WELCOME TO THE YOUNG LIVES CONFERENCE

This conference offers a unique opportunity to explore the ways in which poverty affects children’s lives and what governments and donors can do to address it. Participants include researchers from Young Lives and other longitudinal poverty studies, policymakers from the Young Lives study countries and international organisations, as well as practitioners from a range of child-focused development organisations.

The conference is designed to encourage lively debate and exchange of ideas. Our three days together are structured around a core of plenary presentations, mixed with group discussions of current challenges and policy questions, and a series of parallel groups presenting research papers by Young Lives staff and invited participants. These sessions will present some of the Young Lives findings to date, alongside the work of other sister studies, situating them within the wider academic discourse and current policy debates.

The main themes the conference will examine are:

1) Dimensions and dynamics of childhood poverty
2) Breaking the cycle of poverty
3) Innovations in methodology for research and policy influence.

ABOUT YOUNG LIVES

“We focus on children in the belief that better understanding of childhood poverty is key to winning the global fight against poverty.”

Young Lives is a long-term research programme investigating the consequences, causes and policy implications of childhood poverty.

Our aim is to provide credible evidence drawn from all the factors, including policies and programmes that contribute to breaking cycles of poverty and the inequality that underpins so much of it.

We do this by tracking the lives of 12,000 children in Ethiopia, India (in the state of Andhra Pradesh), Peru and Vietnam over a 15-year period starting in the 2000. This is the timeframe for the United Nation’s Millennium Development Goals.

The four countries were chosen because they represent diverse socio-cultural, political and economic conditions and confront many of the challenges that other countries experience in the fight against poverty.

We work with two groups of children in each study country using both survey and in-depth research methods:

- 2000 children who were born in 2001-02 (the younger cohort)
- 1000 children who were born in 1994-95 (the older cohort).

Our work, which is funded by the UK’s Department for International Development, grew out of an awareness that globally far more children than adults live in poverty. They are often more susceptible to its effects, especially during infancy. Poverty in childhood can have lasting consequences throughout life, and the children of poor children are more likely to be poor themselves.

Young Lives embraces a holistic understanding of childhood poverty and its impacts on children’s lives, including on their social, emotional and psychological well-being, their life chances and those of their families.

The central research questions of Young Lives include:

- What are the factors that shape children’s lives to either increase or reduce poverty and its effects? How do children in different circumstances experience poverty?
- What impact does poverty have on children’s lives, both during childhood and into adulthood?
- What part do pro-poor policies (especially social protection and basic services) play in reducing childhood poverty?

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**PROGRAMME**

**Wednesday 25 March**

10.00-11.00  Registration and coffee  
Ruth Deech Building

11.00-12.30  Plenary 1: **Children and Development and the Development of Children**  
Dr Jo Boyden (Young Lives) and Professor Martin Woodhead (Young Lives/The Open University)  
Welcome and chair: Professor Frances Stewart (University of Oxford)  
Respondent: John Githongo (World Vision International)

12.30-14.00  Lunch  
Dining Hall

14.00-15.15  Policy discussion groups 1:  
**Why childhood poverty matters**  
Mary Ogilvie Lecture Theatre

15.15-15.45  Tea  
Ruth Deech Building

15.45-17.30  Parallel papers session 1:  
- **Focusing on children** (seminar room 7)  
- Children's psychosocial well-being  
- Children's contribution and sense of belonging (seminar room 6)  
- Poverty and inequality (seminar room 8)  
- The political economy of childhood poverty (seminar room 3)

19.00  Drinks and conference dinner  
Dining Hall

After dinner speaker: **Yasmin Alibhai-Brown** (The Independent)

**Thursday 26 March**

09.00-10.15  Plenary 2:  
**Why Longitudinal Research Matters**  
Professor Stefan Dercon (University of Oxford/Young Lives)  
Dr Albert Park (Gansu Survey of Children and Families)  
Special guest speaker: Michael Foster MP (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development, DFID)

10.15-11.00  Policy discussion groups 2:  
**What can research contribute to tackling childhood poverty?**  
TBC

11.00-11.30  Coffee  
Ruth Deech Building

11.30-13.00  Parallel papers session 2:  
**Causes and Consequences of Childhood Poverty**  
- Education (1) (seminar room 7)  
- Education (2) (seminar room 8)  
- Education (3) (seminar room 7)  
- Health and nutrition (2) (seminar room 6)  
- Health and nutrition (1) (seminar room 6)  
- Work and learning (2) (seminar room 3)  
- Work and learning (1) (seminar room 3)  
- Risk, resilience and well-being (seminar room 8)

13.00-14.00  Lunch  
Dining Hall

14.00-15.00  Plenary 3:  
**Poverty and Child Development**  
Professor Patrice Engle (California Polytechnic State University)  
Respondent: Professor Robert Serpell (University of Zambia)

15.00-15.30  Tea  
Ruth Deech Building

15.30-17.15  Parallel papers session 3:  
**Causes and Consequences of Childhood Poverty** (continued)  
- Education (2) (seminar room 8)  
- Education (3) (seminar room 7)  
- Health and nutrition (2) (seminar room 6)  
- Work and learning (2) (seminar room 3)

Evening  Informal dinner  
Dining Hall

**Friday 27 March**

09.00-10.15  Plenary 4:  
**How Do We Make Effective Policy?**  
Professor Lant Pritchett (John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University)  
Frank Hagemann (International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour, ILO)

10.15-11.00  Policy discussion groups 3:  
**Focusing on policy**  
TBC

11.00-11.30  Coffee  
Ruth Deech Building

11.30-13.00  Parallel papers session 4:  
**Policy Research and Poverty Reduction**  
- Education (seminar room 6)  
- Social protection (seminar room 8)  
- Working with children (seminar room 7)  
- Innovations in methodology (seminar room 3)

13.00-14.00  Lunch  
Dining Hall

14.00-14.30  Final plenary:  
**Looking to the Future**  
Jan Vandemoortele (former Chief of Policy Analysis, UNICEF)

14.30-15.30  Panel discussion:  
**Keeping the Focus on Children**  
Liana Gertsch (Bernard van Leer Foundation), Santosh Mehrotra (Indian Planning Commission), Leonardo Menchini (UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre), David Mepham (Save the Children UK), Susana Villarán (UN Committee on the Rights of the Child)  
Chair: Jo Boyden (Director, Young Lives)

15.30-16.00  Next steps: Jo Boyden (Director, Young Lives)

16.00  Coffee and departure
Parallel Paper Session 1 (15.45 to 17.15): Focusing on Children

**Children's Psychosocial Well-Being**
Seminar room 7
Stefan Dercon and Pramila Krishnan
Poverty and the psychosocial competencies of children
Ngoc P. Nguyen
What makes a child happy?
The link between family income, social networks and subjective well-being in Vietnam
Oswaldo Molina, Ingo Outes, Alan Sanchez
Psychosocial status and cognitive achievement in Peru

**Children’s Contribution and Sense of Belonging**
Seminar room 6
Jo Boyden
Issues and debates in researching children’s adversity: Young Lives findings from Ethiopia
Gillian Mann
On being despised: growing up a Congolese refugee in Dar es Salaam
Elizabeth Cooper
Children audit adults’ love: what parents’ spending of time and money tell children about their belonging
Kate Bird and Kate Higgins
Conflict and the intergenerational transmission of poverty in northern Uganda

**Poverty and Inequality**
Seminar room 8
Valpy FitzGerald
Financial globalisation and child well-being
Paul Glewwe
“Pro-poor growth” and children in developing countries: the case of Vietnam
Stefan Dercon
Multidimensional approaches to understanding childhood poverty

**The Political Economy of Child Poverty**
Seminar room 3
Jason Hart
Business as usual? The global political economy of childhood poverty
Philippa Bevan
Towards more effective policies for youth in poor countries: a political-cultural-economy analysis of transitions from childhood to adulthood in Ethiopia
Caitlin Porter
Challenges associated with assessing programme impact in the context of longitudinal research: the importance of a political economy perspective

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**Children's Psychosocial Well-Being**
Seminar room 7
Martin Woodhead
Is early childhood education fulfilling its promise?
Umamaheswari Mamun
Narrating transitions to school: the role of early education
Patricia Ames et al.
School transitions in early childhood: a longitudinal study from Peru
Arnaud Kukkerji
Does the early bird catch the worm? Starting school in developing countries

**Health and Nutrition**
Seminar room 6
Inka Barnett
Dual forms of malnutrition in the same household: evidence from the four Young Lives countries
Doug West, Steve Allender et al.
Preliminary results from the construction of a composite measure of urbanisation as a risk factor for child obesity
Silvana Vargas and Mary Penny
Assessing time allocation, health status and food consumption profiles: a comparison among working and non-working adolescents in Peru

**Work and Learning**
Seminar room 3
Andy Davies, Susan Levine et al.
Child agricultural work in South Africa: A study of contexts, developmental space
Virginia Morrow and Uma Vennum
Children’s accounts of combining work and education in cottonseed production in Andhra Pradesh: implications for discourses of children’s rights in India
Kate Orkin
Child work, school enrolment and grade progression in rural Ethiopia

**Risk, Resilience and Well-Being**
Seminar room 8
Ingo Outes and Catherine Porter
Risk and early child development in rural Ethiopia
Rozana Himaz
The impact of parental death on schooling and subjective well-being in Ethiopia
Laura Camfield
Exploring resilience among older children in urban Ethiopia: a case-based approach
Tassew Woldehanna
Economic shocks and child welfare: the effect of past economic shocks on child nutritional achievements, schooling and work in rural and urban Ethiopia
Javier Escobar and Eva Flores
Maternal migration and child well-being in Peru

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**Children's Psychosocial Well-Being**
Seminar room 7
Kenneth King
Eating out of poverty: beyond primary education
Santiago Cueto et al.
Explaining and overcoming marginalisation in education: a focus on ethnic and language minorities in Peru
Yisak Tafere
Educational trajectories of children living in poverty: a case study of five communities in Ethiopia
David Bainton and Michele Smith
Innovation in context: achieving quality education for all

**Education**
Seminar room 7
Ivy Ko and Jing Xing
Extra classes and subjective well-being: empirical evidence from Vietnamese children
Le Thuc Duc
Cognitive achievement of children in Vietnam: the effects of childhood socio-economic circumstances
Christian Helmers and Manasa Patnam
The formation and evolution of childhood skill acquisition: evidence from India
Florence Lopez Boz
The production function of children’s cognitive skills: health, parental investment and caste test score gaps

**Health/Nutrition**
Seminar room 6
Alan Sanchez
Early nutrition and cognitive achievement of pre-school children in Peru
Rozana Himaz
Persistent stunting in middle childhood: the case of Andhra Pradesh using longitudinal data
Kirk Bearden et al.
Whither the father: how early paternal absence in Peru affects children’s long-term well-being
Lita Cameron
Does “improved” sanitation make children healthier? Household pit latrines and child health in Ethiopia

**Work and Learning**
Seminar room 3
Sofya Krutikova
Determinants of Child Labour in Andhra Pradesh
S. Galab and Ingo Outes
Schooling and Work in the Time of Drought
Pieter Serneels and Stefan Dercon
Aspirations, poverty and education
Gina Crivello
Intergenerational change and continuity: the role of school, work and migration in “becoming somebody in life” in Peru

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**Social Protection**
Seminar room 8
Francisco H.G. Ferrera and Norbert G. Schady
Aggregate economic shocks, child schooling and health
Jenn Vahlenski and Michael Sampson
Developing an integrated child-focused social protection model in Rwanda
Bekele Tafere
The Ethiopian Health Care Financing Strategy: household perceptions and experiences of coping with user fees
Abhijeet Singh
Do school meals work: treatment evaluation of the Midday Meal Scheme in India
Natalia Streuli
Exploring children’s and families experiences and views of Juntos: a conditional cash transfer programme in Peru

**Innovations in Methodology**
Seminar room 7
Javier Escobar and Alan Sanchez
Can the Young Lives samples be used to extrapolate at the national level?
Anne Yates
Using novel data from a national survey to inform longitudinal research
Kirk Bearden et al.
The ethics of longitudinal research

**Working with Children (Methodology)**
Seminar room 3
Gina Crivello et al.
Young Lives qualitative research: an overview of methodology, challenges and opportunities
Anna Wansbrough-Jones
Children’s participation in policy and communications work
Virginia Morrow
The ethics of longitudinal research with children, families and communities in diverse cultural contexts: practical experiences with Young Lives
Patrice Engle
Professor of Psychology and Child Development, California Polytechnic State University
Patrice Engle is Professor of Psychology and Child Development at California Polytechnic State University. She previously held the position of Director of Women’s Studies in 1999, and was Chair of the Department of Psychology and Child Development from 1992 to 1995. She has also served as Senior Advisor on Early Childhood Development at UNICEF from 2002 to 2006, and as Chief of the Child Development and Nutrition section at UNICEF India from 1999 to 2002. Her work for UNICEF included coordinating with health, nutrition, water and sanitation, and education to develop an integrated approach for young children, as well as planning and developing "The Lancet" Series in Child Development.

Michael Foster MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development, DFID
Michael Foster serves on DFID’s Ministerial team as Parliamentary Secretary of State for International Development. He is also serving his ministerial appointment in the Government Whip’s Office where he had responsibilities for Northern Ireland and for Constitutional Affairs. Prior to this he was Parliamentary Private Secretary to Peter Hain in his role as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. Michael Foster was elected Member of Parliament for Worcester in 1997. In 2005, he became Joint Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Lifelong Learning. He was Secretary of the All Party Parliamentary Group of Further Education and a member of the Education Select Committee until June 2001.

John Githongo
Vice-President for Policy, World Vision International
John Githongo has worked as a journalist, consultant, anti-corruption leader, civil society organisation director at the national and international levels. He also served as a Permanent Secretary in the Government of Kenya in charge of Governance and Ethics in the Office of the President. His current work focuses mostly on African political economy and governance-related research. He works as a consultant for a number of multilateral agencies, international NGOs and private sector organisations mainly providing strategic research. He is a Senior Associate Member of St Antony’s College, Oxford, and a Visiting Fellow of the International Development Research Institute (IDRC), Canada.

Frank Hagemann
International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour, International Labour Organization
Frank Hagemann is Coordinator of the ILO’s Programme on Child Labour Statistics (SIMPOC) in Geneva, Switzerland. The programme collects data at the national and sub-national level and prepares regular global trend reports on child labour and specific forms of children’s work. SIMPOC is part of the ILO’s International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). It has carried more than 300 surveys in some 80 countries. Prior to managing SIMPOC, Frank Hagemann worked on small enterprise development and labour market policy in a wide range of developing countries. This included postings in Thailand, Indonesia, and Germany.

Santosh Mehrotra
Planning Commission, Government of India
Santosh Mehrotra was a Senior Economic Advisor for the Regional Centre for Asia of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) before he moved to become a Senior Consultant on Rural Development for the Planning Commission of the Government of India in 2007. His principle areas of expertise are on macro-economic policy, economic analyses of social sectors, gender and labour in the informal sector, and public finance and development finance. He previously worked as a Senior Policy Advisor for the UNDP Human Development Report Office and as Senior Economic Advisor for the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre. He is a member of the International Science Committee of the Council on Research on Poverty, and has served as a member of the Young Lives advisory panel since 2001.

Leonardo Menchini
Programme Specialist, UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre
Leonardo Menchini is a researcher in the Socio-economic Policy Analysis Unit of the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre. His areas of focus are childhood poverty and child well-being, and his current work involves the development of household surveys for assessing child well-being. Previously he worked for the UNICEF IRC’s MONET project, particularly looking at income poverty in transition countries.

David Mepham
Director of Policy, Save the Children UK
David Mepham is director of policy at Save the Children UK. He was previously an associate director and head of the international programme at the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR). In this role, he wrote extensively on development, foreign policy, and global justice.

Albert Park
Co-Director, Gansu Survey of Children and Families
Albert Park is Reader in Economics at the University of Oxford. Currently he co-directs the Gansu Survey of Children and Families (GSCF), a longitudinal study of rural youth in western China, and the China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Survey (CHARLS). He was previously Assistant Professor and Associate Professor of economics at the University of Michigan. He has consulted for the World Bank on China’s poverty assessment, the impact of education reforms, rural-urban inequality, urban social service provision, and unemployment in China. In recent years, he has published papers on migration and poverty, re-employment of dislocated urban workers, rising returns to education, human capital investments (education and health), wage inequality, and the impact of poverty alleviation programmes.
Acknowledgements

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We would like to thank the many people who assist in our research, most especially the Young Lives children and their families for generously giving us their time and cooperation and allowing us a glimpse into their lives. Further, we thank their communities and the local officials, teachers and other respondents for their welcome cooperation during our research.

The children and their families who are participating in the Young Lives study willingly share with us a great deal of detailed personal information about their daily lives, and we have a responsibility to protect their confidentiality and ensure their identity remains protected. For this reason, we change their names whenever we talk about individual children in our work.

The accompanying photos are of children living in similar situations to the children within our study sample.

We would also like to thank the photographers who provided such evocative images to support our work.

Ethiopia: Aida Ashenafi
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Vietnam: Pham Viet Anh