

Category	Subcategory	First author	Title
Children's rights in general	Autonomy	Van Peteghem, Stijn	The autonomy debate in adolescence revisited
Children's rights in general	Family	Vanassche, Sofie	Louvain Adolescents and Family Research (LAGO)
Children's rights in general	Free time	Pauwels, Jos	Youth in trouble: UCAY - Urban Culture And Youth
Children's rights in general	Freedom of thought, conscience and religion	Henckens, Reinhilde	Faith in children? Mapping out ideological perspectives of children
Children's rights in general	Human rights education	Maelstaf, Hilde	How do Antwerp (Belgian) youngsters think about peace and how do they want to participate in its realization?
Children's rights in general	Non-discrimination; education	Pinxten, Hendrik	Evaluation of non-discrimination policies in the Flemish educational system

Children's rights in general	Participation	Cardoen, Dries	Participation as an educational perspective. Towards a lifeworld orientation
Children's rights in general	Policy		Baseline study for local youth policy
Children's rights in general	Public space	De Visscher, Sven	Children in Urban areas: development of a social and spatial research and reflection framework
Children's rights in general	Public space	Dekeyser, Peter	The "Ruimtecel": Flemish expert agency in the field of space and youth
Children's rights in general		Vettenburg, Nicole	Youth monitor
Economic crisis/poverty	Disability	Desnerck, Greetje	Disability and social inequality

Economic crisis/poverty	Parenting	Smits, Wendy	Growing up in vulnerable families: material deprivation and a participative upbringing climate. An analysis based on data from students of the secondary schools in Antwerp and Ghent
Economic crisis/poverty	Work & education		Youth in poverty and part-time education and work
Economic crisis/poverty	Youth unemployment	De Wilde, Marjolijn	Youth and welfare support in Europe
Economic crisis/poverty		Van Gils, Jan	Perception of children and young people living in poverty
Economic crisis/poverty		Cornelis, Ilse	Financial risk behaviour among youngsters
Economic crisis/poverty		Ponnet, Koen	Stress and mental wellbeing in families from different levels of income

Economic crisis/poverty		Schiettecat, Tineke	Trajectories of families living in poverty in relation to social work practice
Economic crisis/poverty		Roets, Griet	Researching child poverty: towards a lifeworld orientation
Internet and digital media	Bullying, well- being	Pabian, Sara	Developmental Issues in Cyberbullying among Adolescents
Internet and digital media	Bullying, well- being	Vandebosch, Heidi	Pilot study into cyberbullying among Flemish youth (Belgium)

Internet and digital media      Early childhood Zaman, Bieke      Laddering method with preschoolers. Understanding preschoolers' user experience with digital media

Internet and digital media      Games      Ribbens, Wannes      In search of the playerperceived game realism and playing styles in digital game effects

Internet and digital media	Literacy	Van Bauwel, Sofie	Children and media literacy: A research on the potentials of a 'new' audiovisual language. Case study media project Aifoon (2007-2008)
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Internet and digital media	Perception	Dirikx, Astrid	The relationship between media use and attitudes of young people towards the police
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Internet and digital media	Privacy	Vanderhoven, Ellen	The development, implementation and evaluation of educational tools to raise awareness regarding privacy problems in online social networks
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Internet and digital media	Privacy	Mostmans, Lien	Preadolescents' moral attitudes with respect to online privacy: understanding the mediating and interacting role of age, gender and family culture
Internet and digital media	Publicity	Panic, Katarina	Advertising literacy with children and young people
Internet and digital media	Sexuality	Vandenbosch, Laura	Self-objectification and sexual media-effects: an explorative study in adolescence
Internet and digital media	Television	Custers, Kathleen	A validation of the fear mediation model amongst adolescents
Internet and digital media		Teppers, Eveline	Loneliness and 'Facebook' motives in adolescence: A longitudinal inquiry into directionality of effect

Internet and digital media		Van Gool, Ellen	Why do adolescents self-disclose? A study on adolescents' self-disclosure and protective behaviours in social network sites based on the Theory of Planned Behaviour and the Protection Motivation Theory
Internet and digital media		Heirman, Wannes	Understanding teenagers' disclosure of personal information in an online commercial context: An application of the 'Integrative Model of Organizational Trust' & 'The Theory of Planned Behaviour'
Internet and digital media		Van Gool, Ellen	Getting Closer? A longitudinal study assessing adolescents' self-disclosure and social capital formation in social network sites
Justice; vulnerable situations	Disability	Merlevede, Sofie	Trajectories of minors with a psychiatric disorder who are being followed-up by youth court
Justice	Delinquency	Vettenburg, Nicole	International Self-Report Delinquency Study (ISRDR)



Justice	Delinquency	Christiaens, Jenneke	Juveniles desist-from- crime: qualitative research into young adults with a juvenile justice history
Justice	Delinquency	Christiaens, Jenneke	SRDBEL - Self reported juvenile delinquency in Belgium
Justice	Gender	Van Damme, Lore	Psychopathology and quality of life in detained female adolescents
Justice	Juvenile justice; child- friendly justice	Troonbeeckx, Sofie	Human agency, criminal responsibility and juvenile delinquency: towards an etiological criminology and juvenile justice

Justice	Public space	Evenepoel, Anneke	The preventive turn in the policing of urban space, as experienced by the citizens
Justice		Jaspers, Yana	Trajectories of young delinquents who are sentenced in the adult court system: a qualitative examination of the consequences for judicial trajectories in young adulthood.
Justice		Christiaens, Jenneke	This is in your interest! Genealogy of the impact of youth protection interventions on youngster's lives

Parenting	Divorce	Sodermans, An Katrien	Parenting apart together. Studies on joint physical custody arrangements in Flanders (Belgium)
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Parenting	Education; divorce	Vanassche, Sofie	Divergent divorce gap and new social inequality among youth. The role of family capital, social background and school characteristics
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Parenting                      Family; divorce      Vanassche, Sofie      Stepfamily configurations and trajectories following parental divorce: A quantitative study on stepfamily situations, stepfamily relationships and the well-being of children

Parenting                      Alternative                      Simon, Muriel                      Maintaining the link between allocated care                      children and their parents

Parenting	Gender	Dierckx, Myrte	The effect of a transsexual status of one of the parents on the gender identity, sexual orientation and general wellbeing of the child
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Parenting		Melis, Bie	Methodology development and process evaluation of network development for children in accompaniment to a Centre of Childcare and Family Support
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Parenting		Cattrijsse, Lieve	Questions on upbringing. Kortrijk parents and young people to speak
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Parenting		Boonen, Joris	Parent-Child Socialization Study (PCSS) 2012
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Parenting	Van Leeuwen, Karla	Education in relation to parenting and family support processes
Parenting	Lauwers, Hilde	The experience of children and youth whose parents suffer from a disability or a chronic illness Parents wishing to do too well? A study of parental overprotection during their children's childhood, adolescence and emerging adulthood
Parenting	Kins, Evie	
Violence	Leers, Bert	Violence in the welfare sector: Unique and ordinary
Violence	Bowen, Erica	CAVA (Changing Attitudes to dating Violence in Adolescents)
Vulnerable situations	Armed conflict Coppens, Kathleen	Research on child soldiers in Northern Uganda
Vulnerable situations	Armed conflict; sexual violence Verelst, An	Psychological well-being of adolescent victims of sexual violence in Eastern Congo

Vulnerable situations	Armed conflict; violence	Vindevogel, Sofie	The use of civilians as a weapon of war: impact on individual and social recovery processes after the conflict
Vulnerable situations	Bullying, well- being		Tolerance - Youth Pact 2020
Vulnerable situations	Care at school	Dehertogh, Britt; Maelstaf, Hilde	Youth coaching in Antwerp: A retrospect of 10 years
Vulnerable situations	Children in hospital	Stuer, Annemie	A pain-free care program for children throughout the whole hospital

Vulnerable situations	Disability	Hilderson, Deborah	Transfer and transition of adolescents and young adults with juvenile idiopathic arthritis
Vulnerable situations	Disability; free time	Maelstaf, Hilde	Leisure time of children with a disability
Vulnerable situations	Education; discrimination	Chen, Jingrong	Right to education of rural-urban migrant households in Chongqing, China
Vulnerable situations	Food	Mubagwa, Kanigula	Surveillance of malnutrition in Sud-Kivu (Congo): prevention by the incorporation of improved food components



Vulnerable situations	Media/advertising	Koeman, Joyce	Between commerce and culture: Advertising perceptions of ethnic minority and majority youth in Flanders
Vulnerable situations	Mental health institutions	Hermans, Jan	Quality of life in child and youth psychiatry
Vulnerable situations	Mental health; family	Van Puyenbroeck, Bert	Crisis Assistance at Home: victim support processes behind the outcome data of pedagogical assistance at home in youth care to adolescents in a situation of imminent out-of-home placement: a process-outcome study Participation profiles and human and social perceptions of ethnic cultural minorities in Brussels. An analysis based on data from students of the Dutch secondary schools in Brussels
Vulnerable situations	Minorities	Smits, Wendy	Brussels

Vulnerable situations	Minorities	Quintelier, Ellen	Belgian Political Panel Survey (BPPS) 2006-2011/ Belgian Youth Survey 2006
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Vulnerable situations	Minorities	Baes, Annelies	Research into the world of disadvantaged young people in the context of information needs and information tactics
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Vulnerable situations	Minorities; disabilities; social disadvantage	Defever, Christine	The influence of intersectionality: the study of accumulation of social disadvantage in the life of young adults
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Vulnerable situations	Radicalisation	Euer, Katrien	Strengthen Resilience against Violent Radicalization (STRESAVIORA)
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Vulnerable situations	Road safety	Brijs, Kris	Effect evaluation of the complementary driving skills program 'On the Road'
Vulnerable situations	Road safety	Lauwers, Hilde	Research into the perception of young traffic victims
Vulnerable situations	Road safety	All, Anissa	Lifeline: Developing a game for teenagers
Vulnerable situations	Road safety	Simons, Dorien	The promotion of active transportation over short distances in young adults
Vulnerable situations	Socially vulnerable youth	De Pauw, Pieter	Youth work with disadvantaged children and young people. A study with groups, youth leaders and members

Vulnerable situations	Socially vulnerable youth	Nietvelt, Ester	Coaching beyond school territory. A feasibility study
Vulnerable situations	Unaccompanied minors	Thevissen, Patrick	Dental age estimation in sub-adults: striving for an optimal approach
Vulnerable situations	Work	Andries, Caroline	'Forgotten' children: their experiences of bereavement and the possible impact of situational aspects, delineated through participant observation and phenomenology

Vulnerable situations	Work; environment	Sughis, Muhammad	Health effects of environmental and occupational exposures in children of Pakistan
Vulnerable situations	Youth unemployment	Van den Broeck, Katleen	Evaluation research youth projects with Cevora
Other	Early childhood	Desnerck, Greetje	Child daycare, De Haan
Other	Early childhood	Verhoeven, Liesbeth	Motoric care development in preschool children with motoric developmental delay

Other	Education	Lauwers, Hilde	The perspective of children and young people on the relation between the world at home and at school
Other	Education	Vandebroek, Marie	Learning on the move: integration of physical exercise in the curriculum pre-school education
Other	Education; divorce	Havermans, Nele	Family configurations, family trajectories and the educational outcomes for children
Other	Education; drop-outs	Van Landeghem, Georges	Monitoring the Flemish educational system through administrative data

Other	Family; divorce	Ameel, Eef	Support centre for national pupil assessments and tests
Other	Family; health and wellbeing		Teenagers with a grandparent with dementia: lived experience and information needs
Other	Gender	Dewaele, Alexis	Visibility and discrimination management regarding homosexual, lesbian and bisexual youth
Other	Health and wellbeing	Meire, Johan	Accessible youth care? Qualitative design towards the development of a questionnaire
Other	Health and wellbeing	Geukens, Lien	The impact of psychopathic parents on the wellbeing of their children

Other	Health and wellbeing	Desager, Kristine	Sleep-disordered breathing in obese children and adolescents: effect of 'Continuous Positive Airway Pressure' (CPAP)
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Other	Health and wellbeing	Matthys, Christophe	The Adolescents' Diet from a Public Health Perspective
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Other	Health and wellbeing	Pousset, Geert	Attitude of Flemish students in secondary education regarding euthanasia and other decisions on the end of life for minors
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Other	Health and wellbeing	D'haese, Sara	Testing the ecological model as a possible explanation of physical activity and obesity among children aged 9 to 12 years
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Other	Health and wellbeing	Hublet, Anne	Study Youth and Health  Peers and AIDS prevention. The development and testing of models to communicate 'HIV-prevention'-related knowledge and attitudes amongst Flemish students
Other	Health and wellbeing	Van Rossem, Ronan	Social economic health differences in the Brussels-Capital Region: research into the impact of education and nationality of origin among youth and young adults
Other	Health and wellbeing	De Grande, Hannelore	Critical environment factors and the relation with physical activity among children, adolescents, adults and seniors: an experimental approach

Other	Health and wellbeing	Verhoeven, Katrien	Move Towards Health – Exergames
Other	Housing	Carrette, Valérie	Sensible living!
Other	Information needs	De Clerck, Helene Marie-Lou	Researching information needs of children, teenagers and adolescents
Other	Information needs	Custers, Kathleen	Youth information in Flanders
Other	Leisure	De Martelaer, Kristine	Children's rights in sports: opportunities for officials to implement and evaluate these rights
Other	Leisure	Haudenhuyse, Rein	The Potential of Sports for Socially Vulnerable Youth

Other	Leisure	Buelens, Evi	Towards a Sustainable Sport for All policy: Analysis of critical success factors of organized sport for (disadvantaged) adolescents
Other	Leisure	Spruyt, Bram	Research into Youth houses in Flanders (Belgium)
Other	Mental health	Denève, Leni	Complicated grief among children: research into the underlying processes and intervention possibilities through the 'action sociogram'

Other	Public space	De Backer, Mattias	Urban Youth: an analysis of meanings of deviant juvenile behaviour in public spaces
Other	Sexuality	Berten, Hans	Flemish Pupil Investigation 2004-2005
Other	Youth work	Coussée, Filip	The identity of youth work as an educational tool. Research into the significance of youth work in the leisure time of youth

## **Abstract**

This doctorate concerns research into the autonomy debate in adolescence. Attaining a sense of autonomy is often claimed to be an important developmental task for adolescents. However, there is considerable discussion about the exact conceptualization and measurement of autonomy, as well as the question whether autonomy is something good or bad for adolescents. The goal of this dissertation is to readdress this debate. More specifically, the project's goal is to test whether one is able to distinguish between two often prevailing conceptualizations of autonomy. The first perspective defines autonomy as independence or self-reliance, which is a definition that is especially prevalent in developmental psychology (e.g., Steinberg, 2001), whereas the second perspective defines autonomy as self-endorsed or volitional functioning, or acting with a sense of psychological freedom, which is a definition based upon self-determination theory (Ryan & Deci, 2000). This project is conducted in collaboration with masters program in sociology. Each year the students are able to pursue their thesis research on adolescents and their family life guided by FaPOS staff. A written survey is distributed to Flemish youngsters from all years of secondary school pupils during a free hour at school. Data is collected on topics concerning their family life, quality of relationships, their behavior and their well-being. In cases of parental separation, this information is gathered for the households of both mother and father yielding a rich and unique data set to study reconstituted families. Since 2008, LAGO has obtained

The network 'Urban Culture & Youth' (UCAY) internationally explores the tracks of youngsters when creating and dealing with culture. The focus is on the urban context – the city as bulb of creation and crossroad of diversity. The research project 'Youth in trouble' concerns a concrete social arts project and supports simultaneously the intersection of thinking about youngsters, culture and forming a community. The perspective of this research is captured by the term 'co-creation'.

The starting point of this research is the question how youngsters between the age of ten and fifteen years old deal with 'world-view' within a pluralistic societal context. Even though there exist but a few large-scale empirical researches thereof, there is a need because society has changed fundamentally, also on an ideological level. Results indicate that there occur different ideological profiles in children from the age of ten years old: The diversity is as big as with adults. Moreover, one can identify cohesion between ideological profiles and other individual characteristics such as well-being, the attitude towards ethnocentrism and the attitude towards moral themes. Finally, results show that 'world view' indeed matters within the framework of the ideological profile and the attitude and approach of teachers. More specifically, results show that the children/ youngsters score differently according to the profile, the attitude and the approach of the teacher. This project concerns research into the way Antwerp (Belgian) youngsters think about peace and how they want to participate in its realization. The project is based on the following research questions: (1) Do students of the last two years of secondary school know the 'Peace Centre' and how do they assess its activities?; (2) To which activities do they wish to participate and under which conditions?; and (3) What do the concepts 'peace', 'violence' and 'conflict' mean to these youngsters and which ways seem appropriate to them to communicate about these topics and to participate in activities? To receive insight into these questions, this research is based on a multimethod approach existing of group interviews and a survey taken from 350 youngsters from diverse schools in the province of Antwerp (Belgium). The results of this research

This project concerns an evaluation research into non-discrimination policies in the Flemish (Belgian) educational system. More specifically, the projects evaluates the implementation of the 'declaration of non-discrimination'. The research is based on a qualitative investigation of interculturalisation processes within Flemish (Belgian) schools through of observations and interviews.

The active participation of youngsters in leisure time activities constitutes an important subject of youth research. Within the existing body of international youth research, leisure time participation is dominantly studied in relation to socially desirable outcomes such as positive youth development and social integration. A dominant focus on outcome-oriented youth research imports a lack of knowledge regarding (1) the actual meaning of leisure time in practice and (2) the methodology of youth research in which youngsters actually are acknowledged as co-researchers. This research project aims to contribute to (1) the international body of theoretical and empirical knowledge about youngsters' leisure time participation by empirically examining the different ways in which youngsters actually participate in leisure time practices and how they construct and give meaning to their participation in relation to the limits and possibilities they experience while shaping their leisure time; and (2) the international body of methodological knowledge about participatory youth research by constructing a research approach in which youngsters are enabled as co-researchers.

This research project concerns a baseline study for local youth policy. More specifically, this project examines in which way local governments currently shape their youth (work) policy and who are the relevant actors therein. Used strategies and collaborations of youth services carrying out youth (work) policy, as well as power oriented and influence mechanisms and the role of different actors, are examined. Furthermore, this research maps out the role of children and youngsters in youth policy and the impact they have on this policy. Though the study is not an evaluation of the current policy, it aims at getting insight into the following elements: (1) the way in which policy is/was carried out; (2) opportunities, chances and threats; and (3) the Flemish government's possible responses to these opportunities, chances and threats. The overall aim is to gain insight into the evolutions of local youth policy during the four years of research. The research consists of an online survey taken of all local authorities, and a broad consultation of diverse actors from the field. Special attention is given to the participation of children and youngsters: how they experience the way the

This project concerns research into children in urban areas. More specifically, the research program of the project focuses on "Liveable city and environment". In this project a research and learning process regarding the meaning of child friendly urban areas is set up. Four parallel research angles are worked out: (1) a literature- and sources research in collaboration with European partners, which results in an international publishable state of the art surrounding this theme; (2) a policy reflection process based on a designed Delphi research; (3) a designed research learning process by means of pilot projects in four areas of Ghent.

The 'environment branch' (in Dutch: 'ruimtecel') of the research group 'Child and Society' (in Dutch: 'Kind & Samenleving') is a Flemish expert bureau in the field of youth and environment. In the last couple of years, Child & Society conducted extended research projects on children in the public space, often with support from the Flemish Government. This research follows three main angles that are characteristic of all the work produced by Child & Society, being 'interdisciplinarity' (the project takes different disciplinary viewpoints into consideration), 'participation' (children and youth are maximally included) and 'process-based' (during

The 'JOP-monitor' is a questionnaire developed by the Youth Research Platform and used to gather data from Flemish youth at different moments throughout time. A broad variety of themes is considered: the main social networks of youth (family, school, work and community), leisure activities and media, life course perspectives, fear of crime, ethnocentrism and delinquency. In this way, the JOP-monitor addresses the need for more knowledge about youth. So far, the monitor has been used three times: JOP-monitor 1 was used to gather data from youth age 14 to 25, JOP-monitor 2 addresses youth age 12 to 30, JOP-monitor Brussel

This project concerns research into disability and social inequality. Through life histories this project examines how the social work trajectory and the school career of young children with a disability develop. Moreover, the families' experience of the trajectory is explored. The main goal of this project is on the one hand to increase knowledge by means of the relationship between disability and social inequality and on the other hand to generate policy advice.

This project concerns research into upbringing practices in vulnerable families. More specifically, the material deprivation and participative upbringing climate is analysed based on data from secondary school students in Antwerp and Ghent.

This project explores youngsters in poverty who alternate between part-time education and work. The school trajectory and the professional integration of youngsters in poverty experiences difficulties. Several measures try to bridge the gap between the world of education on the one hand and the labour market on the other hand. This includes alternation between part-time education and work in order to teach youngsters technical competences and attitudes (which are necessary on a professional level as well as on a social level). This research examines why disadvantaged youngsters are over-represented within these measures and how measures can better meet their expectations. More specifically, this study researches the following domains: appropriate individual guidance, a professionally and socially recognised education, the This doctoral research focuses on youth (beneath the age of 25) within the welfare system. Most of these youth are able bodied and have to this point not or barely contributed to society due to their age. In recent decades these two characteristics seem to have limited youth's right to welfare. This research examines which conditions have to be fulfilled in order for youth to get welfare. More specifically, this project gives insight in the current situation of the right on social welfare for this specific group. Throughout 2013 and 2014 the project utilizes a vignette methodology to study practices of welfare services to a number of This research aims to record the voice of children and young people living in poverty. Flemish children and Belgian young people involved in organizations representing this group are invited to speak about the way they live their lives. This project is based on a strong collaboration with those organizations and working methods. In this way, a broad methodology was used, leaving space for the children's own perspectives to be discussed in their own way. A content analysis has been applied on the information that was gathered this way.

This project concerns research into the financial risks taken by youth. More specifically, it examines which risk factors can be identified and how financial education can be beneficial. A quantitative survey amongst a representative group of senior high school students examines their spending pattern, financial knowledge and competences, psychosocial characteristics and a few markers for financial risk behaviour. The results from this questionnaire are used to evaluate existing education programs and preventive measures on the one hand and within an additional qualitative study on the alternative methods to sensitize youngsters concerning responsible financial behaviour on the other hand. Furthermore, the identified risk factors can contribute to the development of a signal list to track down youth with a higher risk of financial problems in

This project concerns research into stress and mental wellbeing in families from different levels of income. Growing up and living with financial hardship causes stress and mental health problems in parents and children. Most of the studies on the association between financial hardship, stress and well-being take the individual as unit of analysis. The aim of this project is to conduct a second wave of a longitudinal multi-actor research, in which data from mothers, fathers and adolescent within the same family are collected.

Child poverty constitutes an important topic of social work research. Social policy makers and practitioners traditionally perceive the family as an essential factor in the realization of child welfare in poverty situations, which gives cause to disciplining social work activation strategies oriented towards parents. This implies that poor families run an increased risk of more intrusive interventions. To avoid and surmount this intrusiveness, child and family social work has moved from a child protection towards a child welfare discourse. Indicative of this shift is, for instance, the evolution towards family support which has been described as an international trend. Nevertheless, research confirms a sustained vulnerability of families in poverty for more intrusive social work interventions. This development takes place in light of the intensification of existing social inequalities in current neo-liberal policy contexts. Furthermore, despite the frequent application of the described social work strategies, it has been indicated that poor families systematically run the chronic risk to remain in poverty. Consequently, it is crucial to identify the interpretations of welfare by the different actors involved in poverty situations (parents, children and social workers) and the conditions under which social work interventions are interpreted as being supportive in the realization of welfare according to structural aspects of combating poverty. The research project therefore focuses on the following questions: What are the conditions (family income and benefits; education and employment; housing and the broader environment) under which children in poverty grow up, and parents in poverty raise their children? Which intergenerational trajectories are followed by parents and children when they end up in a Centre for Child Care and Family Support (in Dutch: Centrum voor Kinderzorg en Gezinsondersteuning (CKG))? How is the provision and use of these different social resources and leverages related to the conditions under which

This project concerns research into child poverty. More specifically, the main focus is on a 'lifeworld' orientation regarding child poverty. Childhood research with children in poverty involves a diversity of dilemmas and complexities. Attempting to embrace child poverty as a normative issue created a crisis of representation. In order to untangle this, this research project situates different methodological approaches in relation to the constructed epistemological windows on child poverty. The researchers differentiate between research in which the authentic voice of children in poverty is represented, and research in which

This research investigates cyberbullying during adolescence and aims to explain why an adolescent is a bully, a victim and/or a bystander. Aspects of the social and cognitive development of the adolescent are linked to the different roles. A longitudinal, quantitative approach is used. Elementary school children (ages 10 to 12) and high school students (ages 12 to 17) are surveyed four times in two school years.

This research project concerns a pilot study into cyberbullying among Flemish youth (Belgium). First, literature regarding (traditional) bullying on the one hand and youth and ICT on the other hand is examined. As well, the (rather scarce) existing scientific research regarding deviant internet practices and cyberbullying is studied. Based on this literature review, hypotheses and research questions are formulated. Afterwards, these hypotheses and research questions are tested and answered through a large scale survey among 2052 youngsters from the 5th up until the 12th grade.



This project concerns research into the Laddering method with preschoolers in order to understand preschoolers' user experience with digital media. We can no longer imagine a world without digital media. Digital media are ubiquitous; they have entered the lives of each of us, even those of preschoolers. Nevertheless, preschoolers are still rarely involved in research on their media experiences. It is often believed that these young children are missing the cognitive and social competences as research participants. In this PhD project, a child-friendly and meaningful method is suggested to involve preschoolers directly in research on their digital media experiences. Research on preschoolers' experiences with new digital products should follow a three-phase, mixed-method approach. In each phase, different research methods are applied. The first phase concerns an exploration phase, during which the preschooler is observed while he is trying out several digital products. In the second phase, the child is asked to express his preferred product. To assess the favourableness of each product, a short, unambiguously questionnaire is administered. In the third and last phase, a laddering interview is conducted. This concerns a special type of in-depth interview during which the respondent is asked several why-questions. It allows revealing the reasons why the child preferred one particular product to the other product(s). The results of several empirical studies with preschoolers show that this multi-method approach allows preschoolers to easily and consistently express their product preference. Moreover, from the age of five years onwards, these young children have sufficient cognitive and verbal qualities to understand and explain the consequences of certain product characteristics. Finally, results also reveal that product (experience) preferences cannot be evaluated by means of smiley-based questionnaires. Preschoolers are inclined to express a similar positive rating to all media experiences. More particularly, their ratings on a smiley scale reflect a pattern of overrepresentation.

This project concerns research into the player perceived game realism and playing styles in digital game effects. Violent video games, in particular shooting games such as 'Call of Duty' and 'Grand Theft Auto', are a favourite pass time for a growing group of adolescents and (young) adults. Because of their violent nature, these games are subject to strong social criticism. Especially when severe acts of violence are committed – as was the case with the crimes of Anders Breivik or the school shootings in the United States of America – violent video games are often at the centre of criticism. Following the increased societal fear about the impact of virtual violence, the relationship between violent video games and attitudinal and behavioural changes has become a topic of academic interest. One recurrent point of discussion within this type of research concerns the specific role of the user in an interactive medium such as digital games. Although most video game effects research to date has attributed a strong theoretical importance to the interactive nature of game play, the trend to empirically examine and incorporate player activity in video game effects research is recent. This doctoral dissertation aims to contribute to this research tradition by examining aspects of the player-game relationship and incorporating these aspects in research on the relationship between exposure to virtual violence and desensitization to violence. This doctoral dissertation consists of three main parts. Part I of this dissertation discusses the medium-specific relationship between a game and a player, as well as the extent to which this relationship has been accounted for in existing video game effects research. This is researched by using insights from literary theory, film theory, game studies, and game design. Part II of this dissertation presents the researchers their own contribution to understanding, conceptualizing, and operationalizing the player-game relationship. By means of qualitative diaries, video commentary models, and focus group interviews researchers map the various ways in which young male adults interact with, shape, and experience the content of shooting games. Part III of this dissertation examines whether the player-game relationship, and more specific playing styles and perceived realism, can be used to better understand the relationship between exposure to shooting games and desensitization to violence. Because several researchers have emphasized that the influence of violent media should not be discussed in isolation

This project concerns research into the relation between children and media literacy. This research focuses on the media literacy project Aifoon and stresses the potential skills children could learn from this kind of media programs. Using an ethnographic method of a partly participatory field research, this project questions the potentiality of a media literacy program and evaluates the specific case of Aifoon. In this research media literacy is critically questioned using empirical quantitative data to reflect on the specific case but also to question the current theories on media literacy in relation to children and empowerment. Citizens who take on a positive attitude toward the police are more inclined to obey the law, report crimes and cooperate with police activities. Previous research on the factors that influence the public's opinion about the police mostly focused on the influence of direct encounters with the police. Most people, however, only occasionally come into direct contact with the police. Their chances of coming into contact with the police through the media, on the other hand, are very high. Messages about the police are constantly spread in the news, in fictional shows, in movies and in social media. Therefore, the main goal of the dissertation is to examine the relationship between media use and people's conceptions of the police. Since research shows that attitudes toward the police are most strongly developed during adolescence, the focus will be on adolescents' beliefs about the police. Based on results from previous studies adolescents' beliefs about the performance of the police (how effective are the police in crime control?), about the procedural fairness of the police (how fair are the decision-making processes and how respectfully do police officers treat citizens?) and about the distributive fairness of the police (do the police provide a similar service to different groups in society?) will be examined, as well as the relationship with their global attitude toward the police. The first part of the dissertation studies the relationship between television use and adolescents' attitude toward the police. More specifically it is analyzed to what extent the viewing of two types of programs, namely television news and fictional police shows, is related to certain beliefs about the police. This study is conducted within the framework of cultivation theory. Cultivation theory generally assumes that people who spend more time watching television are more likely to develop a world view that resembles how that world is depicted on television. To test this hypothesis a two-step research approach is used. Content analyses of television content (news and police shows) are combined with a survey among 1968 Flemish adolescents. The results show that adolescents' exposure to news and Flemish and US-based police shows cultivates beliefs about the police that are in line with how the police are depicted in the respective genres. The strongest direct relationships are found between watching Flemish police shows and perceptions of the procedural fairness of the police. In addition, procedural fairness beliefs mediate the relationships between fiction exposure and beliefs about the performance and distributive fairness of the police. The doctoral research suggests that television's depiction of the trustworthiness and respectfulness of police officers is a crucial factor in the cultivation of beliefs about several aspects of policing and in the development of a global attitude toward the police. The second part of the thesis explores the relationship between adolescents' social media use and their perceptions of the police. More specifically, it is studied

This project concerns a doctoral research into the development, implementation and evaluation of educational tools to raise awareness regarding privacy problems in online social networks. This PhD-research is part of a broader project (i.e., Security and privacy for Online social Networks, SPION). Both SPION and this doctorate emerge from the growing popularity of social network sites that introduce new risks related to privacy and security. More specifically, this PhD-research focuses on the educational aspect within this framework by means of developing, implementing and evaluating educational tools. The following materials are developed: (1) a privacy manual for educational stakeholders wherein different privacy aspects (legal, social, technical) are explained in a clear language; (2) attractive educational tools to be used on a micro level (in class), to teach teenagers how to behave safely on social network sites; and (3) information sessions, workshops, presentations, etc. to inform parents, teachers and counsellors, among others. After validating

This research examines preadolescents' (9-14 year olds) moral attitudes with respect to online privacy in social interactions on the internet and the mediating role of age, gender identity and family culture herein.

This research project aims to provide insight into children's media literacy regarding traditional and new forms of advertising. Children and youth form a vulnerable group because they lack the skills to critically assess commercial messages. The focus of this study is on the recognition of new forms of advertising, and children's insights into their commercial intentions. This project consists of 30 in-depth interviews, 9 focus groups and a survey of 503 youth.

The doctoral project "Self-objectification and sexual effects of the media: an exploratory study in adolescence" aims to investigate the potential of the Objectification Theory to clarify the mechanisms of the sexual media effect. Data from a longitudinal panel study in adolescents of the 2nd, 3th and 4th year of secondary school will be used to answer two research questions: (1) Is self-objectification in adolescent boys and girls affected by their exposure to objectifying media contents? (2) Does the concept of self-objectification operate as a key element in an explanatory model for sexual media effects?

This research project concerns a validation of the fear mediation model amongst adolescents. There is a lot of crime on television. A number of studies have examined whether exposure to crime fiction and non-fiction is related to viewers' perceptions about risk of criminal victimization and worry of crime. Studies on the television-fear of crime association have focused primarily on adults. Virtually no research exists on what causes and determines perceptions about violence and fear of crime among adolescents (12- to 18-year olds). The few existing studies only looked at fear of crime in the school setting, mostly did not examine the impact of the mass media and lacked explanatory power. There are several reasons why it is important to study this topic in adolescents. First, adolescents are more exposed to violent media content. Second, the use of heuristics to construct judgments about risk and consequences increases during the transition from childhood to adolescence. Third, the mass media are used as "tools" in identity formation and function as important socialization agents. To construct their worldview adolescents interact actively with their environment and use the media to accomplish this goal. This project is closely related to the cultivation theory, one of the three most quoted media-effect theories. Cultivation theory is generally defined as a theory which sees the mass media as vehicles for socializing or teaching people about their environment and the world. It argues that the media use violence as a vehicle for illustrating norms and values. The central This project concerns research into the effects of loneliness and 'Facebook' motives in adolescence. Given that 'Facebook' nowadays has a major impact on adolescents' social relationships, behaviour, and identity, it is also important to examine how the use of 'Facebook' relates to adolescent loneliness. Therefore, this research explores the longitudinal interplay between motives of 'Facebook' use and loneliness. Peer-related lonely adolescents turn to 'Facebook' to compensate for weaker social skills, to feel less lonely, and to be more connected with friends. When 'Facebook' is used to meet new people or to make new friends, peer-related loneliness decreases over time. However, when used to compensate for weaker social skills, peer-

This project concerns research into adolescents' self-disclosure and protective behaviours on social network sites. The use of social network sites (SNS) has rapidly increased over the past decade. As these sites revolve around the disclosure of personal information, scholars have critically discussed the possible implications of online self-disclosure, especially for adolescents. However, studies on SNS data disclosure are limited in three ways that inspired the project's objectives. First, most studies focus on data provided in online profiles and how profile privacy settings are used. Revealing personal information while using SNS has been less investigated. Therefore, the present project contributes to the literature by analyzing predictors and consequences of self-disclosure of adolescents while using SNS. Furthermore, the project investigates youngsters' protective behaviours when self-disclosing. Second, most studies take a data-driven perspective and lack a theoretical angle. Consequently, the second objective of the project is theory driven. Adolescents' self-disclosures are investigated by applying an extended model based on the Theory of Planned Behaviour. This PhD-project focuses on teenagers' disclosure of personal information for online marketing purposes. The study examines whether two theoretical frameworks, respectively 'the Integrative Model of Organizational Trust' (Mayer, Davis & Schoorman, 1995) and 'the Theory of Planned Behaviour' (Ajzen & Fishbein, 1991) can be applied to teenagers' decision whether or not to disclose their personal information online in response to an online marketing request. Following the first mentioned theory, the TPB, one expects that the intention to disclose personal information is determined by three independent concepts: attitude, subjective norm and perceived behavioural control. The second theoretical model, the Integrative model of Organizational Trust, hypothesizes that the perceived ability, benevolence and integrity of a specific organization constitute the three dimensions of the perceived trustworthiness. Following this theory, one

This project concerns longitudinal research into adolescents' self-disclosure and social capital formation in social network sites. Young people have rapidly taken up social network sites (SNSs) as their preferred online communication platforms. While using SNSs, adolescents self-disclose, they entrust information about, amongst others, their personal experiences. Moreover, they form and deepen relationships with their SNS contacts, which contribute to their social capital. Research focusing on adolescents, self-disclosure and social capital is, however, characterized by several limitations that this project aims to address. Until now research has focused on SNS users' profile information or used general measures of self-disclosure. However, young people may experience changes in important domains of their personal life, such as their appearance and relationships, and be inclined to self-disclose about them on SNSs. Therefore, this project takes a longitudinal approach to investigate how young people self-disclose on SNSs about several domains of their personal life. By doing so, this project analyzes how self-disclosure in these domains evolves over time and possibly relates to psychological and social gratifications adolescents may experience. Regarding the psychological aspects, this project adds to the current literature by investigating the antecedents (in terms of personality traits) and consequences (e.g. well-being) of adolescents' disclosures in several domains. Subsequently, how gratifications possibly lead to changes in self-disclosure is analyzed. As far as social gratifications are concerned, this project studies the relationship between self-disclosure and young people's changes in social

Various international studies found that, despite the high prevalence of mental disorders among the minors at the juvenile court, mental health placements are rare. These minors with mental disorders are found in a wide range of services besides the mental health services. Next, these minors with psychiatric disorders move often up and down through different settings, from one placement type to another placement type, but also through different sectors. This research project examines the patterns of movement of the minors with and without mental disorders with the purpose to identify common patterns of movement. Therefore, a file study was executed at a juvenile court in Flanders, Belgium. In the second part of the study, focus groups

The International Self-Report Delinquency Study (ISRD) involves different countries. Within each country youth similar surveys are used to question youth about their delinquent behaviour, in order to generate comparable data. So far this project consists of two different waves: ISRD-1 (which is executed in 1989 and 1990) and ISRD-2 (executed in 2006) (Vettenburg, Gavray & Born, 2006).

This project concerns research into the desistance process of young adults with a juvenile justice history. Current criminological research focuses on 'desistance-from-crime'. This project aims to examine the dynamic of the 'desistance-from-crime' process and the place of judicial interventions in this process. This research is based on two central research questions: (1) How does the process of desistance and delinquency develop according to (former) youth delinquents?; and (2) How do these (former) youth delinquents see the role and impact of judicial interventions on the process of 'desistance-from-crime'? By means of a qualitative empirical research, the desistance-from-crime process of young adults with a juvenile justice history is examined. The project builds upon previous assembled cohort data (judicial, individual and social data) of placed youngsters (2001 – 2003). More specifically, central in this research is – besides an analysis of 'desistance' and 'persistence' – the questioning of young adults from the cohort by means of in-depth self-reported research into the phenomenon of juvenile delinquency in Belgium. Although some self-report surveys have been carried out in Belgium, most of them were, however interesting, isolated studies. From this perspective, researchers state that Belgium lacks a sound and well founded self-report instrument that enables a systematic analysis of the Belgian phenomenon of juvenile delinquency. As a consequence the confrontation of official data on prosecuted juveniles with self-reported delinquency becomes hazardous. Moreover, a European or international comparative analysis is simply impossible. This absence of data on self-reported juvenile delinquent behaviour is an impediment to the high rated public, political and societal debate on the problem of juvenile crime. This research must be situated in this context. The main goal of this research project is to contribute with a "juvenile delinquency self-report" perspective and its "triangulation" with official prosecution and police data enabling an analysis of the characteristics of juvenile delinquent behaviour in Belgium. The main research question of this proposal is: What is the contemporary morphology of self-reported juvenile delinquency and juvenile deviant behaviour in Belgium and how can this phenomenon be analysed? Four more specific research questions guide the research design: (1) What are at an international level (Europe) and in Belgium the scientific critiques, methodological standards and evaluations of the self-report survey - as an instrument of measuring juvenile delinquent behaviour?; (2) How to elaborate a Belgian self-report instrument that takes into account these methodological critiques (school criminology), local specificities as well as national characteristics and Most research on psychopathology in detained minors focuses on males, solely relies on youth self-report and lacks prospective and quality of life (QoL) studies. We attempt to enhance the knowledge on girls in detention, by addressing these constraints. In the current study participants are assessed within the first three weeks of detention (T0: youngsters and parents); the second and third month of detention (FU1); and six months after discharge (FU2). With this study, we aim to explore the associations between psychopathology, QoL and social adaptation (e.g. antisocial behavior and sexual risk behavior) and the Criminological theory has primarily taken on the task of examining 'determining' features – actors' so called structure – as causal factors for crime. The individual actor amid of this causality and his 'choice' to commit crime – captured by the notion of human agency – are however obscured from these etiological explanations. Nevertheless, the criminal actor's choice – or responsibility – is actually one of criminal law's most essential premises. As an illustration of both, juveniles are withdrawn from the criminal justice system because of their supposedly diminished capacities. This doctoral research aims to counterbalance and complement criminological theory by means of a theoretical and empirical framework on the role of human agency in actors' criminal trajectories. Furthermore, this inquiry seeks to provide a new approach and input towards the debate on criminal responsibility and the age differentiation in criminal law systems. Besides an

This project concerns research into the preventive turn in the policing of urban space, as experienced by the citizens. In the past several decades, prevention has clearly become the new core principle, 'the defining logic of governing crime' and is referred to as the preventive turn. Like in other countries announcing a more repressive antisocial behaviour policy, in Belgium a similar move can be observed. With legislation on municipal administrative sanctions, the enforcement authority of local governments expands to include incivilities. One can see the emergence of incivilities as a new field of intervention at the local level, whereby new initiatives are merged with already existing crime prevention initiatives. The result is the establishment of numerous projects to specifically tackle anti-social uncivil truant youth who hang around in public spaces and constitute a 'risk'. To date, there is no scientific research available on this topic, which is why this research project focuses on the following questions: (1) Which prevention initiatives in Belgium aim at the disturbance of order in the public space by young people?; (2) How do these initiatives function in the day-to-day practice?; and (3) How do the youngsters involved experience these practices? First of all, this research maps out the preventive field regarding disturbance of public space by youngsters in Belgium through a profound literature study. To do so, several municipal prevention services are contacted to find out about the initiatives they offer and how the teenagers are engaged. Secondly, to find out what types of behaviour are actually addressed in practice, the research focuses on some of these initiatives and studies them in Belgium juvenile offenders under the age of 18 usually appear in the Youth Court. By exception, however, the juvenile can be tried according to the rules of penal law, either in Criminal Court or in the 'Extended Youth Court'. This mechanism is called 'transfer', 'waiver' or 'referral'. Several studies in the USA demonstrate that transferred offenders are more likely to recidivate, and at a higher rate, and are more likely to be rearrested for more serious offences than juveniles retained in the juvenile justice system. Previous research shows that within a follow-up period of 4 to 6 years, at least half of the transferred youngsters (N=210) relapse into crime within a short time span. The aim of this follow-up research is to gain insight in the question whether the high recidivism rates are caused by intrinsic characteristics of the population, and/or by the impact of the transfer decision. This follow-up research covers a long-term period. This project concerns research into the genealogy of the impact of youth protection interventions on youngsters' lives. More specifically, this project focuses on the perspective of former clients of the juvenile justice system. By way of in-depth interviews and a qualitative analysis of judicial files, this research aims at gaining insight in the experience of being a "juvenile justice" client. With the centenary anniversary of the Belgian juvenile justice system in mind (May 2012), it is necessary to approach the historical analysis of juvenile justice practices by including "the voices" of the children of the juvenile justice and protection system. The central research question of this proposal can be formulated as follows: What has been the "impact" of the juvenile justice intervention(s) on the lives of youngsters and how has this been changing

This project concerns research into joint physical custody arrangements in Flanders. Across Europe, increasing numbers of children are commuting between the homes of their mother and father after parental divorce. Belgium provides an excellent context to study this phenomenon because divorce rates are among the highest in Europe and the legal system has recommended joint physical custody as the preferred post-divorce residential model since 2006. This dissertation consists of seven studies involved with measuring, defining and evaluating the consequences of joint physical custody in Flanders. Two data sources are used. The multi-actor study 'Divorce in Flanders' provides information on more than 2000 divorced couples and 700 of their children. The Leuven Adolescents and Family Study (LAFS) provides information on 1500 adolescents with divorced or separated parents attending secondary schools. Initially, a new instrument for measuring residential arrangements of children is proposed and validated: the residential calendar. According to prior research, joint physical custody seems beneficial for children. However, our evidence suggests that the positive association between joint physical custody and child outcomes is partially due to selection effects. After the implementation of the legal changes, joint custody couples are more likely to be in conflict and less likely to have high socio-economic standing than before the legal changes occurred. The well-being of children in joint physical custody is similar to that of children in other custody arrangements. However, under certain circumstances (high conflict, worse parent-child relationships) joint physical custody can become negatively related to child well-being. Our findings are in line with the hypothesis that the specific demands of joint physical custody arrangements can interfere with the nature of conscientious adolescents: being organized and focusing on order and planning. These results demonstrate the need for attending to the individual characteristics of the child when settling post-divorce residential arrangements. The shift towards shared care after divorce has both positive and negative effects for parents. Gender

This postdoctoral project concerns research into the role of family capital, social background and school characteristics for a divergent divorce gap and new social inequality among youngsters. Despite the growing number of children living in fragile families, disturbed family dynamics are receiving little attention in both educational research and policy. This might partially explain why the current Flemish educational system is not doing well in eliminating the intergenerational transmission of educational inequalities: the traditional policy indicators (home language, educational level and financial resources of the parents) might not completely grasp the achievement gap between pupils from different backgrounds. This project explores the importance of the composition of the familial capital of pupils within schools in explaining differences in the emotional well-being and study-involvement of pupils. Using the data of the Leuven Adolescents and Family Study (LAFS), researchers apply a multi-level strategy to answer the following questions: (1) How and to what extent do schools vary in their pupil composition in terms of parental divorce experience, the frequency of parental conflict, and the quality of parent-child relationships?; (2) To what extent do these school-level indicators of family capital correlate with the traditional policy indicators?; and (3) To what extent are differences in the emotional well-being and study involvement of pupils associated with these indicators of family capital? The results show that low family capital partially adds up to socioeconomic disadvantages,

This project concerns research into stepfamily configurations and trajectories following parental divorce. More specifically, it is a quantitative study on stepfamily situations, stepfamily relationships and the wellbeing of children. The evolution towards more equal parenting after divorce for men and women over the past two decades resulted in two changes in Belgian divorce law: joint legal custody became the legal standard in 1995, joint physical custody in 2006. This doctorate deals with the demographic and sociological implications of these developments for the formation, structure and functions of stepfamilies after divorce and the family processes within these families. We use two data sources: Divorce in Flanders (SIV) and the Leuven Adolescents and Family Study (LAFS). A first group of findings relates to the proportion of children living in a stepfamily formation, and to what extent this proportion is affected by the residence arrangement of the child. Our results demonstrate that stepfamilies following divorce are not exceptional living arrangements: the large majority of the children have at least one parent in a new partner relationship. Compared to children who reside full-time with mother (the traditional custody arrangement), children in a shared residence are more likely to be faced with a new partner of mother and to co-reside (part-time) with a new partner of father. This new partner of father (or stepmother) more often has residential children from a previous relationship than a new partner of mother (or stepfather). Joint physical custody therefore leads to more (complex) stepfamily formation. A second set of questions relates to the structure and characteristics of family relationships within stepfamilies and their association with children's wellbeing. Many children have a good relationship with both their parents and stepparents. Co-residence is an important factor for building and maintaining a good relationship with all parental figures. The relationship of children with their stepfather is strongly linked to their relationship with mother, but is independent of their relationship with the father. Similarly, the relationship with the stepmother is closely related to the relationship with the father, but not with the relationship with the mother. The relationships between the former partners and the new partner relationship are relatively independent of each other, both in terms of emotional interaction and in terms of co-parenting. Despite the current normative climate stressing the importance of the (biological) parental union following divorce, we found relatively little co-parental communication between ex-partners. Divorced mothers and fathers appear to view their new partners to be their main collaborators in childrearing. Ex-partners with children in shared residence do have more frequent co-parental communication with each other than ex-partners with children living full-time with one parent. A further issue is the relationship between family structure, family relations and child well-being. In general, This project concerns research into the preservation of the link between allocated children and their parents. More specifically, this research focuses on parent-child relationships during out-of-home care (children and foster care) with special attention to families living in serious poverty. It is based on a qualitative study of the exchanges between participants in two group interviews (childcare and foster care), including birth and foster families, representatives of poverty associations and professionals (caregivers, Children's Magistrate, Care and Protection representatives etc.). Given the right to maintain connections and relations between the child and his or her parents and family by Belgian and international law, the group interviews highlight that a lack of mechanisms to support and facilitate maintenance of the relationship (direct and indirect contacts)



This project concerns research into the effect of a transsexual status of one of the parents on the gender identity, sexual orientation and general wellbeing of the child. Studies on the effects of a trans-parent on children is scarce, though there are some studies (mostly executed in the US or the UK) on the effects of the transsexual status of one of the parents on the sexual orientation of the child and on the overall wellbeing of the child. The current research project approaches transsexuality and/or a change towards same-sex orientation as a risk transition in a person's life course with an unknown influence on the wellbeing of present children. The present study investigates the influence of the gender transition of one of the parents on the child in secondary school (between eleven and eighteen years of age). Putting the child in the central position of the study requires to include not only family members, but also significant others, friends, classmates and teachers, which gives the opportunity to investigate the child's functioning in different surroundings. The main research question concerns: What is the effect of having a transsexual or homosexual parent on the gender identity, the sexual orientation and the overall wellbeing of the child? Possible topics that are explored: (1) the position of the child towards the transition of his/her parents, to what extent the child can accept and cope with this and the influence of the attitudes of parents and environment; (2) how the child experience his/her own gender identity (happy, pressure, etc.); (3) the impact of the sexual orientation of the parent(s) on that of the child; (4) the openness of the child towards its environment in having a transgender parent; and (5) the need of the child for information, educational material or support. This explorative research uses a quantitative and a multi-actor qualitative approach. Researchers plan in depth-interviews with the children, their parents (biological and step parents), their friends and other significant others. Where possible, one or more classroom conversations will take place. This research ensures the scientific follow-up of the implementation of the method 'Persoonlijke Toekomstplanning' (in English: 'Person-centred Planning') in families who receive professional support in the Centre of Childcare and Family Support (CKG). 'Persoonlijke Toekomstplanning' is a strategy which aims to improve the quality of life of a person in need of support by means of building a stable support network. The method was developed in the United States and spread across the Anglo-saxon world by the term 'Person-centred Planning'. This research project is a scientific experiment within the framework of child poverty, in which 'PLAN vzw' takes on the challenge to build, on the initiative of a consortium of CKG's, 10 support networks in poor families with vulnerable young children. More specifically, this action-research examines the process in which stable support networks with non-professionals develop and how the involved families This research generally aims to refine existing knowledge about parenting support in Flanders. The project maps out questions from people living in Kortrijk regarding raising and educating children. It was commissioned by the city of Kortrijk in order to strengthen its family policies as well as to support the foundation of a parenting support centre called 'De Pluim'. The researchers focused on the perspective and experiences of families by using a small, qualitative research design in which twenty parents (ten fathers, ten mothers) were interviewed about their own experiences regarding raising children. The interviews did not follow a strict questionnaire, to allow the participants to determine the content of the discussion. The Parent-Child Socialization Study (PCSS) that was conducted in Spring 2012. The PCSS is a representative survey among 3,426 15-year-old adolescents (54% boys, 46% girls) and (when possible) both their parents. Data were gathered by means of a stratified school sample: 61 Dutch language secondary schools were randomly selected based on location (5 Flemish provinces and Brussels) and education track being offered by the school (general, technical, artistic, and vocational education). Subsequently, all pupils from the third year of secondary school (equivalent to 9th grade in US) completed a questionnaire about social and political attitudes, political behavior and participation, family situation, and parent-child relationship. pupils were handed a similar questionnaire for both parents. Parents were asked to fill in the survey and to send it back to the university. Parents who did not send the survey back, were contacted twice by phone or mail. Eventually, 2,305 (67%) mothers and 2,092 (61%) fathers participated in the survey. For 2,085 (61%) of the

This project investigates relations between parenting, emotional well-being, physical health and development amongst children. The research questions are: (1) What are the characteristics of families who do (not) need support regarding parenting, family, individuals and context? (2) Are parenting characteristics, the need for support and actual support related to one another? (3) Can families with questions about parenting get in touch with the appropriate services, and how do they experience the support provided by these services? To address these questions, data from the Jong! Study (about children age 0, 6 and 12) are used. This project concerns research into the experience of children and youth whose parents suffer from a disability or a chronic illness. Many children and youth grow up with a parent who is severely ill or has a disability. Little is known about how children and youth cope with this. What is difficult for them? But also: where do they find strength? What is fun? And what is perceived as 'normal'? 'Kind en Samenleving' (in English: 'Child and Society', a Belgian research organisation) interviews children and youth as well as their parents. Policy advice and practical support for these children and youth are drafted based on the research.

This project concerns research into the social trend of parental overprotection. By means of a random sample of primary school children, adolescents and upcoming adults, this research aims at: (1) discovering the reason(s) for parental overprotection; (2) identifying dynamics that can explain why parents adopt such upbringing behavior; and (3) studying the effects of overprotection on the child, specifically on their self-regulation and how they deal with failure.

This project concerns research into violence in the social care sector. Nowadays safety and (in)security are important themes in society. Subsequently, violence within the professional help care relationships is being more and more acknowledged. Organizations make various efforts to deal with this problem, such as: the development of a policy plan, support for care workers, supplementary training and the provision of extra financial means. However, aggression can still create feelings of powerlessness and insecurity. Organizations therefore ask themselves if they tackle the problem accordingly and how they need to proceed from there. This is the reason for this research project concerning aggression of youngsters (between the age of fourteen and sixteen). This project concerns research regarding changing attitudes to dating violence in adolescents (CAVA). The aim of CAVA is to change attitudes and behaviours in adolescents regarding dating violence by means of an immersive and engaging video game as the central learning object that will appeal to young people. The project also includes counselling, teaching, training and advice and does not only train and teach adolescents about the risks of dating violence and the possibilities to cope with these problems but also trains teachers on how to handle this topic in school by offering them e-learning material and workshops. As a final product, This project consists of seven phases. A first phase consists of a cultural validation and adaptation of questionnaires on symptom behaviour (Hopkins Symptom Checklist - HSCL and Impact of Event Scale Revised - IES-R). A second phase contains the development of questionnaires on coping and traumatic experiences. A third phase maps out demographic data and traumatic experiences of child soldiers based on data gathered in different rehabilitation centres in Northern Uganda. A fourth phase is an analysis of the follow-up data on the living conditions and symptoms of child soldiers, based on data gathered in different rehabilitation centres in Northern Uganda. A fifth phase focuses on developing an overview of the psychosocial support system available to child soldiers and other youth in Northern Uganda and provides a critical review of the support provided. A sixth phase consists of research on the life stories and experiences of child soldiers and other war-affected youth. A seventh and last phase researches the reintegration and recovery process of Eastern Congo has been undergoing a gruelling conflict for over decades. Sexual violence was used as a weapon of war on a large scale, victimizing thousands of women and girls. In the post-conflict society sexual violence remains a problem with a rising number of acts of sexual violence on minors. This study focuses on the psychological and social well-being of minor victims of sexual violence. Through a mixed-method study we seek to explore the different psychological and social consequences of sexual violence for the victims and their environment, and furthermore identify risk and protective factors.

It is estimated that worldwide there are about 300,000 minors involved in armed conflict as child soldiers. The often traumatizing experiences and stressful life conditions involved in child soldiering can have profound and persistent consequences for their psychological well-being. Besides, their absence in society and their active role in the conflict may bring along various social challenges. Notwithstanding, many former child soldiers show amazing resilience in dealing with their situation upon return. This project aims to study how former child soldiers perceive this process and which resources they can use in dealing with this. More specifically, it aims at gaining insight into what former child soldiers experience as beneficial for their psychosocial well-being and what their remaining needs are in order to deal with their situation. Therefore, a mixed method design is applied to conduct cross-sectional research with adolescents aged between 12 and 25 years who were formerly as a child soldier involved in the northern Ugandan rebel faction 'Lord's Resistance Army'. Contemporary conflicts are most often being fought within state borders, involving civilians as political, social-psychological and operational aims. In northern Uganda, a conflict has been waging for more than two decades, in which the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) plays a pivotal role. One of its most notorious war strategies targeting civilians, is the violent abduction and forced recruitment of minors as child soldiers within this armed faction. It is estimated that about 25 000 minors have been forced to become child soldier during the armed conflict in northern Uganda. The involvement of child soldiers is found to be associated with an increased exposure to stressful acts of war, which may exert a profound and persistent impact on the psychosocial well-being of these children. Besides, the involvement of child soldiers leads to an intensified involvement in hostilities towards civilians, which may jeopardize their social reintegration. Notwithstanding the vulnerability of children for the impact of war and more specifically of being a child soldier on their well-being, not all these former child soldiers appear to be overthrown by their experiences. Many among them show amazing resilience in dealing with their situation upon return. Consequently, this research aims to look into what helps former child soldiers in dealing with their past experiences and current challenges as a consequence of child soldiering, according to their own perception. In this case, we consider both intrapersonal resources, such as coping strategies, as well as interpersonal resources, such as social support. The research is conducted in northern Uganda, where an armed conflict has been waging for more than two decades. More specifically, this research will be conducted in Lira district, with former child soldiers between 12 and 25 years old. The research exists of four studies. A first study intends to document the scope and nature of war-related experiences and to identify factors. The aim of this project is to make one strategic commitment from the 'youth pact 2020' concrete, more specifically the commitment 'tolerance'. The project's objective is to stimulate a diverse group of children, youngsters and social stakeholders to stimulate together a respectful and tolerant society in which exclusion and bullying are banned. The realization of this project occurs in a creative, enthusiastic and participative manner so that the project is fully visible and comes alive within the society. This project can be used as national or international source of inspiration.

This project concerns (evaluation) research into (the project of) youth coaching ('Joco') in Antwerp (Flanders, Belgium). The youth coaching project guides youth who experience difficulties in school in their process of (re)integration in the educational system. After 10 years of 'Joco', this research aims to register the experiences of youth who participated in the 'Joco' project through qualitative interviews. The ultimate goal is to examine 'Joco's' long term impact.

This research maps out the pain of hospitalized children in Flanders based on an investigation of the knowledge, the attitude and practice of Flemish nurses regarding children's pain. Furthermore, the hospitalized children's pain experience is analyzed. The aim of this research is to create -in cooperation with participative hospitals and students- supplementary trainings with the objective to support nurses in implementing a pain free care program for children in practice.

This project concerns research into the transfer and transition of adolescents and young adults with juvenile idiopathic arthritis. Children with chronic conditions are often associated with important and progressive morbidity and can now live long enough to become adults with a manageable chronic disease. Expert lifetime care should be provided to these patients to maximize lifelong functioning and potential. Transition programs are developed to prepare adolescents with chronic diseases to transfer to adult-centered care and to help them take responsibility for their life and health. Transition programs can be considered complex interventions, necessitating research methods suitable for such interventions. Furthermore, transition programs are generally time-consuming, which limits their implementability. Therefore, it is worthwhile to develop brief transition programs that may have a higher likelihood to be implemented. This project thus focuses on transition programs for persons with juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA), which is a chronic inflammatory paediatric disorder that often results in short-term and long-term disability. For Belgium, it is estimated that there are up to 10 000 children and adolescents with JIA. JIA is considered as a chronic condition that may persist in adulthood. Therefore, JIA forms an appropriate case for studies on the

This project concerns research into the experience of youth work by children and youngsters with a disability. Participation in youth work of children and youngsters with a handicap is disproportionately low in comparison with children and youngsters without such handicap. Apparently various obstacles for children with a handicap to fully participate in activities organized by youth work, exist. Therefore, the main focus of this research is the experience of children and youngsters (between the ages of 6 and 18) with a handicap who participate in youth work on the one hand and perceptions of youth work by children and youth that do not participate on the other hand. Under various human rights treaties, China is obliged to provide equal opportunity to quality education. Since 2002, the responsibility for compulsory education has been decentralized, namely to the county government of the place of registered domicile of the household to which the children belong. This creates problems for households that migrate from rural to official areas without official registering in the city, the latter being inhibited by costly and cumbersome procedures. The research will investigate the impact of the right to education and the prohibition of discrimination on the access and quality of education of children belonging to households that have migrated to Chongqing city from rural areas. It will examine which threats are identified by the households to accessing quality education, whether claims are formulated based on the right to education, what actions are undertaken by the rights holders, whether they organize and establish youth work groups.

This project concerns research into malnutrition in South-Kivu. Malnutrition is endemic and forms a major public health problem in the Kivu region of the Democratic Republic of Congo. The persistence of malnutrition is due to an insufficient use of available alimentary products that may be rich in proteins, due to a progressive impoverishment of the land, and due to recent political instabilities. In addition, infectious diseases such as malaria and HIV contribute to aggravate the situation. To improve the nutritional status, one should promote the consumption of protein-rich nutriment and the use of soil-enriching techniques. This project therefore: (1) investigates the nutritional state of children; (2) provides an analysis of the local food

With the increasing ethnic-cultural diversity in Flanders, particularly among urban youth, this study examines the role of culture in advertising beliefs and attitudes among majority and minority youth in Flanders. Although these youngsters have become an important target group since the emergence of youth marketing strategies, little is known about their advertising perceptions. Particularly research that takes into account ethnic-cultural differences among young consumers is scarce. Therefore this study among 1140 youngsters between 12 and 19 years old examines both differences and similarities between youngsters with Flemish, Turkish, Moroccan, other western or other non-western origins and relates these to their advertising beliefs and attitudes. Survey results have been tested and complemented with 50 interviews with majority and minority youth. The results show that all youngsters take on a rather neutral attitude towards advertising in general. This is mainly explained by ambiguous feelings and opinions that shape the general advertising attitude. Although youngsters, for instance, acknowledge the misleading character of advertising, they still consider advertising as a valuable source of information. This study focuses on five advertising aspects that explain ambivalence in advertising attitudes. The information, the hedonic and social functions of advertising attribute to a more positive advertising attitude, whereas the misleading and materialistic functions of advertising lead to negative advertising attitudes. As a result Turkish and Moroccan youngsters tend to hold more positive advertising attitudes than Flemish youngsters, because youngsters with Turkish and Moroccan backgrounds are more often inclined to ascribe a social function to advertising, whereas their Flemish peers do not. This project concerns research into the quality of life in child and adolescent psychiatry. Quality of life is an important element of health within the nursing meta paradigm. Mortality and morbidity are core elements within health, but need to make room for the wellbeing and functionality concerning the quality of life. Furthermore, quality of life can become an important concept for treatment within the child- and adolescent psychiatric care. The treatment plans and –strategies are better adjusted to the individual needs of the patient through identification of determinants of ‘quality of life’. This research is based on the following:

The aim of this research project is to obtain knowledge about and insight in relevant process variables for the output of pedagogical home care, more specifically within the care of adolescents with psychosocial problems. Pedagogical home care as a form of family oriented care offers an alternative to residential youth care. In various countries the introduction of this alternative care goes hand in hand with effect- and evaluation research, almost exclusively oriented at mapping out results. The welfare process, relationship and the experience of problems as well as the approach to these problems are barely examined. Therefore, this project gathers information, based on multicase studies, of approximately 12 families – who signed up for home care – about the conversation patterns between social workers and families, the family's experience of the relation with the social worker and the family's experience of their problems and the way these problems are addressed. The collection of these data occurs on three different moments of the welfare process (first, second and fourth / last week of care). After a thick description and a study of process

This project concerns research into the participation profiles and human and societal perceptions of ethnic cultural minorities in Brussels. More specifically, it is an analysis thereof based on data from students of the Dutch secondary schools in Brussels.

The BPPS 2006-2011 is a three-wave panel study among 16-, 18- and 21-year-olds. In 2006, a representative survey was conducted among 6,330 16-year-olds in Belgium, and the response analysis demonstrated that the survey was representative for language, school type, education track, gender and region. Based on written surveys completed by respondents in 112 schools, the study focused on adolescents' social and political attitudes and it contained questions about their background characteristics, political activities and political attitudes. To obtain a national random sample, all schools included in the survey were selected through a stratified sample, based on the location and type of the school. In each school, a minimum of 50 students were selected, representative of the tracks being offered in that school (Hooghe et al. 2006). In 2008, the respondents were surveyed again for a second wave, this time at the age of 18. While most of the initial respondents could still be reached in school, for those who had left or changed schools, alternative strategies had to be developed. Of the initial 112 schools, 109 participated again in the survey in 2008. In these schools, the same classes were re-surveyed. This allowed re-interviewing 2,988 students. The other students were contacted through a mail survey. In total, 4,235 pupils (or 67 percent) from the initial panel

The main aim of this project is on the one hand to obtain insight in the world of youngsters (12- 18 years old) from ethnic- cultural minority groups, more specifically in their needs regarding knowledge. On the other hand, this research's objective is to gather insight into the most optimal way to provide information to these youngsters. This research consists of three stages: (1) to observe public places where many foreign youngsters reside (The 'Meir' of Antwerp and the 'Nieuwstraat' of Brussels); (2) participative observations of youth organisations such as 'KIDS vzw' in Antwerp (41 observations), 'JONG vzw' in Ghent (10 observations) and 'Chambéry vzw' in Etterbeek (7 observations); (3) in-depth interviews with 21 youngsters from different youth organisations and 7 social workers. This methodology provides information about the interests of the observed youngsters as well as their way of communicating. Results from this research show that the best

This project aims to analyse how intersectionality in itself is a factor in the accumulation of disadvantages leading to an increase in inequality, allowing for the design of policies tackling these intersections. In this, the project contributes to the development of methodological approaches to study intersectionality and to translate them into concrete policies. More precisely the project will study the accumulation of disadvantages over the life course among young adults, analysing the impact of different intersections. The interest of this project therefore also consists in the focus on young adulthood, a blind spot in research which mostly focuses on children or on (poor) families. The project questions to what extent and how social categories intersect and lead to accumulating advantages or disadvantages. Social categories include gender, ethnicity and class in a first instance, and disability and sexuality in a second instance. Advantages and disadvantages will be studied on the level on the highest educational degree and the timing of graduation, the first job and the transition of leaving home, and, if possible, other factors such as state of health and income. The quantitative analyses will be based on the Belgian dataset of the Generations and Gender Survey (GGS). The GGS is a panel survey of nationally representative samples of 18-79 year-old population

The European project STRESAVIORA concerns research that aims to develop resilience training for young people who are vulnerable to radical ideas. APART is responsible for the first phase of the project and examines which factors contribute to or protect against radicalization, which promising practices already exist and which factors contribute to an efficient intervention. A literature study is conducted, and 31 young people residing in and around Brussels are interviewed. Based on the results of the research, Arktos vzw is developing a resilience training.

Young novice drivers are involved in a disproportionately large number of traffic accidents. This highlights the need for an effective driver education program. The Goals for Driving Education (GDE) matrix shows that driver education must target both lower and higher levels of driver competences. Research has indicated that current education programs do not emphasize enough the higher levels, i.e. awareness and insight. This has raised the importance of insight programs. On the Road (OtR), a Flemish post-license driver education program, is such an insight program that aims to target these higher levels. The program focus is on risky driving behavior like speeding and drink driving. In addition, the program addresses risk detection and risk-related knowledge. The goal of the study was to do an outcome evaluation of this insight program, both on the short term and on the medium term. In addition, the study aimed to generalize the results of this program to comparable programs in order to make usable policy recommendations. We used a questionnaire based on the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB). Results indicate little effect on measures of

This qualitative research project focuses on the subjective experience of direct and indirect (brothers, sisters, parents) traffic victims. Their experience of the accident and its aftermath is assessed through in-depth interviews. In addition, explicit attention is given to the methodological and ethical issues in research with (potentially) vulnerable children concerning a sensitive subject.

The main goal of the Levenslijn Child Fund is to stimulate children and adolescents in stating safe behavior on the road by organizing a variety of campaigns. The Levenslijn Child Fund consists of three sections: the first one concerns prevention aiming at safer mobility among children and adolescents. A second section consists of a better care of young victims of traffic accidents. A third section consists of scientific research concerning all problems that go together with mobility of children and adolescents. In collaboration with the government department mobility and infrastructure services and more in particular the division policy of mobility and road safety, through this project, a game is developed to enhance the awareness of road safety and to stimulate safe behavior on the road among adolescents. The target group consists of adolescents between the age of 15 and 18. This project was granted to iMinds-MICT and had a run time of six months. In a first phase, an extensive state of the art analysis was conducted. This study allowed us to gain insight into the game market in Flanders and zoomed in on serious games with best practice examples. In a second part, the study integrated relevant learning principles and theories. In the third and final part an extensive analysis of the issue of traffic safety with regard to adolescents was conducted. In a second phase, interviews with traffic safety experts in the field of high school education, guided us towards a format aiming at motivating both the target group and intermediaries, by which we mean school principals and teachers, to take part in the game and thus the traffic safety campaign by letting them play in a school context. In a third phase of the This project concerns the promotion of active transportation over short distances in young adults. The first purpose of this study is to promote safe short distance walking and cycling to different destinations in older adolescents as an alternative to the traffic risks related to motorized transport in this population. A second purpose is to learn safe cycle and motorized driving to avoid traffic accidents among adolescents.

Understanding the characteristics of adolescents who walk, cycle or drive a motorcycle or car for short distance travelling, the reasons for choosing these travel modes and the risk factors associated with traffic accidents are important first steps in developing effective interventions to increase active and safe travel in adolescents. First, a conceptual framework is tested in a cross-sectional design to determine correlates of active versus motorized short distance travel and (un)safe driving behaviours in adolescents. Secondly, significant cross-sectional correlates of transport mode choice and (un)safe driving are used as a basis to develop a 'multi factor' school based intervention to promote active and safe commuting in adolescents. The This study, commissioned by the Department of Youth of the Flemish Government, aims to provide a description of young people who participate in youth work for socially vulnerable youth, the facilitators (professionals and volunteers) and the general functioning of these organizations. The researchers gather basic data on these forms of youth work and examine the strengths, weaknesses, needs and possibilities of these organizations. The results of the study should support a constructive policy on youth work for socially vulnerable young people. The study has started in February 2012. Throughout 2012, the researchers collect

This project concerns a feasibility study regarding coaching beyond school territory. Contributors of organizations that target socially vulnerable youth often find themselves without sufficient time which makes it difficult to accompany youngsters to other social organizations such as the unemployment office ('VDAB'), housing services, social assistance ('OCMW'), etc. As a consequence, these youngsters miss out on opportunities and risk losing their bond with society. University College Leuven (KHLeuven) aims at preventing this problem by means of inserting students of the KHLeuven as social buddy to support these vulnerable youth with their process of integration and emancipation within the framework of a common course (GOOD). The research question is the following: "To insert students of the KHLeuven as social buddy for social vulnerable youth: realistic or utopian?" Other questions concern: (1) Which field partners are being considered for this project?; (2) Who are those socially vulnerable youth?; (3) Which outline criteria are being considered?; (4) What is the role of the buddies?; (5) Which preparation trajectory does the buddy need? ; (6) Which competences are important?; and (7) In which way does continuity plays a role therein? The objective of GOOD is to individually support youngsters from socially disadvantaged groups in their process of integration and emancipation. The main goal is to increase their opportunities. At the same time, this project aims to offer a framework to stimulate youngsters in taking on a 'learning engagement' in an integrated way. This feasibility research stems from students MAD, who created a scenario for making the

This project concerns research into the dental age estimation in sub-adults. Increasing global human migration, raises management concerns in the countries where immigrants seek shelter. A special protective status must be given to immigrating unaccompanied children. Therefore, most national laws enforce specialized medical investigations to get proof of the age of unaccompanied youngsters with no, or lacking official identification documents and claiming to be minors. Dental age estimation in this particular age group relies on the only dental age predictor(s) available, namely the developing third molar(s). Hence, scientific correct dental age estimations in sub-adults, especially when originating from distant countries and diverse

This project concerns research into 'forgotten' children's experiences of bereavement and the possible impact of situational aspects. The phenomenology of (complicated) grief among children and adolescents is not well studied. As well, the need for more scientific research focusing on street children is underlined, in order to build a firm knowledge base and support these children in improving their quality of life. Combining the limited research results in these two fields gives reason to believe that street children, a term that can also be applied to the Belgian context according to Gillebeert and Claes (2002), find themselves in a specific position concerning confrontation and dealing with loss. By means of phenomenological research and participant observation with four street-based youth work initiatives in Flanders (Belgium) and two in Bolivia, the following research questions are put forth: (1) how do children experience (changes resulting from) the loss of a person from their micro system (Bronfenbrenner, 1995)?; (2) which coping strategies do they adopt in order to deal with stressors linked to this kind of loss?; (3) Do concepts like complicated grief (Melhem et al., 2007) and childhood traumatic grief (Cohen et al., 2004), popular in Western mental healthcare,



This project concerns research into health effects of environmental and occupational exposures in children of Pakistan. Unlike the developed world where the legislation on Particulate air pollution (PM) has already been made and implemented to regulate PM, developing countries stand behind. In Pakistan, though the legislation is present in its preliminary form, the authorities are not able to implement it fully. As a result, the environmental pollution is high in mega-cities like Lahore. Furthermore, child labour is prevailing extensively in Asia and the Pacific (with an estimated 127.3 million children at work). In Pakistan, the National Child Labour survey conducted in 1996 by the Federal Bureau of Statistics, reports 3.3 million of the 40 million children (in the 5-14 years age group) to be economically active on a full-time basis. Epidemiologic studies and research on young workers suggest that children have higher health risks than adults when exposed to hazardous working environments. Moreover, several potential adverse health impacts of occupational exposures need to be studied in children. Few studies have investigated health consequences of child labour. Therefore, the aim of the present research is: (1) to study the health effects of outdoor PM among apparently healthy schoolchildren; (2) to estimate the urinary concentrations of metals in schoolchildren and working children; and (3) to study the health effects of occupational exposures among children employed in selected industries, that is, brick kiln, carpet weaving and surgical instruments manufacturing. This research consists of four main parts. A first part reports the exposure to PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> among schoolchildren from a low and a high pollution area in Lahore, Pakistan. A second part reports the relation between exposure to low level environmental cadmium (Cd) exposure and urinary excretion of calcium (Ca) and deoxypyridinoline (DPD), a marker of bone resorption. A third part reports the work-related exposure to metals among children working in surgical instruments manufacturing units. A fourth part reports the respiratory health and metal exposure among schoolchildren and working children from brick kiln and carpet weaving industries. The sources and pathways of exposure and the health significance of these findings need to be further investigated. Among the selected populations of schoolchildren and children working in either brick kiln, Through its youth projects, Cevora aims to address difficulties in the current job market which is characterized by high unemployment numbers, especially amongst youth. Therefore, Cevora adapted a number of its training courses in order to specifically attract youth and prepare them for employment. The novelty of these youth projects is situated in the cooperation with an external partner, aiming to raise the attraction of the course for youth, for instance by including dance lessons. Despite these efforts, the recruitment for these training courses still appeared to be difficult. Therefore, this research projects evaluates Cevora's approach, and more specifically (thresholds that may impact) the recruitment process. To do so, a mixed method design, including qualitative as well as quantitative methods, is developed. Based on a literature review and in-depth interviews, specific hypotheses about possible thresholds for recruitment are formulated. Based on an online survey of 540 youth between 18 and 25 years old, these hypotheses are

This project concerns research into the situation of child care in 'De Haan' (Flanders, Belgium). Parents with young children are examined by a quantitative survey.

This project concerns research into the effect of broadening care about motorial skills on toddlers with a motorial development deprivation. Previous research shows that a great deal of toddlers experience difficulties to adopt important basic motorial skills. This project consists of two phases. A first phase examines the motorial skills of 250 toddlers by means of standardised instruments. A second phase offers a specific program to children who are behind in their motorial development. After the intervention, the motorial skills of the toddler are re-examined in order to investigate whether the program achieved its goal.

How do children experience the relation between school and family, and how do they co-construct it? Through focus group interviews with 12 children from two diverse school contexts (a rural and a metropolitan elementary school), this relationship was discussed. The results show that children are active gatekeepers in this relationship. They view their school and their home both as important but distinct contexts. They influence this relationship, a.o. by being selective in the information they pass on. It is through this mediation that children mainly realize their agency; not only in what they do, but also in the way they do it.

This project concerns research into the integration of physical exercise in the curriculum pre-school education. Due to technology and the increasing influence of media on children's leisure time activities, a decrease of physical activity experiences in daily life is taking place. The consequences of this lack of physical activity are visible in a lack of motor skills, in a decrease in cognitive and social development and in increasing health risks. Kindergarten teachers are important to promote a physically active lifestyle. However, teachers indicate that they need support to be able to make their classes more active. Therefore, the aim of this research is to develop a tool for kindergarten teachers concerning classroom-based physical activity integration. Physical activity is in this context a tool to teach certain learning contents (e.g., counting to ten). This research studies, on the one hand, how people can increase the number of motor stimuli in kindergarten taking into account reinforcing and obstructing factors. On the other hand, didactic tools are developed for kindergarten teachers to improve motor skills in an active way outside the physical education classes. A systematic review is performed to gain knowledge concerning the effectiveness of classroom-based physical activity integration in other countries. Furthermore, to find out which place classroom-based physical activity integration fulfills in kindergarten schools in Limburg, focus groups are organized for the different actors in the school context. By using Educational Design Research, researchers investigate how classroom-based physical activity integration can be implemented. Good practices are gathered and video recorded.

This project concerns research into the family configurations, family trajectories and the educational outcomes for children. The high divorce rate in Belgium may complicate the family's important role in the development of the child. Previous research has demonstrated that experiencing parental divorce yields negative consequences for children's educational outcomes. In this PhD project, a contribution to the description of the association between divorce and children's educational outcomes in Flanders is aimed at by investigating why and how children's educational outcomes are affected by divorce. The analyses are performed on the 'Divorce in Flanders' dataset and the 'Leuven Adolescent and Family Research (LAFS)' dataset. The PhD project encompasses five research papers. In the first paper, the mediating role of economic deprivation, parent-child relationship quality and parental conflict in the relation between parental divorce and children's educational outcomes is examined. In a second paper, the relation between custody arrangements and children's educational outcomes is studied. Special attention is given to the mediating role of the parent-child relationship and selection mechanisms. In the third paper, it is investigated (1) whether the effect of divorce on educational outcomes differs according to parents' educational level; and (2) which

This project concerns research into the monitoring of the Flemish educational system through administrative data. The study constitutes the first direct calculation of the percentage of early school drop-outs in Flanders from longitudinal administrative data about the individual pupils. The school drop-outs are differentiated in two ways: geographical differences (at the level of municipalities) and differences according to pupils' socioeconomic background.

This project concerns research into national assessments and tests for Flemish pupils. The primary goal of the national assessments is to determine to what extent Flemish pupils reach final objectives or developmental aims at the end of particular educational levels. Assessments always measure clusters of final objectives / developmental aims that pertain to a specific course or subject matter. A representative sample of pupils is asked to participate in each assessment. Assessment research offers information at the system level of Flemish education, not at the level of individual pupils or schools. In fact, pupils and schools participate anonymously and on a voluntary basis. In addition to estimating the percentage of pupils that master a certain cluster of final objectives / developmental aims, these national assessments investigate whether there are systematic differences between schools, classes and pupils in test performance, and whether characteristics at the level of students, classes, or schools co-vary with these differences. For this purpose, researchers request the participating pupils, their parents, their teachers and the principal of their school to fill out background questionnaires. The results of a national assessment can be used to detect specific shortcomings in our educational system. After the publication of the results the Ministry of Education organizes an open conference to look for ways to improve educational practice. Schools that have taken part

This project concerns research into both lived experience and information needs of teenagers with a grandparent with dementia. The project's objective is to develop an information brochure about dementia tailored to the needs of adolescents who have a grandparent with dementia. Adolescents are in the midst of their identity development and the confrontation with a grandparent with dementia may be experienced as difficult. A better understanding of dementia may help the adolescent to positively deal with the dementia of their grandparent, and may hence positively support the relationship with the grandparent. However, information about dementia tailored to adolescents who are confronted with a grandparent with dementia is scarce. In order to develop adequate information, we first conduct a short survey among 746 high-school students and perform in-depth interviews with 28 adolescents whose grandparent had dementia. The

This project concerns research into the visibility- and discrimination management regarding homosexual, lesbian and bisexual youth. Visibility management (regarding the decision to make one's sexual preference known within a diversity of social situations) and discrimination management (to anticipate and deal with possible prejudice and discrimination) can play an important role in the relation between the experience of stress as a consequence of belonging to a stigmatised group and mental wellbeing. This study examines to what extent homosexual, lesbian and bisexual youngsters who are still in school (age 16 to 18) deal

in this research project, the thresholds youth experience in their search for assistance is investigated. Individual experiences of youth are explored through focus groups and individual interviews. Furthermore, assistance in the immediate environment (parents, friends and teachers) is analyzed. Finally, professional youth assistance is discussed, with a focus on three of the main youth services (CLB, JAC & kinder- en jongerentelefoon).

This project concerns research into the impact of psychopathic parents on the wellbeing of their children. Psychopathic individuals are characterized by callousness/ un-emotionality, a manipulative and deceitful interpersonal style, and an antisocial, impulsive lifestyle. The current knowledge regarding the manifestation of psychopathic behaviour within an interpersonal context is mainly – if not only – restricted to information obtained from case studies. These case studies suggest that psychopathic individuals exploit others, manipulate others for their own benefit, and neglect the needs of others. In addition, psychopathic behaviour is considered to be an important risk factor for a wide range of antisocial behaviours, like aggression. Although it may be assumed that these types of behaviours in psychopathic individuals will also manifest within the family context of psychopathic individuals, little is known about the social intercourse of psychopathic individuals with their family members. The present study aims to expand current scientific knowledge on the manifestation of psychopathic traits within the family context by investigating the manner in which parents with psychopathic traits: (1) discipline their child; and (2) interact with their child. Based on

This project concerns research into sleep-disordered breathing in obese children and adolescents. More specifically, it examines the effect of a treatment with 'Continuous Positive Airway Pressure' (CPAP) amongst obese children with sleep 'apnoe' syndrome on the following parameters: (1) sleep architecture and nightly breathing parameters; (2) lipids- and glucose metabolism; (3) systemic inflammation and oxidative stress; (4) inflammation near the airways; (5) blood pressure; and (6) life quality. These parameters are evaluated as well immediately after starting the CPAP as after 12 months.

Adolescence is a particularly unique period in life as it is characterized by intense physical, psychosocial and cognitive development. From nutritional point of view, this transition period from childhood to adulthood deserves special attention in view of the remarkable physical changes of the body. Increased nutritional needs relate predominantly to the fact that adolescents gain up to 50% of their adult weight, more than 20% of their adult height and 50% of their adult skeletal mass during this period. During adolescence, nutritional problems originating earlier in life can potentially be corrected, in addition to addressing current ones. It is also a period to shape and consolidate healthy eating and lifestyle behaviours, thereby preventing or postponing the onset of nutrition-related chronic diseases in adulthood. In the context of the "First Action Plan for Food and Nutrition Policy of the World Health Organisation - European Region" attention has been paid on the issue of food safety. This thesis aimed to identify nutritional and food safety issues that contribute to adolescents' health. For the analyses, data of the 'Ghent Adolescent Study On Nutrition' were used. This study includes data on dietary pattern of Flemish adolescents, between 13 and 18 years old. The study was part of an international collaborative project, looking at methodological aspects of dietary assessment in the context of food safety monitoring. First, some specific nutritional issues for the Flemish subpopulation are studied. Chapter 2 describes the estimated energy intake, macronutrient intake and meal pattern of adolescents. The results showed clearly that the pattern of macronutrient intake of Flemish adolescents differs from the current Belgian dietary recommendations. Especially, the mean intake of fat and mono/disaccharides is higher than recommended. Snacks were found to be an important source of mono/disaccharides and saturated fatty acids, while energy intake from breakfast was on average very low. In chapter 3, the position of breakfast in the overall diet has been investigated in more detail and more precisely the importance of breakfast in relation to the global dietary pattern. The results showed that in all adolescents, good quality breakfast consumers had a significantly higher daily intake of bread, fruit, vegetables, milk & milk products and fruit juice, while intake of soft drinks was significantly lower than in low quality breakfast consumers. On nutrient level, the results were not as uniform between the two sexes as on food item level. Overall, good quality breakfast consumers had a significantly higher intake of 'healthy' food products. In chapter 4 a search for the main food sources of total fat and saturated fatty acids has been conducted with the purpose to develop food-based dietary guidelines for adolescents. The results showed that the most important contributors of saturated fatty acids on food group level were 'fats, oils & savoury sauces', 'meat & meat products', 'sugar, confectionary, sweet fillings & sauces', 'cheese', 'milk & milk products'. This research examines the attitude of high school students towards the acceptability of a medical decision about the termination of life, which possibly shortens the lifespan, taken by minors. The research more specifically focues on, a.o.: the decision not to be treated, pain- and symptom control, and euthanasia. The method used in this research is a cross sectional enquiry by students of the second and fourth year of 20 secondary schools in Flanders. The data collection is based on a structured questionnaire. The aim of this questionnaire was to obtain insight in the attitude of students about: the acceptance of requests at euthanasia and other medical decisions about the termination of life, the right to be informed about a terminal prognosis and the students' to be informed about a terminal prognosis. Three conclusions can be deduced from the results of this study. A first conclusion is that the attitude towards medical decisions about the termination of life differs according to the case, the characteristics of the student, and the type of decision. This research project concerns testing the ecological model as possible explanation of the physical activity and overweight amongst 9 to 12 year olds. The study examines both objective and subjective environmental determinants of physical activity in children. The investigated environment consists of the school- (e.g. playground characteristics), home- (e.g. play space, sports materials, etc.) and neighborhood- (e.g. play streets, walkability of the neighborhood, safety, etc.) environment. Furthermore, this research examines parents' influence on their children's physical activity levels. The neighborhood is measured objectively

The study 'Youth and health' is part of the international study 'Health Behaviour in School-aged Children' (HBSC)([www.hbsc.org](http://www.hbsc.org)) which is carried out by the World Health Organisation. Once every four years the same survey is executed within an increasing amount of countries (the last survey dates back from 2009-2010 with 41 (mostly European) countries or regions) according to an international protocol. The first Flemish (Belgian) survey dates back from the year 1989-1990. The purpose of this study is to gain insight into the health, health behaviour and social context of youth between the ages of 11 and 18 years (survey is taken from children in the 5th grade up until children in the 12th grade). Due to the purpose of monitoring the health behaviour of youngsters, the international protocol is constantly replenished with questions of local (Flemish) importance. The Flemish (Belgian) HBSC team is able to access the international database so that comparisons with other countries are possible. The studied themes concern lifestyle (such as food, smoking, alcohol use, drug use, sexuality, and physical activity), subjective health and psychical well-being, and the environment of youngsters (family, school, and neighbourhood). The study consists of five concrete

This project concerns research into peers and AIDS prevention. More specifically, the project's aim is to develop and test models to communicate 'HIV-prevention'- related knowledge and attitudes amongst Flemish students. AIDS prevention implies changing behaviours. The peer group is an important reference for youth. This project examines the mechanisms of social influence amongst youth regarding 'AIDS prevention'- knowledge, attitudes and behaviour. Various network models of social influence are developed and tested on a large sample of Flemish secondary students.

This project concerns research into the impact of education and nationality of origin among youth and young adults in the Brussels-Capital Region, where social economic health differences can be observed. Reducing social inequalities in health is one of the top priorities in contemporary health policies. This project aims to increase insights into the impact of education and nationality on inequalities in health and mortality of adolescents and young adults in the Brussels-Capital Region (BCR). The first part of this research focuses on descriptive analyses, in which important differences have been found between young persons in the BCR concerning socio-economic background, nationality of origin and migration history. The second part of this research deepens these findings. Factors positively influencing the health situation of youth, related to and through education, are identified. Therefore, the research focuses both on health-compromising/benefiting

This project concerns research into the critical environment factors and the relation with physical activity among children, adolescents, adults and seniors. The goal of this project is to examine the relation between environment factors and objectively measured physical activity. In a first research phase subjects get the assignment to frame their environment in their leisure time once every hour during one week by means of a digital camera and to carry at the same time a movement monitor. In this way researchers aim to visualize the environments where people of different ages spend their leisure time and where they are physically active. To determine if the objective physical activity is connected to certain characteristics of the framed environments, the digital frames are linked with the hourly registered physical activity. In a second phase of the research, critical environment factors (as determined in study two) are tested under varying weather circumstances and social conditions. A third lab experiment shows video images of environments where both

In recent years, there has been growing interest in the use of exergaming in public health to influence levels of physical activity and sedentary behaviour in children as well as in adults and older people. Exergames are screen-based activities which combine video game play with exercise and require participants to use bodily movements to control and play the games. Move Towards Health – Exergames investigates the impact of exergames on school-aged children. This project investigates whether exergaming (1) can increase children's physical activity, (2) might change children's motivation to be physically active, (3) may decrease sedentary gaming behaviour and (4) might benefit children's well-being. Finally the project investigates which games might be more beneficial. In total, 3 studies were conducted. First there is a questionnaire study in schoolchildren (2012) where the physical activity and (exer)game behaviour were investigated amongst 749 schoolchildren, recruited from 9 schools. This study was also used for the recruitment and selection of participants for study 2 and 3. The second study is a game-experience study (2012) where 87 schoolchildren played six exergames (bowling, baseball, boxing, tennis, dancing, golf) on a Wii or Kinect console. Games were played in a single or duo player mode. Game-experience was investigated with the game-experience questionnaire. Energy-expenditure was investigated with a sensewear device. The third and last study is an exploratory survey of the organisations within youth care who offer 'independent living under guidance'. In 2003 and 2004 the prevention teams from youth care conduct a situation analysis at the provincial level. From the situation analysis of East-Flanders (province in Flanders, Belgium) it becomes apparent that housing should hold a particular point of interest. The province mentions three issues in particular: (1) the existence of old and few comfortable housing in different local towns; (2) the poor housing quality in general of people with limited financial support; and (3) the too expensive and little accessible housing for youngsters who live independently under guidance. This gives rise to the research project 'sensible living'. This project consists of three main parts: (1) exploratory surveys of the organisations within youth care who offer 'independent living under guidance'; (2) a research phase through a survey and interview with youth who live independently under guidance; and (3) Children, teenagers and youth are nowadays confronted with a broad variety of information. Therefore, youth information providers find it important to have a clear overview of this variety as well as the information needs of youth: in this way, the providers are more equipped to provide up-to-date information adjusted to the needs of youth. This project responds to the request of the providers by painting a clear overview of information needs of children, teenagers and youth as well as assessing the quality of the existing information.

The primary aim of this exploratory research was to develop an integrated information policy for youth. The research exists of three parts: (1) a literature review, (2) interviews with primary and secondary providers of information and (3) a mapping of the way youth gather information based on case studies and a qualitative tracing analysis. Based on the analyses on these data, the researchers formulated concrete policy advice as well as suggestions to improve participation of youth in the existing provision of information.

A growing consciousness can be identified of the importance of respecting children's rights in diverse free-time activities initiated and accompanied by adults, such as the organised sport. In 2004, the Panathlon Declaration on Ethics in Youth Sport was drafted and adopted, which currently has been implemented and evaluated by numerous international organizations such as sport clubs, national and international sport federations, etc. Therefore, this study aims to design a system of performance guarantee by means of a labeling system, with clearly circumscribed items based on the Panathol Declaration. On the basis of a survey among policy officers in national and international sport institutions, as well as among youth leaders and Sports are often recognized as an opportunity to engage socially vulnerable youth in a leisure context and not just in terms of participation in sports activities, but across a range of issues, including education, employment and training, community leadership and healthy lifestyles However, how sports practices can effectively contribute in creating such broader outcomes stays unclear and has been dealt with much scepticism. The purpose of this research project is to gain a better insight in how sports practices working with socially vulnerable youth could effectively generate wider social outcomes. To do so, a multi-method design, consisting of in-depth interviews and observations, group discussions with youth, sports counsellors,

Despite policy efforts in the past, the sports club membership of adolescents in Flanders seems to be over the hill (Scheerder & Seghers, 2011). Moreover, there is a particularly low level of organized sports participation among disadvantaged youth (See e.g., Cobbaert, 2009; Dēmos, 2010) and significant drop out rates among older youth (Vettenburg et al., 2010). At present, within the Flemish sports sector, there is limited insight into why certain groups do - or do not - participate within an (organized) sports context. In addition, there is a lack of understanding regarding the impact of (organized) sports participation on youth, both in terms of the promotion of sustainable sports participation, as in relation to the development of personal and social skills (e.g., taking up responsibility and volunteering). This PhD-study consists of four phases. Within the first phase (2012), a literature review is done. Besides that, two preliminary studies with the purpose of exploring the field beyond the traditional organized sports context are set up (= phase 2, 2012-2013). More specifically, this phase examines two youth development programs focusing on 'teaching' and 'learning' skills and competences. They both focus on disadvantaged youth and use sports as a means. One project (Kort-op-de-Bal) is situated in youth work, another (Street Action) is situated in a neighbourhood sports context. Within the 'Kort-op-de-Bal' project three expert witnesses are interviewed as well as nine disadvantaged youngsters, the latter are interviewed two times. The 'Street Action' project runs in eight municipalities and the two main organizers of each project (n=16) are interviewed. Besides that, six group interviews with the disadvantaged youngsters are organized. The objective of both studies is to gain more insight in the underlying mechanisms and methodology of the programs and their outcomes as well as in how youngsters experience the whole program. Moreover, the researchers obtain a better understanding of contexts and contextual/individual factors for good youth (sports-based) development programs. In a third phase (end of 2013-2014), the focus within this PhD-study shifts to 'hands-on' experts among disadvantaged youngsters. This third phase of the research consists of interviewing 20 to 25 youths (age: 15-23) living in socially vulnerable situations, who are taking responsibilities in their leisure time. The goal of this approach is on one hand to gain more insight in the thresholds, motives, catalysts, etc. for taking up responsibilities and on the other hand to get a better understanding of the experiences concerning taking up responsibilities of

This project concerns research into youth houses in Flanders (Belgium).

This project concerns research into complicated grief among children. More specifically, it aims at examining the underlying processes and intervention possibilities by means of a combination of process and effect research. The objective of this project is fourfold: (1) to identify the processes that differentiate between normal and complicated grief among children between the ages of 8 and 18 years; (2) to measure the efficacy of a specific action oriented intervention towards children with complicated grief; (3) to validate a grief questionnaire for children and youth; and (4) to set up guidelines for intervention, prevention or support programs.

The behaviour of youngsters hanging out in urban public space is a hot topic nowadays. In run-down and highly diverse areas, as well as in city centres, negotiation between urban youth and other users of public space appears difficult, especially in times when public space is limited due to various forms of privatization and surveillance. Ethnographic research into the ways in which youths negotiate and appropriate space could, arguably, give insight in how places help create an identity and/or a sense of home and belonging for otherwise marginalized and 'repressed' youngsters. However, rather than only trying to contextualize transgressive behaviour in public space, this research reflects on the nature of public space itself. If urban youths do violate informal rules of conduct, which rules are those and who gets to decide upon them? And at which point does the appropriation of public space by groups of youngsters result in the production of parochial space? How does this disrupt the 'normal' dialogue between users of public space? How does this fit into an urban project that is by definition based on negotiation towards a common future rather than on a shared identity or shared norms and values? Public squares, parks and more liminal places in Brussels' neighbourhoods such as 'Etterbeek', 'Molenbeek' or the center of Brussels should prove to be excellent cases for an embedded ethnographic research of the spatial practice of young urbanites. Extensive This research about the conditions of youngsters is conducted in 85 schools. The collaboration of two research teams has led to a data base on which every researcher can realize their project. The first project focuses on the influence-processes youngsters are exposed to, as well as the effect of these processes on the sexual experiences of youth. The second project aims at registrating the relationship between a youngster and his or her school environment, as well at the influence of this relationship on school performances and well-being.

This doctoral research is based on the fact that youth work appears not to reach all youth equally, an observation that has been made not only in Flanders but also in many different European countries. Especially social groups needing youth work the most, are the ones facing the highest risk of exclusion. To explore this problem, the researcher analyzes youth work practices in different countries and studies the history of youth work. The selective scope of youth work goes back far into its history, and even constitutes the basis of Flanders' rich diversity in the field of youth work. However, due to this diversity, the core assignment of youth work seems to be disappearing. Initially, youth work followed explicit social, educational and recreational goals. However, over time, these goals as well as the different methods applied in youth work (sports, culture and outdoor recreation) have grown apart. The researcher explores the basic concepts of youth work and concludes these concepts stand in the way of a broader perspective regarding youth work, causing the youth work debate to chase its own tail for about a century. Based on this conclusion, the researcher expresses a plea for more broadening research regarding youth work. The second part of the research consists of an empirical study with children and youth. The results of this study show that children and youth in different situations generally experience the diversity in youth work as positive. The common



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