources and case study presentations from expert speakers.

Institute of Education: Childhood and critical realism

On January 21, 2014, Professor Priscilla Alderson will held a seminar entitled Childhood and critical realism. Critical realism examines the basic living reality (being) of children,

and how that differs from ways in which children are perceived and understood (knowing). Another critical realist theme is the four planes of social being: bodies and nature; interpersonal relations; social structures; and the good life. How can all four planes inform research with children? Can methods in natural science apply to social science?

Although this seminar is part of a series on the main ideas in critical realism, others are welcome to attend.

Stockholm University: Comparative Childhoods

At the very first seminar at the department in the new series Comparative Childhoods, Dr. Åsa Bäckström gave an interesting intervention about the birth of the department, followed by Opening remarks about the intention with the seminars given by Dr. David Payne. These were followed by individual presentations about their interest in Child and Youth Studies made by Prof. Karin Aronsson, Prof. Ann-Christin Cederborg, Prof. Mats Börjesson and Dr. Rickard Jonsson. Further information [here](#)



University of Macedonia: Protecting Childhood in an Era of Crisis

Professor Paroula Naskou-Perraki, Professor of International Law and the Law of International Organizations at the Department of International, European, Economic and Political Studies at the University of Macedonia participated in an online conference entitled *Protecting Childhood in an Era of Crisis*. The online conference is available [here](#).

Alumni Notes

At the University of Amsterdam, approximately 85 students have graduated in the field of Childs Rights

since 2007. In 2011, the Master of Childs Rights was converted into part of the Master's Programme of

International Development Studies (IDS), with one track specializing on Childs Rights.

Master of Childs Rights: 2007 – 2008

Cato Oosterwijk works as a policy advisor at the Dutch Ombudsman for Children. The Dutch Ombudsman for

Children monitors the observance of the rights of children in the Netherlands and aims to find structural solutions to problems related to children's rights. In her

work, Cato enjoys working with and making a difference in young people's lives. She feels inspired by the drive and commitment of her colleagues.

Master of Childs Rights: 2007 – 2008

After finishing the master in Children's Rights, **Caroline Scheffer** moved to Nepal. She has recently started a new job as Country Director for the [Umbrella Foundation](#).



Caroline Scheffer (1) during a workshop

This organization focuses on family reunification and reintegration of children who were rescued from illegal 'orphanages'. These children were often trafficked and neglected of their most basic rights.

The Umbrella Foundation tries to make volunteers and travelers aware of children's homes being run as lucrative businesses and aims at stopping them from supporting these institutions.

The goal of the Umbrella Foundation is to stop trafficking in the long term. In her position, Caroline carries out workshops about capacity building and sustainability. She also makes assessment visits to find out about children's current situation and their views for improving child protection responses in their community. Caroline feels rewarded to see children becoming able to stand up for themselves and enjoys working in this field every day.

Immediately after graduating, **Anne-Marie Phiri – van Hooijdonk** moved to Zambia with her husband. Anne-Marie works at the International School of Lusaka as a teacher and coordinator of the Child Rights Club.



Anne-Marie Phiri – van Hooijdonk working at the International School of Lusaka (debate of Child protection).

She is also a board member of the Twatasha School located in a rural area near Lusaka. Their aim is to provide pupils with quality education and is preparing to start a very innovative project: iSchool. This is an eLearning solution, using Android tablets, that covers the entire Zambian primary curriculum. Anne-Marie uses her knowledge of Children's Rights to create more awareness about Children's Rights and to address the needs of children in Zambia, a country she enjoys very much.

Anna Tiggelaar currently works at Childs Life International. Within this organisation, Anna develops and organises school projects in the Netherlands. She gives guest lectures, helping children and young people in the Netherlands understand the problems of their peers living in developing countries.

In 2006, even before she studied in the field of Children's Rights, Kelly de Vries established her own NGO in Ghana: The [Meet Kate Foundation](#).



Meet Kate Children's home and playground

After she obtained her Master in Children's Rights, Kelly moved to Ghana to work full-time for Meet Kate, which focuses on educational projects in the central region of Ghana. Inspired by a young Ghanaian girl named Kate, the foundation invests in the potential of youth and is especially committed to promoting self-reliance within small-scale projects. Meet Kate also creates awareness in Europe.



Kelly has also started another job in the capital of Ghana that focuses on innovative products for insect-control. The company contributes to the goal of eradicating malaria and other vector-borne diseases. Kelly feels it is not always easy dealing with different cultures and different work-ethics, but the smiles on the children's faces makes everything worthwhile.

Master of Childs Rights: 2007 – 2008

Renske Oosterwijk currently works as a project coordinator at 'Stichting Move', a foundation that sets up projects with students and children in disadvantaged neighbourhood's in the Netherlands. Within this organization, students and children are working together in improving the children's neighbourhood. By giving the students and children a leading role in the projects, ownership and responsibility is being created and

active participation within the communities is stimulated. The method is based on the acknowledgement of the right of children to participate and the importance of involving them in decision-making.



Renske loves to work in the field of Children's Rights in the Netherlands, but sometimes misses the international aspects. However, she believes the concept of Stichting Move is strong and she sees opportunities in possibly implementing this idea in other countries, in order to address children's rights on a more international level.

IDS with Specialization of Childs Rights: 2011-2012

In her studies, Emmie Wienhoven focused on the right to education for deaf children.



Rozerie Bosma at YiPSA

After graduating, Emmie started an internship in the international department of Kentalis in the Netherlands. Kentalis offers care and education to those who are deaf, hard of hearing, speech or language impaired, deaf blind, or have autism and mental disabilities that affect

their communication. Currently, Emmie is working on the development of a 3-week short course called 'Deaf Children in International Development' in collaboration with the ISS in the Hague and the ICDI in Leiden. Emmie also volunteers for a Dutch foundation named Tanzatoto. She travels to Tanzania once or twice a year to coach teachers in teaching children who are deaf or who have other disabilities affecting the communication. Tanzatoto also assists in organizing workshops in which local teachers teach parents to communicate with their child through sign language. Her educational background allows Emmie to constantly assess the ethics of their actions.

After graduating from the Master International Development Studies, the thesis from **Edward van Dalen** on the translation and implantation of international children's rights in Yogyakarta, Indonesia was selected for presentations at two conferences in the UK; the *Annual Conference of The Association for the Study of Law, Culture and the Humanities* and the *World Congress The International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences*. As a result, Edward is currently writing an article for a special issue on children and young people for the *Journal of Legal Pluralism*. He is also working as a research associate for Yale University on a project on international criminal justice.

IDS with Specialization of Childs Rights: 2012-2013

Keetie Ruijters's is a youth researcher at Stichting Alexander, an organization that works towards empowerment and meaningful influence on youth policy. Within her

work, Keetie has helped organize a conference on 'The Voice of the Children in the Battle against Child Abuse'. This conference was based on a three-year research project designed to enable victims of child abuse to speak up and provide professionals with useful information

on how to approach and how to provide help to victims. These children were given the chance to illustrate their story and their perspective through creative outlets such as film, comics and theater.

DRC: Children in Armed Conflicts

The 2nd December marked the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery. Its aim was to raise awareness about and eradicate contemporary forms of slavery, including trafficking, sexual exploitation, forced marriage, the worst forms of child labour, and the recruitment of children in armed conflict.

The Central African Republic, which has seen the number of children recruited into armed groups more than double in recent months to as many as 6,000.

Children involved in domestic servitude as a pressing concern. Children working in private homes - some 15.5 million worldwide - are among the most exploited and abused workers in the world due to persistent social discrimination, exclusion from labour laws, isolation, and the invisible nature of their work. Children are at even greater risk, due to their young ages, lack of awareness of their rights, separation from their family, and dependence on their employer.

OECD Report

The latest OECD report on the maths, science and reading skills of 15 year olds reveals mixed results for Member States. The EU as a whole is seriously lagging behind in maths, but the picture is more encouraging in science and reading where Europe is on track to achieve its 2020 target for reducing the percentage of low achievers to below 15%. Overall, EU performance is slightly better than the United States, but both lag behind Japan.

World AIDS Day

The 1st December marked World AIDS Day. The aim of this international day was to raise awareness of AIDS caused by the spread of the HIV infection, how HIV

is transmitted, how it can be prevented, and the reality of living with HIV today.

The shocking extent to which children who are HIV-positive face discrimination and obstacles to accessing basic services is due to a lack of awareness about the virus.

Bulgaria: the right to live

Earlier in June the European Court of Human Rights found Bulgaria had violated the right to life of 15 children and young adults with special needs who died in a state care home in 1996/1997 from a shortage of food, the effects of cold and a lack of medicines and basic necessities. The judgment outlined how funding of the care home had been reduced significantly in the winter of 1996 after inflation rose in Bulgaria to over 1,000 per cent, which left the home in dire circumstances: it was inaccessible by car due to weather conditions, the heating only came on for one hour in the morning and one hour in the evening, and the "food was highly inadequate" with staff and nearby villagers bringing in some provisions. The Court ruled that authorities could have prevented the deaths, as information about the serious risk to the lives of the patients had been available as early as September 1996.

South Sudan: UN CRC

South Sudan is on the way to becoming the next State to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, with the country's Parliament passing a bill to that effect last week. Once the bill is signed by President Salva Kiir, the State will become the 194th to ratify the Convention. By agreeing to comply with by this legally-binding instrument, national governments commit to incorporating the full range of children's rights into national legislation - including their civil, political, social, cultural and economic rights - and to be held

accountable for this commitment. With the upcoming ratification, it will leave Somalia and the United States as the only two countries to not have ratified the Convention.

Israel: circumcision

A religious court in Israel has ordered a mother to circumcise her son against her will or face daily fines of £90. Under Jewish religious tradition, boys are circumcised on the eighth day after birth. But the mother in this case said the boy - now one year old - was born with a medical problem that prevented him undergoing ritual circumcision. "According to the mother's lawyer there is no legal obligation to circumcise boys in the country.

Israel's rabbinical courts are part of the country's judicial system and hold exclusive jurisdiction in religious matters, including marriage and divorce. They also have the power to rule on cases of custody and inheritance, child support and alimony, among others. And their rulings are enforced in the same ways as those of civil courts. The mother in this case now plans to appeal to Israel's Supreme Court.

UN CRC: 3rd Optional Protocol

Slovakia has become the latest country to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (OP3). The State ratified the treaty on 3 December.

Slovakia now joins the ranks of Thailand, Gabon, Bolivia, Germany, Spain, Albania, Portugal and Montenegro in having ratified the treaty. Forty-four states have signed the Optional Protocol. However, a complaints mechanism for the CRC will only come into force with its tenth ratification.

Funding / Prizes / Research Opportunities

Call for presentation: The Blackboard Teaching & Learning Conference

Blackboard would like to invite you to share your success stories and best practices at next year's Blackboard Teaching & Learning Conference in Dublin on April 29 – May 2. Presenters get the opportunity to impact and enhance e-learning around the region and also receive a discounted registration. The best presenter as voted by the audience will get the chance to present at BbWorld 2014 in Las Vegas! The deadline to submit is January 23. Share your results and best practices with the audience in a presentation:

- 45 minute sessions
- Present results, best practices,

insights, and ideas

- Ideal to inform, persuade, or to inspire your audience

- One or more presenters

The content of submissions should relate to the use of Blackboard technologies to solve challenges on and off campus.

- Blended Learning – create more flexibility and increase interaction to keep students engaged.
- Professional Development - eliminate travel costs, maximise teacher efficiency, or enable more professional development opportunities.
- Technology Adoption - best practices for improving user success to maximise the value of your technology investment.

- Digital Content – how advancements in digital content are changing the way students and faculty engage with and share educational information and activities.
- Social Learning – learn from interaction and collaboration with peers through both formal and informal educational spheres.
- Analytics in Action – the power of data-driven decision making across the institution.

For more information about the Blackboard [Teaching & Learning Conference 2014](#), Dublin, please visit the conference website or send an email at AskUs@Blackboard.com.

Publications

The Right to Learn: Community participation in improving learning



Save the Children
Sweden

The past decade has witnessed unprecedented progress in education, with millions more children in school. But there is a growing crisis in learning. Millions of children in school are unable to read, write or calculate. *The Right to Learn* showcases the work of five organisations working to support local action to improve schools – UWEZO in East Africa, Equal Education in South Africa, Ação Educativa in Brazil, ASER in India and ASER in Pakistan.

The report highlights approaches to empower parents and communities to demand change in the face of poor-quality schooling and poor learning outcomes.

The report calls for an ambitious equitable learning goal in the post-2015 development agenda. This should provide a framework for national targets and minimum standards.

Governments and education providers should be held to account

against these targets and standards. Report available [here](#).

EU Study on missing children: Mapping, data collection and statistics on missing children in the European Union

The study, carried out from August 2012 to June 2013, on behalf of the European Commission, with the support of the European Parliament, mapped the situation of and responses to children going missing for the period 2009-2012 in EU-27. It revealed a variety of definitions and procedures used by the Member States as well as greatly varying degrees of data available with only overall numbers obtainable from almost all Member States (with 2 exceptions). The data illustrates the magnitude of the problem with just under a quarter of a million cases of missing children reported in 2012. The study concludes that there is a strong case for improving data collection, including use of common definitions, reporting of cases and coordinating the actions taken by the different actors in the national child-

protection systems. Furthermore, it makes recommendations to broaden the type of data recorded to understand underlying causes for disappearances, allow targeted prevention and adequate follow-up to the cases, and to raise awareness about the services available, including the 116 000 hotlines for missing children. Report available [online](#)

Approaches towards Inequality and Inequity: Concepts, measures and policies

The paper discusses what a fair, or equitable, distribution is, drawing on some contributions of Western philosophers and economists. After reviewing different approaches, it argues that inequality among groups is particularly unjust. The paper argues for a plural perspective on the space in which inequality is assessed, following Sen's capability approach. It is argued that the assessment should relate to functionings (or outcomes) rather than capabilities (or possibilities), especially for children whose choices are severely constrained. Available [online](#).

Upcoming Dates

JANUARY
08/01

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

JANUARY
28/01

A avaliação nas
primeiras
idades, Lisbon,
Portugal.

MARCH
14/03 to 16/03
9th Global
Conference
Creative
Engagements:
Thinking with
Children,
Prague, CZ.

MAY
20/05 to 23/05
19th
International
Play Association
Triennial World
Conference,
Istanbul, Turkey.

SEPTEMBER

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

JANUARY 2014

- 07/01: A Infância da Filosofia: aconselhamento filosófico para o pré-escolar, Lisbon, Portugal.
- 07/01: Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Systems in Europe: what are the current trends and what needs to be done? Brussels, Belgium
- 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.
- 22/01: Monitoring durch eine Nationale Menschenrechtsinstitution – Erfahrungen als Monitoring-Stelle zur UN-Behindertenrechts-Konvention, Berlin, Germany.
- 29/01: Monitoring der Kinderrechtskonvention in Entwicklungsländern – Wie kann Entwicklungszusammenarbeit dazu beitragen? Berlin, Germany.

FEBRUARY 2014

- 05/02: Best practice in commissioning and delivery for children, young people and families, London, UK.
- 05/02: Zivilgesellschaftliches Monitoring der Kinderrechte in der internationalen Zusammenarbeit – Beispiele aus Afrika, Asien und Lateinamerika, Berlin, Germany.
- 06/02 to 07/02: Short Course: Statelessness and the rights of the child, Geneva, Switzerland.
- 12/02: Podiumsdiskussion: Advocacy und die Rechte künftiger Generationen, Berlin, Germany.
- 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

- 27/03 to 28/03: Using creative methods in research with children and young people, Edinburgh, UK.

APRIL 2014

- 15/04 to 17/04: 4th European Conference for Social Work and Research: Private troubles or public issues? Challenges for social work research, Bolzano, Italy.
- 29/04 to 02/05: 19th National Conference on Child Abuse & Neglect, New Orleans, USA.

JUNE 2014:

- 09/06 to 12/06: International Forum for Child Welfare (IFCW) World Forum, Helsinki, Finland.

JULY 2014

- 20/07 to 25/07: 20th International Aids Conference Melbourne 2014, Melbourne, Australia.
- 24/06 to 26/07: Genital Autonomy 2014 "Whole Bodies, Whole Selves: Activating Social Change", Colorado, USA.

AUGUST 2014

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

SEPTEMBER 2014

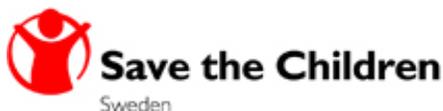
- 03/09 to 04/09: EUSARF 2014 - 13th European Scientific Association for Residential and Foster Care for Children and Adolescents Conference, Copenhagen, Denmark.

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).

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:

1. **Policy and Advocacy Intern** at Eurochild
Deadline: **5 January 2013**
2. **Advocacy and Communication Officer** at VOICE - Voluntary Organisations in Cooperation in Emergencies
Deadline: **10 January 2013**
3. **Advocacy and Campaigns Manager** at Crisis Action
Deadline: **19 January 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
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D- 14195 Berlin, Germany

