

**CHILDREN'S RIGHTS EUROPEAN ACADEMIC NETWORK (CREAN) &
NORWEGIAN UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (NTNU)
WEBINAR**

Decolonising Children's Rights: An Afrocentric Perspective

February 10, 2026, 13:00-15:00

Introduction: Building on calls to decolonise children's rights, this seminar presents a conceptual exercise that explores children's human rights from an Afrocentric perspective. In our attempt to explore alternative readings of the UNCRC, we use Barreto's (2018) three-folded decolonial approach to human rights, involving 1) taking a critical stance toward Eurocentric thinking, 2) retrieving concepts that evolved in the colonised world to think about human rights otherwise, and 3) establishing a dialogue between these two debates to move beyond colonial suppression of alternative ontologies. More specifically, we explore children's rights through the Buganda worldview of Obuntubulamu, using a selection of proverbs to critically examine a more relational and holistic approach to thinking about children's rights and welfare.

Background: Children's rights frameworks, such as the UNCRC, are often presented as universal. However, their application can be deeply influenced by Eurocentric assumptions. This seminar aims to critically explore how dominant Western discourses shape the UNCRC and explore alternative and supplementary ways of thinking about the human rights of children.

Objectives:

- To critically examine the concept of children's rights through a decolonial lens.
- To explore how the rights and well-being of children are ensured through the local and intergenerational knowledge of Buganda proverbs.
- To critically discuss how the Buganda proverbs may complement and extend the UNCRC.

- To promote culturally sensitive and inclusive practices in implementing children's rights.
- To encourage interdisciplinary and intercultural dialogue among scholars, practitioners, and students.

Benefit/Outcome:

Academics, by contributing to ongoing debates in Childhood Studies and Children's Rights Studies, as well as on Human Rights, Cultural sensitivity, and Decoloniality. **Professionals** in child welfare, education, and policy, by offering complementary and localised versions of children's rights. **Students**, by deepening their understanding of decolonial theory and its application as well as ways of thinking about human rights in more culturally sensitive ways.

Target Audience:

- Scholars and researchers in Childhood Studies, Children's Rights Studies, Social Work, Anthropology, and Human Rights.
- Child welfare professionals, educators, and policymakers.
- University students in social sciences and education.
- INGOs, NGOs, and civil society actors working with children and families.

The seminar will be tailored to address the theoretical, practical, and policy-related interests of these groups.

Programme

13:00-13:15: Welcoming statements and presentation of CREAN

13:15-13:45: *A decolonial approach to children's rights* by Marit Ursin

13:45-14:15: *Children's rights through Buganda* proverbs by Irene B. Hoem

14:15-14:45: A panel debate moderated by Roberta Ruggiero

14:45-15:00: Questions and Answers

Scientific & Organising Committee:

Dr. Marit Ursin, Professor in interdisciplinary Childhood Studies, Norwegian University of Science and Technology.

Irene Bisasso Hoem, PhD student, Norwegian University of Science and Technology.

Dr. Roberta Ruggiero, Academic Coordinator, Children's Rights European Academic Network (CREAN)

Format: Online seminar.

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