

# CONFIGURING THE CHILD USER

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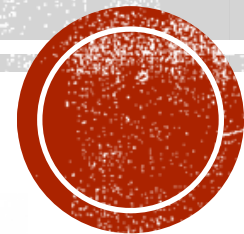
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6/10-2017

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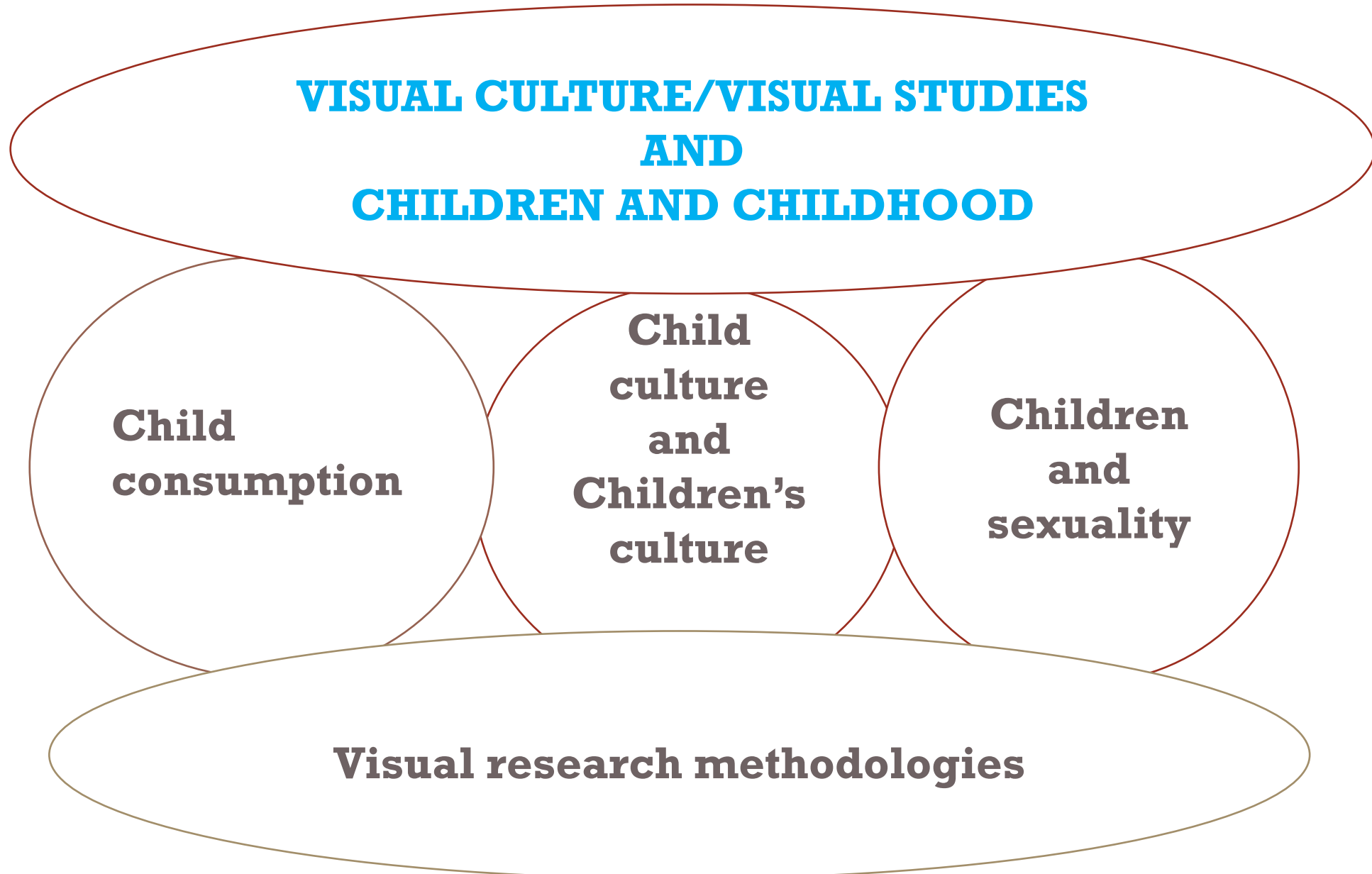


# CHILD(HOOD) STUDIES

- 1987
- Interdisciplinary (social science and humanities)
- Everyday life – where do children live their lives?
- Children and childhood as social and cultural constructions
- Child perspective



# RESEARCH INTERESTS



# (RE)CONFIGURING (CASTAÑEDA 2002; SUCHMAN 2012; WOOLGAR 1991)

- Unpacking dominant figurations in different situations
- Where does a figure begin and end?
- Conjoining of diverse elements – heterogeneous relations that technology fold together
- *How are children enculturated/made as users? And how does that in turn inflect on how adult users are enculturated?*



# WHAT IS A CHILD? — IDEAS/THEORIES

- **The presociological child**

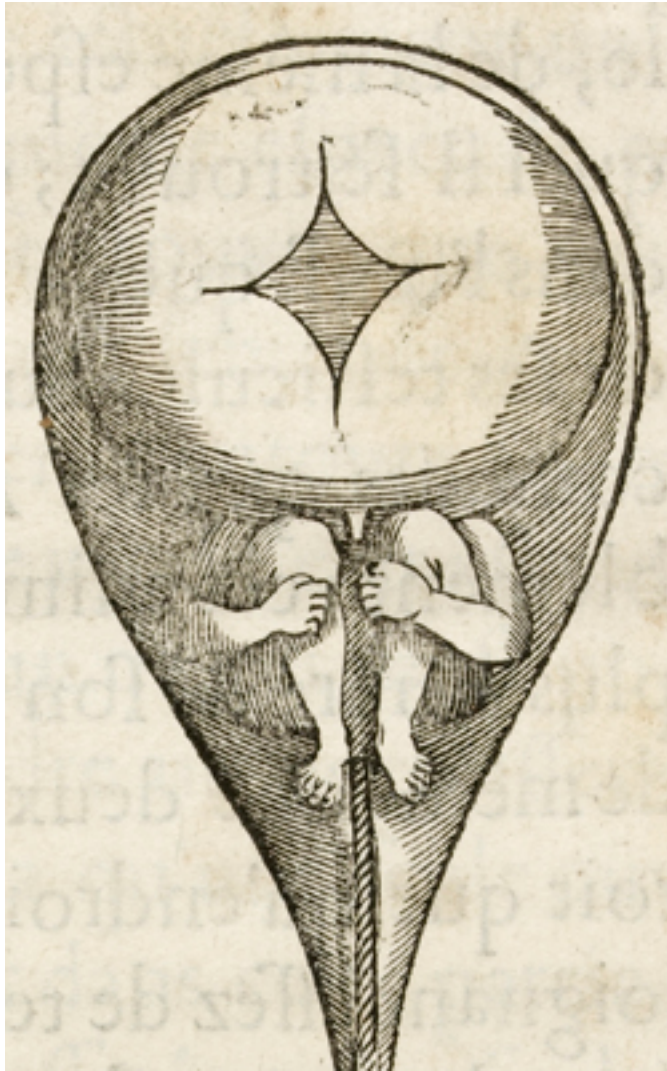
- Evil (Hobbes 1600s), The Dionysian Child
- Immanent (Locke 1600s)
- Innocent (Rousseau 1700s), The Appollonian Child
- Natural (Piaget 1900s)
- Unconconscious (Freud 1900s)

- **The sociological child**

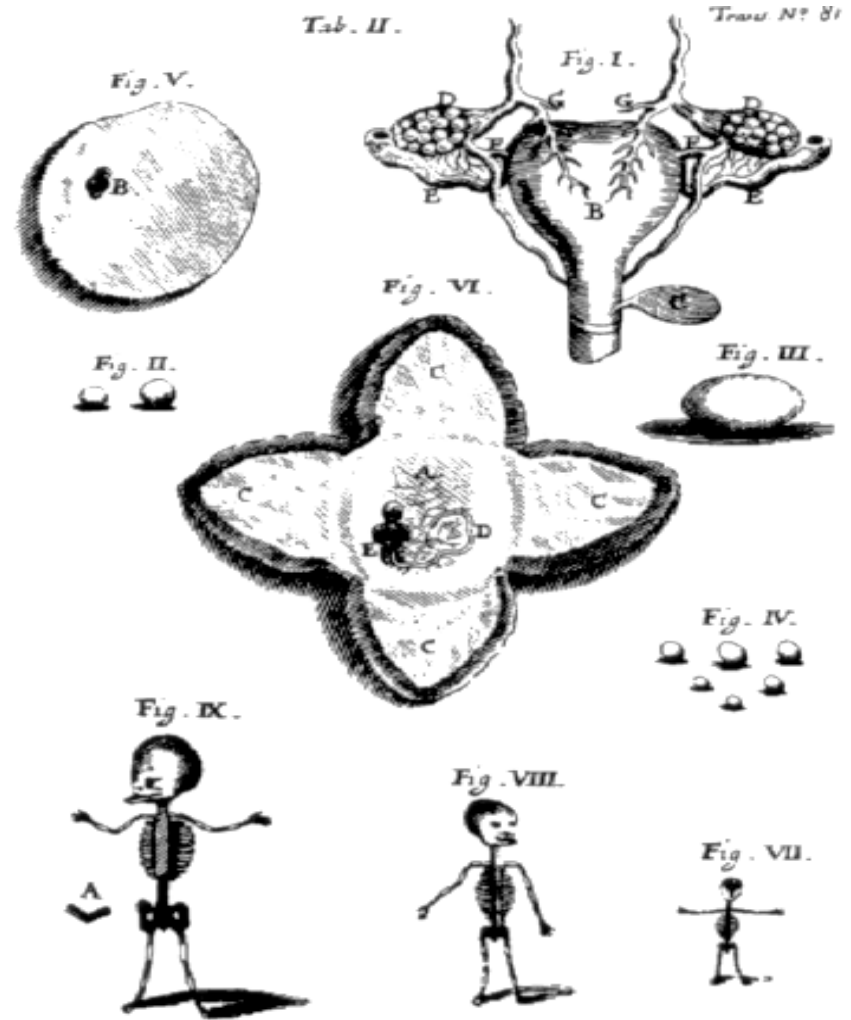
- Social constructivism
- Below the age of 18
- Becoming (instead of being)
- Being AND becoming
- Social context
- The Athenian Child (2000s)

(James, Jenks and Prout 1998)





The homunculus in the sperm', 1694



Theatrum Anatomicum, by Caspar Bauhin and Theodor de Bry, 1605 :



# LENNART NILSSON mfl



# CHILD CONCEPTS

- ❖ Feutes (Biology/medicine)
- ❖ Infant
- ❖ Baby
- ❖ Kid
- ❖ Tween/tweenager (market)
- ❖ Under age/juvenile
- ❖ Teenager
- ❖ Youth
- ❖ Adolescents (psychology)
- ❖ Young adult

- ❖ Childish
- ❖ Child like
- ❖ Childishness
- ❖ Childity
- ❖ To treat someone as a child?
- ❖ The girl-woman – woman-girl





# WHAT IS A CHILD?

”A child is a **human being** in the early stages of its life-course, biologically, psychologically and socially; it is a member of a **generation** referred to collectively by adults as children, who together **temporarily** occupy the social space that is created for them by adults and referred to as **childhood.**”

(James & James 2008)



# **AGE CULTURE** (FINEMAN 2011)

- Biological/physical age
- Numerical age
- Functional age
- Social age
- Consumer age
- Legal age
- Age of consent
- Feel an age



## Child perspective

- Structure
  - Legislation
  - Policy
  - Childhood
- Method
  - Document analysis
  - ADULTS

## Children's perspective

- Agency
  - Children's own actions
  - Voice
  - Children
- Method
  - Ethnography, Interviewing
  - CHILDREN



# **AGENCY (ESSER 2016; OSWELL 2016, SPARRMAN 2014)**

- As a property of networks
- Distributed
- Dependency – Relations – Collective



# CONFIGURATIONS OF CHILDREN IN POLICY AND LEGAL ACTS

- Innocent
- Vulnerable
- In need of protection
- Aged (by culture)
- Independent and generalized at the same time
- Situated at the margins
  
- Proxies...



# CHILD-BIOGRAPY OF TRANSPORT

- Car seat
- Baby sling
- Baby stroller/push chair
- Biking seat or cargo bikes
- Walking
- School bus
- Car-pool
- Biking on one's own
- Skateboard/rollerskates/longboard/kick-bike
- Moped
- Bus, subway
- Car



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London, UK



San Francisco, USA





# MOBILE-PHONE PROXIMITY



# THE CHILD AS A RHIZOME / ASSEMBLAGE

## 1. Introduction: Rhizome

7-441 NOTE

XIV piano piece for David Tudor 4  
compos del 1968  
edizione pianistica: SP.57058

1 { S  
M  
P

2 A  
A  
A

3 { soprano  
frequenza  
timbro  
durezza  
intensità

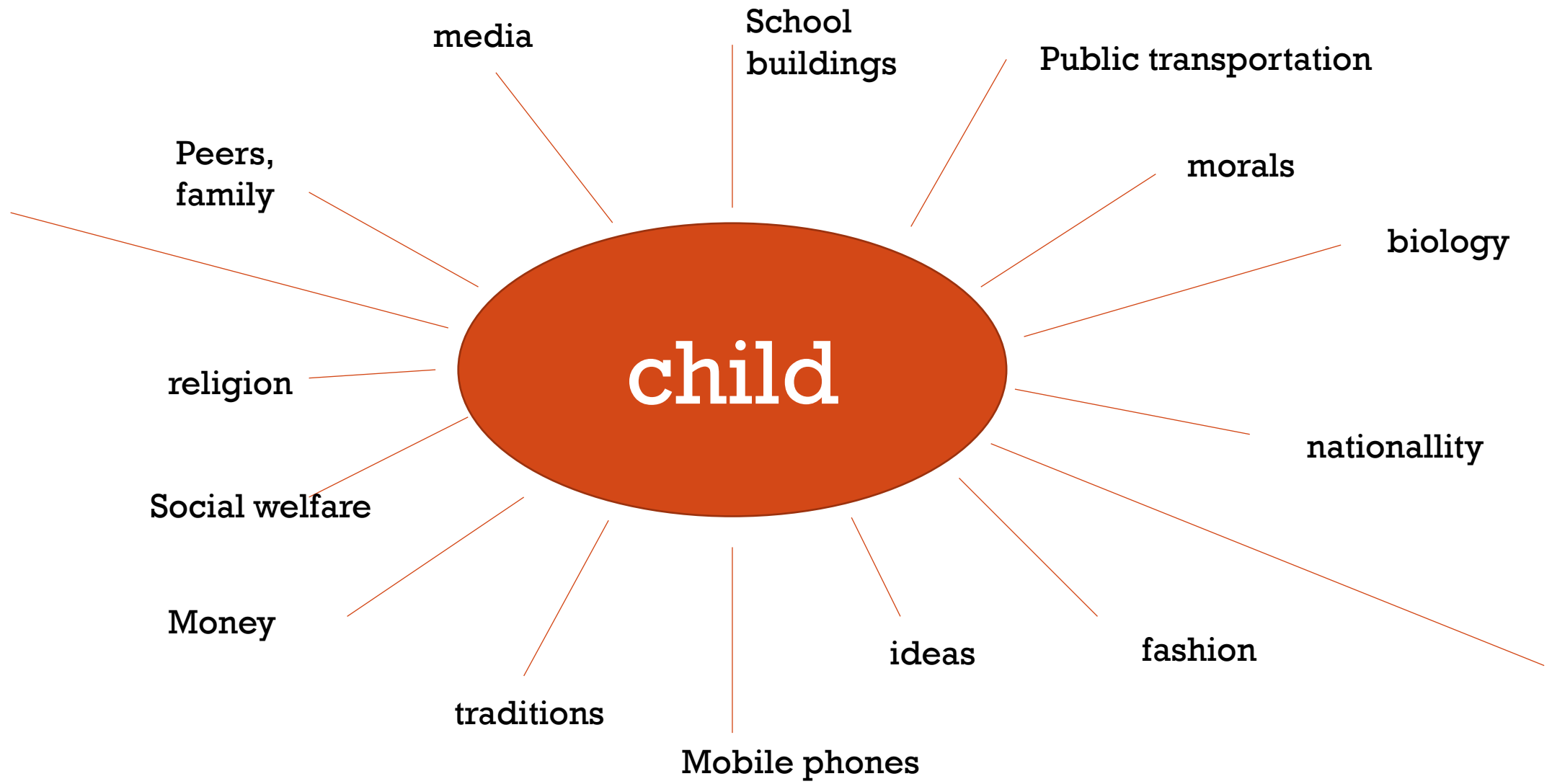
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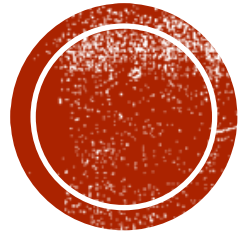
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SYLVANO BUSSOTTI







**THANK YOU!**



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# THE "WAR" FOR CHILDREN

- Education
- Psychology
- Natural Science
- Politics
- Religion
- Government
- Nation
- Parents

