

Special Section:
Children's Rights: Contemporary Issues in Law and
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INTRODUCTION TO THE SPECIAL SECTION

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Il mondo si può guardare a altezza d'uomo, ma anche dall'alto di una nuvola (con gli aeroplani è più facile). Nella realtà si può entrare dalla porta principale o infilarvisi—è più divertente—da un finestrino.

You can look at the world at eye level, but also from the top of a cloud (it's easier with airplanes). In reality, you can enter through the front door or slip in—it's more fun—through a window (Rodari 1973: 28).

The Special Section was prompted by several conversations that I had in recent times with some primary school children and their teachers in Italy about children's rights and their application in daily life. Children were interested in reading about research on children's rights and to write about those rights, but in a "cool" way. Like the quotation above, the children to whom I talked, wanted to look at children's rights from the ethereal vantage point of the clouds. They wanted to be able to choose their own perspective.

Thus, Part 1 and Part 2 bring together researchers, activists, writers, and practitioners from different disciplines, backgrounds, and geographical areas. Trying to speak to all types of readers (not their age but to their intelligence and sensibility) submissions include essays, artistic means, personal account, audio visual samples, poems, and letters. More importantly, to use publications to empower children, and although to be published later this year, Part 2 of the Special Section includes submissions written by young adults.² In an attempt to contribute to the discourse on decolonizing academic research (and resulting publications)

¹ Part 2 will be published in *Amicus Curiae* 2.5.3 (2024) (forthcoming 2024).

² See *ibid.*

concerning children, authors have been free to write in languages other than English too.³

The general aim of the Special Section (Part I and Part II) is to provide socio-legal and interdisciplinary analyses of emerging issues, methods and topics concerning children's rights, and contributors have been free to choose the themes to address. These themes can be succinctly stated as including awareness of and education about children's rights, professional interventions in decision-making processes concerning children, families and their dynamics, child abuse, child identity, representation of children, and writing about children.

The two-part Special Section published here in *Amicus Curiae* on "Children's Rights: Contemporary Issues in Law and Society" is dedicated to all children affected by wars.

About the author

Maria Federica Moscati (*Marica*) teaches law at the University of Sussex. She holds a PhD from SOAS, is an Italian advocate, trained mediator and former professional dancer. She has previously convened and lectured at SOAS, Queen Mary and UCL (University of London), and at the University of Shantou in the People's Republic of China. Before undertaking her doctorate she practised as a family lawyer, and worked for Save the Children Italy where she specialized in children's rights. Her main research interests concern issues relating to dispute resolution, access to justice, comparative family law, children's rights, sexual orientation and gender identity, reproductive and health cultures, and their intersection.

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References

- Keikelame, M J & L Swartz. "Decolonising Research Methodologies: Lessons from a Qualitative Research Project, Cape Town, South Africa." *Global Health Action* 12(1) (2019): 1–11.
- Rodari, Gianni. *Grammatica della Fantasia*. Torino: Giulio Einaudi Editore 1973.

³ See Keikelame & Swartz 2019. See also *Amicus Curiae* 2.5.3 (forthcoming 2024) for contributions that include languages other than English.