

Revising Child Rights Frameworks in Education:

Shifting Focus from Catalogues to Values

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This paper examines the critical role of academia in promoting and teaching child rights, emphasizing the need to shift the focus from catalogues to values. Drawing on my experience with the Bulgarian University education on human rights in general, I will address two significant challenges in the academic discourse surrounding child rights: the tendency to present these rights as static catalogues and the lack of interdisciplinary engagement. I argue that child rights are often framed in a formalistic manner, which can lead to a distorted understanding among future legal professionals. This approach risks portraying rights as mere obligations for parents and educators rather than as essential values that affirm dignity and respect for children. By shifting the focus from a catalogue approach to a values-based understanding, we can better equip students to recognize the dynamic nature of children's rights within various contexts. I will highlight the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in research and teaching about child rights. Engaging with fields such as sociology, psychology, and education can enrich our understanding and foster innovative approaches to advocacy and policy-making. By examining various academic initiatives, the paper illustrates how institutions can effectively engage with communities to promote child rights through research and practice. Ultimately, this study aims to inspire a transformation in academic settings, advocating for a holistic and values-driven approach to child rights that empowers students and contributes to a more just and equitable society for all children.

Presentation language: English ✓ Greek ☐

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Short CV

Deyana Marcheua is an Associate Professor of Constitutional Law and Human Rights at New Bulgarian University. She has published extensively in the fields of constitutional law and human rights law. Her research and academic interests primarily focus on the human rights of vulnerable groups, such as children, refugees, and the LGBTI community. Additionally, Deyana Marcheua is a practicing lawyer and a member of the Sofia Bar Association.