



Newsletter from the research environment [CHILD](#) at Jönköping University

New meetings in the Swedish - South African collaboration

CHILD's research collaboration with the University of Pretoria is now on its fifth year. Recently a group of Swedish researchers went to Pretoria to among other things; collect data and test utility of observation tools. [Read their story.](#)



Welcome - Researcher's Conference in Jönköping

On May 28, 2014, CHILD give a one-day researcher's conference with international perspectives on children in need of additional support and participation. Speaking professors come from Africa,



Video clip: Education for Effective Interventions

Jönköping University starts a new international master's level programme as from September 2014 (*Interventions in Childhood, Master of Science, 60*

Australia, Europe and Northern America.
Sign up before May 15. [Read more](#)

credits). [Watch a video](#) clip on youtube where Mats Granlund, one of three responsible professors, talk about the programme.



Job vacancies

The research environment CHILD has got two job vacancies. One as a Two Year Postdoctoral Fellowship and one as a Research Assistant. Come work with us!

Research Assistant in CHILD

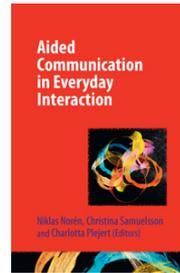
[Read more](#)

Two Year Postdoctoral Fellowship
in CHILD

[Read more](#)

New book release:

Aided Communication in Everyday Interaction



This book argues for the importance of the participants' perspective within both theory and practice on the function of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) aids in everyday talk-in-interaction. CHILD-

professor *Eva Björck-Åkesson* contributes in a chapter about spontaneous communication with Blissymbolics. [More on the book](#)

For more research news - visit [CHILD's web page](#)



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New meetings in the Swedish - South African collaboration

CHILD's research collaboration with University of Pretoria is now on it's fifth year. Recently a group of Swedish researchers went to Pretoria to among other things; collect data and test utility of observation tools. Here is their story.



Back row: Ensa Johnson, Margareta Adolfsson, Prof Juan Bornman, Stefan Nilsson, Prof Hennie Stander. Front row: Frida Lygnegård, Refilwe Morwane, Karina Huus, Madeleine Sjöman, Prof Cheryl de la Rey.

Back in Africa!

In February, five members of the research group CHILD (*Karina Huus, Frida Lygnegård, Madeleine Sjöman, Stefan Nilsson and Margareta Adolfsson*), visited the Centre for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (CAAC) at the University of Pretoria. The purpose was to continue the research collaboration between CAAC and CHILD. Already on route from the airport, zebras close to the highroad welcomed the visitors - making them feel welcome on the African continent!



The children's rights project

Karina Huus and *Frida Lygnegård* worked on the final part of a collaborative 3-year research project on children's rights with Professor *Juan Bornman* and *Dr Shakila Dada*. This team, together with *Alta Erasmus*, who had completed her Master's thesis on this topic, visited a special school for children with intellectual disabilities where data had been collected earlier. What an important eye opening contextual experience this turned out to be! They also attended an interesting meeting with *Dr Ilze Grobbelaar-du Plessis* at the Faculty of Law's Department of Public Law to discuss issues related to human rights of children with disabilities. One paper about children's rights based on self- and proxy ratings was completed, another paper based on caregivers' perspectives on children's rights was initiated.

New observation tools in preschool settings

The purpose of *Madeleine Sjöman's* visit was to test the utility of two observation tools in preschool settings in the African context: Child Observation Protocol (COP) and Teacher Observation Protocol (TOP), developed by *Prof Dale Farran* at Vanderbilt University, USA. Together with *Enid Moolman* she conducted the trial in the preschool for children with disability, Maranatha Bana, run by *Dr Elsa du Toit*. They also visited Pathways Special School, run by the principal *Danita Nel*. The visits gave very rich experiences concerned alternative communication with children with disabilities and their possibility to participate in different activity. Madeleine Sjöman also had the opportunity to discuss with *Tracy Naude*, a PhD student in the Centre for AAC about the vulnerability of children with disability in the African context. The visits gave insights in the importance of engaged and skilled professionals who advocate for children with disabilities.

Persistent pain in children with cerebral palsy in school situations

Together with *Ensa Johnson* at the CAAC, *Stefan Nilsson* and *Margareta Adolfsson* investigated professional's experiences of persistent pain in children with cerebral palsy (CP) in school situations. It included how teachers and health professionals in schools observe and communicate pain with the children and how they manage to support the children to become active participants in the school despite their persistent pain. Five interactive focus groups were conducted in schools in Pretoria and Johannesburg, providing lots of information and understanding of the situation for children with CP in South African schools. A continuation is scheduled to conduct similar focus groups in Sweden to compare the management of pain in children with CP in two different cultural contexts.

Thank you so much!

During our visit, we got the opportunity to attend the Research Themes launch arranged by the Faculty of Humanities. The Deputy Dean Professor *Hennie Stander* moderated the programme including remarks by Professor *Norman Duncan*, the Dean of the Faculty and Professor *Cheryl de la Rey*, the Vice-chancellor and Principal. Afterwards, the reception gave all the opportunity to exchange ideas with the researchers in the faculty. We thank *Liza Siefe* who supported us with the practical arrangements and all the staff members at the CAAC who made our visit so interesting and pleasant. We also want to thank Professor Juan Bornman, CAAC, and Professor Mats Granlund, CHILD, who initiated the collaboration between the research groups and funded the research collaboration. We are looking forward to further collaboration!

For more information about the Swedish-South African research collaboration, contact Professor [Mats Granlund](#).

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[About the Website](#)

CHILD

International Perspectives on Children in Need of Additional Support

A one day conference was arranged in Jönköping, Sweden, around the topic of children in need of additional support. Speaking professors came from four different continents and it was proved to us all that the best of research is achieved when we work together.



Research as an international teamwork - for the very best benefit of children

The research unit CHILD and the Swedish Institute for Disability Research arranged a one day conference on children in need of additional support and participation in the context of a home-, preschool- and school environment.

The day was visited by 60 Swedish researchers and speaking professors came from the USA, Portugal, South Africa, Australia and Belgium.

"Our research is an international teamwork. By exchanging experiences between countries we can build an extensive knowledge about participation in everyday life for children and young persons with disabilities and long term illnesses", says research leader of CHILD, Professor Mats Granlund.

[See the Conference Day Program](#) 

Speaking Professors:



Ana Pinto, Professor at University of Porto, Portugal.



Bea Maes, Professor at Catholic University Leuven, Belgium, here with Professor Mats Granlund, CHILD.



Christine Imms, Professor at Catholic University Melbourne, Australia.



Dale Farran, Professor at Vanderbilt University, USA.



Juan Bornman, Professor at University of Pretoria, Republic of South Africa.



Education

Interventions in Childhood

[Apply now](#)

Master of Science with a major in Child Studies

The Master's programme Interventions in Childhood is an interdisciplinary education focusing on effective intervention techniques for children in need of support — beyond what is normally provided to all children.

The programme is grounded in an ecological perspective on child development, learning, and functioning. Influences are observed at various levels, from biological to environmental, or from "neurons to neighbourhoods". A critical perspective focusing on the individual, the environment, and their interrelationship, is emphasised. The programme addresses everyday life situations of children in various settings, including family, preschool/school, hospital, and community. A biopsychological model is used as a frame of reference and the connection between research and practical everyday work is stressed.

Degree

1 year, 60 credits. Master of Science with a major in Child Studies.

Career prospects

The programme is designed to prepare students for leadership roles in child care and preschool, school, early intervention/habilitation, special education, child healthcare, social services and the equivalent.

Courses

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Facts

Credits: 60,0 credits

Level: Master's

Rate of study: Full-time

Place of study: Campus-based

Language: English

Start date: Autumn 2015

Application code: HJ-MU066

Requirements:

The applicant must hold the minimum of a bachelor's degree (ie. the equivalent of 180 ECTS credits at an accredited university) within health and caring sciences, behavioural science, social work, or educational sciences, including independent, theoretical based work- i.e. a thesis or equivalent.

Proof of English proficiency is required.

[Click here](#) for more detailed entry requirements.

Degree:

Degree of Master of Science (60 credits) with a major in Child Studies

Tuition fee for the first semester: SEK 58500

Total tuition fee: SEK 117000

Tuition fees do NOT apply for EU/EEA citizens or exchange students

- [Preliminary syllabus PDF](#)