



Co-funded by the European Union



THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE



Evidence-based policy to promote children's rights in a digital age: reflections on life outside the ivory tower

Sonia Livingstone, LSE
s.livingstone@lse.ac.uk
[@Livingstone_S](#)

ECREA Pre-conference, Lisbon, November 2014

Terms of engagement



Knowledge-driven model

Problem-solving model

Political/tactical models

Interactive model

Enlightenment model

Nutley, S. M., Walter, I., & Davies, H. (2007). *Using Evidence*. Policy Press.

What's the evidence?



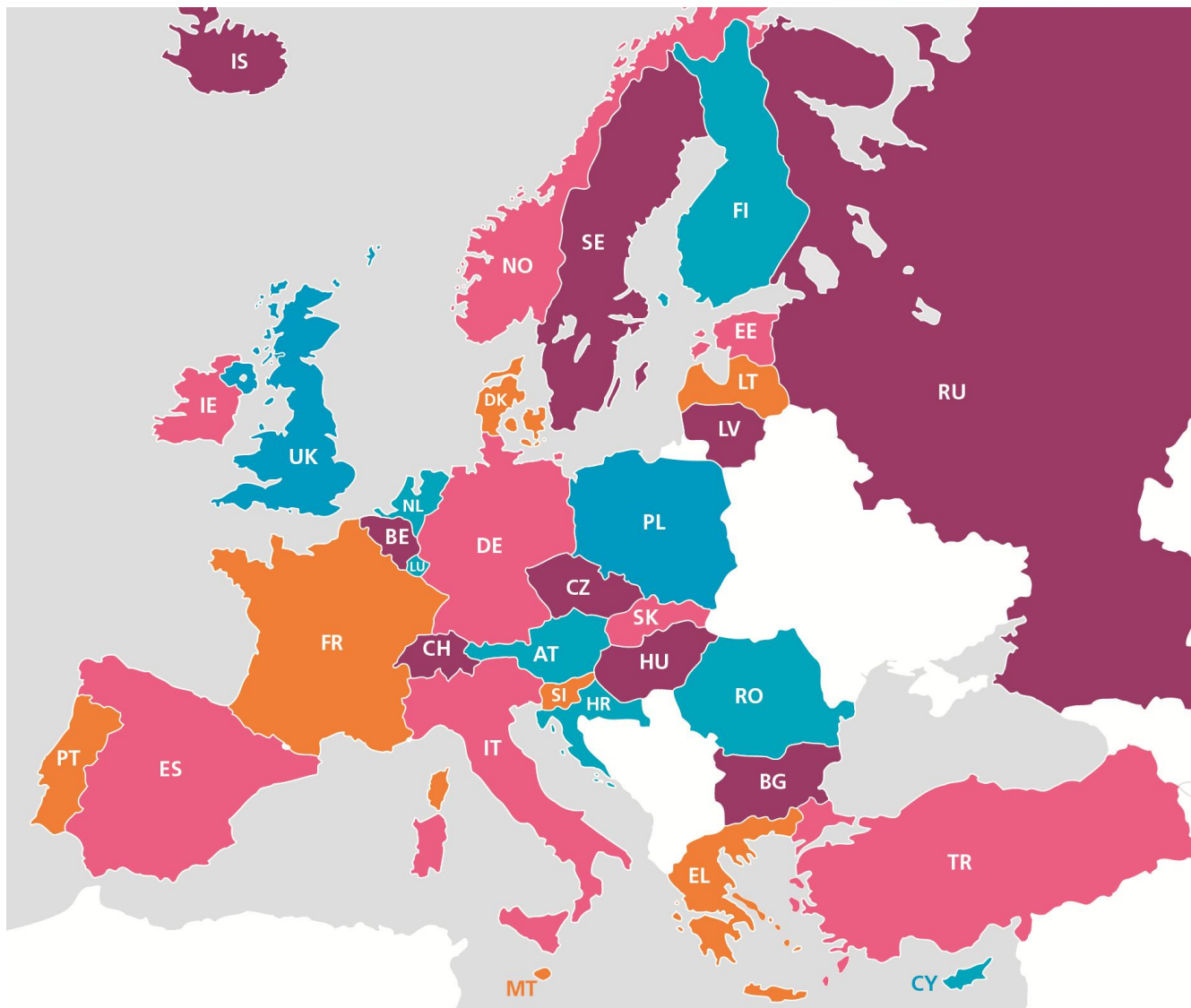
As anyone working in the field of research use knows, a central irony is the only limited extent to which evidence advocates can themselves draw on a robust evidence base to support their convictions that greater evidence use will ultimately be beneficial to public services

(Nutley, Walter, & Davies, 2007)

EU Kids Online



- EU Kids Online aims to enhance knowledge of the experiences and practices of European children and parents regarding risky and safer use of the internet
- It aims to provide a rigorous evidence base to support stakeholders in efforts to maximize online opportunities while minimizing the risk of harm
- Three phases of work from 2006-2014



EU Kids Online's top 10 findings



1. The more children use the internet, the more digital skills they gain and the more they climb the 'ladder of online opportunities'.
2. Not all internet use results in benefits, for these depend on their age, gender and socio-economic status, on how their parents support them, and on the positive content available to them.
3. Children's use, skills and opportunities are also linked to online risks; the more of these, the more risk of harm; thus as internet use increases, greater efforts are needed to prevent risk increasing.
4. Not all risk results in harm, for this depends on their age, gender and socio-economic status, and also on their resilience and resources to cope with what happens on the internet.
5. Also important is the role played by parents, school and peers, along with national provision for regulation, content provision, cultural values and the education system.
6. Pornography tops children's online concerns.
7. Violent, aggressive, cruel or gory content comes next.
8. What most upsets children is real/realistic rather than fictional violence, especially to the vulnerable.
9. Children's concern about online risks rises markedly from 9 to 12 years old; younger children are more concerned about content risks; older ones about conduct and contact risks.
10. Children see video-sharing websites as most linked with violent, pornographic and other content risks.

Ways of working



Avoiding moral panics



Beaten up by Facebook bully

Boy, 14, sent attack video in hospital

by NICOLE LE MARIE

A TEENAGER beaten up by a bully outside his school gates was sent video of the attack as he lay in hospital.

Akil Johnson-Richards was filmed being punched and kicked on the ground as a crowd shouted 'kill him' after he was confronted while leaving Nottingham Emmanuel School.

The 14-year-old – who had been bullied on Facebook – was sent the chilling clip while in hospital having X-rays for suspected broken ribs and treatment for a chipped tooth.

Akil's mother, Natasha, 40, said: 'He came home after the attack covered in blood and his uniform was torn.

'It looked like he just said he'd been hit by a girl on Facebook. I rushed Akil initially though ribs and it about



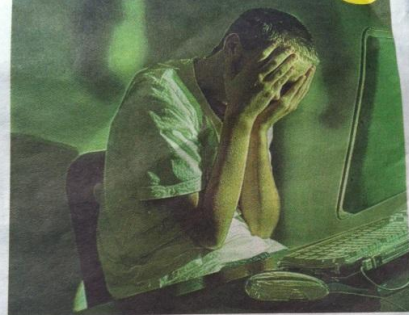
Chilling email: Footage shows Akil Johnson-Richards (right) wrestled to the ground and beaten outside Nottingham Emmanuel School. PICTURES: NEWSTRAK

video of the attack emailed to him. I was sickened. It was a horrific attack outside the school gates just a few feet from parents.'

Ms Johnson-Richards has removed her son from the 500-pupil school where she claims he has been shot with a plastic pellet gun in the past.

Akil added: 'I was walking to the bus stop when some people crowded around me. One started pushing me, then he started hitting me.'

THE INDEPENDENT
MANTON 24 OCTOBER 2013



Cyber-bullying now just a part of life, believe most children

Generation Xbox

Health Half of Britain's seven-year-olds do not do enough exercise, according to new research. The study, by University College London, of 6,500 primary pupils found the number playing sport has dropped to its lowest level for five years despite last year's Olympic Games.

Just 51% of young children achieve the recommended hour of physical activity a day. Girls tend to be far less active than boys, with just 38% doing that amount.

Carol Dezateux, a senior author of the study, said there was a 'yawning gap' between boys and girls. 'We need to really think about how we are reaching out to girls. The school



Thousands of British children caught in web of online blackmail

Overseas paedophiles target UK teenagers in fast-growing trend combining extortion, cyber-bullying and sex abuse

by PAUL PEACEY
Crime Correspondent

Thousands of British children have been targeted by overseas paedophiles in a fast-growing trend combining extortion, cyber-bullying and sex abuse. The victims are mostly teenagers, but some are as young as 11. The victims are mostly girls, but some are boys. The victims are mostly from the south and south-east of England, but some are from other parts of the country. The victims are mostly from the middle class, but some are from other social classes. The victims are mostly from the white ethnic group, but some are from other ethnic groups. The victims are mostly from the Christian religion, but some are from other religions. The victims are mostly from the heterosexual orientation, but some are from other orientations. The victims are mostly from the cisgender gender identity, but some are from other gender identities. The victims are mostly from the straight gender expression, but some are from other gender expressions. The victims are mostly from the straight gender role, but some are from other gender roles. The victims are mostly from the straight gender identity, but some are from other gender identities. The victims are mostly from the straight gender expression, but some are from other gender expressions. The victims are mostly from the straight gender role, but some are from other gender roles.

Fears for children's safety on Facebook

Social network giant opens profiles to strangers

Murad Ahmed Technology Reporter

Children's groups and internet safety experts have rounded on Facebook after the social network company announced plans which will allow millions of teenage users to open up their profiles to strangers.

A change in the company's rules means that children aged from 13 to 17 will be able to post online status updates, pictures and videos that can be seen by anyone. Until now they have only been visible to a limited group of 'friends', or 'friends of friends'.

Facebook, which has more than 80 million users in Britain, said that it

be harmful now may come back to haunt them later. This is a move in the wrong direction.

There were warnings this week that the rise of Facebook has made it easier for paedophiles to target children. On Tuesday, Peter Davies, chief executive of the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre, said that half of all internet grooming took place on established social networks.

He added that the internet had industrialised the behaviours that led to exploitation.

Jim Gamble, the centre's former head, said that Facebook had done much to clean itself up and had hired hundreds of staff to deal with reports of abuse and bullying.

Intellectual/political conflicts



The push for online child protection was perceived to be a threat to privacy and freedom of expression rights

(Raboy & Shtern, 2010)

Online privacy, child safety, free speech and anonymity are on a collision course

(Szoka & Thierer, 2009)

Listening to what bothers children online



When strangers message me on the internet, sex sites that open without me clicking on them. (boy, 10, Austria)

Violence against women and children and perverted humiliations and cruelty. (girl, 14, Germany)

To take a photo of me without my knowledge and upload it to an inappropriate website. (girl, 10, Bulgaria)

See people having sex or naked people. (boy, 10, Portugal)

Showing images of physical violence, torture and suicide images. (girl, 12, Slovenia)

Facebook shows scary things even if you click on something that does not look or sound scary. (girl, 9, UK)

Animal cruelty, adults hitting kids. (girl, 9, Denmark)

Propositions to meet from people whom I do not know. (boy, 12, Poland)

A mate showed me once a video about an execution. It was not fun, but insane. I get scared. (boy, 15, Sweden)

Scary things - I saw something at my friend's house and I can't get it out of my head. (boy, 11, Ireland)

I was shocked seeing a starving African child who was going to die and a condor waiting to eat him. (girl, 13, Turkey)

Those things that show other people's suffering or torment as a funny thing. (boy, 14, Hungary)

Working with stakeholders



Life is complicated



Europe's Information Society
Thematic Portal

European Commission > Information Society

Home | News | Calendar | Library | RSS | XML | Search | Contact | Help

Policies Activities Culture & Society Economy & Work Education & Training Quality of Life IS Industry Regions / World Research & Innovation

ACTIVITIES :: Safer Internet Programme

Safer Internet Programme: Empowering and Protecting Children Online

Young people and children are today amongst the biggest user groups of online and mobile technologies in Europe. The Safer Internet Programme aims at empowering and protecting children and young people online by awareness raising initiatives and by fighting illegal and harmful online content and conduct.

The **Safer Internet Programme** launches **calls for proposals** to select and finance **projects** aimed at creating a safer online environment for young people. It also supports two annual events, **Safer Internet Day** and **Safer Internet Forum**.

See the **Safer Internet brochure**

Safer Internet Centres: awareness raising and fighting illegal content

The **Safer Internet Centres**, present in 30 European countries, develop information/awareness raising material and organize information sessions for children, parents and teachers. They also receive reports on **illegal content** found on the Internet and give advice on how to stay safe online. The Centres have also set up **youth panels** who are consulted on safer Internet issues and information material.

A multi-stakeholder approach leading to complementary actions

The Safer Internet Programme brings together stakeholders who can contribute to make the Internet safer: it funds, in particular, a **network of NGOs** active in the field of child welfare online, a **network of law enforcement bodies** who exchange information and best practices related to criminal exploitation of the Internet in dissemination of child sexual abuse material and a **network of researchers** who gather information about uses, risks and consequences of online technologies for children's lives. **Industry-regulation** is also encouraged.

News

- Europe's top tech executives and Commission affirm commitment to collaborate, not compete to improve the internet for kids (06/06/13)
- Network Technologies Newsflash (04/06/13)
- Create Best Online Content for Kids and win the European Award! (12/05/13)

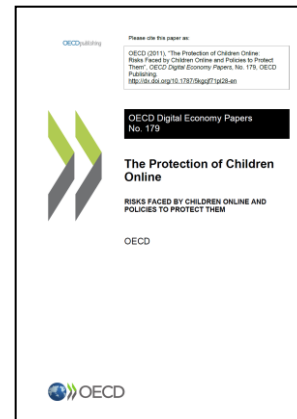
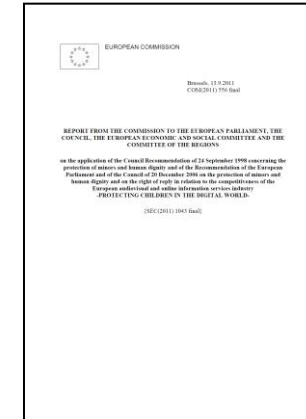
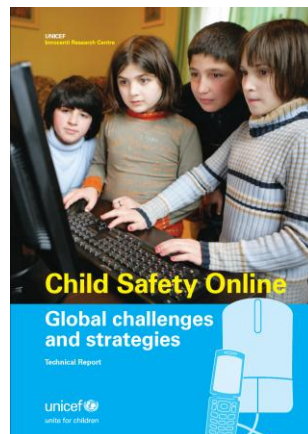
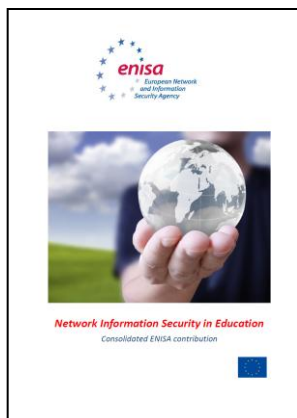
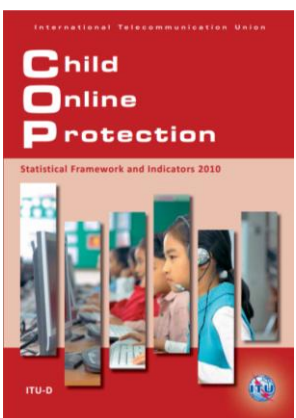
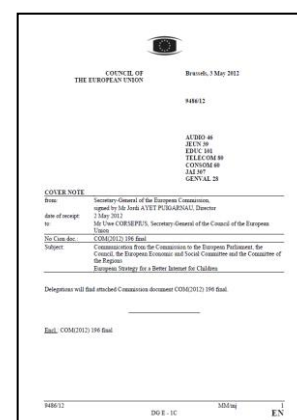
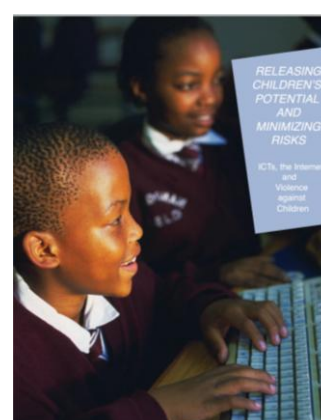
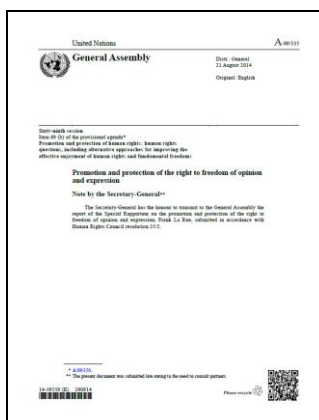
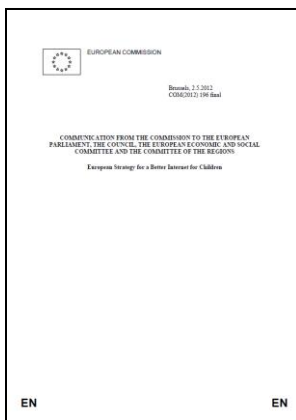
Highlights

- See the **outcomes of the mid-term review** of the work of the Coalition to make the Internet a better place for kids
- Register now** for the **Safer Internet Day** in Brussels

There is nothing a Government hates more than to be well-informed; for it makes the process of arriving at decisions much more complicated and difficult.

(John Maynard Keynes, *The Times*, 11/3/1937)

Outcomes and impacts



The EU Kids Online Network: www.eukidsonline.net

