About the workshop

The second digital workshop of the global network “In Search of the Migrant Child” explores children’s agency in times of migration. While children and past childhoods are often the object of historical studies, this workshop aims to shift its perspective to children’s opportunities for individual and collective agency. How can migrant children express their agency, how are they limited by the agency of others? How were notions of children’s agency altered or changed over time?

The workshop examines various historical and social constellations in which children were either enabled or hindered to act on their own behalf, exploring the setting of the family, care institutions, and other places and spaces of childhood before, during and after migration. The workshop asks for the circumstances which empowered children to shape their daily lives and to make important decisions that concerned their upbringing, their care and their well-being as migrants. By means of diverse case studies, this workshop aims to scrutinize how children’s agency came to be seen as the child’s right.

Ministry of Information Photo Division Photographer: Dutch Child Refugees- Arrival in Britain at Tilbury, Essex, England, UK, 1945, Wikimedia Commons (Public Domain)
THURSDAY, 2 DECEMBER, 2021

17:00 – 17:15 CET
Opening remarks
11:00 – 11:15 EST / 10:00 – 10:15 CST / 08:00 – 08:15 PST
Friederike Kind-Kovács (HAIT, Dresden)
Introductory Reflections on Children’s Agency in Migration

17:15 – 18:45 CET
ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION
Debating and Thinking About Children’s Agency in Migration
11:15 – 12:45 EST / 10:15 – 11:45 CST / 08:15 – 09:45 PST
Emily Bruce (University of Minnesota)
Stephanie Olsen (Tampere University)
Beatrice Scutaru (Maynooth University)
Lauren Stokes (Northwestern University)
Chair: Swen Steinberg (Carleton University Ottawa & GHI, Washington/Berkeley)

18:45 – 18:50 CET
Break
12:45 – 12:50 EST / 11:45 – 11:50 CST / 09:45 – 09:50 PST

18:50 – 20:00 CET
TEXT DISCUSSION
Reading and Reflecting on Children’s Agency in Recent Literature
12:50 – 14:00 EST / 11:50 – 13:00 CST / 09:50 – 11:00 PST
Chair: Bettina Hitzer (HAIT, Dresden)
Readings:

17:00 – 17:05 CET
Warm-up
11:00 – 11:05 EST / 10:00 – 10:05 CST / 08:00 – 08:05 PST
Sheer Ganor (University of Minnesota)

17:05 – 17:50 CET
Pieces and Bits from The Past: Case Studies on Children’s Agency I
11:05 – 11:50 EST / 10:05 – 10:50 CST / 08:05 – 08:50 PST
Susanne Quitmann (LMU Munich)
The Resistance Trap: Obedience, Silence, and British Child Migrants’ Agency
Anca Cretu (Masaryk Institute, Prague/ERC Vienna)
Space, Containment, and Limits of Agency: Reflections on the Case of Child Refugees in Austria-Hungary’s Camps during the First World War
Chair: Friederike Kind-Kovács (HAIT, Dresden)

17:50 – 18:35 CET
Pieces and Bits from The Past: Case Studies on Children’s Agency II
11:50 – 12:35 EST / 10:50 – 11:35 CST / 08:50 – 09:35 PST
Emma Wyse (Queen’s University, Kingston)
‘Many Thanks and Happy Love’: Adult Imaginings of the Child’s Voice in Overseas Correspondence
Kelly Condit-Shrestha (University of Minnesota)
Reframing Child-Migrant Agency: Centering “Sovereignty” as a Central Discursive Logic
Chair: Swen Steinberg (Carleton University Ottawa & GHI, Washington/Berkeley)

18:35 – 18:45 CET
Break
12:35 – 12:45 EST / 11:35 – 11:45 CST / 09:35 – 09:45 PST

18:45 – 19:30 CET
TEXT DISCUSSION
Reading and Reflecting on Children’s Agency in Recent Literature
12:45 - 13:30 EST / 11:45 – 12:30 CST / 09:45 – 10:30 PST
Laura Hobson Faure (Panthéon-Sorbonne University-Paris 1)
Looking for (and Finding) Agency Among Jewish Child Refugees During the Holocaust: Now What?
Swen Steinberg (Carleton University Ottawa & GHI, Washington/Berkeley)
Whose Agency? Unaccompanied Minor Refugees and Social Work in New Yorks’ 1940s
Chair: Bettina Hitzer (HAIT, Dresden)

19:30 – 20:15 CET
Concluding Remarks on Children’s Agency & Final Discussion
Chair: Sheer Ganor (University of Minnesota)

FRIDAY, 3 DECEMBER, 2021

17:00 – 17:15 CET
Opening remarks
11:00 – 11:15 EST / 10:00 – 10:15 CST / 08:00 – 08:15 PST
Sheer Ganor (University of Minnesota)
Introductory Reflections on Children’s Agency in Migration

17:15 – 18:45 CET
ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION
Debating and Thinking About Children’s Agency in Migration
11:15 – 12:45 EST / 10:15 – 11:45 CST / 08:15 – 09:45 PST
Emily Bruce (University of Minnesota)
Stephanie Olsen (Tampere University)
Beatrice Scutaru (Maynooth University)
Lauren Stokes (Northwestern University)
Chair: Friederike Kind-Kovács (HAIT, Dresden)

18:45 – 19:30 CET
Pieces and Bits from The Past: Case Studies on Children’s Agency III
12:45 - 13:30 EST / 11:45 – 12:30 CST / 09:45 – 10:30 PST
Laura Hobson Faure (Panthéon-Sorbonne University-Paris 1)
Looking for (and Finding) Agency Among Jewish Child Refugees During the Holocaust: Now What?
Swen Steinberg (Carleton University Ottawa & GHI, Washington/Berkeley)
Whose Agency? Unaccompanied Minor Refugees and Social Work in New Yorks’ 1940s
Chair: Bettina Hitzer (HAIT, Dresden)

19:30 – 20:15 CET
Concluding Remarks on Children’s Agency & Final Discussion
Chair: Sheer Ganor (University of Minnesota)

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

migchild.hypotheses.org