Third Expert Consultation on Child Well-Being


Who’s who?

Sabine Andresen is a proven expert in research on childhood and youth, co-leader of the Children’s Worlds project. She has presented historical and discourse analytical works, e.g., on the relation between childhood and politics. One main focus of her research lies on the well-being of children from an international perspective as well as on the threat to childhood by poverty and precarious life situations. In her empirical qualitative research, also on the family, and in her quantitative surveys she analyses the actors’ views and their intertwining. Since 2009 she is a board member of the International Society for Child Indicators (ISCI) and member of the committee of experts of the Federal Ministry of Families, Senior Citizens, Women, and Youth (BMFSFJ).

Sabine Andresen will present on: "Family structure and family relationship from the child well-being perspective: Findings from comparative analysis", session 5, 25th November.

Dr Jennifer Baxter is a Senior Research Fellow at the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS). Her research focuses on the interaction between work and family, including a significant focus on families’ use of child care and maternal employment participation. Other areas of expertise include work–family spillover, children’s time use, parental time with children and the demography of families. Jennifer was a lead researcher on AIFS Evaluation of the Australian Government’s Child Care Flexibility Trials and on two projects on Access to Early Childhood Education. Jennifer’s focus is on quantitative research, including the application of cross-sectional and longitudinal methods, and the analyses of time use data. She has used many Australian datasets, including the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC) and various Australian Bureau of Statistics datasets.

Jennifer Baxter will present on: "Family structure and employment in Australia: The implications of child care and time use for child wellbeing", session 5, 25th November.

Julius op de Beke is a senior policy analyst with the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion in the social inclusion and disability unit, where he is responsible for the implementation of the Investing in Children recommendation in the European Commission. He previously worked at DG ECFIN and for DG EMPL in the evaluation and demography unit and at European Social Fund. Prior to joining the Commission, he worked for the Dutch National Bureau of Economic Policy Analysis and the Dutch Ministry of Education.

Julius op de Beke will present on "An update on the Investing in Children recommendation", session 4, 24th November.
Prof. Asher Ben-Arie is one of the leading international experts on social indicators, particularly as they relate to child well-being. He initiated and coordinated the International Project "Measuring and Monitoring Children Well-Being", was among the founding members of the International Society for Children Indicators (ISCI) and elected to be its first co-chair. Currently, Prof. Ben-Arie is one of the PI's of the multinational, multi-million International Study of Children's Well-being (ISCWeB) research project. Asher has published extensively on children’s policy, child welfare and indicators of children well being. Prof. Ben-Arie is the founding editor-in-chief of the Child Indicators Research journal (CIR) and the Child Well Being: Indicators and research book series.


Lawrence Berger is Director of the Institute for Research on Poverty and Professor and PhD Chair in the School of Social Work at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research focuses on the ways in which economic resources, sociodemographic characteristics, and public policies affect parental behaviors and child and family wellbeing. He is engaged in studies in three primary areas: (1) examining the determinants of substandard parenting, child maltreatment, and out-of-home placement for children; (2) exploring associations among socioeconomic factors (family structure and composition, economic resources, household debt), parenting behaviors, and children's care, development, and wellbeing; and (3) assessing the influence of public policies on parental behaviors and child and family wellbeing. His work aims to inform public policy in order to improve its capacity to assist families in accessing resources, improving family functioning and wellbeing, and ensuring that children are able to grow and develop in the best possible environments.

Lawrence Berger will present on: "Family Complexity, Public Policy, and Child Wellbeing in the United States", session 5, 25th November.
**Emilie Biland** (PhD) is an Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Rennes 2 (France) and formerly at Laval University in Quebec City (Canada). She is also a researcher at the Centre sur l’Action Politique en Europe (CNRS). As a specialist of socio-legal studies and public policies, she is part a bi-national research team ([www.ruptures.ulaval.ca](http://www.ruptures.ulaval.ca)), who has been working of family justice in France and Canada since 2008. Along with other members of this team, she has published several peer journal articles, chapters and a book on this topic, including: “National paths towards private ordering: professional’s jurisdictions and separating couples’ privacy in the French and Canadian Family Justice Systems” (with M. Mille and H. Steinmetz), in Mac Lean M., Eekelaar J. et Bastard B. (eds.), *Delivering Family Justice in the 21st Century*, Hart Publishing, 2015, p.87-105. She is a recognized expert by the media and by both the French and the Quebec public administration in the area of family and legal change, especially regarding marital dissolutions.

Emilie Biland will present on: “The Canadian child support scheme: from design to implementation”, session 6, 25th November.

**Romina Boarini** heads the Monitoring Well-Being and Progress Section of the OECD Statistics Directorate. She is mainly responsible for the analytical and statistical work behind the Better Life Index and the report How’s Life? Measuring Well-Being. She is also in charge of the statistical pillar of the OECD Inclusive Growth Initiative and oversees the work on well-being and Big Data as well as the Trustlab project. She holds a PhD in Economics from Ecole Polytechnique (Paris).


**Jonathan Bradshaw** is Emeritus Professor of Social Policy at the University of York, UK. He has edited a series of books on The Well-being of Children in the UK (most recently Policy Press 2016). He has contributed to the UNICEF Innocenti Report Card series since it began and is an Honorary Fellow of UNICEF UK. He is the UK coordinator of the EU European Social Policy Network. He is a co PI on the Children’s Worlds Project and wrote the England report. He is a Fellow of the British Academy and a Commander of the British Empire. He is a board member of the Child Poverty Action Group. For further information and publication visit [http://php.york.ac.uk/inst/spru/profiles/jrb.php](http://php.york.ac.uk/inst/spru/profiles/jrb.php)

Jonathan Bradshaw will present on: “The future of Children’s World””, session 1, 24th November.
Ferran Casas is coordinator of the ERIDIQV research team (http://www.udg.edu/eridiqv), within the University of Girona’s Research Institute on Quality of Life. He was the director of this Research Institute from its creation in 1997, until 2008. He is a member of the Executive Committee for the International Society for Quality of Life Studies (ISQOLS) and for the International Society for Child Indicators (ISCI). In the past 10 years he has been involved in 10 international research projects, 3 with the support of the European Commission – the most recent being the YIPPEE project (Young People from a Public care background pathways to Education in Europe: http://tcru.ioe.ac.uk/yippee). He received the ISQOLS Distinguished Fellow QOL Award 2014 for evidence of a lifetime and substantial contribution to QOL research. At present, he is the President of the Academic Commission of the Doctorate Program on Psychology, Health and Quality of Life and member of the Board of Directors of the Doctoral School at the University of Girona. He is involved in the International Survey of Children’s Well-Being (ISCW eb, Children’s Worlds, promoted by ISCI and the Jacobs Foundation, http://www.childrensworlds.org/index.php). He has authored or co-authored 16 books, more than 50 book-chapters and over 100 papers in scientific journals, mostly related to children’s and adolescents’ well-being and QOL, and published in 9 different languages. He is co-editor of the Handbook of Child Well-Being, published by Springer in 2014.

Ferran Casas will present on “Objectives and Methods of the Children’s Worlds Project”, session 1, 24th November.

Dr Yekaterina Chzhen has joined the Unicef Office of Research - Innocenti in February 2013 after two and a half years as a Post-Doctoral Fellow in Quantitative Methods in Social and Political Sciences at the University of Oxford (Nuffield College). She has completed her PhD in Social Policy & Economics at the University of York in 2010. She has ten years of experience in applied quantitative social science research at universities and international organisations. Her main research interests are in the areas of comparative social policy, focusing on the interplay between government policies and individual level outcomes, such as poverty, deprivation, and labour market participation. Kat is currently working on two projects on child well-being and equity: Innocenti Report Card series and Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis (MODA)


Pierre-Yves Cusset has been project manager at France Stratégie since 2010. He has worked on different subjects related to social policies such as education, housing and social protection. A place of exchanges and discussion, France Stratégie assists the government in determining the main directions for the future of the Nation and the medium and long term objectives for its economic, social, cultural and environmental development.

Pierre-Yves Cusset will present on: “Sharing the costs of raising children after a divorce or a separation”, session 6, 25th November.
Tamar Dinisman is the coordinator of Children’s Worlds: International Survey of Children's Well-Being (ISCWeB). She received her BSW, MSW and Ph.D. from the School of Social Work and Social Welfare, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel. In her dissertation she explored the factors that contribute to better outcomes of young people who age-out of care. She was a post-doctoral fellow at the Research team on Children, Adolescents, Children's Rights and the Quality of Life (ERDIQV), University of Girona, Spain in 2012-2013. Her research interests include children’s subjective well-being from an international perspective and the well-being of children at risk.

Tamar Dinisman will present on: "Family structure and family relationship from the child well-being perspective: Findings from comparative analysis", session 5, 25th November.


Juho Härkönen (PhD, European University Institute) is University Lecturer in Sociology at Stockholm University and Visiting Professor at the University of Turku. His research interests cover questions of social inequality, family demography, health, and life course research. His recent research has focused particularly on the inequality dimensions of family change: how family life has diverged according to socioeconomic status, and how this can reproduce social inequalities in living conditions and life chances. Another broad line of research concerns how childhood conditions impact on later life outcomes, and how social inequality develops over the life course. His research has been published in Demography, European Journal of Population, European Sociological Review, Population Studies, Social Forces, Social Sciences and Medicine, and other outlets.

Juho Härkönen will present on: "Family forms and children’s well-being and life chances: implications for inequality", session 5, 25th November.
Koji Miyamoto is an economist in OECD’s Centre for Educational Research and Innovation (CERI), specializing in policies that promote skills development towards economic and social progress. He is currently the project manager of CERI’s Education and Social Progress (ESP) project, and was formally managing CERI’s Social Outcomes of Learning (SOL) project. Before joining CERI, he was with the OECD Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD Development Centre and the World Bank. His post-graduate studies include labour economics, economics of education, economics of development and econometrics.

Koji Miyamoto will present on “The Longitudinal Study of Social and Emotional Skills in Cities”, session 2, 24th November.

Petter Odmark is an economist and political scientist. He is presently working as Chief analyst at the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs of Sweden. Prior to that, he worked as Director of the Social Insurance Division at the ministry and as an advisor to the Director General of the Swedish Social Insurance Agency, primarily with issues related to the sickness insurance. Mr. Odmark has also worked for several government commissions related to social insurance, the latest being the Work Ability Commission. Before that he has worked as a researcher for the Swedish Federation of Professional Associations, in the Swedish Parliament and in the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs.

Petter Odmark will present on “Child maintenance support in Sweden”, session 6, 25th November.

Livia Sz. Oláh (Ph.D) is Associate Professor of Demography at the Department of Sociology, Stockholm University, with expertise also in law, political science, comparative welfare state research and gender studies. She is the Project coordinator of FamiliesAndSocieties, a large-scale collaborative project in the European Union Seventh Framework Programme (Feb. 2013 – Jan. 2017). Her main research interests are: family demography in comparative perspective with emphasis on men’s role in the family, policy impacts on fertility and partnership dynamics, and the interplay of family patterns and societal and familial gender relations in European societies. Oláh has been the initiator and coordinator of the research network Gendering European Family Dynamics; a member of the Network of Excellence RECWOWE (Reconciling Work and Welfare in Europe; FP6, 2006-2011), academic observer for Sweden in the European Alliance for Families (2009-2012), and a member of reference groups for Swedish government reports on family issues.

Livia Olah will present on: “In the best interest of the child: policy responses to growing family diversity”, session 6, 25th November.
Rowena Phair is a Project Leader in the Education and Skills Directorate of the OECD. She is leading a new study on children’s early learning outcomes. This study aims to help countries learn from each other on children’s early development across social and emotional skills and cognitive skills. The study will focus on children’s home learning environments, their early childhood education and care (ECEC) experiences and their individual characteristics and backgrounds. Results from the study will assist countries to improve parent programmes, participation and provision in ECEC, and early schooling.

Rowena’s other work in the OECD includes wider ECEC policies and systems, and education strategies for disadvantaged students, such as migrant and indigenous students. Rowena has recently contributed to an education review of Colombia, as part of Colombia’s accession process to the OECD. Prior to joining the OECD, Rowena was the Deputy Secretary of Student Achievement in the Ministry of Education in New Zealand.

Rowena Phair will present on “Children’s early learning outcomes”: session 2, 24th November.

Gwyther Rees is an Honorary Research Fellow at the Social Policy Research Unit, University of York, UK. He has been a member of the core group for the Children’s Worlds project since its inception in 2009 and was co-editor of the first comparative report from Wave 2 of the study published in May this year. From 2005 to 2013, Gwyther was Research Director at The Children’s Society – a non-governmental organisation in England. In that post he undertook and managed a range of research projects on child maltreatment and other issues affecting children’s and young people’s lives. He was responsible for developing The Children’s Society’s national research programme on children’s well-being in the UK undertaken in collaboration with the University of York - one of the most extensive national programmes of research to have been conducted on this topic.

Gwyther Rees will present on “Key findings from the Children’s Worlds survey so far”, session 1, 24th November.

Dominic Richardson is a senior education specialist in the UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti, leading research on equity in education, education policy and programming, and the measurement of school outcomes. Previously, Dominic worked in with OECD Social Policy Division on issues of child and family policy and wellbeing, and led projects evaluating the efficiency and effectiveness of cash versus in-kind family policies and the integration of social services for vulnerable groups. Dominic recently contributed chapters to the OECD’s first report on Social Impact investment, and ‘How’s Life for Children?’ to the OECD flagship report How’s Life?

Dominic Richardson will present on: “How’s Life for Children? An OECD comparison”, session 2; and “Prioritizing Child Well-being Outcomes across the Life-course: A Focus on Education”, session 3, 24th November.
Wendy Sigle is Professor of Gender and Family Studies at the London School of Economics where she convenes an MSc degree in Gender, Policy and Inequalities. Her previous research has focused on a range of issues related to fertility, families and family policy in historical and contemporary societies. Ongoing work considers the interaction of family structure and ethnic status in the production of child health outcomes in the US and the UK. Another project explores how quantitative social scientists approach the study of fatherhood, men’s unpaid work and care, arguing that the empirical portrait is potentially distorted when the topic is examined through a “motherhood lens”. Finally, a number of recent contributions ask whether demographers have become too reliant on simplistic economic models and micro-econometric methods. Together these interventions make the case for a more conscious consideration of a wider range of critical theoretical perspectives in social demographic research.

Wendy Sigle will present on: “Where we start from has everything to do with where we go?”, session 3, 24th November.

Olivier Thévenon is a Policy Analyst in the OECD’s Social Policy Division where he specializes in child and family policies, child well-being and demographic issues. As such he has contributed to the development of the OECD family Database, and to OECD publications such as: Babies and Bosses; Doing Better for Families; and Closing the Gender Gap. Previously, he was co-Head of the research unit on Economic demography at INED (French Institute for Demographic Studies), and he also worked as a project manager at the research department of the French Ministry of Social affairs, supervising research programs comparing employment and social protection systems in Europe.

Olivier Thévenon will present on the “Options for Future work on Child Well-Being”, session 7, 25th November.

Maria Vaalavuo works as a socio-economic analyst at the unit of Thematic Analysis in DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion of the European Commission. Her research interests include social policy, use of public services, income distribution, social inequalities, and poverty. She holds a PhD in social and political sciences from the European University Institute.

Maria Vaalavuo will present on: “Unequal use of childcare services in the EU”, session 4, 24th November.