



children's
institute
child rights in focus
Research • Advocacy • Education

46 Sawkins Road Tel: +27 21 651 1111
Rondebosch 7700 Fax: +27 21 651 1112
Cape Town email: info@ci.org.za
South Africa web: www.ci.org.za

31 August 2015

International conference to discuss child welfare and obstacles

Some of the world's authorities on child poverty, development and wellbeing will gather in Cape Town next week, 2-4 September, for a conference that will reveal new directions and approaches to research that can improve social policy and services for children.

This is the first time the biennial conference of the International Society for Child Indicators will be held in Africa, and it provides an important opportunity to shift the focus of discussions to the global south.

The conference will include papers, panel sessions and discussions on a range of issues affecting children, including the following:

- Youth transitions to adulthood
- Early childhood development
- Child-focused indicators of social change
- Measurement of child poverty and inequality
- Child protection and violence against children

Over 200 researchers, policy-makers and practitioners will attend from more than 40 countries. These experts are concerned with the measurement of children's deprivation and development – and the translation of evidence into policy and practice. They are brought together by a common vision of a world in which children have equal opportunities and the potential to thrive and develop. The conference is about providing evidence that points the way forward to address inequality and improve children's life chances, whether children grow up in Germany, Chile, South Africa or Indonesia.

Previously held in Chicago, Sydney, York and Seoul, this year's conference will be hosted by the Children's Institute, University of Cape Town (UCT), in partnership with UNICEF, the African Child Policy Forum, and the Poverty & Inequality Initiative of UCT.

Venue: Kramer Law Building, Middle Campus, UCT.

Dates: UCT, from 2-4 September.

For more information, profiles of the keynote speakers and a detailed programme go to www.isci2015.org or Facebook at ISCI 2015.

We will have brief outlines of a few key sessions available for distribution on Monday 31 August.

Please contact aislinn.delany@uct.ac.za if you would like to receive these.

Please refer to the contact person on each theme for further information or to arrange interviews, or contact aislinn.delany@uct.ac.za with general queries about the conference.

Early childhood development: Laying the foundations for life

A child's development starts from the very first days of life, making early childhood a critical time for building a firm foundation for healthy development and learning. Traditionally the focus has been on a child's health, but child development and early learning covers a range of aspects including language and literacy, mathematical ability, physical development, fine motor skills, and nutrition.

- How do we know that young children are developing healthily – both physically and mentally? As early childhood is a period of rapid development, how do we define what children of different ages should know and be able to do?
- How do we develop tools that can capture the many aspects of child development and early learning to provide a holistic picture?
- How do we make these tools sensitive and appropriate to different countries and contexts?
- And how can we draw on research to make recommendations about state investments and approaches to early childhood interventions?

Much of the work around the measurement of early childhood development (ECD) has been conducted in developed countries, and many of the tools used to measure aspects of child development and learning are Western in origin. This panel brings together researchers who have been working in the Global South to discuss both challenges in and solutions to the measurement of psychosocial development in early childhood in diverse cultural settings.

Speakers will share their insights from their work in the field, in countries such as Kenya, Zambia, Tonga, South Africa, Peru, India, Ethiopia and Vietnam.

Times and venues:

ECD panel (two parts):	Wednesday, 2 Sept	11.30	Kramer Law Building, LT3
		14.30	Kramer Law Building, LT3
Related sessions:	Thursday, 3 Sept	08.30	Kramer Law Building, 4B
		15.00	Kramer Law building, 2A

For more information on the detailed programme, go to www.isci2015.org or Facebook at ISCI 2015.

Contact person for further information or to arrange interviews:

Andy Dawes
Department of Psychology, University of Cape Town

adkinloch1@gmail.com

082 422 9940

Youth transitions to adulthood

The time of transition from childhood to young adulthood is a sensitive period. Young people are expected to move from school into the world of further study or work, or to leave home and start their own families. However, in contexts of poverty and unemployment, these markers of young adulthood do not necessarily materialise, and young people can be left particularly vulnerable.

- How do we measure how well young people are doing, and whether or not they are making progress over time?
- How do we better understand the risks and challenges faced by young people in different parts of the world?
- Who are the young and unemployed?
- Are young people leaving residential care at a particular disadvantage?

Speakers on these issues come from a wide range of countries, including Australia, Germany, India, Israel, Norway, South Africa, Spain, Uganda, United Kingdom and Zimbabwe.

Venue: Kramer Law Building, Middle Campus, University of Cape Town

Sessions and times:

Indicators of youth well-being	Wednesday, 2 Sept	11.30	Kramer Law Building,
From child labour to youth employment	Friday, 4 Sept	8.30	Kramer Law Building,
Youth transitions out of care	Friday, 4 Sept	11.00	Kramer Law Building, :

For more information on the detailed programme, go to www.isci2015.org or Facebook at ISCI 2015.

Contact person for further information or to arrange interviews:

Ariane De Lannoy

Poverty and Inequality Initiative, University of Cape Town

ariane.delannoy@uct.ac.za

072 947 7285

From MDGs to SDGs: Unpacking the 2030 Development Agenda

The year 2015 marks the deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs are a set of human development goals and targets developed in 2001 to track progress in implementing the commitments that representatives from 191 countries agreed on at the UN Millennium Summit in New York in 2000.

The MDGs helped to galvanize action at global, regional and country level, influencing policy decisions and resource allocations towards the pursuit of human development outcomes. As the MDGs draw to a close, a new development agenda has been formulated through an extensive consultation process spanning more than two years. The outcome document, "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", will be formally adopted by the United Nations General Assembly when it meets in September 2015.

The 2030 Agenda lays out a vision for "a world free of poverty, hunger, disease and want, where no one will be left behind." The Agenda contains a new set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with 169 associated targets. The new SDGs will come into effect on 1 January 2016.

A panel has been convened to take stock of the key lessons learned in tracking the situation of children during the MDG period. It will also outline the scope of the new SDGs, and their implications for child indicator work going forward.

The panel will consist of:

- Alejandro Grinspun, Chief of Social Policy, UNICEF South Africa (convener)
- Tom Slaymaker, Division of Data, Research and Policy, UNICEF
- David Gordon, Townsend Centre for International Poverty Research, University of Bristol
- Sanjay Reddy, Department of Economics, The New School for Social Research
- Andy Dawes, Department of Psychology, University of Cape Town

Venue: Kramer Law Building (LT1), Middle Campus, University of Cape Town

Dates: Friday 4 September 2015

Time: 16.00 – 17.30 (closing plenary session)

For more information on the detailed programme, go to www.isci2015.org or Facebook at ISCI 2015.

Contact person for further information or to arrange interviews:

Alejandro Grinspun

Chief of Social Policy, UNICEF South Africa

agrinspun@unicef.org

082 561 3973

Children's worlds: How do children view their own well-being?

- What is child well-being, and how can we measure it across diverse settings and countries?
- How do factors such as family life, safety at school, communities and economic circumstances impact on children's satisfaction with their lives?
- How can understanding children's views of their own well-being be used to improve their lives?

An important factor in children being able to reach their full potential is how happy they feel about their lives and situations. Understanding how they feel is best achieved by asking

children directly and allowing them to give their own assessments.

'Children's Worlds' is a worldwide research survey on children's subjective well-being. The study collects representative data on children's lives and daily activities, their time use and their own perceptions and assessments of their well-being.

The latest wave of data collection, which took place in 2013-2014, included 45 000 children aged 8-12 from 15 different countries. A further five countries will be joining in 2015.

Findings from this and other studies on children's understanding of well-being will be presented. These national and international perspectives provide new information about how children live their lives in a range of cultural contexts, and can be used to inform local, national and international policy.

Times and venues:

Findings from Children's World Survey	Thursday, 3 Sept	8.30 Kramer Law Building, LT3 (/)
		11.00 Kramer Law Building, LT3 (/)
		15.00 Kramer Law Building, LT3 (/)
Measuring children's well-being	Wednesday, 2 Sept	14.30 Kramer Law Building, LT2
Undertaking qualitative research on children's subjective well-being	Friday, 4 Sept	8.30 Kramer Law Building, LT2
Subjective well-being and its determinants	Friday, 4 Sept	8.30 Kramer Law Building, 2A

For more information on the detailed programme, go to www.isci2015.org or Facebook at ISCI 2015.

Contact person for further information or to arrange interviews:

Shazly Savahl

Department of Psychology, University of the Western Cape

ssavahl@uwc.ac.za

082 574 7195

Multidimensional child poverty in developing countries

Children across the world, and in developing countries in particular, are disproportionately affected by poverty. It is generally recognised that poverty is more than just a lack of income. It is made up of several factors such as poor health, inadequate living conditions and lack of good education, among others.

Children are particularly vulnerable to the effects of poverty. For example, good nutrition and access to health and education is vital in the early years for ensuring that children can learn and grow and realise their potential. Since the effects of poverty on child development can have long-term implications, there is an urgent need to understand the nature and extent of child poverty.

- How many children live in poverty around the world?

- How do we development measurements that can capture the many aspects of child poverty?
- Many countries recognise that poverty is multi-dimensional, but most continue to use monetary poverty measures to guide policies and target programmes. How do these measures compare?

A panel will be convened to bring together the most recent evidence on the prevalence and nature of multi-dimensional child poverty in developing countries. This panel and other presentations will highlight the challenges of designing and implementing multi-dimensional child poverty measures, as well as how the data generated can be used to better monitor children's living conditions and inform policy decisions.

Times and venues:

Multidimensional poverty measurement	Thursday, 3 Sept	08.30 Kramer Law Building, LT2
Measuring child poverty and inequality	Thursday, 3 Sept	15.00 Kramer Law Building, LT2
Panel: Measurement of multi-dimensional child poverty in developing countries	Friday, 4 Sept	8.30 Kramer Law Building, LT3
Measuring poverty and well-being: regional and global trends	Friday, 4 Sept	11.00 Kramer Law Building, LT2

For more information on the detailed programme, go to www.isci2015.org or Facebook at ISCI 2015.

Contact person for further information or to arrange interviews:

Katharine Hall
 Children's Institute, University of Cape Town
kath.hall@uct.ac.za
 082 678 5747



5th Conference of the International Society for Child Indicators
From Welfare to Well-being: Child indicators in research, policy & practice
 2 – 4 September 2015 ▪ University of Cape Town, South Africa