

# Harry Shier

## Curriculum vitae

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**Nationality:** Irish  
**Languages:** English, Spanish (fluent)

### Education

PhD in Children's Rights	Queen's University Belfast	2012-2016
<i>Thesis:</i> Children's rights in school: The perception of children in Nicaragua		
MA Philosophy, Politics and Economics	University of Oxford	2011
BA (Hons.) Philosophy, Politics and Economics	University of Oxford	1973-1976

### Scholarships/fellowships

**Macquarie University (NSW, Australia) Visiting Scholarship.** April-May 2016. International adviser on collaborative project on improving public services through youth participation: Providing seminars, masterclasses and workshops on participatory research with children.

**UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Non-Governmental Public Action Programme Practitioner Fellowship.** September 2007-March 2008 Carried out comparative research on theory and practice of children and young people's participation in Nicaragua and the UK, based at the University of the West of England, Bristol.

**Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship.** August-October 1995: Researched different approaches to anti-racist and multi-cultural work with children in the USA.

### Over the years, professional training has included:

Postgraduate Diploma: Affectivity, Equality and Respect in work with Children and Young People	Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua	2008
Computer applications for graphic design	Instituto Nicaragüense de Computación, Managua, Nicaragua	2003-04
Foundation course for international development workers	Agency for Personal Service Overseas (APSO), Dublin, Ireland	2001
Tutor Training Programme	West Midlands Group for Trainers, UK	1988-89
Counselling skills	City of Birmingham, UK	1987
Child Development	Open University, UK	1983
Certificate in Playwork	London Adventure Playground Association, UK	1977-78

## Employment

2023-	<b><i>Freelance children's rights/participation work</i></b>
2021-2022	<b><i>Researcher</i></b> University College Dublin - COVISION Project: Children as Innovators - Harnessing the Creative Expertise of Children to Address Practical and Psycho-social Challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic ( <a href="http://www.covision.ie">www.covision.ie</a> ).
2016-2020	<b><i>Learning and Development Officer</i></b> Misean Cara, 563 South Circular Road, Kilmainham, Dublin 8 ( <a href="http://www.miseancara.ie">www.miseancara.ie</a> ) Supporting capacity development, monitoring, evaluation, mentorship, research and learning for international development projects.
2015-2016	<b><i>Research Manager</i></b> Barnardos Ireland, Christchurch Square, Dublin 8 ( <a href="http://www.barnardos.ie">www.barnardos.ie</a> ) Overseeing all Barnardos' research and evaluation activity. (2012-2015: Full-time doctoral student at Queen's University Belfast)
2003 – 2012	<b><i>Education and Training Adviser</i></b> CESESMA, San Ramón, Nicaragua ( <a href="http://www.cesesma.org">www.cesesma.org</a> ). Working in community education with children and young people in the coffee-growing region of northern Nicaragua, focusing on children's rights and participation. Responsibilities included: organisational development, facilitating planning, evaluation and staff development processes, research on participatory methods and practice, development of educational materials, communication and liaison with overseas partners, fund-raising, promotion of child and youth participation, non-violence and the right to play.
2012	<b><i>Lecturer (part-time/sessional)</i></b> Universidad Centroamericana (Central American University) Managua, Nicaragua ( <a href="http://www.uca.edu.ni">www.uca.edu.ni</a> ) Lecturing on Masters programme, <i>Social Policy, Rights and Children's Protagonism</i> .
2001-2002	<b><i>Organisational Development Consultant</i></b> (assigned to CESESMA). APSO, Dublin, Ireland (Now Irish Aid: <a href="http://www.irishaid.ie">www.irishaid.ie</a> ) Facilitation of CESESMA's first Impact Evaluation and Strategic Planning process using innovative participatory methodologies with children and adults.
1989-2000	<b><i>Training Consultant / Coordinator</i></b> Playtrain, Birmingham (UK) Founder, leader and coordinator of voluntary organisation providing training and development on children's rights, participation and playwork. Also coordinator of Article 31 Action Network and Children's Consultancy Scheme, enabling children to act as expert consultants to cultural organisations throughout the UK.
Oct-Nov 1997	<b><i>Training Consultant</i></b> Mines Advisory Group, autonomous Kurdistan, Northern Iraq. ( <a href="http://www.maginternational.org/">http://www.maginternational.org/</a> ) (On temporary leave from Playtrain).
1992-1993	<b><i>National Education and Training Development Officer</i></b> National Children's Play and Recreation Unit, London (UK) (One year fixed-term post, on sabbatical from Playtrain).
1981-1988	<b><i>Arts Training Officer</i></b> National Playing Fields Association, London (UK).
1979-1981	<b><i>Assistant Resources Officer</i></b> Children's Play Resource Centre, Birmingham (UK).
1976-1979	<b><i>Adventure Playground Worker</i></b> Mint Street and Blendon Row Adventure Playgrounds, Southwark, London (UK)

## Selected publications

- Shier, H. (1984). *Adventure Playgrounds, an Introduction*. National Playing Fields Association. <http://www.harryshier.net/docs/Shier-AdventurePlaygrounds.pdf>
- Shier, H. (1999). The right to play, a global issue: Living with landmines in Kurdistan/northern Iraq, in M. Guddemi, T. Jambor, and A. Skrupskelis (eds.): *Play in a Changing Society*. Southern Early Childhood Association. [http://www.harryshier.net/docs/Shier-Living\\_with\\_Landmines.pdf](http://www.harryshier.net/docs/Shier-Living_with_Landmines.pdf)
- Shier, H. (2001) Pathways to Participation: Openings, Opportunities and Obligations. *Children and Society*, 15: 107-117.\* [http://www.ipkl.gu.se/digitalAssets/1429/1429848\\_shier2001.pdf](http://www.ipkl.gu.se/digitalAssets/1429/1429848_shier2001.pdf)
- Shier, H. (2008). The Right to Play in Nicaragua. *Playwords*, 37: 12-15. [http://harryshier.net/docs/Shier-Right\\_to\\_Play\\_in\\_Nicaragua.pdf](http://harryshier.net/docs/Shier-Right_to_Play_in_Nicaragua.pdf)
- Shier, H. (2009). Pathways to Participation Revisited: Learning from Nicaragua's Child Coffee Workers, in B. Percy-Smith and N. Thomas (eds). *A Handbook of Children's Participation: Perspectives from Theory and Practice* (pp. 215-227). Routledge. [http://www.harryshier.net/docs/Shier-Pathways\\_to\\_Participation\\_Revisited\\_Handbook.pdf](http://www.harryshier.net/docs/Shier-Pathways_to_Participation_Revisited_Handbook.pdf)
- Shier, H. (2010). *IPA Global Consultations on Children's Right to Play Report*. International Play Association. [http://harryshier.net/docs/IPA\\_Global\\_Report\\_full.pdf](http://harryshier.net/docs/IPA_Global_Report_full.pdf)
- Shier, H. (2010) Children as Public Actors: Navigating the Tensions. *Children & Society*. 24: 24-37. [http://www.harryshier.net/docs/Shier-Children\\_as\\_Public\\_Actors.pdf](http://www.harryshier.net/docs/Shier-Children_as_Public_Actors.pdf)
- Shier, H. (2010) *Incidencia de niños, niñas y adolescentes como ciudadanos/as activos/as en Nicaragua*. CESESMA. [http://www.cesesma.org/documentos/CESESMA-Incidencia\\_de\\_NNA.pdf](http://www.cesesma.org/documentos/CESESMA-Incidencia_de_NNA.pdf)
- Shier, H. (2010) *Participación de niños, niñas y adolescentes en el mundo real*. Save the Children Nicaragua. [http://www.harryshier.net/docs/shier-participacion\\_de\\_nna\\_en\\_el\\_mundo\\_real\\_1.pdf](http://www.harryshier.net/docs/shier-participacion_de_nna_en_el_mundo_real_1.pdf)
- Shier, H. (2012). *What does 'equality' mean for children in relation to adults?* Background paper for the UN global thematic consultation on 'Addressing Inequalities Post 2015'. [https://www.harryshier.net/docs/Shier-What\\_Does\\_Equality\\_Mean\\_for\\_Children.pdf](https://www.harryshier.net/docs/Shier-What_Does_Equality_Mean_for_Children.pdf)
- Shier, H. (2012) (editor). *Learn to live without violence*. University of Central Lancashire and CESESMA. [http://harryshier.net/docs/CESESMA-Learn\\_to\\_live\\_without\\_violence.pdf](http://harryshier.net/docs/CESESMA-Learn_to_live_without_violence.pdf)
- Shier, H. (2013). Claiming the right to quality education in Nicaragua, in B. Blue-Swadener, L. Lundy, N. Blanchet-Cohen, and J. Habashi (eds), *Children's Rights and Education*. (pp 188-202). Peter Lang. [http://www.harryshier.net/docs/Shier\\_et\\_al-Claiming\\_the\\_right.pdf](http://www.harryshier.net/docs/Shier_et_al-Claiming_the_right.pdf)
- Shier, H. (2013). *Participación de niños, niñas y adolescentes en el mundo real: Caja de herramientas para capacitar a personas adultas*. Save the Children Nicaragua. [http://harryshier.net/docs/Participacion\\_caja\\_de\\_herramientas.pdf](http://harryshier.net/docs/Participacion_caja_de_herramientas.pdf)
- Shier, H. Hernández M, Centeno M, Arróliga I and González M. (2014) How children and young people influence policy-makers: Lessons from Nicaragua, *Children & Society* 28(1), 1-14. [http://www.ipkl.gu.se/digitalAssets/1429/1429869\\_shier-et-al---how-cyp-influence-policy-makers.pdf](http://www.ipkl.gu.se/digitalAssets/1429/1429869_shier-et-al---how-cyp-influence-policy-makers.pdf)
- Shier, H. (2014). *A change of Rhythm, Nicaraguan Style, in Children and Young People's Participation*. Save the Children Nicaragua. [http://www.harryshier.net/docs/Shier-Change\\_of\\_Rhythm.pdf](http://www.harryshier.net/docs/Shier-Change_of_Rhythm.pdf)
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- Shier, H. (2016). *Children's Rights in School: The perception of children in Nicaragua*. Queen's University Belfast, Belfast. [http://www.harryshier.net/docs/Shier-Childrens\\_Rights\\_in\\_School.pdf](http://www.harryshier.net/docs/Shier-Childrens_Rights_in_School.pdf)

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\* This is the world's most cited journal article of the topic of child participation, having achieved over 2,500 citations on Google Scholar as of November 2023 (<https://scholar.google.com/>).

- Lundy, L., Orr, K. And Shier, H. (2017) Children's Education Rights: Global Perspectives, in M. Ruck, M. Peterson-Badali, and M. Freeman (eds.), *Handbook of Children's Rights*. Routledge.  
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- Shier, H. (2018). Towards a New Improved Pedagogy of "Children's Rights and Responsibilities". *International Journal of Children's Rights*, 26(4), 761–780.
- Shier, H. (2019). 'Empowerment' of Children and Adolescents: What is it, how does it occur, and what is the adult supporter's role? *Children's Research Digest*, 7(1),.  
[https://childrensresearchnetwork.org/files/CRN\\_Article-4\\_Final\\_-Harry-Shier.pdf](https://childrensresearchnetwork.org/files/CRN_Article-4_Final_-Harry-Shier.pdf)
- Shier, H. (2019). An analytical tool to help researchers develop partnerships with children and adolescents. In I. Berson, M. Berson, & C. Gray (Eds.), *Participatory Methodologies to Elevate Children's Voice and Agency* (pp. 295–315). Information Age Publishing.
- Shier, H. (2019). Student voice and children's rights: Participation, empowerment and "protagonismo". In M. A. Peters (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Teacher Education*. Springer Nature.  
[https://rd.springer.com/referenceworkentry/10.1007%2F978-981-13-1179-6\\_27-1](https://rd.springer.com/referenceworkentry/10.1007%2F978-981-13-1179-6_27-1)
- Shier, H. (2021). *Toolkit for Children and Young People's Participation in Advocacy*. SOS Children's Villages International. [https://www.harryshier.net/docs/SOS-2021-Advocacy\\_Toolkit.pdf](https://www.harryshier.net/docs/SOS-2021-Advocacy_Toolkit.pdf)
- Shier, H. & Hernández Méndez, M. (2022) *Transformative Action Research with and from the Participation of Children and Young People: A step-by-step methodological guide from CESESMA in Nicaragua*. CESESMA, San Ramón, Nicaragua
- Shier, H. (2022) Locating the (adult) researcher in participatory research with children. In D. Horgan & D. Kennan (Eds.), *Child and Youth Participation in Policy, Practice and Research* (pp. 157–167). Routledge.
- Corney, T., Cooper, T., Shier, H. & Williamson, H. (2022). Youth participation: Adultism, human rights and professional youth work. *Children & Society*, 36, 677–690.
- Shier, H. (2023). Children Claiming the Right to Live Without Violence in Nicaragua. In K. Križ & M. Petersen (Eds.), *Children's Participation in Child Protection: International Research and Practice Approaches* (pp. 85–104). Oxford University Press.
- Shier, H., Hernández Méndez, M., Padilla, M. L. et al. (2023). Learning from Experience: Sistematización of ten years of action-research by children and adolescents with CESESMA in Nicaragua. In B. Percy-Smith, N. P. Thomas, C. O'Kane, & A. Twum-Danso (Eds.), *A New Handbook of Children and Young People's Participation* (pp. 154–162). Routledge.

**See also interviews at:**

- Pearson, S. (2016). *Rethinking Children and Inclusive Education: Opportunities and Complexities*. Bloomsbury Publishing. [http://www.harryshier.net/docs/Pearson-Interview\\_with\\_Harry\\_Shier.pdf](http://www.harryshier.net/docs/Pearson-Interview_with_Harry_Shier.pdf)
- Wheeler, A. (2010) Children's Participation in Educational Projects and Sustainable Design: An Interview with Harry Shier, *International Journal of Children's Rights*, Vol. 18/3: 457–474.  
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All of the above and more can be accessed via the author's personal website: [www.harryshier.net](http://www.harryshier.net). Only selected publications are listed here. A complete list of publications in both English and Spanish is available at: [http://www.harryshier.net/docs/Harry\\_Shier-publications.pdf](http://www.harryshier.net/docs/Harry_Shier-publications.pdf)