

CR news 12

Children's Rights Newsletter September

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EUROPEAN NETWORK OF MASTERS IN CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

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- Comments on the Reports of the Committee on the Rights of the Child
- International Children's Peace Prize 2012

PROMOTING THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN IN ALTERNATIVE CARE ACROSS EUROPE, SOFIA

24/10 to 26/10

Information:

[http://www.eurochild.org/en/events/details/index.html?tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=3898&tx_ttnews\[backPid\]=287&cHash=a4314a9d3a4f53e6838263773d46ccf2](http://www.eurochild.org/en/events/details/index.html?tx_ttnews[tt_news]=3898&tx_ttnews[backPid]=287&cHash=a4314a9d3a4f53e6838263773d46ccf2)

Registration:

<http://eurochild.wufoo.eu/forms/registration-form-ac2012>

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM: JANUSZ KORCZAK- CHILDREN RIGHTS PIONEER

13/10: http://www.ewi-psy.fu-berlin.de/einrichtungen/weitere/enmcr/news/internationales_Symposium_zu_Korcza1.html

CONTACT Us

c/o Internationale Akademie
an der Freien Universität Berlin
Habelschwerdter Allee 45
D-14195 Berlin, Germany
Fon: +49-(0)30-838-52734
info@enmcr.net
www.enmcr.net

Dear ENMCR network members and network interested,

In this issue we would like to draw your attention to the ENMCR activities, especially to the beginning of a new cycle of Masters and also to the network publications.

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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General News Internal

Dislocation, Inclusion, and the Spaces of Identity - Youth and Children in the Arab World and the EU

The International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in The Hague and its partners are organizing an International Workshop on "Dislocation, Inclusion, and the Spaces of Identity - Youth and Children in the Arab World and the EU".

The workshop will be held on 18-19 October 2012 at the ISS and include participants from all consortium universities in Egypt, Jordan, UK, Germany and the Netherlands.

This International Workshop is aiming at comparing the situation of children and youth who are facing similar challenges though they seem to be living in different contexts, namely the Arab World and Europe.

Conflict and regional integration can both be reasons for dislocation. In the first case it is about seeking refuge; in the second it is finding opportunities. Whether it is peace or conflict, the changing context affects children and youth more than any other social group.

They are more vulnerable to trauma and discrimination, they struggle with coping in a new environment, and they have to adapt to changes sometimes beyond their comprehension.

Six panels are to bring together researchers, policy makers, media people, international experts, civil activists and young voices:

1-The road to dignity and safety: Securing and protecting children and youth;

2-Aliens or Humans: Receiving the Other in host societies;

3-Relief and Social Work: Challenges and opportunities;

4-Looking Different: Difference, Discrimination and Diversity;

5-Constructed Identities: The Agency of Children and Young People;

6-Exchanging Stories, Narrating Truths: Giving Children and Young People a Voice;

We look forward to seeing you in The Hague in October!

MIDE new cycle

On Monday September has started the 2012-2013 cycle of the Master interdisciplinaire en droits de l'enfant (MIDE) for which 25 students have enrolled.

The students hold a Bachelor degree in sociology, law, social work, education, or psychology and are mainly coming from the French speaking part of Switzerland.

During the opening ceremony of the academic year, Ms. Claire Brisset, who has been Défenseur des enfants in France between 2000 and 2006, has held a public conference on the worldwide challenge to combat sexual exploitation of children.

During the Autumn Semester 2012, besides attending the regular courses on childhood sociology, child protection, human rights of children, development psychology, family law and methodology, students of the 2012-2013 cycle will participate in the Seminar on 'Child Rights and the Business Sector' which is organised by the International Institute for the Rights of the Child

(www.childsrights.org) in Sion from 14 to 17 October 2012.

Students of the 2011-2012 MIDE cycle will finalise during this semester their internship, follow optional courses and work on their research for their master thesis.

More information on the MIDE Programme is available on the website www.iukb.ch/mide.

Welcome to the new MIDE students! We wish you every success with your studies.



MCR new cycle

From 5 to 10 November 2012, the seventh Module of the Master of Advanced Studies in Children's Rights Programme will be held on the theme 'Implementation and monitoring strategies'.

During this module, the 28 students of the 2011-2012 cycle, who are all professionals working for national and international governmental and international organisations in the field of children's rights, will present their thesis.

On Saturday 10 November, a Master Class will be held for Alumni of the MCR Programme on 'Interventions and impact evaluation: indicators of children's rights and well-being.'

We are currently advertising the launch of the 2013-2014 MCR cycle, which will start in February 2013.

The Master of Advanced Studies in Children's Rights is a part-time international and interdisciplinary postgraduate programme on children's rights, which takes place over a two-year period, and is designed for professionals who work with children's rights issues, including lawyers, psychologists, sociologists, judges, social workers, government officials, staff of non-governmental organisations, academics and journalists.

More information on the new cycle is available on the MCR Programme website www.iukb.ch/mcr.

Master's Programme on European Youth Policies

The Department of International and European Studies (IES) at the University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece (ENMCR member) announces the launch of the Postgraduate Master on International Studies with the following specialization on European Youth Policies.

This Master Program is partner of the Children's Rights Erasmus Academic Network (ENMCR).

The number of students for the academic year 2012-2013 shall be twenty (20).

For further information please contact Ms. Katerina Kakani from the Secretariat of the Postgraduate Program on European Youth Policies via telephone 0030 2310891416 or via e-mail: kakani@uom.gr.

General News External

International Children's Peace Prize 2012

The International Children's Peace Prize 2012 was presented to Kesz (13) from the Philippines at the Ridderzaal. Of the three nominated children the Expert Committee selected Kesz as the winner. Kesz received this award for his efforts to improve the rights of street children in the Philippines, where more than 246,000 street children are subjected to abuse and violence. He has transformed his own experiences into a drive to help other street children and inspire them to change their own lives.

For his seventh birthday, Kesz didn't want any presents for himself. Instead, he wanted to give something to other street children: Gifts of Hope. That same year, Kesz started his own organisation, Championing Community Children, aimed at giving street children hope and showing them that they can take their future into their own hands. Every week, he and his friends go to underprivileged communities to teach children about hygiene, food and children's rights. He even takes things a step further, by teaching children how to teach each other. He has so far helped more than 10,000 children in his local area.

Child mortality rates down

Although the pace of childhood death has declined sharply in recent decades – with an estimated 6.9 million children dying before their fifth birthday in 2011, compared to around 12 million in 1990 – greater gains must be made to meet international goals to save infants and young children.

Formed in 2004, the UN-IGME is made up of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Population Division of the UN Department of Development and Social Affairs (DESA) and the World Bank. Its activities include sharing data on child mortality and improving methods for child mortality estimation reporting on progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals

(MDGs), a set of eight goals agreed upon by world leaders in 2000 to slash extreme poverty and other global ills. Worldwide, an estimated 19,000 children still died every day in 2011, with around 40 per cent in the first month of life and most from preventable causes.

Between 2000 and 2011, the annual rate of reduction in the global under-five mortality rate jumped to 3.2 per cent, up from 1.8 per cent in 1990-2000. Sub-Saharan Africa, the region with the greatest challenge in child survival, has doubled its rate of reduction, from 1.5 per cent per year in the years 1990-2010, to 3.1 per cent in the period from 2000-2011. However Sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia still account for more than 80 per cent of global under-five deaths. Their disparity with other regions is becoming more marked as regions such as Eastern Asia and Northern Africa have cut child deaths by more than two thirds since 1990. Half of all under-five deaths occurred in five countries: India, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Pakistan and China. India and Nigeria account for more than a third of all under-five deaths worldwide.

Thailand and Gabon Ratify New OP CRC

Thailand and Gabon are the first countries to ratify the new international treaty on children's rights, which allows children and their representatives to report rights violations to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. The ratifications are receiving strong support from NGOs around the world. The treaty, a third Optional Protocol (OP) to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), establishes a channel of complaint for children whose rights have been violated, for example through violence, sexual exploitation, or lack of access to education. If violations cannot be addressed effectively by national courts, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child will be able to examine them.

Thailand and Gabon ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention

on the Rights of the Child at the UN annual treaty event on 25 September 2012, in New York. The Protocol enters into force once ten States ratify it. It can then be used by children and their representatives in every state where it is ratified.

Swaziland: Child marriages banned

The practice of men marrying underage girls was recently declared illegal in Swaziland.

Known in SiSwati as 'kwendizisa', the marriage of an adult man to an underage girl was considered a legal "grey area" prior to the promulgation of the Children's Protection and Welfare Act of 2012. According to the 2005 Swaziland constitution, some customary practices are allowed unless they conflict with constitutional clauses.

The Deputy Prime Minister Themba Masuku announced the government's intention to enforce the Child Protection and Welfare Act by prosecuting men who marry underage girls.

Sexual activity with underage girls was previously prosecuted as statutory rape - but only if it occurred outside the bounds of marriage. Girls aged 15 and older were legally permitted to marry in accordance with the 1920 Girl's Protection Act, and underage sexual activity within marriage was considered acceptable.

Latvia: Ombudsman defends new children's book on gender roles

Having received the letter from 54 NGOs protesting against "the destruction of gender identity", Ombudsman Juris Jansons gave his assessment yesterday of the new "gender-bending" children's book and methodological manual for teachers. In his view, the publications in question do not violate any Latvian laws or rights, and in fact defend a child's right to individuality. Jansons underlines that the materials urge people to break stereotypes about gender roles and boost gender equality.

Funding / Prizes / Research Opportunities

Manuscript submissions for the International Childhood Journal

You are invited and encouraged to make a presentation and to provide a paper on a relevant aspect of the topic, however, your participation as a member of the Round Table is not contingent thereon.

Those not presenting papers will be placed on a discussion panel. Papers presented at the Round Table may be subsequently submitted on a discussion panel.

Papers presented at the Round Table may be subsequently submitted for publication in the Forum, a journal of the Oxford Round Table.

Papers considered for publication in the Forum are evaluated by peer reviewers as to technical and substantive quality and for potential to make a significant contribution to new knowledge in the field.

Papers and presentations regarding the following areas are of particular interest to the conference.

However, these suggested areas of research and writing are not meant to be limitations and the conference programme is open to all substantive areas of formal and informal research in education.

Topics of Interest for this session will be:

Early Childhood Education

- The Creative Child
- Children's Speech
- At Risk Children
- Preventive Health for Children
- Technology and the Young Child
- Children's Literature
- Religion in Children's Literature
- Regression-Recompment
- Inclusion
- English as a Second Language
- Health and the Child
- Art Education
- Music Education

Secondary Instruction

- Bilingual Education
- English as a Second Language
- Performance Measures
- Bullying
- Educational Technology and Multimedia
- Distance Learning

Registration for this program is now open.

To register, please visit:

<http://www.oxfordroundtable.com/index.php/view/Register-Register?step=1&sesCode=ce13>.

For any other questions or concerns, please email coordinator@oxfordroundtable.co.uk.

Call for Field Reports for special issue of Children, Youth and Environments on "Children, Violence, Community and the Physical Environment"

In late fall 2012, the journal Children, Youth and Environments will publish a special issue on the role of physical environments in putting children at risk of violence, in reducing risks of violence, and in creating places of security, refuge and healing. In addition to research articles, the journal carries Field Reports: short articles of about 3,000 words which describe innovative initiatives to improve environments for children and - in this case, by reducing risks of violence or creating places of safety and healing.

Field reports briefly tell the story of a program, place or policy in a reflective way, emphasizing lessons learned and information and insights that may be useful for other practitioners.

Guidelines for Field Reports:

- 10 double-spaced pages, maximum (no more than 3,000 words).
- Content: A good field report tells a down-to-earth, real-life story about a specific program, initiative or policy in a reflective and informative way. CYE's readers turn to field reports for information about how programs, initiatives and policies came about and for what reasons; who initiated them and through what process; how projects have changed or improved their communities; and what lessons were learned.

Field reports must address CYE's diverse audience: practitioners and researchers who work in different settings, disciplines and professions around the world (see Mission and Background).

Field reports should answer questions such as:

- What was the impetus for the program/initiative, and who was involved?

• What activities are involved, and how do they help young people and their communities?

• In which way(s) did children or youth themselves participate?

• What aspects of the program/research worked well?

• Tell readers about one or more critical moments in the program/initiative that were important in some way because something got worse, better or clearer, etc. What was significant about each of these moments and what learning occurred as a result?

• Has any research or evaluation has been conducted? What was the focus and outcome? What is most important to document about the program's/initiative's effectiveness?

• Can you suggest recommendations, based on the program/initiative? Who are the target(s) for these recommendations?

• CYE encourages authors to include photos and other illustrations. Tables may include background information, evaluation results, key learning points, and the like. Number and caption charts, figures and tables, and note the places they should be inserted in the text.

• Please include a full bibliography in CYE style at the end of your article. No more than ten (10) references maximum.

• Include a list of about five keywords that describe your article and will identify it in a search, for example: urban gardens, participation, health, housing.

• Include a short biographical note for all authors — less than one-half page, double spaced (about 100 words).

• Include an abstract of less than one-half page, double spaced (about 100 words)

• Include information about any web sites or relevant organizations that relate to the subject of your article and that would be useful to readers who seek more information about the subject of your article.

Field Reports are reviewed by the journal editors; they do not go through a blind peer review.

Submissions deadline: October 15, 2012.

Further information:

www.colorado.edu/journals/cye/fieldguidelines.htm.

Publications

Comments on the Reports of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

Comments on the Reports of the Committee on the Rights of the Child is a compendium of critical comments on the reports of the Committee on the Rights of the Child regarding several states parties to the CRC. The focus is kept on eight Mediterranean countries: France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Romania and Spain. The coordinators Carlos Villagrasa Alcaide and Isaac Ravetllat Ballesté intend to gradually increase this collections with future contributions from other countries.

ISBN: [978-84-939245-7-7](#)

Is School Education Breaking the Cycle of Poverty for Children: Factors Shaping Education Inequalities in Ethiopia, India, Peru and Vietnam

School education is held up as an 'escape route from poverty'. Millions of poor children and families are buying into this promise and often investing scarce resources in going to school, in the hope that it will lead to a better life. This paper authored by Helen Murray looks at children's unequal trajectories from early childhood through to the time they leave school, examining how various factors are shaping their educational opportunities and achievement. It synthesises existing Young Lives analysis based on three rounds of research with two age cohorts in each of the four study countries (Ethiopia, Andhra Pradesh in India, Peru and Vietnam). While the paper does not explore indicators of school quality, it looks at the large achievement gaps that exist between different groups of children, which need to be of central consideration in the development of strategies to improve education quality. In order for school education to start fulfilling its promise as a route out of poverty, there is a need for more equitable, better-quality schooling and training that can translate into realistic opportunities for young people.

Available online:

[http://www.younglives.org.uk/our-publications/policy-papers/is-school-](http://www.younglives.org.uk/our-publications/policy-papers/is-school-education-breaking-the-cycle-of-poverty-for-children-1)

education-breaking-the-cycle-of-poverty-for-children-1

Children as ethnographers: Reflections on the importance of participatory research in assessing orphans' needs

Critiques of child participation within aid programming suggest that it is superficial and insubstantive for the fulfilment of children's rights. In this article, Kristen E. Cheney shares its reflections on doing participatory ethnography with children and youth to demonstrate that ethnographic research is appropriate to the tasks of increasing both children's participation and the effectiveness of children's rights — especially when it models children's participation in its own research design. Further, the author argues that involving young people in research can yield greater ownership of organizational practice and become transformative of young people and their relationships with their communities.

DOI: [10.1177/0907568210390054](#) In: Childhood-A Global Journal of Child Research, 18(2) (2011): 166-179.

Child Trafficking: 'Worst Form' of Child Labour, or Worst Approach to Young Migrants?

This article written by Roy Huijsmans and Simon Baker presents a critique to the human trafficking discourse in relation to child migration, based on data obtained from the anti-trafficking community in the Greater Mekong Sub-region combined with an analysis of secondary material. It also presents a set of qualitative accounts of migration at a young age from Lao PDR and Thailand. On this basis a more theorized, grounded and nuanced perspective on child labour migration is developed. This situates child labour migration historically, embeds it within overarching processes of rural transformation and accounts for young migrants' agency in the social process of migration, the latter shedding light on the social production of exploitation in relation to young migrants.

DOI: [10.1111/j.1467-7660.2012.01786.x](#)

In: Development and Change, 43 (2012): 919-946.

The Role of Local Knowledge in Childcare in Africa. A Sociological Study of Several Communities in Kenya and Uganda

This book examines early childhood development (ECD) in Africa. The authors (Auma Okwany, Elizabeth Ngutuku, & Arthur Muhangi) study the positive and negative cultural practices of ethnic groups in Kenya and Uganda and their influence on ECD. While emphasizing the positive, the authors argue that negative local practices such as female genital mutilation, child marriage, and child labor must be challenged because they may violate human rights and are detrimental to the well-being of children. Significantly, the authors conclude that while the forces of globalization have begun to transform education and have led to cultural dissociation in Africa, positive ECD strategies must strengthen rather than supplant the natural and local realities for children.

ISBN: [978-0-7734-1583-6](#)

African Childhoods

With 70 per cent of its people under the age of 30, Africa is the world's youngest continent. African youngsters have been largely characterized as either vulnerable victims of the frequent humanitarian crises that plague their homelands, or as violent militarized youth and 'troubled' gang members. Young people's contributions to processes of educational provision, peace building and participatory human development in Africa are often ignored. While acknowledging the profound challenges associated with growing up in an environment of uncertainty and deprivation, African Childhoods sheds light on African children's often constructive engagement with a variety of societal conditions, adverse or otherwise, and their ability to positively influence their own lives and those of others.

ISBN: [978-1-137-02469-5](#)

Upcoming Dates



5th World Congress on Children's and Adolescents' Rights. From October 15 to 19, 2012. San Juan de Puerto Rico, Argentina



International Symposium: JANUSZ KORCZAK-Children Rights Pioneer.

October 13, 2012,
Free University Berlin,
Berlin, Germany.

OCTOBER 2012

- 30/09 to 02/10: 12th International Symposium Law, Genital Autonomy and Children's Rights, Helsinki, Finland.
- 01/10 to 05/10: Child labour: Training course on Achieving education for all and eliminating child labour, Turin, Italy.
- 04/10: Alternative forms of care for children without adequate family support: sharing good practices and positive experiences, Florence, Italy.
- 08/10 to 19/10: Child-to-Child and Disaster Risk Reduction: What Children Can Do to Keep Themselves and Others Safe, Kisumu, Kenya.
- 10/10: InDifesa Campaign Press Conference, Roma, Italy.
- 10/10 to 12/10: Think Parents! - European conference on parenting support, The Hague, Netherlands.
- 10/10 to 12/10: Juvenile Delinquency-Child Friendly Justice Structures and Processes for the Prevention and Rehabilitation, Nicosia, Cyprus.
- 13/10: International Symposium: JANUSZ KORCZAK- Children Rights Pioneer, Berlin, Germany.
- 14/10 to 17/10: Child's Rights and the Business Sector: Urging States and Private Companies to meet their obligations, Sion, Switzerland.
- 14/10 to 17/10: Social Work: Towards inclusion, social justice and human rights, White River, South Africa.
- 15/10 to 17/10: Co-Constructing Professional Learning: Pathways Towards Quality, Equity and Respect for Diversity in ECEC, Opatija, Croatia.
- 15/10 to 19/10: Child participation in child safeguarding, Delhi, India
- 15/10 to 19/10: 5th World Congress on Children's and Adolescents' Rights, San Juan, Argentina.
- 21/10 to 24/10: IFCO regional training Conference, Sofia, Bulgaria.
- 24/10 to 26/10: Promoting the rights of children in alternative care across Europe, Sofia, Bulgaria.

NOVEMBER 2012

- 05/11 to 07/11: Criminality or Social Exclusion? Justice for Children in a Divided World, London, UK.
- 09/11: Eradicating Child Maltreatment Interventions with Children and Families - Policy and Practice, London, UK.
- 16/11 to 17/11: Honoring the Child, Honoring Equity: 12 Troubling truths - bridging divides for equity, Victoria, Australia.
- 26/11 to 30/11: IUAES 2012 Inter-congress – Children and Youth in a Changing World, Bhubaneswar, India.
- 27/11 to 29/11: Policy Round Table on Early Childhood Education and Care, Leiden, Netherlands.

DECEMBER 2012

- 06/12 to 10/12: Third International Conference on Human Rights Education: Promoting Change in Times of Transition and Crisis, Poland.
- 12/12 to 14/12: Child and Teen Consumption 2012: "Food Consumption, Communication, Life Styles and Fashion". 5th International Conference on Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Child and Teen Consumption. IULM University, Milan, Italy.
- 17/12 to 18/12: Knowing and Not Knowing: Thinking psychosocially about learning and resistance to learning, London, UK.

Upcoming Dates & ENMCR

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).

NEXT MONTH'S NEWSLETTER:

- International Symposium:
JANUSZ KORCZAK-
Children Rights Pioneer

CONTACT US

c/o Internationale Akademie
an der Freien Universität
Berlin
Habelschwerdter Allee 45
D-14195 Berlin, Germany
Fon: +49-(0)30-838-52734

info@enmcr.net
www.enmcr.net



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

MARCH 2013

- 10/03 to 14/03: 20th Annual International Conference on Childhood Education, Oxford, England.
17/03 to 20/03: "Building Bridges - From Principle to Reality" The 6th World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights, Sydney, Australia.

APRIL 2013

- 22/04 to 24/04: Moving Targets: Children and the Media, Geneva, Switzerland.

MAY 2013

- 29/05 to 31/05: Child Indicators in a Globalized World: Implications for research, practice, and policy. ISCI Conference 2013, Seoul, Korea.

JUNE 2013

- 17/06 to 19/06: 21st European Social Services Conference, Dublin, Ireland.

How to join ENMCR

It is possible to join ENMCR as a member at any time.

The European Network of Masters in Children's Rights was established with the support of Save the Children Sweden (SCS). SCS has also been actively supporting and fostering the Latin American Network of Masters in Children's Rights, which currently comprises nine universities in eight Latin American countries.

Why is it worthwhile joining our network?

We have been cooperating as a network for more than six years and have longstanding experience of loosely cooperating - you will work with children's rights experts from all over Europe (and Latin America). You will get an insight into children's rights from a variety of perspectives and will be able to build on longstanding experience of the members.

We offer a joint European Master in Children's Rights at leading universities in Europe - you will have access to knowledge on how to build up and offer a joint European Master study programme and will have access to training. We organize conferences and workshops on children's rights themes in Europe and in the world; you will have the chance to meet other children's rights experts, activists, share ideas and thoughts and gain new perspectives. You will receive copies of 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 should name what you believe you or 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.

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