

Dr. Ziba Vaghri

Associate Professor

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Dr. Ziba Vaghri, Associate Professor in the Faculty of Business, University of New Brunswick, has more than 20 years of extensive research and international experience in the areas of child development, child nutrition, child rights and child health with a strong emphasis on the social determinants of health. Dr. Vaghri has a passion and strong desire for improving children’s lives across the globe. She subscribes to the ideology that when it comes to children, our efforts should not be bound to political borders.

Dr. Vaghri’s research excellence has been acknowledged by a number of distinguished bodies throughout her academic career. In 2014, she was recruited for a term employment as the Early Childhood Development (ECD) Technical Officer of the World Health Organization Headquarters in Geneva. In 2015, she received the five-year Prestigious Scholar Award from the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research and spent the duration of this award at the University of Victoria until she was recruited by the University of New Brunswick in 2020.

Dr. Vaghri has implemented ground-breaking provincial and international forums for facilitating the transfer of knowledge in child rights, health, and development. She cofounded the International Program of the Human Early Learning Partnership (I-HELP), a center of excellence for research and development related to the early years, at the University of British Columbia (UBC) in 2008 and led I-HELP in the capacity of Program Director until 2014. In 2018-19, she led the world-wide study ‘[Global Child Rights Dialogue \(GCRD\)](#)’ which sought the insights and opinions of over 2000 children from 43 countries across the world on their rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. In 2019, Vaghri set up the [BC Child Rights Symposium](#), the province’s first child rights symposium ever, to inform relevant stakeholders of the findings from her pilot of the [Early Childhood Rights Indicators’ \(ECRI\)](#) child protection cluster.

Dr. Vaghri is a recognized international researcher in early child development and child rights, and one of the leading scholars creating linkages between these two fields. She led the process of developing the [Early Childhood Rights Indicators \(ECRI\)](#), a child rights monitoring tool for young children (0-8 years). ECRI is a tool developed by an international team of experts working under the auspices of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child. ECRI has been pilot tested in Tanzania, Chile and Canada (British Columbia). Dr. Vaghri is currently Principal Investigator for two multinational projects: [GlobalChild](#), also under the guidance of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research; and [InspiRights: Good Practices to Inspire and Facilitate Children’s Rights](#), funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

Dr. Vaghri has worked with different governments across the globe on ECD enhancing projects and has a strong track record with international development and UN agencies such as UNICEF, WHO, the UN CRC, and UNESCO. She worked for 5 years with the Government of Shanghai, designing and developing the handbook “Understanding the Early Childhood, A Simple Guide for Caregivers” as an educational tool for caregivers and professionals working with the young children of Shanghai. Dr. Vaghri’s first book, “[Attributes of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child: Analysis for State Compliance](#),” with co-authorship of the former chair of the UNCRC and two other prominent scholars of the field of child rights, is currently in print by Springer.

CURRENT PROJECTS

- [GlobalChild](#), a universal and comprehensive child rights monitoring platform
 - Piloting GlobalChild in [New Brunswick](#)
- [InspiRights](#), a global inventory-taking of good practices that inspire children's rights
- [Global Child Rights Dialogue](#) (GCRD), an international consultation with children about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- [Child Rights Educational Tools](#), an initiative to educate children and adults about child rights
- The [Early Childhood Rights Indicators](#), which focuses on the rights of young children up to the age of eight years

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Child and youth development
- Early childhood development
- Child rights
- Community-based screening of pediatric nutritional deficiencies
- Child health with a strong emphasis on the social determinants of health
- Monitoring and evaluation of ECD programs and initiatives

TEACHING

- Collaborative development and teaching of “**Children’s Human Rights**” course for the School of Child and Youth Care, University of Victoria
- Social Dimensions of Health 500/600: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Health Research, at the University of Victoria
- Certified for and experienced with problem-based-learning; both on-line and face-to-face
- Experienced with designing, conducting, and evaluating training workshops

REVIEW COMMITTEE MEMBER

Internationally:

- Member of the review board for the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health;
- Journal of Psychoneuroendocrinology;
- Journal of Child: Care, Health, and Development;
- AIMS Public Health;
- Law & Society Review;
- International Journal of Child, Youth & Family Studies;
- Child, Youth and Environments;
- Journal of Public Health;
- Children; and
- PLOS ONE.

Nationally:

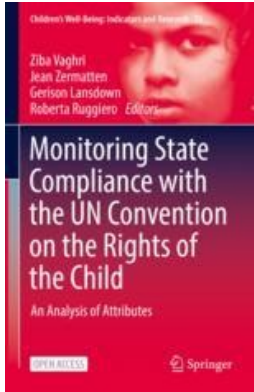
- Member of the Grand Challenges Canada review committee;
- Member of the CIHR College of Reviewers; and
- Member of the Review team of Social Science and Humanities Research (SSHRC)-insight grant competitions

Provincially:

- Scientific Officer of the review committee in population health for the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research in BC.

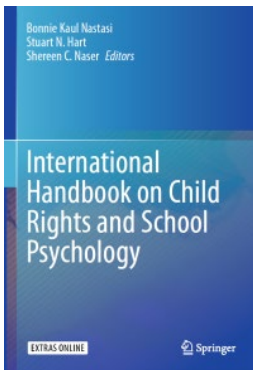
SELECT PUBLICATIONS

I. Books



Z. Vaghri, J. Zermatten, G. Lansdown and R. Ruggiero (Eds.). "Attributes of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child: Analysis for State Compliance," Geneva, Switzerland: Springer Nature. Available at <https://www.springer.com/de/book/9783030846466> (In preparation)

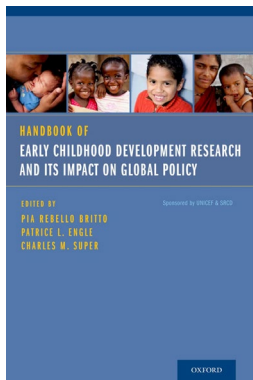
II. Sample Book Chapters



Z. Vaghri, R. Flores and S. Mojtabavi, "Promoting Healthy Child Development: A Child Rights Perspective" in B. Nastasi, S. Hart and S. Naser (eds.), *International Handbook on Child Rights and School Psychology*, Springer Nature Switzerland, 2020, pp. 175-195. Available at https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-37119-7_12

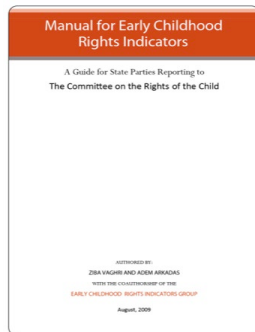


R. Mercer, C. Hertzman, H. Molina and **Z. Vaghri**, "Promoting equity from the start through early child development and Health in All Policies (ECD-HiaP)," in K. Leppo, E. Ollila, S. Pena, M. Wismar, and S. Cook, (eds.), *Health in All Policies: Seizing Opportunities, Implementing Policies*, Finland: Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, 2013, pp. 105-124. Available at <http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/search/5416E4680AD46606C1257B730038FAC1>



C. Hertzman, **Z. Vaghri** and A. Arkadas-Thibert, "Monitoring Progress Towards the Fulfillment of Rights in Early Childhood Under the Convention on the Rights of the Child to Improve Outcomes for Children and Families," in P. Rebello Britto, P.L. Engle, and C.M. Super, (eds.), *Handbook of Early Childhood Development Research and Its Impact on Global Policy*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2012, pp. 371-388. DOI:

10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199922994.003.0019. Available from <https://www.oxfordscholarship.com/view/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199922994.001.0001/acprof-9780199922994-chapter-19>



Z. Vaghri, A. Arkadas, C. Hertzman, L. Krappmann, L. Gertsch, M. Cabral, N. Ulkuer, & A. Kikuchi-White (2009; rev. 2010). *Manual for Early Childhood Rights Indicators (manual of the indicators of General Comment 7): A Guide for State Parties Reporting to The Committee on the Rights of the Child*. UNICEF.

https://download.popdata.bc.ca/Manual_DRAFT3-AS+JB_16.12.2010.pdf

III. Sample Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

- **Z. Vaghri** and L. De Souza. (2021). Child Protection in British Columbia: Moving Toward Primary Prevention," *Canadian Public Administration*, 64(3), 1-18. Available at <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/capa.12430>
- **Z. Vaghri**, S Jimerson, C. Pearson and C. Sinclair. (2020). The Intersect of Social Justice and Children's Right to Participation: Implications for the Field of School Psychology. *European Journal of Psychology and Educational Research*. 3(2), 111-121. Available at <https://doi.org/10.12973/ejper.3.2.111>
- **Z. Vaghri** and M. Samms-Vaughan. (2020). Accountability in protection of children against violence: Monitoring and measurement. *Child Abuse & Neglect: The International Journal*. Available at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2020.104655> (Invited submission in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child)
- J. Goldhagen, A. Clark, P. Dixon, A.I. Guerreiro, G. Lansdown, and **Z. Vaghri**. (2020). Thirtieth Anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: Advancing a Child Rights Based Approach to Child Health and Well-Being, *BMJ Paediatrics Open*, 4(e000589). Available at <https://bmjpaedsopen.bmj.com/content/4/1/e000589>
- **Z. Vaghri**, Z. Tessier, and C. Whalen. "Refugee and Asylum-Seeking Children: Interrupted Child Development and Unfulfilled Child Rights," *Children (Special issue on Children on the Move)*, Vol. 6. No. 120, 2019, pp. 1-16. DOI: 10.3390/children6110120. Available at <https://www.mdpi.com/2227-9067/6/11/120>

- **Z. Vaghri**, L. Krappmann and J. Doek. (2019). From the Indicators of General Comment 7 to GlobalChild: A Decade of Work to Enhance Accountability to Children, *International Journal of Children's Rights*, 27(4), 1-31. Available at https://brill.com/view/journals/chil/27/4/article-p821_821.xml
- **Z. Vaghri** and I. Erdemli. (2019). A Desk Top Review of the Existing Indicators on Articles and General Comments of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, *Zeitschrift für Menschenrechte, Journal for Human Rights*, 13(1), 94-117. Available at <https://www.zeitschriftfuermenschenrechte.de>
- **Z. Vaghri**, K. Covell and H. Clow. (2018). Wiring the Brain for Participation through Active Listening and Active Learning, *Canadian Journal of Children's Rights*, 5(1), 71-85. Available at <https://ojs.library.carleton.ca/index.php/cjcr/article/view/1248>
- **Z. Vaghri**. (2018). Climate Change, An Unwelcome Legacy: The Need to Support Children's Rights to Participate in Global Conversations, *Journal of Children, Youth, and Environments*, 28(1), 104-114. Available at <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.7721/chilyoutenvi.28.1.0104>
- C. Hertzman, A. Siddiqi, E. Hertzman, L.G. Irwin, Z. Vaghri, T.A.J. Houweling, R. Bell, A. Tinajero and M. Marmot. (2010). Bucking the Inequality Gradient Through Early Child Development. *British Medical Journal*, 340(468). Available at <https://www.bmj.com/content/340/bmj.c468>
- E. Blas, L. Gilson, M.P. Kelly, R. Labonté, J. Lapitan, C. Muntaner, P. Östlin, J. Popay, R. Sadana, G. Sen, T. Schrecker and **Z. Vaghri**. (2008). Addressing Social Determinants of Health Inequities: What Can the State and Civil Society Do?. *The Lancet*, 372(11), 1684-1689. Available at <https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673608616931/fulltext>

IV. Sample interviews

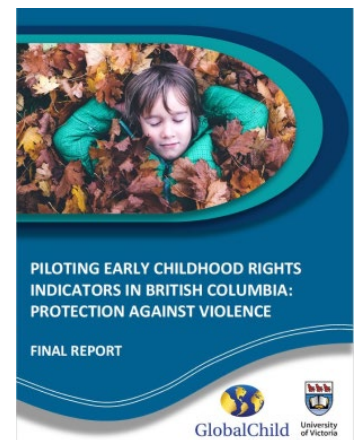
- National Post. Leijon, E. March 3, 2021. "International child rights monitoring program makes New Brunswick its home". <https://nationalpost.com/sponsored/life-sponsored/international-child-rights-monitoring-program-makes-new-brunswick-its-home>
- CBC Information Morning Fredericton with Terry Seguin. October 30, 2020. Interview and feature of GlobalChild program and research.
- CBC Information Morning Saint John. October 26, 2020. Interview and feature of GlobalChild program and research.
- National Broadcasting Company of Morocco (NBCM). July 8, 2019. Rabat. Morocco. Interview about piloting GlobalChild in Morocco. <http://moroccanladies.com/breaking-news/platform-launched-childrens-rights-morocco-28877>
- CTV Vancouver Island News at 5. June 13, 2019. Interview and feature of GlobalChild program of research.
- The Ring, UVic. September 2015. "Global child health scholar joins UVic." <http://ring.uvic.ca/news/global-child-health-scholar-joins-uvic>
- CBC Vancouver. The Early Edition with Rick Cluff. August 29, 2016. Available at (the 1h20min mark): <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/programs/theearlyedition/august-29-2016-1.3739850>

V. Sample Videos

- [“Health, development, and rights of refugee & asylum-seeking children under the CRC and through the eyes of children,”](#) International Society of Social Pediatrics and Child Health (ISSOP). September 26, 2019. Beirut, Lebanon.
- [“Social Determinants of Health,”](#) presentation at the Global Summit on Childhood hosted by the Early Childhood Development Task Force/Global Partnership on Children with Disabilities. May 2014, Vancouver, Canada.
- [“Monitoring accountability of social institutions to young children’s development, health and well-being,”](#) presentation for Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR), 2014. Toronto, Canada.
- [Early Childhood Rights Indicators \(ECRI\): A rights-based approach to enhancing early child development.](#) National Research Council – NASEM Health and Medical Division, 2014.

VI. Other Deliverables

- L. Lundy, M. Templeton, **Z. Vaghri**, B. Byrne, C. Pearson, and C. Sinclair. Global Child Rights Dialogue (GCRD) Final Report. [gcrd-full-report-final.pdf \(unb.ca\)](#)
- L. Lundy, M. Templeton, **Z. Vaghri**, B. Byrne, C. Pearson, and C. Sinclair. The Global Discussions on Children’s Rights. Child-friendly report of the Global Child Rights Dialogue (GCRD) project. [CF Report \(unb.ca\)](#)
- **Z. Vaghri** et al. (2018). Piloting Early Childhood Rights Indicators in British Columbia: Protection against violence. Report prepared as source document for BC Child Rights Symposium. Victoria, BC, Canada. [ecri-pilot-report.pdf \(unb.ca\)](#)
- **Z. Vaghri**, “Understanding the Early Childhood, A Simple Guide for Caregivers,” developed for Shanghai Population and Family Planning Commission under The Human Early Learning Partnership, University of British Columbia, 2013. Please click [here](#) to view a short excerpt from the original one hour video for this project.



SELECTED KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

- “Combining the Science of Child Development with the Standards of Human Rights.” Keynote remarks at the Nutrition-ECD Regional Network Meeting of the UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Region. September 9, 2019. Bangkok, Thailand.
- “Global Child Rights Dialogue; Consulting children on indicators of GlobalChild in recognition of their rights to participation and to be heard.” Zoom on Child Rights. June 15, 2018. Athens, Greece.
- International Conference of the National Commission on the Rights of the Child – Belgium in collaboration with ChildONEurope: Measuring the Effectiveness of Children’s Rights – Make all children count! “The GlobalChild Project” February 9, 2018, Brussels, Belgium.

- “GlobalChild; The development of a comprehensive child rights monitoring platform.” Keynote remarks for a pre-conference event at the 2016 International Congress for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN). August 26, 2016. Calgary, Canada.
- University of British Columbia, Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) Fall Research Expo 2012 Keynote: “[Monitoring Rights in Early Childhood](#),” October 24, 2012, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.
- “Role of Communities in Promoting Early Child Development.” Keynote remarks for the Shanghai International Forum on Early Child Development. December 13, 2012. Shanghai, China.
- “Early Childhood Development.” Presentation for Early Childhood Development professionals, May 2011, Shanghai, China.

RECENTLY INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- “Children’s rights during the early years,” International ECD Congress. November 20, 2021. Istanbul, Turkey.
- Global Child Rights Dialogue (GCRD): What children across the globe think about their right to health,” 9th Europaediatrics Congress. November 10-12, 2021. Zagreb, Croatia.
- “Indicators as effective tools for implementation and monitoring of the rights of children for protection against violence, neglect, and abuse under the UN CRC,” Les indicateurs de qualité de l’accompagnement de l’enfant en protection de l’enfance. Colloque scientifique international. November 2-3, 2020. Tangier, Morocco.
- “Monitoring Children’s Rights in Business; Deciphering the provisions and protections under the CRC,” Global Child Forum: A Changing Climate for Children’s Rights & Business. October 8, 2020. Stockholm, Sweden.
- “GlobalChild; A Data-Centric Approach to Tracking the Development of Children and Compliance of the 196 UN Member States with the Convention on the Rights of the Child,” Mission of Switzerland - 30 Years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. November 19, 2019. Geneva, Switzerland.
- “Health, Development, and Rights of Refugee & Asylum-Seeking Children under the CRC and through the Eyes of Children,” International Society of Social Pediatrics and Child Health (ISSOP). September 26, 2019. Beirut, Lebanon.
- “An Orientation Workshop on Early Childhood Rights Indicators (ECRI): Taking a Rights-Based Approach to ECD Promotion & Monitoring,” full-day workshop presented at the Nutrition-ECD Regional Network Meeting: UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office. September 10, 2019. Bangkok, Thailand.
- “Round Table on Children’s Rights Data Monitoring,” International Summer Course on the Rights of the Child. June 28, 2019. Moncton, Canada.
- “Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities”, Annual meeting of Child Rights Academic Network (CRAN), February 8, 2019, Ottawa, Canada.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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