



Contribution à un dictionnaire / une
encyclopédie

2016

Accepted
version

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How to cite

ALANEN, Leena et al. Childhood : A journal of global child research. In: The Wiley Blackwell Encyclopedia of Family Studies. Shehan, Constance L. (Ed.). New Jersey : John Wiley & Sons, 2016. doi: 10.1002/9781119085621.wbefs492

This publication URL: <https://archive-ouverte.unige.ch/unige:149784>

Publication DOI: [10.1002/9781119085621.wbefs492](https://doi.org/10.1002/9781119085621.wbefs492)

Childhood: A journal of global child research

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Word Count: 495

Abstract:

Childhood is a major international peer reviewed journal and a forum for research relating to children in global society that spans divisions between geographical regions, disciplines, and social and cultural contexts. Childhood publishes theoretical and empirical articles, reviews and scholarly comments on children's social relations and culture, with an emphasis on their rights and generational position in society.

Main text:

Childhood is a quarterly peer reviewed academic journal which was established in 1993 and is published by SAGE Publications in association with the Norwegian Centre for Child Research, at Norwegian University of Science and Technology (www.chd.sagepub.com). The current editors of the journal are Leena Alanen (University of Jyväskylä), Dan Cook (Rutgers University), Karl Hanson (University of Geneva) and Virginia Morrow (University of Oxford). The journal's managing editor is Karin Ekberg (Norwegian University of Science and Technology).

Since its launch, the journal has acted as a scholarly forum for publishing empirical research and theoretical developments related to the study of children and childhood. This particular study field has emerged since the 1980s in particular by scholars working in the United States, the UK and in Nordic countries. This field of study was initially named the 'sociology of childhood' or was also called 'the new social studies of childhood'. Over the years, a wider geographical scope and many more disciplinary approaches besides sociology have been included, leading the field now generally being conceptualised as the interdisciplinary field of childhood studies.

Childhood's subtitle is *A Journal of Global Child Research* and reflects the journal's aspiration to encourage and publish research about children's lives and circumstances in every part of the world. It also endeavours to support research conducted by scholars across the globe. Researchers publishing in the journal come from a wide range of disciplines from within the social sciences and humanities and include sociology, social anthropology, geography, educational sciences, political sciences and political economy, law, developmental psychology, social work, history, development studies and communication studies.

Recurrent themes addressed in the journal deal with children's agency; intergenerational relations; children's accounts of their experiences such as violence, education, family life or parental divorce; children's work and labour; the history of childhood; childhood poverty; circulation and migration of children; children's everyday lives; early childhood; political participation; children's rights; qualitative research methods for eliciting children's viewpoints; theoretical frameworks in childhood studies; the diversity of childhood/multiple childhoods. *Childhood* also regularly publishes special thematic issues on emerging themes such as children in and of commercial culture, childhood rights in international development or childhood and disability in countries of the South.

The journal, which will be celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2018, aims in future to publish original empirical research of high quality on the changing conditions and realities of children and childhood across the globe. Furthermore, *Childhood* aims to continue to offer a platform for scholarly debate on theoretical developments that can relate children and childhood more firmly to broader evolutions in the social sciences. By doing so, the journal aspires to play a central role in the advancement of Childhood studies as an academic field of investigation.

SEE ALSO: Childhood, sociology of; Childhood, history; Children's rights

Further reading

Mayall, Berry, 2013. *A History of the Sociology of Childhood*. London: Institute of Education.

Qvortrup, Jens, Corsaro, William A. and Honig, Michael-Sebastian, eds. 2009. *The Palgrave Handbook of Childhood Studies*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Author Biographies

Leena Alanen is Professor emerita in Early Childhood Education and in the Sociology of Childhood at the University of Jyväskylä, Finland. She has co-edited *Conceptualising adult-child relations* (with Berry Mayall), which was published by Routledge Falmer in 2001, and *Childhood with Bourdieu* (with Liz Brooker and Berry Mayall), published by Palgrave in 2015. She is also the author of the chapter 'Generational order' in *The Palgrave Handbook of Childhood Studies* (edited by Jens Qvortrup et al., Palgrave, 2009) and is an editor of *Childhood. A journal of global child research*. Leena Alanen has been involved in numerous national and international research projects including *Childhood as a social phenomenon* (1987-1992) and *COST A19 on Children's Welfare* (2001-2006). Her research interests and numerous articles and chapters are on the social theory of childhood, early childhood education, generational relations and intersectionality.

Dan Cook is Professor of Childhood Studies at Rutgers University Camden, New Jersey, USA — the first programme in North America to grant a PhD degree in the multidisciplinary field of child studies. He is the author of *The Commodification of Childhood* (Duke University Press, 2004) and the editor of *Symbolic Childhood* (Peter Lang, 2002) and of *The Lived Experiences of Public Consumption* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2008). Along with John Wall, he is editor of *Children and Armed Conflict* (2011, Palgrave Macmillan) He is an editor of *Childhood. A journal of global child research*. Cook's research explores

the multitudinous ways in which tensions between ‘the child’ and ‘the market’ play themselves out in various sites of children lives, in public culture and in constructions of children’s participation and personhood.

Karl Hanson is Professor in Public Law at the University of Geneva, Switzerland. Along with Olga Nieuwenhuys, he has edited *Reconceptualizing Children’s Rights. Living Rights, Social Justice, Translations* which was published by Cambridge University Press in 2013, and is an editor of *Childhood. A journal of global child research*. He teaches at the University of Geneva in the *Master interdisciplinaire en droits de l’enfant* and is the Programme Director of the *Master of Advanced Studies in Children’s Rights*. Hanson is also a member of the Directive Committee of the European Network of Masters in Children’s Rights. His publications and main research interests are in the emerging field of interdisciplinary children’s rights studies and include theorizations on children’s rights and childhood studies, child labour and working children, juvenile justice and the role of independent national children’s rights institutions.

Virginia Morrow is Senior Research Officer and Associate Professor at the University of Oxford. She is Deputy Director of Young Lives, an international study of childhood poverty which is led by a team in the Department of International Development at the University of Oxford in association with research and policy partners in the 4 study countries: Ethiopia, India, Peru and Vietnam. Along with Priscilla Alderson, she has edited *The Ethics of Research with Children and Young People: A Practical Handbook*, which was published by Sage in 2011. She is also co-author, along with Berry Mayall, of *You Can Help Your Country: English Children’s Work during the Second World War* (The Institute of Education, 2011), and an editor of *Childhood: A Journal of Global Child Research*. Her research and publications focus on children’s work in developed and developing countries, sociological approaches to the study of childhood and children’s rights, the ethics of social research with children, children’s understandings of family, and children and ‘social capital’.

Key Words: Childhood Studies; Sociology of Childhood; Children’s Rights