NORDLOCH OSLO CONFERENCE 2026

Programme

Nordic Network on Longitudinal Child Welfare Research

26–28 October 2026 | Oslo Metropolitan University | Stensberggata 26, 0170 Oslo

Hosted by the Oslo Centre for Children's Rights @ Department of Social Work, Child Welfare and Social Policy

MONDAY
26 October
PhD forum · Policy, data and projects · Conference dinner

TUESDAY
27 October
Sessions 1–3 · Inflow, prevention and support, childhood adversity, trajectories through out-of-home care

WEDNESDAY
28 October
Sessions 4–5 · Children in care, transitions to adulthood · Closing

About the programme

NORDLOCH meets from Monday 26 to Wednesday 28 October. Monday opens with the public forum for PhD fellows, followed by an afternoon on policy, data and projects. Fifteen presentations then run in five thematic sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday. The order follows the paths children take into and through child welfare: from inflow, prevention and support, through how childhood adversity is measured and how its timing matters for mental health, and trajectories through out-of-home care, to children in care and the transition to adulthood. Several papers follow children over long periods, from adolescence into young adulthood and, in one case, into midlife.

Practical information

LOCATION	**Stensberggata 26, 0170 Oslo** Open in Google Maps **All three days:** fifth floor, Room X539
DINNER	**Monday:** served at the Department of Social Work, Child Welfare and Social Policy, fifth floor, fifteen minutes after the last session. **Tuesday:** 18:00 at Restaurant Eik Annen Etage, Stortingsgata 24/26 (Hotel Continental, by Nationaltheatret). Afterwards, those who would like a beverage of their own choosing meet at Cafe Amsterdam, Kristian Augusts gate 12.
ASSISTANCE	**Asgeir** +47 948 61 084 **Kjetil** +47 906 41 606

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MONDAY 26 OCTOBER

PhD forum · Policy, data and projects · Conference dinner

Stensberggata 26, fifth floor · Room X539 · Open in Google Maps

TIME	PROGRAMME	PRESENTER
09:00–09:15	**Welcome**	
09:15–12:40	**Public pre-conference forum for PhD fellows** Project presentations with discussant feedback, 45 minutes each. See the project descriptions at the end of this programme →	
09:15–10:00	Out-of-home care placement and criminal behaviour in adulthood: continuity, change and desistance	**Glena Hossein**
10:00–10:10	*Coffee*	
10:10–10:55	Integrated educational and social support to families in early childhood	**Pia Elisabet Domenech Prats**
10:55–11:55	*Lunch (OsloMet catering delivery)*	
11:55–12:40	Child maltreatment and health outcomes among young adults with a residential youth care background	**Mirjam Åsen**
13:30–16:45	**Policy, data and projects** Research presentations, register data and project development, with moderated policy commentary	
13:30–14:15	Norwegian perspectives	**Kirsti Valset** The Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs (Bufdir)
14:15–15:05	Swedish perspectives	**Martin Källström** Socialstyrelsen
15:05–15:15	*Coffee*	
15:15–15:40	How artificial intelligence and child welfare journal data can bridge quantitative and qualitative child welfare research	**Åsmund Hermansen**
15:40–16:05	From reactive to proactive policies: Perspectives from the UPSTREAM project	**Kjetil van der Wel**
16:05–16:30	Evaluating the realisation of children's rights: Implications for register researchers	**Asgeir Falch-Eriksen**
16:30–16:45	**Summing up**	**Kjetil van der Wel**
16:45–17:00	*Break / transition*	
17:00–19:30	**Dinner hosted at the Department (OsloMet), fifth floor**	

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TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER

Sessions 1–3 · Conference dinner

Stensberggata 26, fifth floor · Room X539 · Open in Google Maps

TIME	PROGRAMME	PRESENTER
09:00–09:15	**Welcome and introductions**	
09:15–10:45	**SESSION 1 Inflow, prevention and support**	
09:15–09:45	Do cash transfers prevent child maltreatment? Evidence from the Norwegian Cash-for-Care reform	**Mari Amdahl Heglum** with Elisabeth Ugreninov, Kristian Heggebø, Kjetil van der Wel
09:45–10:15	Improving parental competencies through socioeducational family support in early childhood: A pre-post study of the Espacios Familiares 0–3 programme in Spain (working title)	**Pia Elisabet Domenech Prats**
10:15–10:45	Unequal gradients: socioeconomic disadvantage, maternal origin and child welfare intervention among children of immigrant parents in Norway	**Mary Elizabeth Hemler**
10:45–11:00	*Coffee*	
11:00–12:40	**SESSION 2 Childhood adversity: measurement, timing and mental health**	
11:00–11:30	Mapping indicators and approaches to measuring childhood adversity in Nordic register data	**Josephine Jackisch**
11:30–12:00	Age at exposure to childhood adversity and internalizing disorders	**Joonas Pitkänen**
12:00–12:10	*Coffee*	
12:10–12:40	Accumulated adverse exposures and psychopathology in adolescence and emerging adulthood: a multistate approach (conference title)	**Lauren Bishop**
12:40–13:40	*Lunch*	
13:40–15:50	**SESSION 3 Trajectories through out-of-home care**	
13:40–14:10	Patterns of out-of-home care placement, reunification and breakdown among Swedish children	**Tanishta Rajesh** with Ylva B. Almquist, Viviane S. Straatmann
14:10–14:40	Clusters of out-of-home care trajectories and precarious school-to-work transitions: A Norwegian national register study	**Trine Holten**
14:40–14:50	*Coffee*	
14:50–15:20	The Pathways Cohort Study: examining child welfare service trajectories	**Nicoline T. Lokdam**
15:20–15:50	From Care to Independence: Exploring the use of Psychotropic Drugs in Young Adults Formerly Receiving Residential Care	**Henrik Brazel**
15:50–16:05	**Discussion and close of day one**	
18:00	**Conference dinner at Restaurant Eik Annen Etage, Stortingsgata 24/26** Afterwards, for a beverage of your own choosing: Cafe Amsterdam, Kristian Augusts gate 12	

WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER

Sessions 4–5

Stensberggata 26, fifth floor · Room X539 · Open in Google Maps

TIME	PROGRAMME	PRESENTER
09:00–10:30	**SESSION 4 Children in care**	
09:00–09:30	The impact of kinship foster care on child outcomes: evidence from aunt availability	**Nina Drange** with Øystein Hernæs, Simon Bensnes, Joe Doyle
09:30–10:00	Prevalence and outcomes for disabled youth in the Norwegian child welfare system	**Inger Oterholm** with Ingri-Hanne Brænne Bennwik, Øystein Marianssøn Hernæs
10:00–10:30	Children and youth in Norwegian child welfare institutions: public, private for-profit and non-profit ownership (working title)	**Henning Øien**
10:30–10:45	*Coffee*	
10:45–12:10	**SESSION 5 Transitions to adulthood**	
10:45–11:15	Trajectories of global and domain-specific self-esteem in the transition from adolescence into young adulthood for residential youth care leavers: a ten-year follow-up study	**Nanna Sønnichsen Kayed**
11:15–11:25	*Coffee*	
11:25–12:10	Criminality in former child welfare clients: continuity and change from adolescence to midlife (45 min) Project presentation with two papers: • "Different pasts, different penalties? Penal sanctions among youth with and without out-of-home placement experiences" • "Predictors for placement in secure residential care among youth with a history of long-term out-of-home care before their teens"	**Marie Berlin**
12:10–12:25	**Closing discussion and next steps**	
12:25–13:10	*Lunch*	

PHD FORUM

Project descriptions

Public pre-conference forum for PhD fellows · Monday 26 October, 09:15–12:40 · Project presentations with discussant feedback, 45 minutes each

Glena Hossein

The overarching aim of my thesis is to provide an increased understanding of the association between out-of-home care placement and the higher likelihood of criminal behavior in adulthood compared to peers without such experiences. The thesis comprises three studies examining continuity, change and desistance in offending, as well as cumulative adversity and its association with criminal behavior. The prospective longitudinal data used (SBC Multigen, n ≈ 14,000) combines survey and register data, enabling analyses from birth to age 64. The extent to which findings are gender-neutral, whether they apply to individuals investigated but not placed by social services, and whether they depend on offense severity are also examined. The life course perspective is used as a theoretical framework and contributes to discussion of the findings' context and relevance for children in out-of-home care today. Due to my thesis being heavily influenced by criminological frameworks but still being written within the field of social work, I would in particular like to discuss this overlap.

Pia Elisabet Domenech Prats

The PhD research examines how community-based interventions that provide integrated educational and social support to families during early childhood can contribute to promoting equity, strengthening family capacities, and reducing the effects of socioeconomic disadvantage. The project is grounded in the social dimension of education and adopts an ecological, family-centred perspective that understands child development as a process embedded in interconnected educational, social, and community environments.

The research is organised around three complementary objectives: (1) to examine the effectiveness of integrated family support interventions in improving parenting practices, reducing family social vulnerability, and supporting child well-being among families experiencing socioeconomic disadvantage; (2) to identify the intervention characteristics and implementation conditions associated with positive outcomes for children and families; and (3) to explore methodological approaches for evaluating integrated family support interventions and generating robust evidence to inform their continuous improvement.

Accordingly, the study addresses the following research questions: How do integrated family support interventions improve parenting practices and reduce family social vulnerability among families experiencing socioeconomic disadvantage? Which intervention characteristics and implementation conditions are associated with positive outcomes? And which methodological approaches are most appropriate for generating robust evidence on the effectiveness and implementation of these interventions?

The thesis follows an overarching mixed-methods design, combining three complementary studies that address different stages and objectives of the research. Following a descriptive–interpretive approach, it brings together a systematic review with quantitative quasi-experimental and qualitative methods to provide a comprehensive understanding of integrated family support interventions.

We would particularly welcome discussion on how to maximise the research potential of a nationwide community-based integrated family support intervention implemented over the past three years by multidisciplinary teams of educational and social professionals across Spain. In particular, we are interested in exploring how this experience can be leveraged to strengthen the evaluation of integrated, community-based family support interventions, expand longitudinal and comparative research, and generate evidence to inform research, policy, and professional practice across different contexts.

Mirjam Åsen

Young adults with a residential youth care (RYC) background report high rates of child maltreatment, which can impact education, employment, health, mortality, and quality of life. This PhD thesis investigates the prevalence of child maltreatment and different health outcomes among young adults with RYC backgrounds, drawing on data from the Norwegian 10-year follow-up study VINGO.

The first paper examines the prevalence of child maltreatment in this sample and compares exposure in the year before and the year after placement into out-of-home care. Nearly all participants reported exposure to at least one form of maltreatment. Most had experienced multiple forms, and many reported frequent and severe exposure to maltreatment. Although maltreatment exposure decreased following placement for most participants, more than one-third reported stable or increasing levels of exposure after entering out-of-home care.

The second paper investigates the association between child maltreatment and quality of life. The findings suggest that greater maltreatment exposure was associated with poorer quality of life across multiple domains and that posttraumatic stress symptoms may represent an important pathway linking maltreatment to reduced quality of life.

The third paper examines suicidality in the same sample and explores its associations with child maltreatment and mental health diagnoses. This paper has not yet been completed.

This thesis highlights the need to further strengthen the legal frameworks and institutional practices designed to protect this vulnerable population. Preventive efforts aimed at reducing child maltreatment are also essential. Such efforts may include school-based programs that enhance the recognition and reporting of maltreatment, trauma-informed services, parental support programs, and early interventions by child welfare services. Furthermore, ensuring timely access to high-quality healthcare and strengthening collaboration between child welfare and healthcare services may help reduce the long-term health burden experienced by this group.

I would like to discuss paper 3, which is now being drafted. The research question is not confirmed, but will focus on suicidality, but also likely RAD and DSED and its relationship with suicidality. By the time of NORDLOCH, the analysis will be complete and we can discuss the results, as well as the thesis as whole.