Full Time Faculty

Dr. Patrick Ryan, Chair of the Department of Interdisciplinary Programs & Associate Professor of History

Dr. Rachel Birnbaum, Professor of Childhood and Social Institutions

Dr. Sally McNamee, Associate Professor of Childhood and Social Institutions

Dr. Alan Pomfret, Professor of Childhood and Social Institutions

For more information

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Childhood and Social Institutions
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Taking Childhood Seriously

Get connected. Make a difference.
The critical social study of Childhood

Childhood and Social Institutions at King’s offers students an opportunity to engage with a program which is unlike any other in Canada. We offer a Major in CSI or a 4-year Honours Specialization. In addition, students may study for the certificate/diploma in Children and the Justice System and in Child Advocacy. Childhood lies at the centre of our analysis of social structures. We explore the experiences, voices, perspectives, discourses of children and childhoods, past and present. Along with several special topics courses, we offer courses classes in:

- Children and media
- Children in culture, society and social policy
- History of childhood
- Discourses of childhood
- Children, youth and leisure
- Childhood, citizenship and participation
- The geographies of childhood
- Childhood and advocacy
- Childhood and the justice system

Students may also take courses from outside of the CSI program, for example in Disability Studies or in Sociology or Criminology.

Exchange Opportunities

Students also have the opportunity to take part in student exchanges with Malmö University, Sweden and Winchester University, UK.

Career Options

Many of our students go on to study in health-related fields, community work, gaining postgrad degrees in Education or on to further academic study.

Student Testimonials

“The program gave me an outlook towards children … the way I look at every client and patient I serve is through a lens of advocacy and respect. I assume capacity and the highest of ability from every person I support … I view them as an equal, and that is largely because [the program] allowed me to understand the limits we put on others because of their social position.”

-Sam Mulcaster (Foster), CSI grad ‘13, MSC Autism

“I am working in the youth justice services department in a diversion program for youth aged 12-17 who have been in conflict with the law (...) The program gives youth sanctions that are proportionate to the crime the youth has committed but also strives to support youth and their families. The C.S.I. program was a catalyst for myself and the work that I am doing as I am continuing to strive to be an advocate for young people. I do not think I would be where I am today if it was not for the C.S.I. program

-Megan Bourdieu, CSI grad ‘10

“In regards to the CSI program I am very pleased that I chose CSI as my undergraduate degree. As an educator now I have a much broader understanding of childhood relative to time and place, not such a Westernized view of children and childhood as some of my colleagues may have. I am also grateful to have gained experience with research with children as a major component of my Honors degree.”

-Danielle Tisdale, CSI grad ‘11