**Call For Papers**

**BOOK: Children, the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility and Global Issues: Re-evaluating Children’s Rights.**

**Editors: Hannah Wishart and Tracy Kirk**

We are seeking 250-word abstracts for Routledge’s “Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice’ book series for a book titled ‘Children, the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility and Global Issues: Re-evaluating Children’s Rights’ due to be published in late 2025.

The chapters will provide an updated international examination of the national minimum ages of criminal responsibility, the latest neuroscientific evidence, and international children’s rights. We are interested in receiving contributions from a broad range of scholars and early career researchers around the world that can offer socio-legal context for maintaining specific jurisdictional age limits or proposals for reforming national minimum ages of criminal responsibility. We encourage proposed contributions that explore the minimum age of criminal responsibility from the following countries: the USA, Canada, South America, Africa, Europe, the UK, Asia, the Middle East, New Zealand and Australia. We are interested in receiving proposals that focus on the following themes:

* Whether the current socio-legal climate in a specific jurisdiction and the latest neuroscientific evidence supports the current minimum age of criminal responsibility or a decrease/increase within it.
* If an increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility has been adopted in a jurisdiction, what impact has this had on offending rates, how children are treated in the youth justice system and the overall effectiveness of welfarist approaches in specific jurisdictions?
* If the COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on the number of children and young people being charged with offences and the implications for service delivery in a specific jurisdiction, is cause for reforming the minimum age of criminal responsibility?
* Whether countries with high and low minimum ages of criminal responsibility adopt appropriate measures which seek to help divert children from prosecution and/or reduce offending rates.
* Whether the guidance from the Committee on the minimum age of criminal responsibility helps or hinders states in the setting of such limits and progressing welfare to justice rights.
* Future predictions of the trajectory of minimum ages of criminal responsibility and the socio-legal/neuroscientific drivers for these predictions in specific jurisdictions.

Potential contributors should email Hannah Wishart ([hannah.wishart@sunderland.ac.uk](mailto:hannah.wishart@sunderland.ac.uk)), and Tracy Kirk ([tracy.kirk1@stir.ac.uk](mailto:tracy.kirk1@stir.ac.uk)) with a Title and Abstract (250 words). Please also include any institutional affiliation and email contact.

The closing date for submitted abstracts is the 15th of December 2023.

Submissions must be original and must not be under consideration for publication elsewhere. The editors will base their final decisions on relevance and quality. Decisions will be made by the 30th of January 2024. All papers must follow OSCOLA guidelines for submission.

If successful, we expect the book contract to be agreed in May/June 2024; once contributions are confirmed, we expect the first drafts to be submitted to the editors by January 2025. Chapters will be approximately 8,000 words in length (including references). Final drafts are to be submitted in March 2025 and published in Spring 2025.

All the best,

Hannah Wishart and Tracy Kirk.