

The Childist Critique

[Or: A Child in Name]

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Overview

This monograph argues that childism, or the empowerment of children, is the missing dimension of contemporary scholarship and societies, just as feminism was a century ago. Childism is the effort to deconstruct and reconstruct social norms and systems that empower adults at the expense of the third of humanity who are children. It is also fundamental to intersectional work with feminism, decolonialism, anti-racism, and the like, insofar as other marginalized groups are marginalized by their association with childhood. Unless the systemic domination of adults over children (or adultism) is understood and overcome, human relations remain distorted and unjust across social, economic, and political life.

Chapters

1. “Don’t Be Childish”
2. The Childhood Mystique
3. The Distinctiveness of Adultism
4. Adultism for Adults
5. Becoming Childist
6. Childism for Beginners
7. The Right to Have Rights
8. The Right to Empowerment

Progress

The book is currently in early drafting. It builds on almost 20 years of research into childism in political theory as well as discussions generated with scholars and activists around the world for over 5 years at the Childism Institute. The book represents a culmination of much careful thought and research in dozens of articles and book chapters, as well as research in childism by many other scholars from diverse backgrounds and disciplines. It is written to appeal to a broad scholarly and public audience.