ROUTLEDGE HANDBOOKS

The Routledge Handbook of the Philosophy of Childhood and Children

Edited by Anca Gheaus, Gideon Calder and Jurgen De Wispelaere

THE ROUTLEDGE HANDBOOK OF THE PHILOSOPHY OF CHILDHOOD AND CHILDREN

Childhood looms large in our understanding of human life, as a phase through which all adults have passed. Childhood is foundational to the development of selfhood, the formation of interests, values and skills and to the lifespan as a whole. Understanding what it is like to be a child, and what differences childhood makes, is thus essential for any broader understanding of the human condition. *The Routledge Handbook of the Philosophy of Childhood and Children* is an outstanding reference source for the key topics, problems and debates in this crucial and exciting field, and is the first collection of its kind. Comprising over thirty chapters by a team of international contributors, the *Handbook* is divided into five parts:

- Being a child
- Childhood and moral status
- Parents and children
- Children in society
- Children and the state.

Questions covered include: What is a child? Is childhood a uniquely valuable state and, if so, why? Can we generalize about the goods of childhood? What rights do children have, and are they different from adults' rights? What (if anything) gives people a right to parent? What role, if any, ought biology to play in determining who has the right to parent a particular child? What kind of rights can parents legitimately exercise over their children? What roles do relationships with siblings and friends play in the shaping of childhoods? How should we think about sexuality and disability in childhood, and about racialized children? How should society manage the education of children? How are children's lives affected by being taken into social care?

The Routledge Handbook of the Philosophy of Childhood and Children is essential reading for students and researchers in philosophy of childhood, political philosophy and ethics, as well as those in related disciplines such as education, psychology, sociology, social policy, law, social work, youth work, neuroscience and anthropology.

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As editors, we dedicate this handbook to

My father Puiu and the memory of my mother Doina (Anca)
My siblings Rachel, Gowan and Douglas (Gideon)
My late mother, Yvette (Jurgen)

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