CSD LECTURE PROF.DR. JAN W. VAN DETH (MANNHEIM UNIVERSITY)

"Children and Politics: an Empirical Reassessment of Early Political Socialisation"

The chances for democracy and civil society in the 21st century depend highly on the inclusion of children – the youngest citizens – in democratic decision-making processes. Successful democratic citizenship evolves at the very beginning of political socialisation. While there is an abundance of empirical research on the political orientations of teenagers and adolescents, young children are almost completely neglected. The results of a unique study among more than 700 children in their first year in primary school shows that these young children already dispose of consistent and meaningfully structured political orientations. Differences between subgroups are evident and consistent. Especially children from ethnic minority groups and from lower social-status residence areas show relatively less developed political orientations and do not improve these orientations during the first year in primary school as much as other children do. Furthermore, the development of normative political orientations clearly differs from the development of cognitive political orientations in early childhood.

Date: Thursday 12 March, 16.00-18.00

Place: Institutenweg, room 010

This lecture will be organized by the Centre for the Study of Democracy, University of Twente.