



# indicators

The official newsletter of the International Society for Child Indicators



**February 2012**

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

## ISCI Conference » May 2013 • Seoul, Korea

**“Child Indicators in a Globalized World: Implications for Research, Practice and Policy” is the theme of the 4th ISCI Conference, set for May 29–31, 2013 in Seoul, Korea.**

We will explore how child indicators can be used to improve the well-being of children in a globalized world. Topics include:

- » Theory and conceptual frameworks of child indicators
- » Measurement, data, and methods on child indicators
- » Dissemination of child indicators
- » Advocacy using child indicators
- » Policy and program development using child indicators
- » Children’s subjective well-being
- » Information technology and child indicators
- » Child indicators across cultures and borders
- » “Glocalization” of child indicators

The call for abstracts for the conference will be issued soon, so stay tuned.

The ISCI Conference will take place at Seoul National University. The capital of South Korea, Seoul is one of the world’s largest cities, with a population topping 10 million. The city’s rich blend of past and present — from architecture to social customs — makes it well worth a visit.

Plan now to join us!



**Indicators**, the newsletter of ISCI, provides information on child indicators to an international audience of researchers, advocates, policymakers, and the media.

To submit material, please see [contact information on page 18.](#)

**2012 ISCI membership recruitment has started. Renew today — and recruit a colleague!**

[See next page »](#)

## ISCI News

### Advance Your Work with ISCI Membership

***Join or Renew Today!***

Whether you're a current ISCI member who's up for renewal or a prospective ISCI member, we encourage you to join us.



ISCI members span the globe and include academicians and researchers, government officials, data collectors, policymakers, child advocates, data users, funders, practitioners, and journalists. Coming together under the banner of an international society focused on child well-being indicators offers an invaluable opportunity for studying and sharing knowledge as well as for seeking new partnerships and initiating studies and projects beyond the national or smaller regional networks.

In addition to collaboration, shared resources, support, and education, your membership includes:

- » Free subscription to ISCI Indicators, the official newsletter of ISCI
- » Free subscription to *Child Indicators Research*, ISCI's journal, published by Springer
- » Discounts on Springer social science books and journals

To join ISCI, please complete the [membership form](#).  
(To check the dues in your country, [click here](#).)

### 2011 ISCI Conference: What Attendees Said

The 3rd ISCI Conference — held at the University of York, England on July 27–30, 2011 — was a great success. Thanks to everyone who helped to make the conference possible!

We are pleased to share with you some of the results from our online conference survey, conducted in September. Sixty-five participants returned their survey, for an impressive response rate of about 33%. Overall, their feedback was positive and encouraging:

- » Over 95% of respondents thought the overall organization of the conference was good/very good.
- » About 90% rated the information provided on the conference website/packet as good/very good.
- » 98% rated the service provided by our conference helpers and 92% rated the service provided by the university's Conference Office as good/very good.
- » Over two-thirds rated the quality of the keynote plenaries as good/very good.
- » 88% found the amount of time devoted to the parallel sessions was adequate.
- » 83% rated the content of papers given in the parallel sessions as good/very good.
- » 94% of those who attended the reception and conference dinner at the National Railway Museum rated their experience as good/very good.
- » 92% were satisfied about the opportunities for meeting people at the conference.
- » 78% of those who had catering and food from the university thought they were good/very good.
- » 57% who stayed on campus rated the standard of the residential accommodation as good/very good.
- » 75% thought the conference was good value for money.

## ISCI News *continued*

### ISCI Now Based at Haruv Institute

ISCI's administrative home is now at The Haruv Institute in Jerusalem, Israel. Established by the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation in 2007, the Institute works to enhance the knowledge base of professionals and caregivers who work with abused and neglected children and their families.

The Haruv Institute has four main objectives:

- » To develop high-level study and training programs for a wide spectrum of professionals and allied caregivers;
- » To develop a range of advanced approaches and methodologies in the prevention and care of children who have been abused and neglected;
- » To influence the formation of Israeli public and social policy, and the legislative processes pertaining to the abuse and neglect of children; and
- » To facilitate exchanges between Israeli professionals in the field and their colleagues abroad.

The Institute works with government offices and private and public organizations to create innovative training programs and conferences tailored to each professional population. Programs include:

- » training for hospital pediatricians in identifying, diagnosing, reporting and testifying in child abuse cases
- » a course in Parent-Child Psychotherapy with infants and small children who have been subjected to interfamilial trauma, taught to experienced clinicians in social work, psychology and psychiatry
- » training for ultra-Orthodox social workers in the area of psychotherapy with sexually abused children
- » a conference on children living in cults
- » training for district child protection workers on the subject of high-conflict divorce
- » a course on identifying child abuse and neglect for nurses in well-baby clinics

The Institute also encourages Israeli research in the area of child abuse and neglect. Each year, a number of research proposals are approved and funded by the Institute. This year, three postdoctoral grants will be awarded to Israeli professionals interested in researching this topic in the U.S.

[Click here](#) for more on The Haruv Institute.

### About Chapin Hall — New Home of ISCI's Website

ISCI's website is now hosted by Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

Chapin Hall has been a partner and supporter of ISCI since its founding. Senior Research Fellow Robert Goerge and former Research Fellow Bong Joo Lee (now with the Department of Social Welfare, Seoul National University, Korea) were two of ISCI's first participants. Chapin Hall also hosted the first ISCI conference in Chicago in 2007.

Since its inception in 1985 as a research and policy center, Chapin Hall has focused on a mission of improving the well-being of children and youth, families, and their communities. It accomplishes this mission through policy research — by developing and testing new ideas; generating and analyzing information; and examining policies, programs, and practices across a wide range of service systems and organizations.

Chapin Hall takes a broad perspective, embracing an interest in policies that promote the well-being of all children and youth while devoting special attention to those facing significant problems. That perspective also encompasses families and communities, recognizing that circumstances for children and youth cannot improve in isolation. This broad perspective helps Chapin Hall to focus both on preventing problems and on ameliorating them.

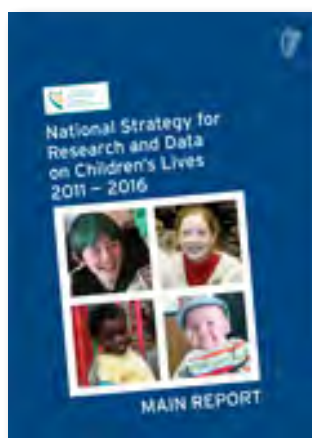
For more on Chapin Hall's history, accomplishments, and current work, [click here](#).

# News from the Field

## New Irish Strategy Outlined in Report

Ireland has initiated a National Strategy for Research and Data on Children's Lives for 2011–2016. A 20-page policy report from the country's Minister for Children and Youth Affairs and the newly created Department of Children and Youth Affairs outlines the initiative's development process, expected outcomes, objectives and action items.

Here are excerpts from the foreword:



*“Good information is essential and can help us to understand how children and young people are developing, as well as assisting us in identifying the impacts of various policies and services on their lives. A more strategic approach to knowledge about children’s lives can also help us to identify the most effective ways to intervene in their lives and to ensure that this knowledge is used by those in a position to make changes.”*

—Frances Fitzgerald, TD, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Ireland

*“This strategy seeks to coordinate and mobilize research and data across a range of important bodies in order to achieve a better understanding of children’s lives. It is, therefore, of relevance to a wide variety of stakeholders. The strategy sets an Action Plan under 5 key objectives encompassing 8 action areas, many of which focus on improved use of existing data and information holdings.”*

—Jim Breslin, Secretary General, Department of Children and Youth Affairs

[Click here](#) to download the report.

[Click here](#) for more on Ireland's new Department of Children and Youth Affairs.



## New OECD Dataset Presents Age-Specific Information

As policy interventions for children in OECD countries increasingly overarch traditional policy fields, demand has grown for better comparative information across a range of children's outcomes. Of particular interest are measures that focus on quality of life issues *beyond income poverty*, and at different points in the child's lifecycle.

The **Child Well-being Module** (CWBM) is a new dataset for age-specific child well-being information including data on policies, family and community contexts, and outcomes. The CWBM is part of the [OECD Family Database](#), a portal for internationally comparable information on the situation of families in OECD countries. The CWBM features quality-checked data on children and their family contexts to help inform cross-national and national-level analysis of policies for children, and the outcomes that they achieve. The module draws from indicators in the OECD Family Database as well as internationally comparable data series and surveys.

Indicators in the CWBM are organized in a data matrix. Along one axis are the stages of childhood development: Early (0–5 years), Middle (6–11 years), and Late (12–17 years). The second axis collates indicators on the basis of: Inputs (spending and structures), Context (families, service provision, and community), and Outcomes.

[Click here](#) to see the Child Well-being Module.



## News from the Field *continued*

### Post Graduate Certificate in Socio-Legal Issues of Childhood

The **Centre for Rural Childhood** at the UK's University of the Highlands and Islands' Perth College now offers a Postgraduate Certificate in Socio-Legal Issues of Childhood. Recruiting started in January 2012.



The course is offered exclusively online, supported by staff from the Centre for Rural Childhood. It explores contemporary issues and research methods around children, underpinned by the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the importance of hearing the child's voice.

[Click here](#) for details.

### Baltimore Workshop Focuses on Communicating with Policymakers

A workshop, "Using Data to Inform Policymakers," was held in Baltimore, Maryland, October 31–November 3, 2011.

The workshop objectives were to:

1. Share recent experiences on data-based advocacy
2. Increase understanding of data and indicators in advocacy
3. Experience in communications skills and working with media
4. Become familiar with PRB's work with data and communication
5. Identify future areas for collaboration

The workshop dealt with issues such as identifying data relevant for policy, how to get the message out to the media, platforms for use of social media, and new ways of presenting data.

### Norwegian University Offers Childhood Studies Master's

*Are you interested in children's everyday lives and in childhood as a social and cultural phenomenon? Would you like to know about children's lives in different parts of the world? What about the changing conditions of childhood in the era of globalization? If so, the international master's program in Childhood Studies might be perfect for you.*



This is how the website reads for the Norwegian Centre for Child Research's Master of Philosophy in Childhood Studies program. The centre is part of NTNU (Norwegian University of Science and Technology), which also offers a PhD program in Interdisciplinary Child Research.

The final application deadline for the master's program is February 1, 2012.

[Click here](#) for more information.

### Help ISCI Grow!

**Please join ISCI** if you are not already a member. If you are a member, **invite a colleague to join!**

For more information, contact Lori A. Bailey, ISCI Membership Coordinator, at lbaile2@clemson.edu or visit <http://www.childindicators.org/join.html>. You may join online or via regular mail.

## News from the Field *continued*

### Impacts of Economic Crises on Child Well-Being

The September 2011 issue of Wiley's *Development Policy Review* (Volume 29, Issue 5) is a theme issue that explores how the impacts of economic crises are transmitted to children's experiences of poverty and well-being, and how these impacts can be mediated by the policy responses of international and national actors. The issue also considers what lessons can be derived from responses to past crises and the extent to which this learning is being applied.



Articles include:

- » Impacts of Economic Crises on Child Well-being, *Caroline Harper and Nicola Jones*
- » Effects of the Global Financial Crisis on Children's School and Employment Outcomes in El Salvador, *Suzanne Duryea and Melisa Morales*
- » The Effects of Economic Crises on Families Caring for Children: Understanding and Reducing Long-term Consequences, *Parama Sigurdson, Samantha Berger, and Jody Heymann*
- » A 'Lost Generation'? Impacts of Complex Compound Crises on Children and Young People, *Naomi Hossain and J. Allister McGregor*
- » Cash Transfers, Children and the Crisis: Protecting Current and Future Investments, *Ariel Fiszbein, Dena Ringold, and Santhosh Srinivasan*
- » Financing Social Protection for Children in Crisis Contexts, *Armando Barrientos and Miguel Niño-Zarazúa*
- » Promoting Children's Well-being: Policy Lessons from Past and Present Economic Crises, *Caroline Harper, Nicola Jones, Paola Perezniato, and Andy McKay*

[Click here](#) to access the journal.

### New Young Lives Reports Released

The new "Young Lives Round 3 Survey Reports and Executive Summaries" are now available online. Based on the recently released Round 3 data, the report explores changes in children's lives in four study countries, between the earlier research rounds in 2002 and 2006 and this third round:



- » Understanding Changes in the Lives of Poor Children (Ethiopia);
- » The Impact of Growth on Childhood Poverty in Andhra Pradesh (India);
- » Tracking Disparities: Who Gets Left Behind? (Peru); and
- » How Do Children Fare in the New Millennium? (Vietnam).

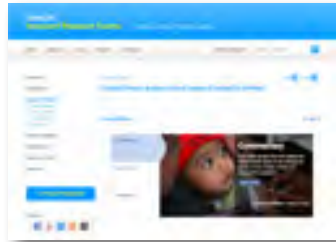
[Click here](#) for the Young Lives reports.

[Click here](#) to access the Young Lives datasets.

## News from the Field *continued*

### ResearchWatch Portal Launches

UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre has launched ResearchWatch. ResearchWatch makes available thoughtful ideas and analysis on child research and issues — all in a stimulating “bite-size” format.



ResearchWatch has three parts:

- 1) “Commentary” — in which an expert reviews and analyzes the latest research/ thinking in the chosen area
- 2) “Look out for...” — in which a leading researcher discusses his or her latest/ forthcoming research project
- 3) “The debate” — a videotaped studio debate.

Each issue will be dedicated to a theme. The first is on Early Childhood Development (ECD), in support of a September 2011 article in *The Lancet*, with comments by UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake. This issue was led by editor-in-chief of *The Lancet*, Richard Horton; Nobel Laureate Professor James Heckman; and UNICEF Chief of ECD, Dr. Nurper Ulkuer.

[Click here](#) to go to ResearchWatch.

### UN Finally Adopts Complaints Mechanism for Children

In December 2011, the UN General Assembly took an important step in advancing children’s rights. It adopted a new Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) establishing a complaints procedure for violations of children’s rights.

The long-awaited new treaty will enable children, or their representatives, claiming that their rights have been violated to bring a complaint to an international committee of children’s rights experts if they have not been able to get remedies for these violations in their countries. A coalition of over 80 international and national NGOs, coordinated by the NGO Group for the CRC, which has been actively campaigning for the treaty since 2006, welcomed the news.

“It was high time to put children’s rights on an equal footing with other human rights!” said Peter Newell, co-chair of the NGO coalition. “Children’s rights are no longer ‘mini rights,’” he added.

Cases concerning any violation of children’s rights — from children who cannot access primary education to children forced into sexual exploitation, for instance — could be brought before the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.”

For the full press release on the new protocol, [click here](#).

**Child Indicators Research,** the official journal of ISCI, is flourishing! We’re please to report an impact factor of 0.75 after only four years — as well as a growing number of submissions. See [www.springer.com/12187](http://www.springer.com/12187) for details.



# Reports and Publications

## Report Shows Progress in Child Well-Being

“Progress in Child Well-Being: Building on What Works” — a new report commissioned by UNICEF and Save the Children UK, prepared in collaboration with the Overseas Development Institute — brings encouraging news: There has been remarkable progress in children’s well-being throughout the world over the past few decades, and there is a path to extending these gains.

Case studies examined in the report suggest that various factors have been critical in delivering positive outcomes for children: stronger and explicit national commitments to invest in children, supportive policies and programs at the country level, and greater and better-targeted development assistance.

“We have seen remarkable results largely because of strong political will by countries, matched by the commitment and support of the international community, especially donors, to invest in the social sector,” said Anthony Lake, UNICEF executive director.

However, UNICEF and Save the Children UK stressed that despite the gains, much still needs to be done, and more can be achieved with a greater focus on equity — focusing attention on the poorest households, which have the highest rates of child deaths. UNICEF estimates that the Millennium Development Goal of halving child mortality could be achieved much more rapidly by such an approach, including reducing up to 60 percent more deaths in 15 low-income countries for every \$1 million invested.

Save the Children UK has said that if the 42 developing countries that account for over 90 percent of child deaths all took an equity-based approach to cutting under-five mortality, and made progress across all income groups at the same rate as for the fastest-improving income group, an additional 4 million child deaths could be averted over 10 years.

“We are making the kind of progress which no one would have dared to predict 20 years ago,” said Lake. “The advances of 10 years make it clear that the measurable targets of the Millennium Development Goals have had a galvanizing effect in setting priorities and have been associated with remarkable gains.”

[Click here](#) for the full report.



## European Report Spotlights Children with Intellectual Disabilities

A report by Eurochild and Inclusion Europe provides an overview of the situation of children with intellectual disabilities in 22 European countries, with a particular focus on five areas: 1) protection against abuse, 2) family support and (de-) institutionalization, 3) health, 4) education, and 5) participation of children.

“Children’s Rights for All! Implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child for Children with Intellectual Disabilities” recommends steps to be taken to remove barriers to their inclusion.

The publication is based on a series of country reports prepared by national experts in Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

[Click here](#) for these reports.

[Click here](#) for the general report.





## Reports and Publications *continued*

### Climate Change Exacerbates Child Well-Being in Asia

A new UNICEF report has found that children in the East Asia-Pacific region are feeling the effects of climate change. “Children’s Vulnerability to Climate Change and Disaster Impacts in East Asia and the Pacific” says millions of children who suffer from a lack of clean water and proper sanitation, food scarcity, and disease are particularly vulnerable.



Covering five countries, the report provides an overview of the climate change trends that should be taken into account in policy development. The impacts children encounter, however, will not be uniform. Children noted a range of experiences, including livelihood insecurity in Mongolia, threats of rising sea levels in the Pacific Islands, massive flooding in the Philippines, and crop failures in Indonesia.

Because children have unique perspectives of their environment, they can be important actors in enhancing community capacity to address climate-related risks.

[Click here](#) for the full report.

### UNICEF Releases Revealing Report on UK Children

New research by the firm Ipsos MORI for UNICEF shows that children in the UK feel trapped in a “materialistic culture” and don’t spend enough time with their families.

Following from UNICEF’s pioneering report in 2007, which ranked the UK bottom in child well-being compared to other industrialized nations, the research gives an in-depth comparison of over 250 children’s experiences across three developed countries: the UK, Sweden, and Spain.

Children in all three countries told researchers that their happiness is dependent on having time with a stable family

and plenty of things to do, especially outdoors, rather than on owning technology or branded clothes.

Despite this, one of the most striking findings is that parents in the UK said they felt tremendous pressure from society to buy goods for their children; this pressure was felt most acutely in low-income homes.

The research also shows that parents in the UK are committed to their children, but they lose out on family time due in part to long working hours. They often try to make up for this by buying their children gadgets and clothes. This contrasts starkly with Sweden and Spain, where family time is prioritized, people are under less pressure to own material goods, and children have greater access to activities outside the home.

In response to the research, UNICEF UK is calling on the UK Government to:

- » encourage businesses to pay a living wage, so parents don’t have to take on several jobs to make a living, which affects the amount of time they can spend with their children
- » insist local authorities assess the impact of public spending cuts on children so that funding is protected for play facilities and free leisure activities
- » follow Sweden’s example and prevent advertisements from being shown before, during, or after programs aimed at under-12s.

[Click here](#) for more information and the full report.



## Reports and Publications *continued*

### Child Well-Being Eroding in U.S., Index Shows

The 2011 Child Well-Being Index (CWI) paints a stark picture of American families and their children. It shows that the well-being of children and families has trailed far behind the country's hefty economic growth over the past 35 years, and that things are only poised to

get worse. "Our children are bearing the largest burden of this country's widening income gap," says Ruby Takanishi, president of the Foundation for Child Development (FCD), which produces the index.

Adds report author Kenneth Land, "Our failure to meet the most basic needs — economic security, education, health — of so many children will have damaging and long-term effects."

The CWI is the nation's most comprehensive measure of trends in the quality of life of children and youth. It combines national data from 28 indicators across seven domains into a single number that reflects overall child well-being.

Other key findings include:

- » Families have lost all economic gains they've made since 1975, and are likely to continue losing ground.
- » The percentage of children living in poverty stands to increase.
- » There has been no substantial improvement in health insurance coverage for children: 7 million American children are still uninsured, and the number is growing.
- » As additional funding from the federal stimulus package ends, things stand to deteriorate further if the federal and state governments don't make investments quickly to fill this gap.



[Click here](#) for the 2011 Child Well-Being Index.

For the first time, FCD has published a state version of the CWI, released in January. [Click here](#) for this report, titled "Investing in Public Programs Matters: How State Policies Impact Children's Lives."

### Canada Found Lagging in Child Well-Being

Canada ranks poorly in ensuring equality of the basic resources needed for child development, a report to the United Nations says. Children in low-income families, [aboriginal children](#), children in government care, and children with disabilities are being "left behind" in Canada, the assessment says.

"Right in Principle, Right in Practice" is part of the first review in eight years of Canada's implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Written by the Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children, the report says Canada has strengthened laws to protect children from sexual exploitation and reached a high degree of equality in school achievement. But the country lags behind other industrialized nations in other important elements of child well-being, including adequate family income.

The findings will be considered by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, which will issue a series of observations and recommendations to Canada.

UNICEF Canada's chief advocacy advisor, Marvin Bernstein, said recognizing the rights of children and supporting them in developing their full potential is "not only the right thing to do and a legal obligation, it is also a good economic and social investment."

[Click here](#) for the full report.



## Reports and Publications *continued*

### Child Deprivation Indicators Research Report Launched

Two leading charities have said that Ireland's current measures of poverty do not adequately reflect children's experience. Based on a joint publication, "All You Need Is... Measuring Children's Perceptions and Experiences of Deprivation," Barnardos and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVP) said it was important that children's



voices are included in the debate over their needs. The report is based on research conducted by the Children's Research Centre at Trinity College Dublin, involving 262 children ages 9–11 and their parents.

"Children have spoken and what they are clearly saying to us is that poverty and deprivation mean different things to [them] than they do to adults," said Fergus Finlay, CEO of Barnardos.

The 12-item deprivation index is very child-centered and has a focus on participation. It captures the voice of the child and highlights what children deem to be essential for an acceptable standard of living.

"What [the] findings show is that deprivation and experiences of poverty can be highly complex," said John-Mark McCafferty, head of Social Justice and Policy at SVP. "... Whatever the individual circumstances in a family, what is clear is that poverty needs a holistic response with a variety of elements including both service provision and income supports."

[Click here](#) for the full report.

### Clock Ticking on Millennium Development Goal 4

Only four years remain to achieve Millennium Development Goal 4 (MDG 4), which calls for reducing the under-five mortality rate by two-thirds between 1990 and 2015.

Since 1990, the under-five mortality rate has dropped 35 percent, with every developing region seeing at least a 30 percent reduction. However, at the global level, progress is behind schedule, and the target is at risk of being missed by 2015. The global under-five mortality rate needs to be halved, from 57 deaths per 1,000 live births to 29. That would require an average rate of reduction of 13.5 percent a year — much higher than the 2.2 percent a year achieved between 1990 and 2010.

Child mortality is a key indicator not only of child health and nutrition, but also of the implementation of child survival interventions and, more broadly, of social and economic development. As global momentum and investment for accelerating child survival grow, monitoring progress at the global and country levels has become even more critical. The United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (IGME) updates child mortality estimates annually for monitoring progress.

The latest IGME report presents current estimates of under-five, infant, and neonatal mortality and assesses progress toward MDG 4 at the country, regional, and global levels.

For the full report, [click here](#).

## Reports and Publications *continued*

### A Look at Children's Rights vs. Reality in Brazil

The International Center for Research and Policy on Children at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (CIESPI/PUC-Rio) has published "Closing the Gap between Rights and Realities for Children and Youth in Urban Brazil: Reflections on a Brazilian Project to Improve Policies for Street Children." The report — written by Malcolm Bush, of Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, and Irene Rizzini, professor at PUC-Rio and director of CIESPI — tackles the vast gap between constitutional rights and the actual situation of children, especially low-income.



The report summarizes the demography of vulnerable children in Brazil, the condition of street children, and the structure of constitutional and legal rights for children. It examines a vehicle established by federal law to monitor public policy toward children, Children's Rights Councils, which exist at the municipal, state, and federal levels of government. In particular, the report examines attempts in municipalities across seven states, most notably Rio de Janeiro, to adopt policies to improve the conditions of street children. The attempts were successful in three states, including Rio de Janeiro, but the process was difficult and the municipalities are now struggling with strategies to implement the policies.

The report concludes with a brief analysis of other strategies, tools, and institutional actors that could assist narrowing the gap between the rights and realities of low-income children in urban Brazil.

For a PDF of the report, [click here](#).



### A Perspective on Migration in Ireland

Migration into Ireland is one of the biggest demographic changes to affect Irish society since the famine. The book *Where To from Here? Inter-ethnic Relations among Children in Ireland*, by Philip Curry, Robbie Gilligan, Lindsey Garratt, and Jennifer Scholtz, reports on social relations between migrant and local children and offers a unique perspective on the migration experience. Based on a large-scale, intensive study in inner-city Dublin, this book gives us children's frank and unbiased perspectives on multicultural Ireland.

Children can be positive and empathic when encountering children from other ethnic communities. However, serious tensions can also be detected in the social fabric of multicultural schools. There is a marked tendency to stay within one's own cultural group. Hidden from the notice of adults, serious racial bullying can also occur, even among very young children.

In their own powerful words, children help us to understand some of the key challenges facing this first generation of multicultural Ireland.

For more information, [click here](#).



## Reports and Publications *continued*

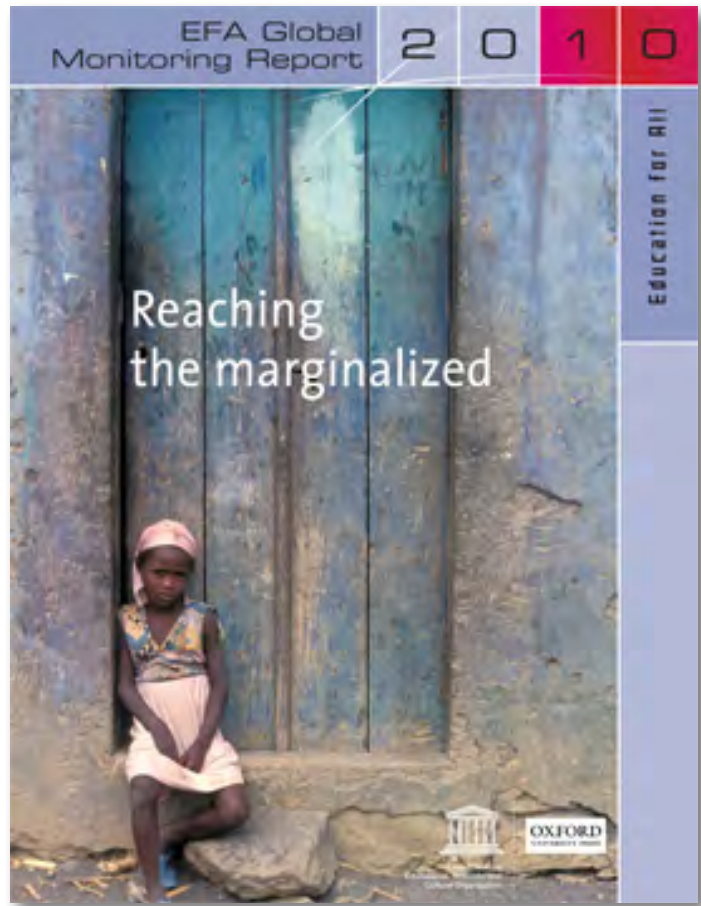
## Out of School Children: New Data Reveal Persistent Challenges

According to new data from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), 67 million children were out of school globally during the school year ending in 2009. This figure has been falling, especially since 2000, when the international community reinforced commitments to achieve universal primary education. Since then, the share of out-of-school children of primary school age has fallen from 16% to 10%. In addition, efforts to improve educational access for girls have yielded positive results. In 2009, girls accounted for 53% of children out of school, compared to 57% in 2000.

Yet despite this progress, the pace of change appears to be slowing. “Between 2000 and 2005, we saw a dramatic reduction in the number of children excluded from primary education. But since then, the rate of change has slowed down considerably,” said UIS Director Hendrik van der Pol. “At this rate, we will not achieve universal primary education by 2015. So it is time to raise the alarm among governments and international agencies globally.”

"It is increasingly difficult to reach those children who remain excluded from education," said Kevin Watkins, director of the ["Education for All Global Monitoring Report."](#) "Governments must commit not just to achieving national goals, but to seriously tackling disparities based on wealth, location, ethnicity, gender, and other markers for disadvantage. More must also be done to protect and provide education opportunities for the millions of children deprived of education due to conflict."

In 2009, there were 17 countries with more than 500,000 out-of-school children. Nine of these countries are located in sub-Saharan Africa. In Ethiopia, about 2 million children weren't in school in 2009. This represents 16% of the country's primary school-age population — which nevertheless reflects considerable progress since 1999, when the figure reached 63%.



## Events

### Global Summit on Childhood

March 28–31, 2012 • Washington DC, USA

The Association of Childhood Education International, in collaboration with four other organizations, has planned a “Global Summit on Childhood” conference. The March event in Washington, DC aims to raise public awareness about challenges facing childhood today. The goals of the summit are to:



1. Provide a platform for interdisciplinary dialogue about the experience of childhood
2. Explore the current state of childhood, including issues affecting education and mental and physical well-being, from international, cross-cultural, and cross-disciplinary perspectives
3. Examine specific issues impacting the lives of children today
4. Consider best policies and practices to promote the opportunities that support a positive childhood experience and to address the challenges that threaten childhood

The program features these topic areas: Childhood Perspectives from Around the World; Supporting a Positive Childhood Experience; Implications of a Changing Society for Childhood; and Giving Voice to Childhood.

[Click here](#) for more information.

### Children, Families and Society: A Half-Century of Change

*An International Symposium for Practitioners, Policy Makers, and Students in Social and Health Sciences*

March 29–30, 2012 • University Center, Greenville, SC, USA



The 4th Annual Greenville Family Symposium offers an opportunity to test ideas among peers, and to engage collectively in crafting policy and program responses to the most pressing issues of our time.

For details about the call for papers and registration, visit [www.familysymposium.com](http://www.familysymposium.com).

### Exploring Childhood Studies in the Global South: Africa in Focus

May 16, 2012 • University of Sheffield, UK

Over the last 20 years or so, the field of childhood studies has grown significantly, especially within Europe and North America. However, although a number of theoretical and methodological publications have been produced, very few focus on childhood in the global south. And those that have focused on the global south have been empirical, often situated within theoretical frameworks developed in the global north.



*continued »*

## Events *continued*

This UK workshop will initiate discussion around these questions and more:

- » What are the key theoretical and methodological issues for childhood researchers focusing on Africa?
- » How, if at all, do theoretical, methodological, and ethical issues relating to childhood research in the north transfer to various contexts in the global south with a particular focus on Africa?
- » What are the overlaps between issues focused on in the north and the south and how can these be utilized to better represent priorities in the global south within childhood studies?

[Click here](#) for more information.

### Sociology of Childhood – Theorizing Childhood

June 18–20, 2012 • University of Jyväskylä, Finland

The European Sociological Association's Sociology of Children and Childhood Research Network is organizing a Mid-Term Symposium.



Although the focus of the symposium is around theorizing childhood, the papers for the sessions are open to all core areas of the sociology of childhood. We invite both experienced and young researchers from various disciplines focused on the sociology of childhood to participate.

[Abstracts](#) are due by February 28, 2012.

### Celebrating Childhood Diversity

July 9–11, 2012 • University of Sheffield, UK

To celebrate the 10th year of the establishment of the Centre for the Study of Childhood and Youth at Sheffield University, this conference will address the theme of diversity in the lives of children and young people.

Some of the issues to be explored:

- » Children and young people's diverse and cultural worlds
- » Understanding identity and difference
- » Structures and institutions as indices of childhood diversity
- » Time, space, and place
- » Methodological innovations in childhood research
- » Theorizing similarity and difference

Abstracts are due by January 31, 2012.

For more information, [click here](#).

### Children's Voices, Well-Being and Social Justice

August 1–4, 2012 • Buenos Aires, Argentina

The International Sociological Association's Research Committee on Sociology of Childhood will hold a conference addressing the current state of children and the meaning of childhood in different parts of the world.

The aim is to create a platform for international and interactive discussions reflecting the most exciting work in the sociology of childhood. The meeting will address such relevant and timely topics as:

- » Children's Rights and Social Justice
- » Children's International Migration and Citizenship
- » Childhood in Democracy's Infancy
- » Children, Society and Exclusions
- » Globalization and New Contours of Childhood
- » Children's Bodies

A highlight will be a poster session on Children's Voices, Well-Being and Social Justice.

More information, [click here](#).

## Events *continued*

### International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect

September 9–12, 2012 • Istanbul, Turkey

The theme of the **XIXth International Congress** of the International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) is “Every Child Matters: Promoting Local, National, and International Partnerships for Child Protection.”

Decades of work on child abuse and neglect have shown that the most effective way to deal with this multifaceted problem is through integrating our resources and efforts. The goal for this congress will be to focus on partnerships to discover the best ways to integrate human resources to prevent, detect, and effectively intervene with child abuse and neglect around the globe.

### Child in the City 2012

September 26–28, 2012 • Zagreb, Croatia

If we are concerned about the social, cultural and economic future of cities, we must consider how to involve children. And the best way to involve children is through play — children are experts at playing. Cities must create space for them to stimulate their expertise, and they can benefit from this expertise.



The annual Child in the City conference brings together researchers, youth policy experts, urban planners, consultants, NGOs, and others to discuss these ideas and how to make cities more child-friendly.

The 2012 conference is organized around four themes:

- » Play
- » Children's Rights
- » Health
- » Intergenerational Development

[Click here](#) for more information.

### Twenty-first Century Childhood and Youth: Interdisciplinary Debates and Challenges'

September 13–14, 2012 •

Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge, UK

This is the 1st Biennial Anglia Ruskin Childhood and Youth Research Institute International Conference. The Childhood and Youth Research Institute is a multi-disciplinary initiative, bringing together the diverse expertise of academics from a variety of scholarly backgrounds, all of whom share an interest in childhood and youth.



Our first biennial conference focuses on the theme of “Twenty-first Century Childhood and Youth,” but we are keen to receive papers that conceptualize this topic in a broad variety of ways, including those that utilize historical notions of childhood to understand topics most pertinent to today's youth. Possible areas of interest include:

- » experiences of marginalization and exclusion
- » historical concepts of childhood
- » participatory methods with children and young people
- » theoretical or empirical studies in children's literature
- » innovations in formal and informal education
- » early years education
- » innovations in child psychology
- » practices in child law
- » well-being and health
- » theoretical and philosophical perspectives on childhood and youth

Abstracts are due by February 29, 2012.

[Click here](#) for more information.



## Events *continued*

### V World Congress for Rights of Children and Adolescents

October 15–19, 2012 • San Juan, Argentina

Since the 2002 adoption of “A World Fit for Children” at the United Nations Special Session on Children, World Congresses for Rights of Children and Adolescents have been organized in different parts of the world.

The congresses draw civic organizations, universities, and representatives from the UN, the OAS, and the European Union, among others. Their purpose is to improve the international commitment to child and adolescents, to exchange ideas and experiences, and to fight for the rights contained in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The central themes of the V World Congress for Rights of Children and Adolescents, as stated in its overview document, are:

- » Childhood and adolescence are the bonding principle and social change and emancipation drivers.
- » Childhood and adolescence are key in strengthening public institutions and deepening democracy at all levels.
- » Childhood and adolescence are a priority as to social and economic policies for redistribution based on equality.
- » Childhood and adolescence are the principle that shapes social and political citizenship.

[Click here](#) for more information on the 2012 Congress, scheduled for October in Argentina.



## Call for Papers

*Families, Relationships and Societies*

### Submissions Welcome for New Journal

*Families, Relationships and Societies (FRS)* is a new social science journal designed to advance scholarship and debate in the growing field of families and relationships across the life course. The journal will explore family life, relationships, and generational issues from interdisciplinary, social science perspectives, while maintaining a solid grounding in sociological theory and methods and a strong policy and practice focus.

The title *Families, Relationships and Societies* encompasses the fluidity, complexity, and diversity of contemporary social and personal relationships and their need to be understood in the context of different societies and cultures.

Submissions to the journal are invited from subject areas across the social sciences and related life course disciplines, including sociology, social policy, social work, childhood studies, demography, youth studies, family studies, gender studies, aging and gerontology, health and social care, education, psychology, social history, socio-legal studies, politics, criminology, and psycho-social studies.

Papers will be expected to have relevance to academic, policy, and practitioner audiences, enabling a wide range of perspectives to be brought together in one place to foster innovation and development within disciplines and advance interdisciplinary research and practice.

#### The journal will explore these key themes:

1. Theorizing families and relationships
2. Advances in methodology
3. Presenting new empirical evidence
4. Critical analysis of policy and practice
5. Creating dialogue across theory, research, policy, and practice
6. Developing perspectives on globalization and personal life

For further information or to submit a paper, please e-mail the editors at [frs-journal@bath.ac.uk](mailto:frs-journal@bath.ac.uk).

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## Join the International Society for Child Indicators (ISCI)



The International Society  
for Child Indicators (ISCI)

contributes to improving the well-being  
of the world's children. The ISCI seeks to  
build a network of individuals dedicated  
to improving measures and data resources,  
advancing data analysis, exploring theoretical  
issues, and publicizing and disseminating  
information on the status of children. ISCI is  
also working to enhance the capacity of the  
field, especially for countries in the initial  
stages of producing child well-being indicators.  
Finally, ISCI is identifying and developing  
ways to facilitate the dissemination and  
application of indicators in policy and practice.

For a full description and information  
on joining ISCI, please visit  
[www.childindicators.org](http://www.childindicators.org).