

Rethinking the child: A download on human rights, children and the digital

Recently, calls for the recognition of the potential of online and networked media for promoting and sustaining children's rights have gained momentum. But what are the implications for human rights, as both a theoretical concept and a field of practice, of claiming children's rights in the era of connectivity? And what are the meanings and limits of the concept of the child in this context? Reflecting on a study conducted with 148 children from 16 countries, this paper argues that the move to embrace both 'children' and 'the digital' necessitates a radical rethinking of the concept of human rights. To make this argument, I examine the temporalities that proscribe children's relationship to the state, citizenship, rights and 'the digital'.

A/Prof. Amanda Third
Institute for Culture and Society
Western Sydney University