

2nd International Conference of the Europa-University Flensburg (Germany)
and the University of Education, Winneba (Ghana) on

Images of childhood and future: cross-cultural perspectives



29 June – 1 July 2017 in Flensburg, Germany
uni-flensburg.de/psychologie/conference-2017

Call for Papers

“Speculating about the future can be a useful way of assessing the present.” (Arnett 2000)

Two main goals of research on childhood and youth are: to reveal those social structures that affect the quality of children's and young people's lives, and to develop approaches that help to improve their living conditions and future prospects.

In this respect, childhood and adolescence are closely tied to the question of the future, on both an individual and a social level. But how do children and young people look into their future themselves? Which points of reference are important for such a look-out? How do they differ

between societies and cultures, and how can they be revealed? Seeking for ways to approach children's and young people's own perspectives, visual data, especially drawings and photographs, have proved particularly useful – in childhood and cross-cultural studies alike.

At the same time, the majority of the world's children in the "Global South" is excluded from most of the research and discourse on children and youth:

“Most of what is currently known about child development comes from studies of children in the minority developed world.” (Bornstein et al. 2012)

These issues shall be addressed at the conference which serves as a forum for promoting cross-cultural research in childhood and youth, focusing particularly on Europe and Africa. It has been established in 2016 at the first conference in Winneba (Ghana), bringing together researchers from different European and African countries (uni-flensburg.de/psychologie/workshop-2016).

Keynote and invited speakers

- Yaw Oforu-Kusi, Winneba, Ghana: *Researching children and young people in developing countries - an African perspective* (confirmed)
- Ulrike Pilarczyk, Braunschweig, Germany: *Analyzing photographs of children and young people* (t.b.c.)
- Oddbjorg Ulvik, Oslo, Norway: *Risk discourses on childhood* (confirmed)
- Gabriele Wopfner, Innsbruck, Austria: *Analyzing drawings of children and young people* (confirmed)

Possible themes/topics for contributions include, but are not limited to:

:: Childhood

- What are the potentials of research that tries to take the perspectives of children and adolescents in a way that takes them seriously as autonomous actors?
- How can concepts, ideas, and research which originate in the "Global South", adequately become part of the scientific discourse?

:: Future

- What are the potentials of research approaches that investigate the visions of children and adolescents about their future in order to explore their current positioning?
- How do children and young people imagine their future, and how do their views of the future relate to the embedding societal conditions of growing up?

:: Cross-cultural perspectives

- What are the potentials of cross-cultural approaches for researching childhood and adolescence?
- What similarities and differences can be found, e.g., between school cultures in national education systems, and how do they relate to vocational ideas of different age groups?

:: Images

- What are the potentials of innovative research methods like the use of visual data (e.g. photographs or drawings) for children and childhood studies?
- Which methodological and methodical questions arise when visual data is the basis of comparative studies, and how can such data be adequately analyzed by qualitative research approaches?

We cordially invite researchers from social, cultural and childhood studies to share their ideas, perspectives and research findings in order to bring together our experiences and to strengthen the community in the research field of childhood and youth.

Forms of contribution

- Symposium Presentation (3-4 topically related presentations within 90 min.)
- Oral Presentation (20 min + Discussion)
- Poster presentation

Abstracts (max. 300 words), along with a short biographical note, should be submitted to the conference organisers at:

children&future2017@uni-flensburg.de

The deadline for proposals is **28 February 2017**. Notifications will be given until 31 March 2017. We plan to publish conference proceedings.

We hope to meet you in Flensburg!

Andrea Kleeberg-Niepage, Professor of Psychology

Yaw Ofosu-Kusi, Professor of Social Economics

Sandra Rademacher, Professor of Education

Programme

The conference starts on **29 June 2017** with a vernissage of German and Ghanaian children's and youth's photographs and drawings about the future and a panel discussion.

Symposia, presentations and poster exhibitions will take place on **30 June** and **1 July 2017**.

Please note that the conference will be held in English.

The conference location offers a mixture of traditional old town and cosmopolitan maritime flair and is characterized by its proximity to Denmark.

