Call for Papers on “Children’s Rights at 30: Challenges for the Next Generation”

AALS Annual Meeting, January 2-5, 2020, Washington, D.C.

The AALS International Human Rights Section, the International Law Section, and the Children and the Law Section solicit papers and works-in-progress marking the thirtieth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (see description below). Submissions should be sent to Peter Halewood at phale@albanylaw.edu by August 15, 2019. Scholars are welcome to submit either a full paper or a shorter concept note of 5-15 double-spaced pages that contains a summary of the key ideas. Papers will be selected after review by members of the Executive Committee of the Section. The author of the selected paper(s) will be notified by September 15, 2019. Selected presenters will be responsible for paying their registration fee, hotel and travel expenses.

Panel description:

In November 2019, the international community will celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). This landmark legal instrument is both the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history and one of the most comprehensive human rights treaties. It is the foundation of children’s rights law. The CRC has helped spur positive developments in law, policy, and practices in dozens of countries. And it has also helped forge a shift in how children are perceived, by insisting that they are recognized as individuals with rights and agency, and not merely objects subsumed within the family. Despite these significant developments and improvements in child wellbeing indicators in many countries, children continue to confront violations of their rights in all countries.

After thirty years of jurisprudential developments, the CRC and children’s rights as a field is at an important juncture. Rigorous research is needed to better understand the content of children’s rights law, to ensure more effective implementation of children’s rights, and to account more fully for the unique, developmental nature of childhood. This program seeks to identify critical issues confronting the field of children’s rights and to explore new ideas, perspectives, and methodologies that can advance children’s rights law and help ensure that the vision of the CRC is realized by all children. Our goal is to have a moderated conversation with the panelists and audience - we would like to create a forum for those who are thinking critically and innovatively about the content and implementation of children’s rights at this important historical moment.

Several leading children’s rights scholars have already agreed to participate in this panel. At least one additional panelist will be selected from this Call for Papers.