

This research is aimed to study **children's experiences and views about the COVID-19** pandemic from the perspective of childhood studies, a research field aimed at exploring childhood in different contexts, and focus on experiences of children, who are understood as competent persons who influence the social world and have their own opinions.

The main **goal** of this project is to understand and analyze the social changes which took place during the pandemic for the young children and how they are reflected in the children's:

- memories
- understandings of the current situation and
- imagined futures.

This research will allow us to grasp an important moment in social life from the perspective of these under-studied and scarcely represented members of the society. It will add up to a fast-growing research on the social consequences of the pandemic of COVID-19, presenting them from the perspective of the representatives of a group which is numerous, yet often not listened to.

The pandemic can be seen as a historical challenge which strongly influences social relations, but is experienced not necessarily negatively. This historical change touches individuals, who have responded to it, and the impact is not distributed equally. My hypothesis is that for children this impact was exceptionally strong, due to their vulnerability on the one hand, and their ability to grasp new experiences and interpret them in an independent, creative way on the other. I think that collecting data on Polish children's experiences of the pandemic is essential for studying both the position of children, and the impact of the pandemic on Polish society. This project is based on research with relatively young children as a group. Childhood studies as a field are founded on a stance that it is important to know even young children's perspectives on matters concerning them (as a realization, among others, of the Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child). My and my collaborators' from Interdisciplinary Childhood Studies Research Team preliminary research, as well as already published literature show that children's health may not have been threatened the most during the pandemic, but the social consequences (caused by social distancing, school closures, etc.) touched children no less than the adults.

The project is based on a preliminary research:

Children's Pandemic Archive
Change. Children's pandemic experience

Preliminary research, as well as other pandemic-related childhood data (calendar, database of scientific and popular articles, etc.), are presented on a newly-created website *Młodzi i pandemia* [Youth and the Pandemic], www.mip.uw.edu.pl.

My main **research questions** are: How do children experience and understand the COVID-19 pandemic? What changes in the children's worlds did the pandemic prompt? How are their imagined futures and plans embedded in the pandemic-driven changes?

Research will be conducted with use of **qualitative methods**, including participatory research with children (with the use of art-based methods and collaborative activities). The core of the research will be participatory research with young children in two age groups

1. children aged 5-6 (preschool children), and
2. children aged 7-10 (primary education students).

Research with adults who worked with children during the pandemic

3. Teachers in preschools and primary schools
4. Other experts, such as psychologists, social workers.

The research will be conducted using multiple methods. Beside above-mentioned ones, there will be observations, analysis of documents, media content, etc. This will allow the researchers to present a multi-layered, rich account of children's experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This research will further develop childhood studies in Poland and add up to the discussions within this field, such as those about children's agency, participation, voice, political action, decolonization of childhood, children's rights.

The effects of the project: beside scientific publications in journals and an academic book, I will publish research results in a book for children's audience. I will prepare, together with children, recommendations for the future, based on their experiences of the pandemic.