



INTERNATIONAL  
**CHILD**  
PROTECTION  
NETWORK  
OF CANADA

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FACILITATING CHILD PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION  
OCTOBER 5-6, 2015  
RYERSON UNIVERSITY, CANADA

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## **Presenter Information**

### **Dena Aufseeser**

Dena Aufseeser is a professor at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Her research is largely concerned with questions related to child poverty and inequality in a range of spaces. Specifically, Dena explores 1) the ways in which children's rights discourse not only contradicts but also complements neoliberal economic development strategies, 2) how poor children are disciplined and policed and the way these processes are linked to various notions of childhood, development and progress, and 3) how children themselves challenge and rework such ideas through their daily actions. Much of her current research takes place with working and street children in cities in Peru.

### **Susan Bissell**

Susan has worked for the safety and protection of children from violence for over 25 years at UNICEF and in countries across the world. After serving as Chief of Child Protection at UNICEF HQ for the past six years, Susan, a doctor of public health and medical anthropology, was recently appointed as Director a.i. of an emerging Global Partnership to End Violence against Children. Along with other partners, Susan is playing a leadership role in mobilizing stakeholders behind the partnership, united by the conviction that violence against children is unacceptable and must come to an end.

### **Jo Boyden**

A social anthropologist, Jo Boyden is Director of Young Lives in the Department of International Development, University of Oxford. She has worked on various aspects of research and policy with children and youth across South America, East Africa and South and South East Asia, focusing on education, child work, family separation, political conflict and forced migration. She has also published on children's roles, responsibilities, resilience and development in the context of poverty and other adversities.

**Richard Carothers**

Presentation – *Children participating in the political process: The experience of working children in Bolivia*

Richard Carothers, President of Partners in Technology Exchange, has more than 40 years of experience in international development and project management in East, South, and West Africa, South Asia, and the Middle East. He worked in collaboration with Egyptian partner agencies and working children to design, develop, and deliver the Promoting and Protecting the Interests of Children who Work project, which has been cited as a positive example of participatory programming. He also carried out a study on how microfinance programs affect children, which was subsequently published by CIDA. He is presently a member of the International Child Protection Network of Canada and leads the subgroup on children and work.

**Linda Dale**

Presentation – *Youth & participation: What is important*

Linda Dale is Executive Director of Children/Youth as Peacebuilders. For the past fifteen years, she has worked directly with young people in conflict/post-conflict situations, helping support their work to uphold their rights and to contribute to community level peacebuilding.

**Ivette Fonseca**

Presentation – *Children's perspectives about their participation: Regional and national child and youth advisory boards in 12 Western Africa countries*

Ivette Fonseca holds the position of Child Protection and Rights Advisor at Plan Canada, bringing 20+ years of experience protecting children and empowering them to pursue and fulfill their rights in a gender inclusive approach.

**Frédéric Hareau**

Presentation – *A participatory approach to human rights education: A way to child participation*

Frédéric Hareau, as Director of Programs, is responsible for the strategic development, management, implementation and evaluation of Equitas' international programs in Africa, the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia, Caribbean and Latin America. He has been working for 16 years in international human rights and youth programs, many of which are centered on the empowerment of children and youth and their meaningful participation in the social, economic and political development of their communities and societies. Current Equitas international programs focus on building safer and more inclusive communities where key actors, including children and youth, are taking leadership in promoting democracy and greater respect for human rights.

**Jason Hart**

Presentation – *The institutional barriers to the promotion of children’s protection through their participation*

Jason Hart is Senior Lecturer in the Anthropology of Development at the University of Bath, a research associate at the Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford, and a visiting professor at the Norwegian Technical University, Trondheim. His research has explored (a) the experiences of young people in settings of armed conflict and displacement, especially in the Middle East, and (b) the nature of institutional responses to these young people. He has a particular interest in the political-economy of children’s rights.

**Lucy Jamieson**

Lucy Jamieson is a Senior Researcher at the Children’s Institute based at the University of Cape Town. She has a Masters in Democratic Governance focusing on children’s participation in legislative processes. Lucy is a social justice and children’s rights advocate; she works and publishes on the involvement of children in civil society advocacy in policy and law reform. Lucy is an editor of the *South African Child Gauge*, published by the Children’s Institute, which provides an annual snapshot of the status of South Africa’s children to track the country’s progress towards realising children’s rights.

**Gerison Lansdown**

Presentation: *Monitoring and evaluating children’s participation: Addressing the tensions*

Gerison Lansdown is an international children’s rights consultant and advocate who has published and lectured widely on the subject of children’s rights. She was actively involved in the negotiations for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and was for nine years Vice Chair of UNICEF-UK. She is a senior associate of the International Institute for Child Rights and Development in Victoria, a member of the editorial advisory board of the Canadian Journal of Children’s Rights, Chair of Child to Child and has worked with the Committee on the Rights of the Child in the development of several General Comments.

**Olivia Lecoufle**

Olivia Lecoufle works with Save the Children Canada as the Child Protection Advisor. She chairs Save the Children’s international Child Protection Global Initiative task group on children and work, and acts as coordinator of the International Child Protection Network of Canada. Ms. Lecoufle has been working with working children for the past 10 years, with a strong background in child participation and international labour policies. She has been closely involved with child-led organizations in Asia, Africa and Latin America, including the Latin America Movement of Working children (MOLACNATs), the African Movement of Working Children (MAEJT) and Bhima Sanga, one of the most important children’s unions in India. She holds a B.Sc from the University of Montreal and an M.A in political science and development studies from Sorbonne University, Paris.

**Gillian Mann**

Presentation – *Ethical tensions: The case of child marriage*

Gillian Mann works as Head of Research and Evaluation for Child Frontiers. She has worked for 20 years with research institutes and a range of national, international and multilateral agencies on issues related to child development and children's experiences of forced migration, displacement, family separation, violence, HIV/AIDS, illness and poverty. Her academic background is in social anthropology (PhD), cognitive anthropology (MsC) and education (EdM).

**Bill Myers**

Presentation – *Children's right to defend their well-being and development*

Bill Myers is retired from the United Nations, where he worked on child protection issues for UNICEF and the International Labour Office. He has written extensively on child protection policy in general and on child labor policy in particular. For the last several years, he has been a visiting scholar at the University of California, Davis.

**Landon Pearson**

The Honourable Landon Pearson OC is a long-time advocate for the rights and well-being of children. Throughout her career, whether working with or on behalf of children at home and abroad, serving on various councils and commissions, or in her role as a Canadian senator responsible for children, Landon has been an outspoken champion for children. Upon her retirement from the Senate in 2005, she was invited by Carleton University to establish a centre to ensure that her years of work and her passion for children's rights would continue to inspire others to carry her vision forward.

**Kavita Ratna**

Presentation - *The nature of ethical tensions: Participation of working children*

Kavita Ratna is presently the Director Advocacy of the Concerned for Working Children(CWC), which has been thrice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. She has been working with CWC in various capacities related to communications, capacity building, policy advocacy and resource mobilisation for the past 25 years, both nationally and internationally. Kavita is a member of the Expert Group Committee on Children's Participation set up by the Committee on the Rights of the Child and UNICEF and a member of the International Advisory Group on Child Labour set up by Save the Children Canada.

**Irene Rizzini**

Presentation – *Democratic processes of construction and implementation of policies for children*

Irene Rizzini is Professor at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (PUC-Rio) and Director of The International Center for Research and Policy on Childhood (CIESPI) at PUC-Rio. Professor Rizzini has conducted many research and policy studies and written extensively on children, families, and their communities in Brazil, especially on children living in situations of vulnerability such as poverty, violence, urban slums, and on the streets. She has also conducted studies on family support structures, on children with mental and developmental disabilities and on children in the juvenile justice system.

**Kay Tisdall**

Presentation – *'A peculiar status'? Legal personality and legal capacity for children*

Professor Kay Tisdall works at the University of Edinburgh as Programme Director for the MSc in Childhood Studies and Co-Director of the Centre for Research and Families and Relationships. She has a longstanding interest in promoting meaningful, effective and ethical involvement of children in decision-making, through her policy, research and teaching work. Her publications have concentrated on this interest, with chapters published in 2015 in the Sage Handbook of Early Childhood Research and the Routledge International Handbook of Children's Rights Studies and articles in the Journal of Social Policy and the International Journal of Children's Rights.

**Laura Wright**

Presentation – *Children's meaningful participation in Right To Play programs*

Laura Wright is the Child Protection Specialist for Right To Play International. She has been working at Right To Play since 2010 to provide technical support and guidance to staff and over 25 Child Protection Focal Points around the world on keeping children safe, through safeguarding procedures, training resource development, program planning and partnerships. Laura is a Steering Committee Member and the Children's Participation Working Group lead for the International Child Protection Network of Canada, a founding member of the International Safeguarding Standards for Sport Working Group, and a member of the annual International Summer Course on the Rights of the Child. Laura is passionate about children's meaningful participation, as evidenced throughout her work in Canada, East Africa, West Africa, Asia and the Middle East.