

# About this Volume

This e-book is an experiment by which we are trying to increase worldwide access to scholarship on migration and childhood. As far as one has internet access, its material is free and the articles are accessible in two formats (html and adobe). We find it a troubling irony that many of the children affected by migration come from areas where scholars struggle to find the infrastructure resources—computers, software, bandwidth, journal subscriptions, and affordable communication channels—to easily access and share scholarly work about the social changes wrought by migration in sending and receiving societies. Unfortunately, our June 2008 conference had to be held near our scholarly “homes,” which limited the number of overseas participants and those outside of G-8 countries, although we did provide several scholarships for scholars from South America and the Caribbean. Despite the difficulty of the times, we hope that future collaborations will arise to help bridge these gaps and reduce these ironies.

The pieces you see in this e-book provide rich data from the lives of migrant children and sometimes their families. **Chantal Tetreault’s** piece among transnational Algerian teen girls in Paris and **Kendall King’s** study in Ecuador are linguistic in focus, bringing up the ways that performance in language is part of the practice of immigrant experience (Tetreault) and highlighting how regard for globalization and attention to language are deeply intertwined for immigrant communities (King). Most of the pieces provide in depth points of view from child migrant perspectives—data that is often difficult to obtain and portray sensitively. Child-centered data

is exceptionally valuable in helping us to grasp the micro-forces by which childhood is changing through migration and how children experience or activate agency under trying conditions. **Laure Bjawi-Levine** among Palestinians in Jordan, **Lauren Heidbrink** among Spanish speakers in immigration detention in the U.S., and **Jill White** among Mexican children in U.S. labor and schooling environments demonstrate ways in which children’s self-understanding is constrained by state and economy in ways that determine a marked life course. **Kanwal Mand’s** also deeply child-centered analysis shows us how migrant childhoods can be notably shaped and sometimes constrained largely by urban housing and schooling environments, in this case for Pakistani second-generation children in London. **Cati Coe’s** interviews with informants in Ghana, and **Catriona Ní Laoire’s** study on return Irish migrants examine strains across the generations that affect the emotional management of families and individuals to handle the spatial and temporal challenges of migration. And finally, **Michelle Moran-Taylor** provides a rich analysis of the gendered and socioeconomic strategies that families use to negotiate the challenge of child-rearing in the home area when families are geographically separated, drawing especially on data from Guatemala.

## *How to Cite Us:*

Reynolds, Rachel R., Coe, Cati, Boehm, Deborah A., Dreby, Joanna, Rae-Espinoza, Heather, and Hess, Julia Meredith (Eds.). (2013). *Emerging Perspectives on Children in Migratory Circumstances: Selected*

*Proceedings of the Working Group on Childhood and Migration June 2008 Conference.* Philadelphia, PA: Drexel University Department of Culture & Communication and Drexel University College of Arts and Sciences.

#### **How to Cite Individual Authors (example):**

Tetreault, Chantal. (2013). Finding Respect in France: Muslim French Teens Interpreting Transcultural Values. In Reynolds, Rachel R., Coe, Cati, Boehm, Deborah A., Dreby, Joanna, Rae-Espinoza, Heather, and Hess, Julia Meredith (Eds.). *Emerging Perspectives on Children in Migratory Circumstances: Selected Proceedings of the Working Group on Childhood and Migration June 2008 Conference.* Philadelphia, PA: Drexel University Department of Culture & Communication and Drexel University College of Arts and Sciences. pp. 1-6.

### **ABOUT THE WORKING GROUP ON CHILDHOOD AND MIGRATION**

The Working Group on Childhood and Migration was started in 2005 by a group of people who were researching issues related to children and migration—both children who were migrating and children who were left in the home area by migrating parents. We asked a series of questions that spanned our work in various parts of the world: How were children being affected by migration? What did we find that was similar and how did people respond differently across our research sites? And what might we say to the public or policymakers about what to do to improve the lives of children affected by migration? The group grew rapidly between 2005 and 2009, both in the number of members who came from universities and organizations all around the world and also in the scope of activities. Those on the Working Group's Advisory Board were Deborah Boehm, Cati Coe, Joanna Dreby, Julia Meredith Hess, Heather Rae-Espinoza, and Rachel Reynolds. All of us brought different perspectives and skills to our common work, and together we edited the conference volume you see before you.

### **OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE GROUP**

Building on the rapidly growing network, we pulled together a small anthropological workshop on Children and Migration funded by the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research in January 2008 from which comes the book *Everyday Ruptures: Children and Migration in Global Perspective.* Cati Coe, Rachel R. Reynolds, Deborah A. Boehm, Julia Meredith Hess, Heather Rae-Espinoza and Rachel R. Reynolds (Eds.). Nashville, KY: Vanderbilt University Press. 2011.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

In June 2008, we held a large interdisciplinary and international conference funded by the National Science Foundation, Drexel University's College of Arts and Sciences, and Drexel University's Department of Culture & Communication, as well as conference fee contributions by attendees. This volume, *Emerging Perspectives on Children in Migratory Circumstances: Selected Proceedings of the Working Group on Childhood and Migration June 2008 Conference*, is one of the outcomes of this support. We wish to thank the contributors first and foremost, as well as the twenty-four anonymous peer reviewers who helped us evaluate and choose manuscripts for the volume. We also thank Drexel University Libraries, and Libby Modern at Half-Full. Finally, this volume is dedicated to John Svatek, designer and friend.