Aims and Activities of the Project

The overall aims of “The Child in Religion and Ethics” project are to deepen our commitment to children, to strengthen theological understandings of them, and to promote research on “the child” in all areas of theology, ethics, and religious studies.

The project seeks to fulfill its aims by publishing two foundational theological volumes on children and childhood and by helping scholars in all areas of ethics, theology, and religious studies develop undergraduate and graduate courses on children and childhood.

We hope that the project's activities will enable theologians, ethicists, and scholars of religion to contribute more effectively to contemporary discourse on children within religious communities, the academy, and the public realm.

Our Hope

We hope that “The Child in Religion and Ethics” project will help establish reflection on children as a legitimate area of inquiry within theology and religious studies.

We also hope that all project activities will help build up religiously informed understandings of children that include attention not only to their vulnerabilities and needs but also to the strengths and gifts that they bring to families and communities.

We hope, above all, that the project can help all who participate in its activities or use its resources to deepen their commitment to children in their midst and throughout the world.

Contact Information

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The project’s first volume is a collection of essays written by biblical scholars who explore themes of children and childhood in selected biblical texts. By using the "lens" of "the child," this volume offers fresh insights into the Bible and provides a necessary foundation for serious theological and ethical reflection on children and our obligations to them.

Contributors include:

Reidar Aasgaard  
University of Oslo

Forthcoming 2008.

Eerdmans Publishing Company  
(Grand Rapids, Michigan).

The project’s second volume is a collection of essays written by theologians and ethicists on views of children and obligations to them in Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The book is divided into two parts: 1) central beliefs and practices regarding children in each tradition; and 2) selected contemporary ethical issues. Each part includes chapters written by contributors from diverse strands within each particular faith tradition, and the book as a whole represents a range of conservative and progressive religious perspectives.

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Forthcoming 2008

The project also aims to help scholars in all areas of theology, ethics, and religious studies to develop undergraduate and graduate courses on children and childhood. Our website furthers this particular goal by providing information about current books and research and by gathering examples of course syllabi taught by scholars around the world.

How You Can Participate

If you have taught a course on children or childhood in any area of theology, ethics, or religious studies, then please submit a copy of the syllabus for possible inclusion in this website. We also appreciate receiving information about additional resources for our website, such as bibliographies, website links, or future programs, workshops, and conferences.

Please visit our website and e-mail your course syllabus and additional resources to Child.Project@valpo.edu.

www.childreligionethics.org