



PROGRAMME

Children and Childhoods Conference 2026

15-16 JULY 2026



University
of Suffolk

uos.ac.uk

DAY ONE — WEDNESDAY 15 JULY 2026

8.30–9.00AM

REGISTRATION AND COFFEE

Foyer, ground floor, Waterfront Building

9.00–9.30AM

OPENING REMARKS

Professor Emma Bond

WLT1, ground floor, Waterfront Building

9.30–11.30AM

SESSION ONE

Chair: Paul Andell

WLT1, ground floor, Waterfront Building

Plenary Session: Child Criminal Exploitation

This session explores recent developments in Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) work in the United Kingdom, exploring broad policy contexts as well as young people's lived experience from the ground up.

Paper 1: Paul Andell — Setting the scene of the welfare turn in CCE work and new Legislation

Paper 2: Professor John Pitts — The extraneous factors that bring African-Caribbean children and young people to the threshold of the youth justice system in England and Wales

Paper 3: James Alexander — Safety plans for young people from a local authority perspective

Paper 4: Kelly Gray — Panel with lived experience video

11.30AM–12.00PM

TEA AND COFFEE BREAK

Foyer, ground floor, Waterfront Building

12.00–1.00PM

KEYNOTE: DORIS BUHLER-NIEDERBERGER

Chair: Xiaorong Gu

WLT1, ground floor, Waterfront Building

In this keynote lecture, Professor Doris Buhler-Niederberger will reflect on her decades-long career as a childhood sociologist exploring stories told by children in diverse fields — stories which, like miniatures, depict childhoods on the edge of justice. These fields include policing families, residential care, school failure, families affected by violence, and childhood in war and conflict. She calls, in particular, for methodological and conceptual frameworks that enable research closer to children's lived experience.

1.00–2.00PM

LUNCH BREAK

Children's Illustration Books Exhibition/Poster Presentations

Foyer, ground floor, Waterfront Building

2.00–3.30PM

SESSION TWO

2A: Youth Endowment Fund Project

Chair: Nicki Bramford

WLT1, ground floor, Waterfront Building

Drawing on contributions from the Youth Endowment Fund, Youth Justice, clinical psychology and youth voice, the panel will reflect on children and young people whose lives sit at the intersection of violence, trauma, safeguarding concerns, unmet need, exclusion and justice-system contact. Topics will include translating evidence into practice, understanding children's experiences across systems, and how agencies can work together to respond earlier and better.

The panel contributors include:

- Laura Knight, Head of Toolkit, Youth Endowment Fund
- Youth Advisory Board representative and Hollie Hartley, Youth Understanding Manager, Youth Endowment Fund (facilitating the youth voice section)
- Dr Rebecca Bealey, Clinical Psychologist, Norfolk Youth Justice Service

2B: Child Protection and Safeguarding 1

Chair: Katherine Allen

W1.26, first floor, Waterfront Building

This panel provides a multi-context and multi-system perspective towards understanding safeguarding and child protection policies and practices.

Paper 1: Xiaorong Gu — Between family and state: shifting boundaries of child protection in contemporary China

Paper 2: Katherine Allen and Laura Stevens — Transitional safeguarding for young people

Paper 3: Laura Oxley — Teacher wellbeing and institutional responses to youth conduct problems, a psychological and care ethics perspective on callous-unemotional (CU) traits

3.30–4.00PM

TEA AND COFFEE BREAK

2024 Conference book promotion/course promotions

Foyer, ground floor, Waterfront Building

4.00–6.00PM

SESSION THREE

3A: Children's Homes Unpacked: Insights into Residential Child Care

Chair: Paul Nelson

WLT1, ground floor, Waterfront Building

This session explores children's homes as a context for providing social care to disadvantaged youth, offering grounded insights into the lived experiences, challenges for youth in this context.

Paper 1: Dr Paul Nelson — Unregistered children's homes and safeguarding risk

Paper 2: Nikki Cooper — Structure and agency in everyday life in unregistered children's homes

Paper 3: Keyinde Ajayi — Young black males care leavers (YBMCLs) journey through higher education

Paper 4: Nina Livermore — What was it like growing up in a children's home — doctoral research outline

3B: Child Protection and Safeguarding 2

Chair: Lars Alberth

W1.26, first floor, Waterfront Building

This session contextualises discussions of child protection in multiple national and policy systems, unpacking the roles of team building, multi-agency collaboration, children's voices in the process.

Paper 1: Ana Cristina Perneta: Dora Pereira — Child Protection Teams and Child Development: Unfolding Complexity

Paper 2: Sujatha Subramanian (online from Austria) — The Carceral Reach of State and NGO Alliances in India's Child Protection System

Paper 3: Catherine Nixon — The Information and Support Needs of Child Victims

Paper 4: Catherine Nixon — Needs Before Deeds: Understanding the Children's Hearings System

6.15PM

CONVENE TO WALK TO CONFERENCE DINNER

Foyer, ground floor, Waterfront Building

9.00–9.30AM

REGISTRATION AND COFFEE

Foyer, ground floor, Waterfront Building

9.30–11.30AM

SESSION FOUR

4A: Contextualising Childhoods

Chair: Xiaorong Gu

WLT1, ground floor, Waterfront Building

This session explores the diverse contexts that childhoods can be understood as being constructed within.

Paper 1: Shuang Wu (online from Australia) — Contextual sensitivity in statutory child protection: reflections from remote aboriginal communities in western Australia

Paper 2: Kate Pincock, Nicola Jones and Gayatri Nautiyal (presenting author) — Marginalisation and evolving capacities amid the global polycrisis: insights from longitudinal research in the global south

Paper 3: Lu Meng — Employing domestic helpers reshape parenting time allocation in early childhood? Evidence from a longitudinal study in Singapore

Paper 4: Kefan Xue (online from China) — Cruel interdependency: rethinking care, dependency, and relational constraint through young carers in contemporary China

4B: Children's Rights

Chair: Federico Farini

W1.26, first floor, Waterfront Building

This session explores the structural and institutional factors in which children's rights are variously supported or failed.

Paper 1: Oluwapelumi Adedotun — The optional protocol on a communications procedure and the limits of universality in international child rights protection

Paper 2: Brian Gran and Agnes Lux — A comparison of independent children's rights institutions in the Americas

Paper 3: Nwaobia Christian Uchechukwu — Governing childhood risk: institutional safeguarding and social harm in Nigeria

Paper 4: Joe Latimer — Children's rights in England: how did we get here, where are we going?

4C: Schools and Communities — Panel Discussion

Chair: Ivana Lessner Listiakova

W1.15, first floor, Waterfront Building

This panel discussion highlights the work schools and multi-academy trusts do in engaging communities and supporting growth of young people, responding to social injustice with the civic and community missions.

4D: Schools and Educational (In/ex)clusions

Chair: Anna Max

W1.19, first floor, Waterfront Building

This session explores some of the factors that may support or impede children's inclusion or exclusion in schools.

Paper 1: Anna Ubaldi — Autoethnography of the support teacher's experience in Italian primary school: forms of institutional ableism of the pupils' educational experiences

Paper 2: Laura Cristescu, Clara Joergensen, Laurence Lessard-Phillips, Tom Perry — The BELONG Framework — developing a tool for educators to support pupils who move schools

Paper 3: Irum Maqbool — Young people's encounters with everyday school-based material realities — a reflection on precarity and social justice

11.30AM-12.00PM

TEA AND COFFEE BREAK

Foyer, ground floor, Waterfront Building

5A: Critical Childhood Studies Workshop**Chair: Ravinder Barn**

WLT1, ground floor, Waterfront Building

This critical childhood studies workshop combines the presentation of cases on failing institutions of childhood in Germany with joint audience activities on concerted strategies of response, making a critical intervention in interrogating the role of institutions in silencing and invisibilising children they are supposed to protect and support.

Lars Alberth, Doris Bühler-Niederberger and Leon Dittmann — Making children invisible, silencing their voices — failing institutional responses as a matter of justice

5B: Methodological Approach to Inclusive Research**Chair: Kelly-Marie Taylor**

W1.26, first floor, Waterfront Building

This session explores children's sense-making of their worlds using methodologies that centre on the child's experience, seeking to co-create understanding from their perspectives.

Paper 1: Kremena Dimitrova — 'Our caring world through art': building bridges, crossing borders... co-creatively

Paper 2: Karen Sullivan King — The spiritual child: methodological approaches to children's spirituality

Paper 3: Jack Glover — Making sense of the non-sensory room; an ethnographic study of an alternative provision primary school in the UK

5C: Children and Migration**Chair: Anna Max**

W1.15, first floor, Waterfront Building

Migration is a key issue of our times, with migrants systematically facing discourses of rejection and blame; this session explores the issue from the perspective of children, who are so often forgotten in the debate.

Paper 1: Donna Gaywood and Anna Max — Migration narratives in early years policy: a discourse analysis of six strategic documents

Paper 2: Manya Oriel Kagan — Beyond the asylum encounter: narrative portraits of everyday epistemic injustice among forced migrant children and youth in sub-saharan Africa

Paper 3: Wilma Robles-Melendez — Time for caring and hopeful response: addressing trauma and despair in the experience of immigrant children

5D: Practitioners' Workshop**Chair: Ivana Lessner Listiakova**

W1.19, first floor, Waterfront Building

Maureen Haaker — Enhancing practice to empower children — embedding trauma informed approaches in practice

1.30–2.30PM**LUNCH BREAK****Poster Presentations/Publishers**

Foyer, ground floor, Waterfront Building

2.30–4.30PM**SESSION 6**

6A: Children's Voice and Silences**Chair: Xiaorong Gu**

WLT1, ground floor, Waterfront Building

Children depend on structural support for their voices to be heard; this session discusses some factors that act to enable or silence children.

Paper 1: Kriti Sonkar (online from India) — Affective silencing and the politics of childhood voice in Jeannette Walls's "The Glass Castle"

Paper 2: Nozomi Fujisaka — Complicit silence: how interlocking power relations render children unheard in Japanese elementary schools

Paper 3: Ravinder Barn and Damanjit Sandhu — Environmental harms and childhood in India: an exploration of children as key agents for sustainable change

Paper 4: Lu Meng — From origin to destination: intergenerational educational mobility and the value of children in China

6B: Children's Rights and Responsibilities**Chair: Maureen Haaker**

W1.26, first floor, Waterfront Building

This session addresses issues surrounding children's rights and the responsibilities that adults bear in supporting them.

Paper 1: Federico Farini and Angela Scollan — This is my truth, tell me yours. Positioning children as authors of knowledge through facilitation of narratives in dialogic interactions

Paper 2: Bianca Boateng — Child trafficking, social norms, and the limits of rights-based interventions in Ghana

Paper 3: Oliseyenum Deborah Ezekiel-Okoh — A surrogate child's right to citizenship: comparative analysis of South Africa and Nigeria

Paper 4: Kate Sida-Nicholls — Who teachers become matters: professional identity, childhood wellbeing and educational justice

6C: Technology and Childhood**Chair: Javiera Atenas**

W1.15, first floor, Waterfront Building

This session addresses the compelling topic of technology, exploring how it can be both a positive and negative force in children's lives.

Paper 1: Annie Taylor and Catherine Nixon — A double-edged sword: AI's impact on children and young people

Paper 2: Jasmina Troshanska — Designing inclusive digital self-regulation frameworks for neurodivergent youth: a cross-national qualitative study

Paper 3: Kabita Chakraborty — Girls managing tech-facilitated gender-based violence in the urban slums of Kolkata, India

4.30–5.00PM

PLENARY SESSION: WRAPPING UP THE CONFERENCE

WLT1, ground floor, Waterfront Building

POSTER PRESENTATIONS:

Melanie Manning — Capturing moments and telling digital stories creatively with primary aged girls

Laura Oxley — Teacher wellbeing and institutional responses to youth conduct problems: A psychological and care ethics perspective on callous-unemotional traits

Kaußen, Hannah; Türkyilmaz, Aytüre — Constructing a “special” child: risk narratives in German adoption practices

Isidora Castillo Rabanal — The literacy practices of kindergarten children in Chillán, Chile

Alejandra Vijil Morin — Playing on the edge: a study with displaced children in Mexico

Nádia Dias, Ana Isabel Sani and Dora Pereira — The (ir)regularities of parenting behaviour: implications for intervention in shelter homes

Leonor Pereira and Ana Isabel Sani — Participation of refugee and migrant children in residential care

Maria João Costa, Ana Isabel Sani and Dora Pereira — Children’s participation in the justice system

Beverley Derrett — Outdoor learning in English primary schools: exploring the structural and cultural barriers and enablers in Key Stages 1 and 2 of primary education

Joe Latimer — Children’s rights in England: how did we get here, where are we going?

Mariana Monteiro and Ana Sani — Enhancing parental insight and action against online sexual exploitation of minors

Conference rooms



