



Childhood and migration. Children, families, and transnational relations

A Nordic IMER Symposium in collaboration with Stockholm
University, Department of Child and Youth Studies; Department
of Social Anthropology
27-28 November, 2009

Background

In 2008, the Swedish IMER association organized a research symposium on *Childhood and Migration in a Nordic context* in Gothenburg with invited participants from the different Nordic countries. As noted during that symposium, research issues related to children and migration form an emergent area of importance within the social sciences. It was deemed valuable that the discussions about research on children and migration could continue in a future symposium. Therefore, we invite you to a symposium in November 2009, with the aim to follow up some of the issues raised during the Gothenburg symposium. In addition, the aim is also to broaden the scope by raising theoretical and practical issues, related to the significant transnational turn in migratory studies.

Transnationalism has both theoretical and methodological implications for research on migration that especially need to be addressed in relation to the transformations of contemporary family and kin relations, and the meanings accorded 'childhood' in a contemporary global perspective. However, as is often the case, children's own experiences and their interpretations of migration and transnational relations in its many complex and varying forms, are easily overlooked. But children are migrants also in their own right – as refugees, IDPs, immigrants, adoptees, returnees. Children are not passive extensions of adult activities, but rather active agents in their own efforts to make sense of the world, and it is this sense-making in relation to varying migratory processes, and experiential, legal, and practical aspects that we hope to address during the symposium – an endeavor that should lead to more general theoretical and methodological insights into the policies and practices of migration and ethnic relations. It is our contention that studying children in relation to migratory processes is necessary for such an endeavor.

One of the issues to follow up from the last symposium is to discuss contributions to a planned special issue with the working title "Childhood and Migration" of the new "Journal of Nordic Migration Research" which will publish its first issue in 2010. Participants are invited to submit abstracts which will be discussed at one of the panels

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27-28 November, 2009, Preliminary Program

Day 1 Friday November 27

- 11:00 - 11:45 Presentation round (brief information about ongoing work)
- 11:45 - 12:30 Keynote speaker I: Karin Norman
"Longing for Linda. Family relations and transnational hope"
- 12:30 - 13:30 *Lunch*
- 13:30 - 14:30 Panel I
- 14:30 - 15:30 Keynote speaker II: Hilde Lidèn "Child migration: research challenges"
- 15:30 - 16:00 Coffee
- 16:00 - 17:00 Panel II
- 17:00 - 17:30 IMER information
- 17:30 - 18:30 "Thank God it's Friday" – Drinks
- 19:00 – *Conference Dinner (downtown)*

Day 2 Saturday November 28

- 9:00 - 10:00 Panel III
- 10:00 - 10:30 *Coffee*
- 10:30 - 11:15 Keynote III: Richard Jonsson & Renée León Rosales
"Language, power and normality. Youth slang and masculinities in Swedish multiethnic schools"
- 11:15 - 12:15 Panel on special issue of *Journal of Nordic Migration Research*
(Maren Bak)
- 12:15 - 13:15 *Lunch & brief final discussion*

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For information on the the planned special issue on "Childhood and Migration":
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