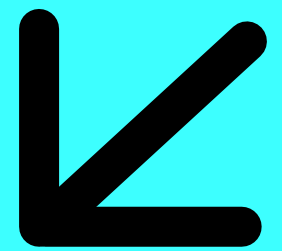


Public engagement event

Intersectionality in Child Protection and Residential Care: International Outlooks



Monday, September 21st, 2026, 9:30–16:00

University of Hamburg, Faculty of Education, Working Group Social Pedagogy

9:30–10:00 Opening remarks

10:00–11:30 Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGIE):

- Mónica López López and Mijntje ten Brummelaar (University of Groningen): Queer and in care: Reducing inequalities relating to gender and sexual identity among adolescents in care.
- Rebecca Sommer (Harburg*, basis & woge e.V.): Counseling, support, and empowerment of queer* young people and families.

11:30–13:00 Migration and Child Protection

- Bernd Christmann (Landesjugendamt Westfalen-Lippe): Migration-related challenges in child protection practice at the youth welfare office: Insights from quality consultation under section 7 of the North Rhine-Westphalia State Child Protection Act.
- Floor Middel (University of Groningen): Intersecting inequalities and decision making in child protection.

13:00–14:00 Lunch break

14:00–15:30 Identity and Belonging

- Vânia S. Pinto (University of Groningen): Young people's and young adults' perspectives on identity development and the role of foster carers in England, Portugal, and Spain.
- Stefan Köngeter (University of Hamburg): The development of belonging and its importance for young people's well-being (StePLife).

15:30–16:00 Closing Session

Organized by

University of Hamburg & University of Groningen

Join us for a public engagement event in Hamburg focusing **on intersectionality in child protection and residential care.**

The event brings together practitioners, policymakers, researchers, and care-experienced young people to explore how intersecting inequalities shape experiences of child protection and residential care, and to discuss how research and practice can contribute to more inclusive and equitable forms of support.

Children and young people in contact with child protection systems are not a homogeneous group. Their experiences are shaped by the intersection of gender and sexual identity, migration and minoritised status, social background, and experiences of belonging. These dimensions can influence how young people are perceived, how decisions are made about them, the forms of support they receive, and their opportunities to develop a sense of identity and belonging.

Drawing on research and practice from Germany, the Netherlands, and other European contexts, the event creates a space for international **exchange and critical reflection** on current approaches to child protection and residential care.

The presentations will be followed by opportunities for discussion and exchange, inviting participants to connect research findings with their own experiences and professional perspectives. The event is particularly aimed at practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and others with an interest in child protection, residential care, diversity, and social inequalities.

The event will be held in English to facilitate international exchange. Contributions and questions in German are welcome as well.

The event is free of charge, but **registration is required**. Please register to secure your spot. Spaces are limited.

Please register with Kristie Jakob **until 4th of September 2026**:
kristie.jakob@uni-hamburg.de

This event is part of the **I-COPE project** (*Intersecting Inequalities in Child Welfare: Cross-Border Partnership for Equity and Social Justice*), a collaboration between the University of Groningen and the University of Hamburg. With intensified public debates, legal reforms, and social movements in Germany and the Netherlands, this project calls for rethinking policy and practice from an intersectional and social justice perspective.

Want to get in touch? stefan.koengeter@uni-hamburg.de