



## Call for Handbook COMPANION submissions

**RE: Handbook Companion on ChildhoodNature: *Assemblages of Childhood and Nature Research***

### Companion Editors

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## International Research Handbook on ChildhoodNature COMPANION by Children and Young People

### Overview

The ChildhoodNature Companion enables children and young people to author and represent their research (their voices) alongside the *International Research Handbook on ChildhoodNature*. The use of the new concept "ChildhoodNature" (coined by Cutter-Mackenzie, Malone & Barratt Hacking) reflects the editors' underpinning belief, and the latest innovative concepts in the field, that as children *are* nature this should be redefined in this integrating concept. The book therefore critiques and rejects an anthropocentric view of nature. As such it disrupts dominant conceptions of children and nature and rejects the view that humans are superior to nature.

The ChildhoodNature Companion is a unique section of this prestigious International Research Handbook (see an overview of Handbook at <https://meteor.springer.com/sihe-cn>). Children and young people are one of the most heavily researched groups in society, however, there is very little research in which children play an active and meaningful role (European Network of Ombudspersons for Children, 2007). Although there have been attempts to progress beyond observation to extended dialogue and to report findings in children's own words, the process still tends to be controlled by professional adults, that is, teachers and researchers (Clark, 2001; Kellett, 2005). Kellett (2005, p. 2) argues that children should be 'acknowledged as experts on their own lives and if adults genuinely want to understand children and childhood, better ways to seek out child perspective and unlock child voice must be sought'. That said, there is a growing body of literature calling for more child-framed or oriented research approaches where children are positioned as active participants and/or co-researchers. This reflects paradigm shifts in educational and social science research that have involved repositioning children and that recognise the potential of research with and by children (Alderson, 2001; Christensen & James, 2000; Kellett, 2005, 2010; Willow, 2004). 'The idea that children are social actors with a part to play in their own

representation... is at last beginning to be absorbed into mainstream social science thinking' (Christensen and James, 2000, p. xi; cited in Barratt Hacking, Cutter-Mackenzie & Barratt, 2013).

Submissions to the Companion can be in the form of visual essays, poetry, drawings, annotated maps or diagrams, short creative writing pieces or narratives (maximum 5,000 words) or other media that children and young people (early childhood – 25 years of age) use to explore ChildhoodNature. Submissions can be on any ChildhoodNature related topic or could be aligned with the broad themes of the Handbook (see below).

We encourage all sorts of submissions, small or large; poems, visualisations, reflective and opinion writing pieces, fiction or other submission formats welcomed, to give children and young people an opportunity to collaborate and create their perspectives and experiences of ChildhoodNature. A small piece could become the starting point of an opportunity to work with other young people and/or the Editors to develop a larger collaborative work for the Companion.

To participate, young people under 18 years of age require their parent/legal guardian's permission to be involved, or their participation can be facilitated through an adult researchers' ethics committee-approved research project. Young people may also like to work collaboratively with the Companion Editors to assemble the Companion. So this call for submissions is to children and young people, and to researchers or educators working with children and young people, to contribute youth voices, and/or editorial commentary to the Companion. Researchers working with children and young people may like to contribute a Companion segment submission based on your collaborative work with young people, but emphasising and spotlighting children's own voices (1,500 - 3,000 words).

A flyer to distribute to children and young people inviting their submissions to the Companion is included at the end of this document.

### **Submission Guidelines**

If you would you like to be part of this groundbreaking International Handbook **Companion**, register a brief description of who you are and what you would like to contribute to the Companion using the online registration form at [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ChildhoodNature\\_Companion\\_Rego](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ChildhoodNature_Companion_Rego) The deadline for registering your intention to contribute is **28 April 2017**. Once registration is completed (including obtaining parent/guardian permission if applicable), you will then be invited to submit directly to the private sections of the book website (<https://meteor.springer.com/sihe-cn>).

Please direct all questions and/or queries about the Companion to the International Research Handbook on ChildhoodNature Companion Editors, Dr. Laura Piersol, at [lpiersol@sfu.ca](mailto:lpiersol@sfu.ca) or Dr. Joshua Russell, at [russellj@canisius.edu](mailto:russellj@canisius.edu)

### Geographical concerns

Much like the handbook, the Companion editors are actively seeking submissions from children and young people in majority and minority (Western) countries. All too often research books are Western (minority) world focused with little representation from the rest of the world (the majority). It is our intention to disrupt that trend in this Companion as much as possible.

### Themes and objectives

The underlying objectives of the Companion are two-fold:

- Opening up spaces for children and young people to engage with ChildhoodNature as co-researchers; and
- Consolidating children and young people's art, writing, and other works into a source that can help to inform researchers, policy makers, and educators while also remaining accessible and encouraging for children, young people, and the wider public

The Handbook has nine distinctive themes (sections), in addition to the Introduction and Concluding sections. The Companion will develop themes based on submissions in order to allow children and young people's interests and concerns guide the overall structure of the text. We will comment as an editorial team and provide an Introduction and Conclusion.

### Timeline

Although very ambitious, it our intention that the complete Handbook, including the Companion, will be submitted for copyediting January 2018. Our timeline follows:

Month, Year (Completion)	Task	Responsibility
27 March 2017	Call for Companion proposals and Invitations to Invited Authors	Handbook Editors Section Editors
28 April 2017	Deadline for Companion registration of intent to submit via online registration form	Authors
11 April - 30 June 2017	Registered authors submit to the Springer book authoring site via their personalised page (link sent after registration process completed)	Authors
1 July - 22 September 2017	Companion assembly, commentary and editing by Companion Editors and collaborating young people	Youth Collaborators and Companion and Handbook Editors
23 Sept - 20 Oct 2017	Handbook Editors Review of Companion draft	Handbook editors
21 Oct - 15 Dec 2017	Companion changes and editing after review by Handbook Editors	Companion Editors
15 Dec 2017	Submission of Final Companion section	Companion Editors

22 Dec 2017	Handbook Editor Review of All Handbook Sections and Companion <i>(return to authors for further changes or finalised for copyediting)</i>	Handbook Editors
30 January 2018	Submit to Publisher for Copyediting (Complete Handbook and Companion)	Handbook Editors
April 2018	Pre-Launch of Handbook at AERA, New York, USA	Handbook Editors, Section Editors and Authors

# *The ChildhoodNature Companion*

Call for Book Submissions from Children & Young People



(“Narumi,” Tomomi Furukawa, 2016)

## **What is ChildhoodNature?**

ChildhoodNature is a term that researchers have developed that helps us to remember that children, and all people, are part of the natural world. Children and young people like you understand that the natural world, including plants and animals, is very important for many reasons and you have many ideas about how to share our planet with other living things. We hope that your submissions in *The ChildhoodNature Companion* can help all of us, including adults, learn from children and young people about how to build and sustain lasting relationships with animals, plants, and other living things in our homes, backyards, neighborhoods, parks, oceans, and in many other wild and not-so-wild places.

## What kinds of submissions are we looking for?

We are looking for anything and everything that you, as children, teenagers, and young people (ages 0-25), might contribute that draws on your ideas about nature, your experiences with animals, or your thoughts about environmental issues. We will accept essays, poetry, short stories, photographs, photo-essays, opinion pieces, drawings, paintings, and potentially even video submissions. Once we have collected enough submissions we will decide which pieces to include and work with the authors and artists to edit their work if necessary for the final book. Anyone wishing to submit a piece must register their details at the (protected) website listed below, indicating their intention to submit, the kind of work, and any association with adult researchers:

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ChildhoodNature\\_Companion\\_Rego](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ChildhoodNature_Companion_Rego)

Please note that all children and teenagers under the age of 18 will require consent from a parent or guardian in order to participate in this exciting project. More information about consent can be found at the online registration site (as above) or can be made available by contacting the editors (see below). Once we collect your personal contact information and we have your parent/guardian permission, you will then be invited to submit your work directly to the website of our publishing company, Springer (see <https://meteor.springer.com/sihe-cn>).

## Who are we?

We are Dr. Helen Widdop Quinton, Dr. Laura Piersol, David Roussell, and Dr. Joshua Russell, researchers from Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States who have worked with children all over the world on projects highlighting their connections with animals, nature, and environmental issues like climate change. We are passionate about making children's voices heard in order to think about how to build a better future for all living things on our planet.

## Do you have additional questions?

If you have any questions about our project, the book, or the submission process, you can contact one of the following editors, Dr. Laura Piersol, at [lpiersol@sfu.ca](mailto:lpiersol@sfu.ca), or Dr. Joshua Russell, at [russellj@canisius.edu](mailto:russellj@canisius.edu).