

# ICA 2024 PRECONFERENCE CALL FOR PAPERS:

**Amplifying Child Participation:  
Engaging Children and Adolescents Meaningfully  
in Media and Communications Research**



Thursday June 20, 2024 – 9:00AM to 5:00PM  
Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre (GCCEC)  
ICA Divisions: Children, Adolescents and the Media Division;  
Global Communication and Social Change



# Amplifying Child Participation: Engaging Children and Adolescents Meaningfully in Media and Communications Research

## Organising Committee:

Professor Amanda Third (WSU), Professor Manisha Pathak-Shelat (MICA), Dr Catharine Fleming (WSU), Dr Nukte Ogun (WSU), Ms Rose Lewis (WSU), Ms Louisa Welland (WSU), Ms Lilly Moody (WSU), Ms Amy Thayre (WSU), Ms Cecilia Zhou (UMASS).

## Supporting Organisation:

The Young & Resilient Research Centre at Western Sydney University

Join us! We invite postgraduate students, emerging and senior researchers, children and young people who have participated as co-researchers in media and communications research, to contribute their original research, findings, and innovative ideas to our interdisciplinary discussion. ICA members and non-members are welcome to join us at this preconference, as we discuss embedding and amplifying children and adolescent's experiences and insights in media and communications research.

Today's globalised world holds significant prospects, but it can be tough for children and adolescents. They face rising levels of unemployment and underemployment, housing stress, and mental health difficulties. At the same time, technology is playing an increasing role in children's and adolescents' lives, offering opportunities but also potentially exacerbating existing problems.

In early 2021, during the COVID-19 pandemic, many children and adolescents around the world explored new relationships with digital technology because they were compelled to use platforms and tools to stay connected, learn and work, more so than ever before. At the same time, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child formally adopted UNCRC General Comment 25 on children's rights in relation to the digital environment. This landmark guidance was collaboratively created to support states as they work towards ensuring digital products, policies and services respect, protect and fulfil the rights of children.



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Both the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and General Comment 25 stipulate that, alongside their provision and protection rights, children also have the right to participate in the decision-making processes that impact their lives as they play out in relation to the digital environment. Indeed, General Comment 25 itself was founded on a process of in-depth qualitative engagement with children to canvass their insights and experiences of engaging with the digital world. As the global community seeks to activate General Comment 25, then, how can researchers meaningfully support efforts to engage children and adolescents in shaping the digital environment, now and into the future?

This preconference aims to facilitate dynamic and thought-provoking conversations that highlight the potential of children's and adolescents' involvement in media and communications research. Through engaging discussions, interactive workshops, and insightful presentations, attendees will hear from researchers, practitioners, children and young people to explore the principles behind meaningful child participation, and the practical skills and strategies required to put this into action. Together we will explore the transformative power of child-centred research to help drive positive social change.

Topics we will explore (but not be limited to) include:

- Conceptual approaches and practical strategies for facilitating children and adolescents to contribute meaningfully to media and communications research;
- Strengths and limitations of different kinds of approaches to participatory research with children and adolescents;
- Ethical challenges of engaging with children and adolescents, and strategies to ensure ethical involvement of children and adolescents in research;
- Inclusion of marginalised and underrepresented groups, who are often excluded from research;
- Collaborative methodologies and approaches that ensure the meaningful inclusion of children and adolescents in media and communications research;
- Engaging children and adolescents across all stages of the research process – from design to the activation of evidence for digital policy, programming and product design;
- How children's and adolescents' insights and youth-led and co-designed approaches can lead to impactful shifts in media and communication policy and practice;
- Practical case studies highlighting frameworks, tools and resources for researchers and practitioners to use when collaborating with children and adolescents.

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This preconference emphasises the potential of partnerships between children, young people, researchers, media professionals and child-facing organisations. It aims to facilitate conversations that enable interdisciplinary approaches to better understand the challenges we face on local and global scales.

We welcome submissions related to the preconference theme and encourage diverse perspectives on the mentioned or related topics. Papers can cover conceptual, practical, and empirical aspects within the specified topics.



### **Submission Guidelines:**

You are invited to please choose one of the below submission options.

1. Submit a 500-word, referenced abstract to the Young & Resilient Research Centre ([youngandresilient@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:youngandresilient@westernsydney.edu.au)) by 8 April 2024.

Please ensure you include a presentation title, keywords, author/s contact details, and organisation on the first page. All abstracts will be peer-reviewed, and acceptance letters sent by 12 April 2024. Submissions should be original and not previously published or under review elsewhere.

2. Submit the Pre-Conference Workshops and Demonstrations [Proposal Form](#) to the Young & Resilient Research Centre by 8 April 2024. All proposals will be peer-reviewed, and acceptance letters sent by 12 April 2024. Submissions should be original.

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## Registration:

Participants, including presenters and non-presenters, must register and pay fees. The registration fee is USD50 (casual academics) or USD100 (salaried academics). Registration is free for students. The fee is inclusive of catering at the event. Registration information and payment methods will be provided once proposals have been accepted. For further information please visit the [preconference page](#) or the [conference website](#).

## Important Dates:

Revised Submission Deadline: 8 April, 2024, 9AM AEST

Revised Notification of Acceptance: 12 April, 2024

ICA Preconference Date: 20 June, 2024

ICA Conference Dates: 20-24 June, 2024

## Publication Opportunities:

We aim to support youth participation research in the field of media and communication studies by generating a special issue of a respected, international journal.

## Contact Information:

For inquiries and further information, please contact Young & Resilient's Impact Officer, Nukte Ogun: [n.ogun@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:n.ogun@westernsydney.edu.au)

<https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/young-and-resilient>

<https://www.icahdg.org/mpage/2024-prepostconferences>

We look forward to your valuable contributions and participation in making our preconference event a vibrant platform for sharing knowledge, fostering collaborations, and advancing child participation in media and communications research.

Sincerely,

The organising committee and [the Young & Resilient Team](#)

