CHILDREN’S RIGHTS STUDIES
An interdisciplinary study field at the intersection of childhood studies and human rights studies

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Outline

1. Childhood sociology and children’s rights
2. Children’s rights studies
3. Interdisciplinarity
4. Global
5. Normativity
6. Critical
7. Instrumentalism
1. Childhood sociology and children’s rights
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**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.
Focusing both on critical leadership and practical policy development, the articles in the preeminent *International Journal of Children's Rights* reflect the perspectives of a broad range of disciplines and contribute to a greater understanding of children's rights and their impact on the concept and development of childhood. The journal deploys the insights and methodologies of all relevant disciplines, including law, legal and political theory, psychology, psychiatry, educational theory, sociology, social administration and social work, health, social anthropology, economics, theology, and history to further children's rights in all parts of the world.
1. Childhood sociology and children’s rights

“The last 20 years have brought a new interest in children’s rights and social positions. At the same time, statistics illustrate an increase in the percentage of children belonging to the poorest part of the population, and indicate various forms of marginalization of parts of the child population.”

2. Children’s rights studies
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The separation thesis
There is no *necessary* connection between
– children’s rights and morality
– children’s rights and functionality

The social sources thesis
Children’s rights are the product of a complex set of social practices
3. Interdisciplinarity
4. Global
5. Normativity
“The overall objective of scientific research in children’s rights is to foster social enlightenment aimed at describing, understanding and evaluating children’s rights. Albeit research can have a positive impact on furthering respect for children’s rights, in my opinion its key objective is not to implement the CRC or to change the world into a better place for children. These are the primary objectives for child rights advocates and policy makers. Research findings can of course be used for legislative changes, social policy or programming. However, it is up to advocates and policy makers to make use (or not) of research findings”. (Hanson, 2007)
Enlightenment  Engineering
6. Critical
7. Instrumentalism