

Johanna Wyn  
Helen Cahill  
*Editors*

# Handbook of Children and Youth Studies

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Johanna Wyn • Helen Cahill  
Editors

# Handbook of Children and Youth Studies

With 47 Figures and 5 Tables

 Springer Reference

*Editors*

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## Foreword

The Springer *Handbook of Childhood and Youth Studies* provides a comprehensive introduction to this exciting field of scholarship. This handbook challenges the dominant tendency to take a reductive problem-centric view of children and youth. It does this by emphasizing contemporary themes of thinking about children and young people, including Social Justice, Place, Well-Being, Citizenship, Learning, Identity, Time and Space, Labor, Bodies, Spirituality, and Play. The authors are drawn from 14 countries, providing important insights about children and young people in the Asia-Pacific region, Europe and the United Kingdom, North America, South America, Africa, and South Africa. A conscious decision has been made to feature the work of scholars who challenge common conceptions of childhood and youth and to emphasize overt discussion of the conceptual and methodological tools that researchers use to understand their lives. The result is a comprehensive and provocative collection that provides the reader with a plurality of views on the rapidly changing social and economic environments and landscapes in which childhood and youth are forged.

Melbourne  
February 2015

Johanna Wyn and Helen Cahill



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**Professor Johanna Wyn** is director of the Youth Research Centre in the Melbourne Graduate School of Education at The University of Melbourne, Australia, and a fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences, Australia. Her work focuses on the processes and relationships that enable young people to have positive transitions and to engage productively in their communities. She leads the Life Patterns research program, a longitudinal panel study of two generations of Australian youth, corresponding with generations X and Y. Drawing on this evidence base and other studies, she has produced a substantial body of work on young people's transitions through education and beyond and the knowledge and skills young people need to be productive and engaged in the twenty-first century. Her work takes a sociological approach to youth in understanding the changing experience and meaning of youth and the changing nature of opportunities for young people and issues that are challenges for them and for society. It has played a role in defining the field of youth studies, setting new conceptual and policy directions, as presented in the following books: *Rethinking Youth* with Rob White; *Youth and Society: Exploring the Social Dynamics of Youth (3rd edition)* with Rob White; *Youth Health and Welfare*; *Touching the Future: Building Skills for Life and Work*; *The Making of a Generation: The Children of the 1970s in Adulthood* with Lesley Andres; *Touching the Future: Building Skills for Life and Work*, and *Making It Work: Continuity and Change in Rural Places* with Hernán Cuervo. Professor Wyn has held appointments at Glasgow University, the University of Groningen, the University of British Columbia, and the University of Toronto and is a regular keynote contributor to national and international conferences on youth.





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