

Digital Futures for Children centre Research Day Agenda

 Friday, 29 November 2024

 Graham Wallas Room, 5th floor, Old Building, LSE

A day of talks on our latest research and collaborative dialogue about children's rights in the digital environment.

10:00 – 10:30	Welcome coffee
10:30 – 11:00	Introduction – How can research inform advocacy and contribute to strengthening children's rights in the digital environment? Professor Sonia Livingstone , Director, Digital Futures for Children centre Baroness Beeban Kidron , Chair, Digital Futures for Children centre
11:00 – 11:45	Impact of regulation on children's digital lives: the next step? – Steve Wood <p>The project marks phase 2 of the DFC's work on the impact of regulation on children's lives which followed Meta, Google, TikTok and Snap's changes to improve protection for children's safety and privacy following changes in legislation and regulation. How can we develop this work in a meaningful way and which methods should we employ?</p>
11:45– 12:30	Mapping the impact of General comment No. 25 – Dr Kim Sylwander <p>How has the UNCRC General comment No. 25 on children's rights in the digital environment been taken up by the UNCRC periodic review system, the wider UN system, on an international and national level, and research? The project will critically assess progress and identify emerging challenges.</p>
12:30–13:30	Lunch
13:30–14:15	Exclusion of (vulnerable) children from digital inclusion policies – Professor Ellen Helsper and Shivani Rao <p>The project examines whether children and their rights are represented in global, regional and national digital transformation and inclusion policies. It examines if inequalities amongst children are considered, and the measures proposed to mitigate the potential violation of their rights and prevent the exclusion of vulnerable children in the digital futures these policies construct.</p>
14:15–15:00	Risks, harms, and opportunities in the gaming ecosystem – Dr Ivelise Fortim <p>Childhood play has evolved with video games, raising concerns about risks like gaming disorder and harmful interactions. This research proposes a framework to analyse risks, harms, and opportunities in the gaming ecosystem, mapping the responsibilities of stakeholders and identifying critical variables for transforming risks into harms.</p>
15:00–15:15	Coffee break
15:15–16:00	Still canaries in the coal mine? The role of AI literacy in realising children's rights – Dr Mariya Stoilova <p>Building on insights from the mapping of a children's rights framework and multimethod findings on the role of digital literacy in supporting children's wellbeing (Youth Skills project), this paper examines the challenges of conceptualising AI literacy as a vehicle for children's rights in an upcoming cross-country study on children's experiences with generative AI.</p>
16:00-16:30	A children's rights approach to AI Regulation in Education – Ayça Atabey and Alexandra Evans <p>In this talk, our two experts will discuss the benefits and risks posed by AI-driven EdTech and their implications for children's rights. From a research perspective and an advocacy perspective, they will also identify gaps in current regulatory and policy frameworks as well as practice across the UK.</p>
16:30-17:00	Summary and takeaways from the day Professor Sonia Livingstone , Director, Digital Futures for Children centre Colette Collins-Walsh , Head of UK Affairs, 5Rights Foundation
17:00–18:00	Drinks reception (Chairman's Dining Room)

Book your place here!



Contributors' bios

Ayça Atabey is a PhD researcher and research associate at the University of Edinburgh and a DFC consultant. Her research focuses on child-centred AI design and co-creation of children's rights-respecting policy frameworks for embedding Responsible GenAI in the school system.

Colette Collins-Walsh is Head of UK Affairs at 5Rights Foundation.

Alexandra Evans is co-founder of Digital Childhood Agency, formerly Safety Public Policy Advisor at TikTok, and Policy and Strategy Advisor to 5Rights.

Ivelise Fortim holds a PhD in Clinical Psychology and is Professor at PUC-SP's Faculty of Human and Health Sciences. Partner at Homo Ludens, President of Instituto Criança em Jogo, and Visiting Senior Fellow at the Department of Media and Communications, LSE.

Ellen Helsper serves on the DFC's Management Committee, Professor of Digital Inequalities in the Department of Media and Communications at LSE. Her current research interests include the links between social and digital inequalities; mediated interpersonal communication; participatory immersive digital spaces (VR, ER.).

Baroness Beeban Kidron OBE Chair of the DFC centre's Management Committee, Visiting Professor in Practice at LSE and is the Founder and Chair of 5Rights Foundation. She is a Crossbench Peer in the House of Lords, and a world-renowned advocate for children's rights in the digital world.

Sonia Livingstone, OBE, is Director of the DFC centre and a full professor in the Department of Media and Communications at LSE. She has published 20 books and advised the governments, regional and international organisations on media audiences, children and young people's risks and opportunities, media literacy and rights in the digital environment.

Shivani Rao is MPhil/PhD student and Research Assistant at the Department of Media and Communications, LSE. Her research interests include the tensions between grand technological narratives communicated through policy, and the mundane, day-to-day experience of these technologies.

Kim R. Sylwander is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Digital Futures for Children centre. Her research centres on how children and youth navigate technologically mediated environments, including issues related to sexual consent in online contexts, sexualised and racialised hate and young people's consumption of pornography.

Mariya Stoilova is the Manager of the Digital Futures for Children centre and a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Department of Media and Communications, LSE. Her work focuses on the intersection of child rights and digital technology use, well-being and family support, intimate life, citizenship, and social inequalities.

Steve Wood former UK Deputy Information Commissioner and Chair of the OECD Working Party on Data Governance and Privacy. Steve founded PrivacyX Consulting in April 2022 to advise and support clients with strategy and policy related to data protection, online safety and digital regulation.