12th CREAN PhD Symposium

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



CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Faculty of Law Osijek
Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek

5 – 6 November 2026

PRAVOS

CREAN
Children's Rights European Academic Network

Thursday, 5 November 2026

13:00 – 14:00 **Registration** (Stjepana Radića 13, 1st floor)

14:00 – 14:30 **Welcome speeches**

Tunjica Petrašević, Ph.D., Full Professor, Dean of the Faculty of Law Osijek

Nataša Lucić, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Faculty of Law Osijek, Program and Organizing Committee of the Symposium

Roberta Ruggiero, Ph.D., Senior Lecturer, Children's Rights European Academic Network (CREAN)

Tatjana Katkić Stanić, Ombudsperson for Children in the Republic of Croatia

14:30 – 16:00 **Plenary session 1**

Room: Faculty Council Hall, Stjepana Radića 13, 1st floor

Moderator: Nataša Lucić, Ph.D., Associate Professor

Jens Martin Scherpe, Ph.D., Professor of Comparative Law Juridisk Institut, Aalborg University, Aalborg, Denmark	Children's Rights to the Recognition of Their Parental Relationships
Aleksandra Korać Graovac, Ph.D., Full Professor with Tenure Faculty of Law Zagreb, University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia	Children Conceived Through Medically Assisted Reproduction: The Right to Dignity, the Right to be Cared for by His/Her Parents, and the Right to Non-Discrimination

16:00 – 16:30 **Coffee break** (Stjepana Radića 13, 1st floor)

16:30 – 18:00 **Plenary session 2**

Room: Faculty Council Hall, Stjepana Radića 13, 1st floor

Moderator: Branka Rešetar, Ph.D., Full Professor

Roberta Ruggiero, Ph.D., Senior Lecturer Centre for Children's Rights Studies, Université Genève, Geneva, Switzerland	Transformative Children's Rights Research: Setting an Agenda From Compliance to Fulfilment
Orsolya Szeibert, Ph.D., Full Professor Eötvös Loránd Univeristy (ELTE), Budapest, Hungary	Child's Best Interests and Peculiarities of Child-Friendly Justice

19:00 **Dinner** (additional charge; Projekt 9, Gornjodravska obala bb, Osijek)

Friday, 6 November 2026

8:00 – 9:00 **Breakfast** (free of charge; Stjepana Radića 13, 1st floor)

8:30 – 9:00 **Registration** (Stjepana Radića 13, 1st floor)

9:00 – 11:30 **Parallel sessions – Morning block**

Parallel session 1 Digital Technologies, Environment, and Evolving Capacities

Room: Faculty Council Hall, Stjepana Radića 13, 1st floor

Moderator: Orsolya Szeibert, Ph.D., Full Professor

Marie-Pier Jolicoeur Laval University, Québec, Canada	Thinking About Internormativity to Face the Challenges Surrounding the Use of Digital Technologies in Early Childhood
Ružica Filipović Primary school Zorka Sever, Popovača; Faculty of Teacher Education, University of Zagreb, Croatia	Children's Digital Well-Being as a Children's Rights Issue: A Review of Protection, Participation and Autonomy in the Digital Environment
Dorina Csalár Doctoral School of Law, Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), Budapest, Hungary	Rethinking Age-Based Social Media Restrictions Through the Principle of the Evolving Capacities of the Child
Emily Margaret Murray University College Cork, Cork, Ireland	What Does Nature Mean to You?': A Deeper Understanding of Children's Environmental Rights and Relationships with Nature Through Their Own Voices
Anna Kikuchi The University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan	Rethinking the Protection of Children's Rights: A Relational Reconceptualisation

Parallel session 2 Healthcare, Disability, and Bioethics in Children's Rights

Room: 4/17, Stjepana Radića 17, 1st floor

Moderator: Karin Arts, Ph.D., Full Professor

Maarten Wille Leiden University, Leiden, the Netherlands	Appreciating Children's Voices in Medical Decision-Making
Magalie Sneed; Lydie Bréguet Université de Neuchâtel, Institut de droit de la santé Faculté de droit, Neuchâtel, Switzerland	Children's Participation in Medical Settings: Exploring the Interplay of Law and Medical Practice - Initial Insights from Swiss Practice
Ekaterina Evdokimova International Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Hague, the Netherlands	The Institutionalisation of Children with Severe Multiple Impairments in Saint-Petersburg, Russia: A Rights-Based Approach
Demba Jabbi Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB), Bellaterra, Barcelona, Spain	Children's Moral Agency Across Institutional Contexts: Healthcare Decision-Making and Political Participation as Illustrative Domains

Parallel session 3 Cross-Border Family Law, Filiation, and Child Protection

Room: 5/17, Stjepana Radića 17, 1st floor

Moderator: Ivan Šimović, Ph.D., Full Professor

Nikolina Tomaš Faculty of Law, University of Split, Split, Croatia	The Evolution of Children's Rights Protection in the ECtHR's Case-Law on Cross-Border Surrogacy
Kaat Overmeire Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium; University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium	Crossing Borders, Maintaining Ties? Children's Rights and Family Relationships in EU Cross-Border Placement Procedures
Josipa Kokić University of Miskolc, Central European Academy, Budapest, Hungary	Children's Rights as a Special Form of Human Rights: The Right to Respect for Private and Family Life and the Right of the Child to Freely Express His/Her Views in Cases of International Child Abduction
Johanna Lindström Stockholm University, Juridiska institutionen, Stockholms universitet, Stockholm, Sweden	Siblings in Swedish Family Law
Karla Oberkirš Faculty of Law Osijek, Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, Osijek, Croatia	The Right to Identity in the Context of Filiation

11:30 – 12:00 **Coffee break** (Stjepana Radića 13, 1st floor)

12:00 – 14:30 **Parallel sessions – Afternoon block**

Parallel session 1 Child Participation, Legal Representation, and Access to Justice

Room: Faculty Council Hall, Stjepana Radića 13, 1st floor

Moderator: Mirela Župan, Ph.D., Full Professor

Daria Woźniak Doctoral School of Social Sciences, University of Łódź, Łódź, Poland	From Hearing to Participation: Reimagining Children's Agency in Family Mediation
Marina Balentović Faculty of Law Osijek, Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, Osijek, Croatia	Exploring the Effectiveness of Children's Legal Representation in Croatian Family Proceedings
Giulia Alberti Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), Civil Law Department, Budapest, Hungary	From Legal Concept to Practical Methodology: How Could the Best Interests Assessment and Determination Process Work in a National Context?
Liesl Muller University College Cork, Cork, Ireland	Child Participation in Access to Justice: From Charity to Justice Through Litigation
Basira Hussen University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Reggio nell'Emilia RE, Italy	Interpreters, Not Representatives: Children's Agency and the Right to be Heard in Religious Education

Parallel session 2 Vulnerability, Protection, and Violence Against Children

Room: 4/17, Stjepana Radića 17, 1st floor

Moderator: Branka Rešetar, Ph.D., Full Professor

Olena Leftarova Odesa I. Mechnikov National University, Odessa, Ukraine	Guarantees of a Child's Right to Preservation of Their Identity (the Case of Ukraine)
Greta Maria Goß Philipps-University Marburg, Marburg, Germany	The Best Interest of the Child and Intimate Partner Violence – The Influence of Social Science Findings and Human Rights Standards on Custody and Contact Law, Illustrated by Current Reform Proposals in Germany
Elizabeth Graty Hood Queen's University Belfast, Belfast, United Kingdom	Developing a Child-Informed Measure of Child Poverty
Begüm Simsek University of Geneva's Centre for Children's Rights Studies, Bramois, Sion, Switzerland	Public Inquiry Commissions as Children's Rights Mechanisms?

Parallel session 3 Institutional Governance, Educational Settings, and Reconceptualisations

Room: 5/17, Stjepana Radića 17, 1st floor

Moderator: Sandra Samardžić, Ph.D., Assistant Professor

Nazir Ullah National University of Malaysia, Bangi Selangor, Malaysia	Invisible Childhoods: Child Sexual Exploitation, Vulnerability, and the Limits of Child Protection Frameworks in Developing Societies
Klara Bugge Kaspersen; Nathalie Otroshi; Agnesa Fetai UiT Norways Arctic University, Tromsø, Norway; University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia	Children and Sex - A Comparative Study on Adolescents' Sexual Autonomy and Vulnerability in Criminal Law
Isabella Miano University of Catania, Catania, Italy	Unaccompanied Minors Vulnerability in European Migration Governance. A Comparison Between Italy and Spain
Chloe Gibson-Blackie Swansea University, Swansea, United Kingdom	Reforming Care, Withdrawing Support: Exploring the Dual Impact Of Policy Change and Cuts To Community Services on Care-Experienced Children in South Wales
Belioza Coku University of Tirana, Faculty of Social Sciences, Tirana, Albania	Pathways to Inclusion: A Scoping Review of Global Best Practices for the Re-Integration of School-Leavers in Vulnerable Contexts

14:30 – 15:30 **Lunch** (free of charge; Stjepana Radića 13, 1st floor)

15:30 **Closing remarks** (Faculty Council Hall, Stjepana Radića 13, 1st floor)

Acknowledgements

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