



Children and Work Research Series: Session 19

Contested Child Labour Policies:

Between Abolitionist and Regulationist Strategies in Peru and Bolivia

28 February 2024 - 10am EST / 4pm CET - Zoom. Register [here](#).

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Abstract

Despite overall progress in reducing child labour in Latin America, Bolivia and Peru usually stand out in the region due to their high incidence of child labour. The policy landscape in these countries is characterized by the presence of actors advocating both regulationist and abolitionist viewpoints. Yet, interestingly, both seem to have opted for different strategies to address child labour. Whereas Bolivia has been leaning more towards a regulationist approach, Peru seems to have followed an abolitionist one. My dissertation seeks to unravel this puzzle by asking: Why do governmental actors follow different political strategies to address child labour? And how are these strategies being implemented? To answer this question, I developed a theoretical framework outlining four political strategies - forbearance, regulationist, abolitionist, and standoffish - and delve into the role of human vs. audience costs, alignments between governmental actors, and the mobilization of societal actors as influential determinants of these strategies. I employ a qualitative cross- and within-case approach and utilize publicly available data and expert interviews conducted during fieldwork in 2024 as my empirical material.

Speaker Bio

Johanna Pieper is a PhD candidate in Political Science at the GIGA Institute for Latin American Studies and the University of Hamburg. The GIGA Institute specializes in analysing political, social, and economic developments in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East. Johanna Pieper's research focuses on policy efforts on child labour policies, gender-based violence and social protection policies in Latin America.