



International Scientific and Artistic Conference

Rethinking Childhood IV

Towards Transdisciplinarity

Zadar, May 28-30, 2026



Sveučilište u Zadru
Universitas Studiorum
Jadertina | 1396 | 2002 |



Univerza v Mariboru

Department of Teacher and Preschool
Teacher Education, University of Zadar

University of Maribor, Faculty of
Education

First Call

With the fourth international scientific and artistic conference *Rethinking Childhood IV*, we aim to highlight the interdisciplinary nature of studies for teachers and educators as a distinctive feature from which we start our reflections on childhood and to encourage questioning the possibilities of connecting different areas of topics related to childhood. Therefore, in the title of the upcoming conference, we emphasised a transdisciplinary approach, which, through its inclusiveness, goes a step further than interdisciplinarity, promoting not only the connection but also the integration of various fields of science, as well as the intertwining of science and art. The transdisciplinary approach is also significant because it is inclined towards participatory practices, meaning that in such research, other interested parties from the broader community can participate, including children, whose active contribution to childhood studies has already been recognised within the framework of so-called child-focused research.

The described aspiration for comprehensive action is full of challenges, but it has not arisen from a whim. On the contrary, it aligns with the often-stated view that complex problems of the modern world must be addressed collectively. When attention is directed toward childhood and its related themes, numerous open

questions come to the forefront, regularly prompting broad discussions with fundamental issues such as a child's freedom and security being just some of them.

Interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity are most often associated with collaborative ways of working, but they can also be felt in the research of individuals who, in their reflections, frequently push the boundaries of their own disciplines, confronting fragile, uncharted interspaces where mistakes may be more common but where the potential for articulating new perspectives also emerges. Throughout history, many exciting discoveries have been made in this way, and bold steps forward continue to be valued today. Perhaps the most noticeable expression of this is in creativity—an imperative embedded in all future strategies, yet one that cannot be reached by following “well-trodden” paths.

When interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches are approached from the perspective of schools and kindergartens, they strongly reflect what is expected of every modern teacher and educator—to approach the child holistically in their daily work while striving for an integrated practice that functionally and harmoniously connects goals and outcomes from different fields. This form of engagement tends to be highly demanding, not only because it requires continuous personal development, constant collaboration, and relational thinking but also because, in practice, it often needs to be reconciled with other, seemingly very different educational requirements, such as the pronounced need for standardisation.

Therefore, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches, as described here and elsewhere, are not immune to criticism. This is especially true for transdisciplinarity, which by its nature resists clear definitions—a fact that is understandable, as it seems to be more of a call for inclusive action than a well-established research practice. This, in turn, provides further motivation for discussion within the framework of childhood-related topics.

Based on this, we propose the following possible research topics:

- participatory practices in childhood-related research (citizen science, community art, child-focused research...)
- childhood at the center of broad discussions (issues of freedom and happiness, safety and risk, migration and cultural differences, digitalisation and privacy, mobility and health...)
- interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research in children's literature and culture (childhood studies, age studies, adaptation studies...)
- integration in education (arts integration, art-science, STEM and STEAM integration, integration of cross-curricular topics, incorporating movement into everyday educational practice...)
- collaboration among children (as an educational approach, but also as a theme in literature, film, etc.)
- childhood and transmediality (literature, theater, film, video games, transmedia storytelling...)
- interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity in the context of educational standardisation

- interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity – experiences from alternative pedagogies
- the role of media in a transdisciplinary approach to learning

Artistic Program of the Conference – Workshops and Exhibition

Artists from various artistic fields who are active in higher education institutions are invited to participate in shaping the conference's workshop program. They are encouraged to design workshops aimed at bringing interdisciplinary and/or transdisciplinary approaches to life in practice.

Visual artists working in higher education institutions are invited to take part in the international art exhibition, which is planned as part of the upcoming conference. They are encouraged to respond artistically to some of the themes outlined in the conference call.

The official languages of the conference are Croatian, Slovenian, and English. Detailed instructions regarding conference registration and additional information can be found on the [official conference website](#).

Programme Committee

Associate Professor Marina
Đira, President of the
Programme Committee

Organising Committee

Assistant Professor Marijana
Miočić, President of the
Organising Committee

Registration – Guidelines for Presenters

Those interested in presenting at the conference can submit an abstract via [Google Forms](#). The abstract (250–500 words) must be written in English and either Croatian or Slovenian and should include the topic, objectives, methodology, results, and conclusions of the research. Five keywords should be provided alongside the abstract.

After receiving confirmation of abstract acceptance, conference participants may submit full papers. Only scientific papers written in English and not under consideration for publication elsewhere will be eligible for publication. Guidelines for writing scientific papers will be available on [the official conference website](#). Participants will receive further instructions on the paper submission process at a later stage.

All submitted abstracts and scientific papers will undergo a double-blind peer review process. Accepted abstracts will be published in the conference book of abstracts, while accepted scientific papers will be included in a scientific monograph.

Registration – Guidelines for Workshop Presenters

Those interested in conducting a 45-minute workshop for conference participants should submit a workshop abstract (250–500 words) via a [Google Forms](#) as part of their conference application.

Registration – Guidelines for Art Exhibition Presenters

Artists interested in presenting their work at the exhibition, which will be accompanied by a catalog, should submit their applications via email to rethinkingchildhood.IV@gmail.com. Applications must be written in English and either Croatian or Slovenian and should include basic information about the submitted artwork, high-quality visual documentation of the artwork, and the artist's biography (100–150 words).

The submission deadline is 1 February 2026, and completed artworks accepted for the exhibition must be sent by 15 April 2026, to the following address: *Odjel za izobrazbu učitelja i odgojitelja Sveučilišta u Zadru, Ulica dr. Franje Tuđmana 24 i, 23000 Zadar, Croatia* (note: for the exhibition).

Important Dates

Abstract submission deadline (paper presentations, workshops)	15 June 2025
Notification of abstract acceptance (paper presentations, workshops)	15 July 2025
Full paper submission deadline	15 September 2025
Notification of full paper acceptance	1 November 2025
Registration fee payment deadline	1 December 2025
Conference dates	28 - 30 May 2026

Conference Fees

Type of Participation	Fee (each conference participant is required to pay their registration fee)
Participation with a presentation or workshop	€200
Participation with a presentation or workshop – PhD students	€125
Participation with a presentation or workshop – Students	€50
Excursion to Nin	€50

Each participant may submit a maximum of two contributions (either two presentations or one presentation and one workshop).

The registration fees should be paid to the following account:

<i>Sveučilište u Zadru</i>
<i>OTPBANKA D.D. Domovinskog rata 61, 21000 Split</i>
<i>ID NUMBER (OIB): 10839679016 IBAN: HR1124070001100609482 CURRENCY: EUR SWIFT ADDRESS (BIC): OTPVHR2X MODEL: HR00 REFERENCE NUMBER 65000</i>