

ESA Research Network 4. Sociology of Children and Childhood
Mid-term Symposium
June 18-20, 2012
University of Jyväskylä, Finland

Call for Papers

Sociology of Childhood – Theorising Childhood

The Research Network, Sociology of Children and Childhood hereby announces the mid-term symposium which will take place in Jyväskylä (Finland) from 18th to 20th June, 2012. The organisation of the symposium will be undertaken at the University of Jyväskylä.

The focus of the symposium will be on **theorising childhood**. There are a growing number of empirical sociological and interdisciplinary studies of children in a wide variety of contexts where children live their lives. This has moved from school-based studies to those of children's everyday lives in their homes, playgrounds, online, as well as at schools and nurseries. The overarching approach of the social studies of childhood has been to perceive the actions of children in terms of children's own competences and this has led to a number of ground breaking insights into the worlds of children and their viewpoints and perspectives on matters that were traditionally deemed 'beyond children's understanding'. However, with a few very notable exceptions, theorising these aspects has not followed to the extent of other sociological fields.

Although the focus of the symposium is around theorising childhood the papers for the sessions do not have to deal with the overall theme but is **open to all core areas of the sociology of childhood**. We invite experienced and young researchers from various disciplines sensitive to the sociology of childhood to participate. Although a particular focus to presentations and discussions will centre on theorising, participants are welcome to discuss also their implications for interdisciplinary work on childhood. Presentations can be related to the following areas:

1. 'Sociological classics' (Marx, Durkheim, Weber) - do they still matter?
2. Other classical theories of childhood and generation, such as Mannheim
3. New directions in sociological theory, such as network theories, normalisation processes, or the approaches of thinkers, such as Bourdieu, Foucault, Luhmann, Bauman, amongst others
4. The concept of spatiality in theorising childhood
5. How are rights, inequalities and injustices in childhood theorised?
6. How are theorisations around gender and ethnicity applied to children?
7. What is the role of theory in interdisciplinary work?
8. What are the questions of cultural identity and citizenship for children?

Please note there will be a conference fee to cover services (lunch, drinks, etc.) the number of delegates will also be restricted to 30 to enable discussion. The papers will be selected according to relevance to the theme of the symposium.

Instructions

The abstracts must be written in English, be at most 400 words, and include 3-5 keywords. Please submit your abstract and full contact details as electronic files **no later than the 28th February 2012**. Send the abstract to Tom Cockburn (t.d.cockburn@bradford.ac.uk). The deadline for notification for abstracts is 31st March 2012.

For further details on the symposium please contact Tom Cockburn (t.d.cockburn@bradford.ac.uk) on +44 1274 233517.