

Special Issue

Law and Children's Decision-Making

Message from the Guest Editors

The law relating to children is complex. Children's law spans many areas of law, and these areas of law often intersect, crossing disciplinary and jurisdictional boundaries. The law is continually responding to new challenges relating to children presented by emerging scientific evidence and contemporary life. This Special Issue provides a forum to explore the complex area of children's decision-making across a range of settings. How does the law facilitate, or fail to facilitate, children's involvement in decisions affecting them? When does the law permit children to exercise autonomous decision-making? Under what circumstances should legal systems empower children to make decisions in different settings, and how can sound legal principles be operationalised in lived experience? This Special Issue seeks to build upon existing research to explore the nature, impact and limitations of current legal principles on children's autonomous decision-making authority. We especially welcome cross-disciplinary contributions that advance knowledge and point to beneficial reforms.

Guest Editors

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (12 December 2022)



Laws

an Open Access Journal
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Impact Factor 1.1
CiteScore 3.0



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About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Laws is an international, open access journal featuring rigorous scholarship on critical developments in governance, courts, agencies, and social order. Analysis and synthesis, theory and practice, and empirical and doctrinal work have appeared in the journal; contributions that bridge these traditional boundaries are particularly welcome. The social sciences and humanities generate insights both from and for the legal system. While theory grounds *Laws* in a timeless dialogue shaped by traditions of inquiry, legal practice ensures that scholars are addressing pressing problems. Both normative and positive scholarship can aid policymakers, judges, and agency officials. *Laws* brings together the work of theorists and practitioners, and a diverse range of empirical researchers, to promote the progress of foundational legal norms.

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manuscripts are peer-reviewed and a first decision is provided to authors approximately 40 days after submission; acceptance to publication is undertaken in 4.7 days (median values for papers published in this journal in the first half of 2025).