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978-0-521-84366-9 - The Agency of Children: From Family to Global Human Rights

David Oswell

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The Agency of Children

The idea of children's agency is central to the growing field of childhood studies. In this book David Oswell argues for new understandings of children's agency. He traces the transformation of children and childhood across the nineteenth, twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, and explores the dramatic changes in recent years to children's everyday lives as a consequence of new networked, mobile technologies and new forms of globalisation. The author reviews existing theories of children's agency as well as providing the theoretical tools for thinking of children's agency as spatially, temporally and materially complex. With this in mind, he surveys the main issues in childhood studies, with chapters covering family, schooling, crime, health, consumer culture, work and human rights. This is a comprehensive text intended for students and academic researchers across the humanities and social sciences interested in the study of children and childhood.

DAVID OSWELL is Reader in Sociology and Director of Postgraduate Research in the Department of Sociology at Goldsmiths, University of London. He is the author of *Television, Childhood and the Home: A History of the Making of the Child Television Audience in Britain* (2002), *Culture and Society* (2006), *Cultural Theory*, volumes I–IV (2010) and various articles in academic journals and edited collections.

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,
Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Mexico City

Cambridge University Press

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by

Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521604703

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First published 2013

Printed and bound in the United Kingdom by the MPG Books Group

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Oswell, David.

The agency of children : from family to global human rights / David Oswell.

p. cm.

ISBN 978-0-521-84366-9 (Hardback) – ISBN 978-0-521-60470-3 (Paperback)

1. Children—Social conditions. 2. Children's rights. 3. Child development.

I. Title.

HQ767.9.O78 2013

305.23—dc23

ISBN 978-0-521-84366-9 Hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-60470-3 Paperback

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Acknowledgements

To my three daughters – Beatrix, Matilda and Amelia – who are always an inspiration; and to my gorgeous Maria.

Thanks to various colleagues and undergraduate and postgraduate students for always keeping me thinking. And thanks also to the production and editorial staff at Cambridge University Press.