

12th CREAN PhD Symposium

# Exploring Emerging Horizons in Children's Rights Research Across Disciplines and Contexts

Thursday 5 – Friday 6 November 2026

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On 5–6 November 2026, the Faculty of Law Osijek will proudly host the 12th Children's Rights Research Symposium. For the first time, the Children's Rights European Academic Network (CREAN) PhD Symposium will be held in this region, offering participants a unique chance to engage in scholarly exchange while exploring the rich cultural heritage and historic charm of Osijek—a lively, welcoming, and student-oriented city in eastern Croatia. The symposium gathers doctoral candidates and supervisors from various disciplines – law, sociology, psychology, education, anthropology, political science, history and others – to discuss, explore and develop research in the field of children's rights.

This year's theme, Exploring Emerging Horizons in Children's Rights Research Across Disciplines and Contexts, invites reflection on evolving conceptual, thematic and methodological directions in the field. Contributions may address interdisciplinary and contextualised approaches, emerging understandings of childhood, children's agency and participation, rights of children in vulnerable contexts, as well as the impact of technological, social and cultural changes on children's rights.

We look forward to contributions from PhD researchers working in diverse academic and practical contexts.

## Programme Concept

- Day 1: Invited keynote speakers – leading experts in children's rights – will present on emerging debates, challenges and innovative research directions.
- Day 2: Presentations by doctoral candidates, followed by collective discussions with peers and senior academics. The symposium aims to promote knowledge exchange, constructive academic dialogue and meaningful networking among early-stage researchers.

## Call for Abstracts

Abstracts are invited on topics linked to the symposium theme, including but not limited to:

- Interdisciplinary, comparative or contextualised approaches to children's rights,
- New conceptual horizons in children's rights research,
- Children's rights in digital, socio-economic or culturally diverse contexts,
- Methodological innovations in children's rights scholarship,
- Participation, agency and voice of children across settings,
- Rights of children in vulnerable, marginalised or under-researched groups.

Submissions should include:

- Title/topic of presentation
- Name, e-mail, institutional affiliation, and name of academic supervisor
- Abstract of up to 300 words, containing:
  - brief explanation of the topic and its relevance,
  - key research questions,
  - methodological approach,
  - indication of how the presentation relates to the symposium theme.



[Abstract submission](#)

## Publication Opportunity

Participants may submit their full papers – individually or co-authored with supervisors – for publication in the interdisciplinary academic journal Child and Family in Contemporary Society, published by the Faculty of Law Osijek. All submissions will undergo a double-blind peer-review process and only positively reviewed papers will be published.

## Deadlines

- **1 July 2026** – Abstract submission deadline
- **15 July 2026** – Notification of abstract acceptance
- **5 – 6 November 2026** – PhD Symposium

Additional information on full paper submissions and the detailed programme will follow.

## Practical Information

The host of the symposium, the Faculty of Law Osijek, is located within walking distance of the city centre, the main hotels (such as Hotel Osijek and Hotel Waldinger), and numerous other accommodation options, as well as the beautiful historic district of Tvrđa and the pedestrian promenade along the Drava River.

Please note that participation in the symposium is fully self-funded. Travel and accommodation expenses are the responsibility of each participant.

Details on discounted accommodation options in Osijek, along with practical information on travel to the city and local transportation, will be shared at a later stage.

We look forward to welcoming you to Osijek for an inspiring and collaborative academic event.

For any further information, please feel free to contact us at: [crean2026@pravos.hr](mailto:crean2026@pravos.hr).