



IN SEARCH OF THE MIGRANT CHILD III

Migrant children. Merrill, Klamath County, Oregon, Photographer: Lange, Dorothea, -Farm Security Administration - Office of War Information Photograph Collection (Library of Congress)

Digital Workshop, by Invitation

# NOT MERE OBJECTS: UNCOVERING CHILDREN'S SUBJECTIVITIES IN MIGRATION

May 16-17, 2022

The third digital workshop of the international research network "[In Search of the Migrant Child](#)" focuses on children's subjectivities in contexts of migration. Mobility takes place at different levels and in different national, social or economic settings. The administration and organization of migrants of all ages, however, often leads to de-personalization - especially child migrants become governed objects, deprived of individual emotions, experiences or reasoning. This de-personalization also shapes the sources that emerge out of these migrants' movements.

For a long time, historiographies of childhood and migration have neglected sources and methodologies that reflect and incorporate the subjectivity of young migrants. The third workshop of the working group aims to draw attention to the often overlooked and diverse subjectivities of young migrants, uncovering sources associated with this dimension of their histories. The program begins with an interdisciplinary roundtable, titled "Giving a Voice to Children's Subjectivities," and is dedicated to perspectives and methods from neighboring disciplines of the humanities and social sciences. Following that, members of the group will present historical case studies that offer insights into child migrants' perspectives, their very own experiences, and their particular needs when facing displacement and migration.



### Supported by

This project is co-financed by tax funds using the budget approved by the Landtag of the Free State of Saxony.



## MONDAY, MAY 16, 2022

17:00 – / **Introduction**  
17:15 / 11:00 – 11:15 EST / 10:00 – 10:15 CST / 08:00 – 08:15 PST  
CET

Swen Steinberg (German Historical Institute  
Washington with its Pacific Office at UC Berkeley)

17:15 – / **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**  
18:45 / **Giving a Voice to Children's Subjectivities -**  
CET **Interdisciplinary Perspectives**  
11:15 – 12:45 EST / 10:15 – 11:45 CST / 08:15 – 09:45 PST

Mehrunissa Ali (Ryerson University)  
Rich Lee (University of Minnesota)  
Kay Tisdall (University of Edinburgh)  
John Wall (Rutgers University)

Chair: Sheer Ganor (University of Minnesota)

18:45 – / **Break**  
19:00 / 12:45 – 13:00 EST / 11:45 – 12:00 CST / 09:45 – 10:00 PST  
CET

19:00 – / **Not Mere Objects: Case Studies on Children's**  
19:45 / **Subjectivities in Migration I**  
CET 13:00 – 13:45 EST / 12:00 – 12:45 CST / 10:00 – 10:45 PST

Simone Laqua-O'Donnell (University of Birmingham)  
**Missionary Children and the Creation of Child-  
hood: Examples Taken from Basel Mission Families**

Chelsea Shields (University of California, Irvine)  
**From Object to Subject and Back Again?: Youth  
and Futurity in Caribbean Social Science Research**

Chair: Bettina Hitzer (Hannah Arendt Institute for  
Totalitarianism Studies, Dresden)

19:45 – / **Closing Remarks**  
20:00 / 13:45 – 14:00 EST / 12:45 – 13:00 CST / 10:45 – 11: PST  
CET  
Sheer Ganor (University of Minnesota)

## TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2022

17:00 – / **Introductory Remarks / Warm-up**  
17:15 / 11:00 – 11:15 EST / 10:00 – 10:15 CST / 08:00 – 08:15 PST  
CET  
Bettina Hitzer (Hannah Arendt Institute for  
Totalitarianism Studies, Dresden)

17:15 – / **Not Mere Objects: Case Studies on Children's**  
18:00 / **Subjectivities in Migration II**  
CET 11:15 – 12:00 EST / 10:15 – 11:00 CST / 08:15 – 09:00 PST

Friederike Kind-Kovács (Hannah Arendt Institute for  
Totalitarianism Studies, Dresden)  
**"Here I Have Not Even Got a Warm Room":  
A Refugee Girl's Narrative of Migration during WWI**

Olga Gnydiuk (Central European University, Vienna)  
**Planning the Future: Reflections on Refugee  
Children's Subjectivity at the Time of Post-1945  
Humanitarian Relief and Rehabilitation**

Chair: Sheer Ganor (University of Minnesota)

18:00 – / **Break**  
18:15 / 12:00 – 12:15 EST / 11:00 – 11:15 CST / 09:00 – 09:15 PST  
CET

18:15 – / **Not Mere Objects: Case Studies on**  
19:00 / **Children's Subjectivities in Migration III**  
CET 12:15 – 13:00 EST / 11:15 – 12:00 CST / 09:15 – 10:00 PST

Magali Michelet (University of Neuchâtel)  
**"That Moment of Stillness... Extreme Stillness":  
Reconstructing Experiences of 'Wardrobe Child-  
ren' Families Through Children's Eyes, Ears and  
Tastes (Switzerland, 1964-1986)**

Kimberly Cheng (New York University)  
**Playing Soldiers: Jewish Refugees in the Shang-  
hai Volunteer Corps**

Chair: Swen Steinberg (German Historical Institute  
Washington with its Pacific Office at UC Berkeley)

19:00 – / **Concluding Remarks**  
19:15 / 13:00 – 13:15 EST / 12:00 – 12:15 CST / 10:00 – 10:15 PST  
CET

Friederike Kind-Kovács (Hannah Arendt Institute for  
Totalitarianism Studies, Dresden)

19:15 – / **Organization of the Upcoming Conference in**  
20:15 / **September 2022 in Berkeley / Publication**  
CET 13:15 – 14:15 EST / 12:15 – 13:15 CST / 10:15 – 11:15 PST

Friederike Kind-Kovács, Bettina Hitzer, Sheer Ganor,  
Swen Steinberg

For further information about the „In Search of the Mig-  
rant Child“ workshop series and the participants see:

[migchild.hypotheses.org](https://migchild.hypotheses.org)