# AGENCY, SELF-DETERMINATION, AUTONOMY: QUESTIONING KEY CONCEPTS OF CHILDHOOD STUDIES

**VENUE:** INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH AT GOETHE UNIVERSITY  
SENCKENBERGANLAGE 26, FRANKFURT AM MAIN, GERMANY  
**DATE:** DEC. 6–7, 2017  
**ORGANISATION:** PROF. DR. FERDINAND SUTTERLÜTY, FRANKFURT  
PROF. E. KAY M. TISDALL PHD, EDINBURGH

**Wednesday, 6th December**

<table>
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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>12.30–1.00</td>
<td>Registration, coffee and tea</td>
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<td>1.00</td>
<td>Welcome and introductions: Ferdinand Sutterlüty &amp; Kay Tisdall</td>
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| 1.15–2.15 | Paper 1: Samantha Punch, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Stirling  
**Why has the generational order been marginalised in childhood studies?**  
Chair: Sabine Flick  
Discussant: Kay Tisdall, Centre for Research on Families and Relationships at the University of Edinburgh |
| 2.15–3.15 | Paper 2: Anca Gheaus, Philosophy of Law, University Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona  
**On the nature and value of childhood**  
Discussant: Ferdinand Sutterlüty, Institute for Social Research & Faculty of Social Sciences at Goethe University Frankfurt |
| 3.15–3.45 | Coffee and tea                                                          |
| 3.45–4.45 | Paper 3: Meike Sophia Baader, Faculty of Educational and Social Sciences, University of Hildesheim  
**Sexual self-determination: a paradox of children’s agency?**  
Chair: Sarah Speck  
Discussant: Jo Moran-Ellis, School of Law, Politics and Sociology, University of Sussex |
| 4.45–5.45 | Paper 4: Lucinda Ferguson, Family Law at University of Oxford and Oriel College, Oxford  
**Reciprocity, relationships, and relationality: proceed with caution**  
Discussant: Klaus Günther, Institute for Social Research & Cluster of Excellence “The Formation of Normative Orders” at Goethe University Frankfurt |
| 5.45—6.00 | Close of Day 1 and Looking ahead to Day 2                                |

Conference dinner
**Thursday, 7th December**

| 9.00—9.15  | Reflections on, Debates and Questions from Day 1 |
| 9.15—10.15 | Paper 5: Ruth Edmonds, UK-based firm Keep Your Shoes Dirty  
**Clashing conceptions of agency: exploring international and local concepts of girls’ agency, autonomy and self-determination in Rwanda**  
Chair: Kay Tisdall  
Discussants: Chandni Basu, Institute for Sociology at the University of Freiburg & Silke Jakob, Institute of Educational Sciences, Justus Liebig University Gießen |
| 10.15—11.15| Paper 6: Sabine Andresen, Faculty of Educational Sciences, Goethe University Frankfurt  
**What matters how? Vulnerability and child well-being**  
Discussant: Lars Alberth, Institute of Sociology, Leibniz University Hannover |
| 11.15—11.30| Coffee and tea |
| 11.30—12.00| Intermediate reflections in light of papers 1–6:  
1. Should childhood studies continue with “agency”, “self-determination” or “autonomy” as research-guiding concepts? (Opening remarks: Ferdinand Sutterlüty)  
2. To what extent are these concepts to be perceived as child-specific or as cross-generationally applicable? (Opening remarks: Kay Tisdall) |
| 12.00—1.15 | Lunch |
| 1.15—2.15 | Paper 7: E. Kay M. Tisdall, Centre for Research on Families and Relationships at the University of Edinburgh & Jo Moran-Ellis, School of Law, Politics and Sociology, University of Sussex  
**Competence and capacity: concepts that enhance or detract from children and young people’s participation?**  
Discussant: Florian Eßer, Department of Social Pedagogy and Organisation Studies, University of Hildesheim |
| 2.15—3.15 | Paper 8: Michael Gallagher, Faculty of Education, Manchester Metropolitan University  
**After agency: skill, technics and technologies of the self**  
Discussant: Alexander Bagattini, Faculty of Philosophy, Philosophy of Science and the Study of Religion, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich |
| 3.15—3.30 | Coffee and tea |
| 3.30—4.30 | Concluding reflections: What’s next? (Chairs: Kay Tisdall & Ferdinand Sutterlüty)  
1. Brief statements by participants on emerging consequences for research and conceptual agendas.  
2. Open discussion and possible next steps of cooperation. |

**Schedule:** 20 min paper presentation by authors, 10 min discussants, 30 min open discussion  
**Registration:** Christina Engelmann [cengelma@stud.uni-frankfurt.de]