

The *International Journal of Child, Youth and Family Studies* has been a player in the on-line, open-access publishing scene for two full years now. As 2012 dawns, we continue our tradition of showcasing original scholarly works on a wide range of topics in the broad area of child, youth and family studies. The diversity of interests and topics and the interdisciplinarity of our contributors is a testament to the richness of this burgeoning field of study.

With this volume, our international scope is more visible than ever with contributions from Finland, the United Kingdom, Iran, and Canada. The articles compiled for this volume include empirical investigations, theoretical contributions, practice accounts, and brief reports. Topics include: home/workplace balance in Finland, the “soccer casuals” youth culture in the U.K., depression and interpersonal relationships among youth in Tehran, community work based on social justice in Canada, new perspectives on addiction services for youth in British Columbia, and managing child care needs in a changing Canadian economy.

One thing is clear in all these articles: The lives of children, youth, families, and communities can neither be adequately understood, nor ethically responded to, in the absence of a commitment to social justice that requires a deep understanding of the ways in which structural, political, economic, and historical forces actively shape the emergence of social problems among children, youth, and families. Despite the daunting challenges we all face, this volume offers much reason for hope. What a refreshing way to begin a new year!

– **Jennifer White** and **Sibylle Artz**, Co-Editors