Dear ENMCR network members and network interested,

In this edition of the newsletter we would like to highlight the new cycle of Masters at the ENMCR members Universities as well as the upcoming CREAN activities.

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)

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Queen’s University Belfast: New MSc in Children’s Rights

The Centre for Children’s Rights in Queen’s University Belfast is offering a new and distinctive MSc course which will develop participants’ expertise in two distinct but interconnected areas:

- Children’s Rights - using the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant international standards to evaluate the laws, policies and practices which affect children.
- Research with Children - evaluating the best methods of conducting research into children’s lives with a particular focus on approaches which involve children actively in the research process.

The programme features input from leading international children’s rights scholars at Queen’s University Belfast, including Professors Laura Lundy and David Archard and a range of scholars from around the world. The programme is part of the University’s ‘Improving Children’s Lives’ initiative and students will benefit from the interdisciplinary connections established with a range of professions such as health, law, social work and psychology.

Core modules include:

- Interdisciplinary perspectives on childhood and research; an introduction to children’s rights and rights-based research methods.

Optional modules explore children’s rights in relation to a range of contexts including:

- Social work; education and the law; disability; pedagogy; criminal justice.

The course is offered as a full time (one year) or part time (three years) programme and is planned around a blended learning programme which enables students to identify a mode of study that suits their circumstances. Modules typically include a combination of intensive study days in Belfast, plus on-line learning in the intervening periods to ensure the course is accessible to people across the world.

The University is offering 100 scholarships of £2000 to full-time international students. For further details visit our International PG Taught Scholarships page.

For information on entrance criteria, course fees and how to apply visit the School of Education course page.

Visit the Centre for Children’s Rights website: [www.qub.ac.uk/CCR](http://www.qub.ac.uk/CCR)

IUKB: New cycle of the Master of Advanced Studies in Children’s Rights (MCR)

We are very pleased to announce the Call for applications for the 2015-2016 cycle of the Master of Advanced Studies in Children’s Rights (MCR), an interdisciplinary part-time postgraduate programme in children’s rights.

From the 2015-2016 cycle onwards the MCR will be organised by the University of Geneva, in continuation of the MCR Programme which has been organized between 2003 and 2014 by the University Institute Kurt Bösch (IUKB) and the University of Fribourg, Switzerland and will be integrated in the Continuous Education Programmes of the University of Geneva.

The MCR 2015-2016 cycle will begin on 2 February 2015 and the deadline for applications is 30 September 2014. You will find a general overview of the MCR Programme and the new brochure may be downloaded [here](http://www.qub.ac.uk/CCR).

Universidad de Barcelona: Los Derechos de la Infancia, frente a los modelos de familia

Pueden enviarse comunicaciones sobre los temas del Precongreso. Es preciso enviar propuesta de tema y resumen de una página antes del día 7 de julio de 2014, con identificación de los datos de autoría e institución de procedencia. El texto completo podrá entregarse hasta el día 30 de septiembre de 2014. La aceptación de la comunicación será notificada personalmente y podrá ser expuesta en un breve espacio de cinco minutos el último día del precongreso.

[INSCRIPCIONES: precongresoinfancia@gmail.com](mailto:precongresoinfancia@gmail.com)

Tarifa general: 50€

(El importe recaudado en el Precongreso será auditado y se destinará íntegramente al proyecto "despertar sin miedo" contra el acoso escolar, desarrollado por ADDIA y CEPASS México, en Guanajuato).

Mas informaciones [aquí](http://www.qub.ac.uk/CCR).

Queen’s University Belfast: ‘Children’s Rights-Based Participation in Advocacy’ training

Professor Laura Lundy delivered a training workshop on Children’s Rights-Based Participation in Advocacy at the 7th Regional Meeting of NGOs, Children’s Rights Coalitions in Europe in Sofia in April 2014. Based on the Centre’s growing experience of rights-based research methods, and drawing on findings from the [Advancing Children’s Rights](http://www.qub.ac.uk/CCR) in Ireland research, Prof. Lundy and Dr. Chelsea Marshall shared lessons and facilitated discussions about how to engage children and young people meaningfully in campaign and advocacy work. Prof. Lundy also facilitated a workshop about children’s participation in the Committee on the Rights of the Child monitoring and reporting cycle.

GSIA: Bullying Prevention Centre

GSIA collaborates on "Bullying Prevention Centre" of Facebook. [https://www.facebook.com/safety/bullying](https://www.facebook.com/safety/bullying).

The Facebook page Put a Stop to Bullying introduces tools, tips and programs that help people stand up for themselves and each other. It includes a guide for teens, parents and teachers.
Maria Grzegorzewska Academy of Special Education: Problem behaviors in adolescent - forms, conditions, prevention

The UNESCO Janusz Korczak Chair at the Maria Grzegorzewska Academy of Special Education in cooperation with the Polish National Commission for UNESCO, CEEPUS Programme - Bureau for Academic Recognition and International Exchange are organising the 8th International Summer School entitled Problem behaviors in adolescence – forms, conditions, prevention between September 15 to 25, 2014.

The Summer School is targeted at young researchers in the fields of psychology and practitioners being interested in adolescent behavior problems.

The course fee is 180 Euro and includes accommodation in a student hotel (11 nights), one meal a day (lunch) and coffee breaks from 15 to 19 September. Fee should be paid after arrival.

All participants will receive a certificate of completion of the 8th International Summer School.

Further information can be found here.


The IoE is still accepting applications to the MA Sociology of Childhood and Children’s Rights (2014/2015).

This masters degree will:

- introduce you to a range of current theories about childhood and the practical issues of promoting children’s rights
- critically explore social constructions of childhood, and the implications these have for professional practice with children
- enable you to take account of children’s interests, views and rights, and understand the complex relations between the protection, provision and participation rights defined by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

This masters degree provides the opportunity to:

- develop your critical analytical skills, to improve your professional practice
- gain an understanding of sociological, socio-legal and political theories and concepts of childhood and children's rights, including a recognition of the varied childhoods experienced by children in the richer minority and poorer majority worlds
- understand the rights and responsibilities of people concerned with the care, education, health, welfare, advocacy or control of children and young people
- increase your awareness of the importance of including children's own views when planning and providing for them.

Who is this programme for?

All those working with and for children and interested in the field of children’s rights, especially those working in children's services such as health and education, social care and family policy, youth work, the justice system and advocacy work for children and young people.

More information available here.

Queen’s University Belfast: research looking at the legal needs of young people

A team from the Centre for Children’s Rights (Ms. Lesley Emerson, Dr. Katrina Lloyd, Prof. Laura Lundy, Dr. Karen Orr and external consultant Ms. Ellen Weaver) recently completed a research project conducted on behalf of the Department of Justice in Northern Ireland (NI), focussing on the legal needs of children and young people in NI. The research explored a range of issues, for example, it reports the lack of awareness and understanding amongst young people in terms of legal needs and rights and the numerous barriers to children and young people accessing legal advice, e.g., their lack of awareness of existing sources of information and assistance and their concerns regarding the capacity of the legal system to work effectively with children and young people. The report will be available in the Summer 2014.

University of Bristol: study of poverty and deprivation

The Poverty and Social Exclusion (PSE) in the United Kingdom project, led by the University of Bristol and funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), conducted the largest study of poverty and deprivation ever conducted in the UK.

The study revealed that almost 18 million people cannot afford adequate housing conditions; 12 million people are too poor to engage in common social activities; one in three people cannot afford to heat their homes adequately in the winter and four million children and adults aren’t properly fed by today’s standards.

Furthermore, it has shown that full-time work is not always sufficient to escape from poverty and calls on the government to take action.

Further information available here.

Queen’s University Belfast: UNICEF Research

Lee Jerome from the Centre for Children’s Rights has been leading a research project for UNICEF, which aims to establish a baseline survey of CRE implementation. Lee recently attended the UNICEF Private Fundraising and Partnership Division’s annual meeting of National Committee education officers in Bratislava and updated participants on the progress of this research. The final report of the Centre’s research will be available in the Autumn 2014.
University of Edinburgh: Childhood Studies MSc

This is an intensive interdisciplinary degree, designed to explore issues such as child law and how it is implemented through policy and practice, and the implications of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child for child welfare, disability, education, family studies, juvenile justice, social policy and social work.

An intensive interdisciplinary degree, this programme responds to the increasing importance of the study of childhood in disciplines as widespread as philosophy, sociology and geography.

Programme description

Designed to explore issues such as child law and how it is implemented through policy and practice, it offers an opportunity to develop skills in research and consultation with children and young people.

You’ll examine the implications of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child for child welfare, disability, education, family studies, juvenile justice, social policy and social work, and gain knowledge and analytical perspectives on particular areas of legislation, policy, theory and practice that affect children.

The programme benefits from the childhood studies expertise of academic staff across the University.

Entry requirements

- A 2:1 UK undergraduate honours degree in a relevant subject or its international equivalent; or
- a strong performance in a BA in Childhood Practice from a UK University, with one academic reference; or
- an undergraduate degree and at least 12 consecutive months of work experience in an area of direct relevance to MSc Childhood Studies, with a CV and at least one work reference that is no more than one year old.

How to apply

An official transcript and certificate (if the degree has been awarded) is required upon application.

References are not required upon initial application but may be requested at a later stage in the application process. Where work experience is taken into consideration, an up-to-date CV and work reference is required.

Further information here.

CREAN Children’s Rights Prize

ABOUT THE PRIZE

The Children’s Rights Prize for Best Master’s Dissertation aims to promote early career researchers’ work for graduate students from ENMCR or CREAN partner/member universities.

THE PRIZE WILL BE AWARDED FOR

The Prize will be awarded in June 2015, and includes the facilitation of publication of the Prize winning article(s) in a peer reviewed journal. Excellent academic articles written on the basis of Master’s theses/dissertations that advance knowledge on children’s rights, with a particular emphasis on:

- the applicability and relevance of the work for practice and/ or policy;
- and/ or the involvement of children in the research.

APPLICATION CRITERIA

The paper submitted for the Prize has to be:

- pre-selected by the Programme Director of a Master programme at an ENMCR or CREAN member university;
- an article of 8,000 to 9,000 words (inclusive of references and abstract);
- written by a student graduated in 2013 or 2014 at an ENMCR or CREAN member university, based on her/his master thesis;
- written in, or translated to English.

PRE-SELECTION PROCEDURE

Programme Directors are entitled to pre-select a maximum of two submitted master theses for the competition. It is advisable to pre-select the thesis that is evaluated as the "highest quality".

However, grades/scores given for the thesis will be not taken into consideration by the Jury in the selection process.

The author of the pre-selected thesis will be provided the opportunity to participate in the competition by writing an article (not an abstract!) based on her/his thesis. This paper will be the core subject of judgment in the selection procedure for the Children’s Rights Prize for Best Master’s Dissertation.

APPLICATION

The paper should be submitted electronically to the Secretariat of the Prize (Prize@crean-home.net) by the Programme Directors, who are requested to supplement the paper with a brief recommendation (justification), explaining why they selected this paper for the competition.

Deadline for submission: 1 October 2014. Further information here.
Belgium: UNCRC OP3

Belgium has become the 11th country to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (OP3 to the CRC).

Belgium has also become the fourth state to accept the “inter-state” communication procedure which will allow one state to bring a complaint against another. Albania, Germany, Portugal and Slovakia have made declarations agreeing to this mechanism.

Uruguay: Minimum Age

Uruguay’s has made a call for a referendum to lower the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 18 to 16 years. The criminal law applicable to young offenders has led to a considerable increase in the number of children deprived of their liberty.

UN Committee on the Rights of the Child: elections

On 25 June 2014, nine members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child were elected by States parties to the CRC during their 15th meeting at the UN in New York. In a single round of voting by secret ballot, 191 of the 194 States parties elected the nine members. Proposals are due by October 1, 2014. Selected papers and research articles will be published in International Scientific Journal “Teacher Education”. Article manuscripts are to be submitted by December 1, 2014. Please send completed proposals and/or manuscripts via e-mail to Dr. Ruta Siauculiene, Chairperson of Conference Committee (ruta.siauculiene@ef.su.lt) and to conferencenondiscrimination@crean-home.net

Further information at the CREAN website.

Funding / Prizes / Research Opportunities

CREAN 2nd International Conference: Call for presenters and manuscripts

CREAN is pleased to announce a Call for Presenters and Manuscripts for the 2nd International Conference scheduled to take place on December 4-5, 2014.

The conference is designed for researchers, policy makers, educators, professionals and students to share their latest findings, ideas and practices in the diverse field of children’s rights. We anticipate this year’s conference will host an international audience of over 200 participants. The Organization Committee of the Conference invites you to submit presentation, workshop or poster session proposals as well as research manuscripts.

We will be accepting proposals and manuscripts for the journal of Teacher Education on all relevant topics and highly encourage researchers, educators, practitioners and students to apply.

Official conference languages are English and Lithuanian.

Publications

Parental Disputes, Religious Upbringing and Welfare in English Law and the ECHR

This article authored by Sylvie Langlaude assesses the position of English law concerning parental disputes about the religious upbringing of children. Despite the strong emphasis on both parents being able to direct their child’s religious upbringing, courts have interpreted the child’s welfare to restrict the exposure of the child to parental religious beliefs or practices in some circumstances: preserving the child’s future choice of religion, the physical integrity of the child, the child’s contact and relationship with both parent, the child’s educational choices, and the child’s relationship with both parents’ religious community. It is suggested that courts should have a wide understanding of welfare and should be wary to prohibit parents teaching their minority beliefs. This article also compares the position of the ECHR and suggests that, despite the stronger emphasis by the ECHR courts on parental rights, English law is generally not that much at odds with the ECHR than could be expected.


Further recent peer reviewed publications (2014) from the Centre for Children’s Rights include:

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to announce the 2nd International CREAN Conference »Children’s Rights to Non-discrimination«. The registration form and the agenda will soon be available online. The conference provides an opportunity for participants to meet with other partners working in the area of children’s rights, learn about the latest research, and build a deeper understanding of the emerging issues.

Conference Languages: English & Lithuanian

Where?
Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, Gedimino Ave. 53, Vilnius, Lithuania

When?
December 4 & 5, 2014

Conference organizers
Šiauliai University (Lithuania)
Mykolas Romeris University (Lithuania)
How Children and Young People Influence Policy-Makers: Lessons from Nicaragua

This article co-authored by Shier, Méndez, Centeno, Arróliga and González describes a participatory research project, which explored four case studies of children and young people's successful political advocacy in Nicaragua. The analysis combined a human rights-based approach and a human development approach, and included concepts of multiple settings and levels, interrelated participation spaces, children and young people's citizenship, inclusion and exclusion, democracy, advocacy and empowerment.

The main problems faced by children and young people seeking to influence policy-makers were identified as adulthood, dependency and lack of accountability. The research identified pre-conditions, participation spaces and ways of organising for effective advocacy, and facilitation methods that had proved effective. It concludes that children and young people who achieve effective advocacy are generally self-empowered, but can count on effective adult support and facilitation. They work through coordination with the authorities and not by clashing with them, but need to ensure effective follow up if they want politicians to keep their promises.


**“The Boat is Safe” and Other Lies**

**UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre Working Paper: The Consequences of the Recent Economic Crisis and Government Reactions for Children**

The aim of this paper is to analyse the impact of the different policy reactions of European governments to the recent economic crisis on income distribution and poverty, giving special attention to children. Almost all the governments introduced fiscal stimulus packages in the first phase of the crisis. Nonetheless, the persistence of bad economic conditions led to a drop in the countries’ revenues with a deterioration of their fiscal conditions. In addition, the pressure coming from the financial markets and the resurgence of an orthodox policy approach pushed many governments to introduce austerity measures since 2010. In particular, there was a growing consensus about the necessity of fiscal consolidation despite awareness of the possible negative impact on economic performance and social outcomes. Some governments preferred to increase taxes while others preferred to reduce public expenditure, also cutting benefits and services for children and their families.

Available online [here](#).

Before the recent economic crisis, Hungary and Iceland were considered to be two excellent models of development. Hungary and Iceland were among the countries affected earliest and most by the recent macroeconomic shock, suffering a similar drop in GDP. While the Hungarian government implemented a flat tax reform in order to stimulate economic activity, the Icelandic government replaced its flat tax system with a progressive one increasing the participation of high income groups in the adjustment process. The aim of this paper is to compare the opposite adjustment paths followed by Hungary and Iceland on selected outcomes.
Upcoming Dates

**JULY 2014**
- 01/07 to 03/07: Researching children’s everyday lives: socio-cultural contexts, Sheffield, United Kingdom.
- 07/07 to 11/07: Summer school on international children's rights, Leiden, the Netherlands.
- 05/07: Poverty and the family, London, United Kingdom.
- 15/07 to 18/07: Psychology: Children’s Rights and Needs - Challenges to School, Family and Society, Kaunas, Lithuania.
- 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.
- 26/07 to 02/08: Children as Actors Transforming Society, Caux Palace, Switzerland.
- 28/07 to 22/08: Human Rights for Development’ (HR4DEV), Ghent, Belgium.

**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.
- 03/09 to 05/09: Keeping Children Safe in Africa - Identifying and addressing the challenges, Cape Town, South Africa.
- 11/09 to 13/09: Access to justice for children - Legal clinics & other instruments for the promotion of children’s rights, Pisa, Italy.
- 23/09: Young People and Sexual Health: Reducing Risky Behaviour through Education and Empowerment, Brussels, Belgium.
- 29/09 to 01/10: 7th Child in the City Conference, Odense, Denmark.

**OCTOBER 2014**
- 13/10 to 15/10: 7th African Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, Nairobi, Kenya.
- 16/10 to 17/10: Seminar on Professional Higher Education, Otočec Castle, Slovenia.
- 30/10 to 31/10: The role of child helplines in protecting children and young people online, London, United Kingdom.

**NOVEMBER 2014**
- 05/11 to 06/11: Deprivation of Children’s Liberty a Last Resort - Towards Juvenile Justice Guidelines in Asia Pacific and Beyond, Bangkok, Thailand.
- 12/11 to 14/11: VI Congreso Mundial por los derechos de la infancia y adolescencia, Puebla, Mexico.
- 17/11 to 19/11: International Conference 25 Years CRC, Leiden, The Netherlands.
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.

Job Opportunities and membership

Job and Internship Opportunities:

1. **Senior Coordinator** at Elevate Children Funders Group - **Deadline: 11 July, 2014**
2. **Violence Against Children Advisor** at Save the Children UK - **Deadline: 14 July, 2014**
3. **Communication Specialist** at Franciscans International - **Deadline: 15 July, 2014**
4. **Media & Public Relations Officer** at Social Platform- **Deadline: 15 July, 2014**

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

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