

Digital Workshop  
**PIECES AND BITS  
FROM THE PAST:  
CHILDREN'S AGENCY  
IN MIGRATION**

2-3 December, 2021

**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.



**Supported by**

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## THURSDAY, 2 DECEMBER, 2021

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

Friederike Kind-Kovács (HAIT, Dresden)

**Introductory Reflections on Children's Agency in Migration**

17:15 – / **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**  
18:45 / **Debating and Thinking About Children's Agency in Migration**  
CET

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

18:50 – / **TEXT DISCUSSION**  
20:00 / **Reading and Reflecting on Children's Agency in Recent Literature**  
CET

12:50 – 14:00 EST / 11:50 – 13:00 CST / 09:50 – 11:00 PST

Chair: Bettina Hitzer (HAIT, Dresden)

Readings:

Sarah L. Holloway, Louise Holt and Sarah Mills, „Questions of Agency: Capacity, Subjectivity, Spatiality and Temporality,” *Progress in Human Geography* 2019, Vol. 43 (3) 458–477.

Sarah Maza, “The Kids Aren't All Right: Historians and the Problem of Childhood,” *AHR* 2020 Vol. 125 (4) 1261–1285.

## FRIDAY, 3 DECEMBER, 2021

17:00 – / **Warm-up**  
17:05 / 11:00 – 11:05 EST / 10:00 – 10:05 CST / 08:00 – 08:05 PST  
CET

Sheer Ganor (University of Minnesota)

17:05 – / **Pieces and Bits from The Past: Case Studies on Children's Agency I**  
17:50 / 11:05 – 11:50 EST / 10:05 – 10:50 CST / 08:05 – 08:50 PST  
CET

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 – / **Pieces and Bits from The Past: Case Studies on Children's Agency II**  
18:35 / 11:50 – 12:35 EST / 10:50 – 11:35 CST / 08:50 – 09:35 PST  
CET

Emma Wyse (Queen's University, Kingston)

**'Many Thanks and Happy Love': Adult Imaginings of the Childs' 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 – / **Break**  
18:45 / 12:35 – 12:45 EST / 11:35 – 11:45 CST / 09:35 – 09:45 PST  
CET

18:45 – / **Pieces and Bits from The Past: Case Studies on Children's Agency III**  
19:30 / 12:45 – 13:30 EST / 11:45 – 12:30 CST / 09:45 – 10:30 PST  
CET

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 York's 1940s**

Chair: Bettina Hitzer (HAIT, Dresden)

19:30 – / **Concluding Remarks on Children's Agency & Final Discussion**  
20:15 / 13:30 – 14:15 EST / 12:30 – 13:15 CST / 10:30 – 11:15 PST  
CET

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