

## The Challenges of Comparing Child Well-Being across Countries: Reflecting on the UNICEF Report Card 13 Research Experience



### **Speaker**

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Professor Hudson has worked at the University of York since 1998. He was Head of Social Policy/Deputy Head of Social Policy & Social Work from 2009-2014 and is currently the Co-Director of the Centre for Research in Comparative and Global Social Policy within the Department of Social Policy & Social Work. He specializes in comparative analysis of the politics of social policy. His most recent publication in UNICEF's Report Card Fairness for Children (co-authored with Stefan Kühner) is released on 14th April.

International organisations have increasingly focused on comparing countries using multi-dimensional measures of child well-being in order to evaluate the living condition of children and young people. Drawing on the most recent UNICEF child well-being Report Card (*Fairness for Children*), co-authored by John Hudson and Stefan Kühner, this session explores the challenges of comparing child well-being across countries. It explores key conceptual and methodological debates, including which dimensions to examine, which measures and how different indicators can best be combined. In so doing, it asks whether the focus of comparative child well-being studies ought to be on the outcomes of the average child or the most vulnerable children. It reflects on what lessons can be drawn from comparative analyses for social policy in East Asia and asks whether some countries provide a model example in terms of providing a fair start to life for children.