



## Centre for Applied Childhood, Youth and Family Research Seminar:

### Childhood Studies, Children's Rights and Child-Led Research: a defence

**Patrick Thomas**, Professor Emeritus of Childhood and Youth at the University of Central Lancashire and founder of the Centre for Children and Young People's Participation

**Date:** Tuesday, 24 March 2020

**Time:** 5.15-6.15pm

**Room:** Ramsden Building, R1/12

**Details:** Recent articles by Kim (2016) and Hammersley (2015, 2017) have critiqued, respectively: the methodological and normative assumptions that underlie research 'by' children; claims that have been made about the implications of children's rights for the ethics of research involving children; and some of the central commitments of Childhood Studies, including the idea that children are worthy of study 'in their own right' and that participatory methods are the gold standard. These distinct but connected critiques deserve a serious response, and that is the aim of this paper. I distinguish between criticisms that seem to be based on a misreading of the claims being made in child-led research or Childhood Studies, and those that present serious challenges to defend or rethink our claims or practices. In particular, I will consider: what we are saying when we make claims for children's competence and agency; questions around the purpose, and ownership, of knowledge; the relationship between ethics, research and the study of childhood; and the relevance of Spyrou's (2018) call for a 'decentering' of childhood.

This is a **free** seminar. **Your colleagues and friends** are also very welcome.

**Book a place here:** <http://hud.ac/go7>

