

2015 seminars of the EASA Anthropology of Children and Youth Network.

Upcoming seminar

The seminar is on Tuesday 13 October 10.00-11.30, room HG-01G13 (Main Building, note that this is a new location):

Individual abilities embedded in social processes: children's empathy.

Simone Roerig – Department of Educational Neuroscience (LEARN!), Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.

Dr. Floryt van Wesel – Department of Methodology and Statistics, Utrecht University.

Abstract: In (neuro-)psychological and neuro-scientific research, empathy is often approached as an individual *ability*, whereas researchers in the social sciences (in particular anthropology) focus on empathy as a dialectic *process* between two (or more) people. In our study we work as an interdisciplinary research team combining and comparing these theoretical frameworks within the context of a mixed methods study. Preliminary results suggest that the contextual information as collected on the *daily life* level, is crucial to understand when, how and why children's abilities go social.

Earlier 2015 seminars

18 September 2015

How to Survive a Residence Permit? Integration Assessments of Young Refugees (aged 12-23) in the Netherlands Through the Lens of Code-Switching

Moos Pozzo, PhD Candidate, VU University Amsterdam

Despite the increasing restrictions in European and Dutch national asylum policies during recent decades, the number of young refugees are growing rapidly. Research on the lived experiences of their integration processes is primordial and timely. The proposed research focuses on the role of linguistic and cultural code-switching, defined by Molinsky as "the act of switching from one language to another" and "the task of moving between culturally ingrained systems of behavior". This study analyses the young refugees' mediation processes and code-switching in their social networks and how this influences their integration processes. The aim is to delineate the personal and societal variables that enhance and/or hamper the emergence of cultural navigators' who succeed in mediating varied cultural anchorings and position themselves in hybrid ways.

This seminar takes place from 10.30 - 12.00 in room HG-02A32, Main Building, VU University Amsterdam

Download the [poster](#) of this seminar.

16 June 2015

Implementing Needs and Interest of Adolescent Girls in Nicaragua into Sexuality Educational Programs

Yoah Kerkvliet, Research Master Student of International Development Studies, UvA Amsterdam

The content of adolescent sexuality educational programs are based on theoretical models that each identify different factors that shape sexual behavior in order to change risk into non-risk sexual behavior. Hereby, aiming to reduce negative health outcomes, such as Sexual Transmitted Diseases or pregnancy, Previous literature has revealed that the content components in sexuality educational programs that are deemed necessary by program designers are not assessed in the same way by adolescents. Thereby, dialing to meet the needs and interests of adolescents and being less effective. This research attempts to include the perceptions of adolescents girls in the barrio of the Pantanal in Granada (Nicaragua) to understand which factors they consider of importance in shaping sexual behavior and behavioral change, namely domestic workers and sex workers, and among parents and peers.

This seminar takes place from 13.30 - 15.00 in room Z-113, Metropolitan Building, VU.

Download the [poster](#) of this seminar.

19 May 2015

Time to look at girls: Adolescents girls' migration and development in Ethiopia

Marina de Regt, Assistant Professor in Anthropology, VU University Amsterdam

In the past decade an increasing number of Ethiopian girls have migrated from villages and rural towns to Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa. In the literature he migration of adolescent girls is mainly described in the context of trafficking and exploitation. Little is known about the experiences, life choices, and aspirations of these girls. This research project focuses on the life course and in particular on the way in which the decision to migrate intersects with

other important choices, such as those related to education, marriage and having children. The research is part of a larger project which also includes studies in Bangladesh and Sudan. In Ethiopia data was collected among two groups of adolescent migrant girls in Addis Ababa, namely domestic workers and sex workers, and among parents and peers.

The seminar takes place from 10.30 - 12.00 in room Z-009, Metropolitan Building, VU.

Download the [poster](#) of this seminar.

14 April 2015

Toxic But Intoxicating: Towards a critical and comparative medical anthropology of inhalant use in Mexico City, Delhi and Aboriginal Australia

Roy Gigengack, Research Fellow VU University Amsterdam

Inhalant use - the delicate inhalation of volatile substances with purposes of intoxication - affects the lives of tens of thousands of young people around the globe. Despite massive presence in the streets, it remains a poorly understood form of drug use. Existing policy frameworks are narrowly biomedical and tend to individualize harm. Forming part of a broader project investigating inhalant use and intervention in Mexico, India and Australia, the study proposed here aims at establishing a comparative, meaning-centered, and critical medical anthropology for inhalant use.

The seminar takes place from 10.30 - 12.00 in room Z-009, Metropolitan Building, VU.

Download the [poster](#) of this seminar.

17 March 2015

Children and land grabs: Development, social reproduction and the future in a nature park in Senegal

Davide Cirillo, University of Padova & VU University Amsterdam

Since 2008, the sharp raise of commodity prices resulted in an energy and food crisis, and pressure on market supply chains. International organizations reacted by placing agriculture, both for energy and food production, at the centre of their political agendas. The resulting development model is one that insists on private capital investment to fuel production on 'underexploited' and 'potential arable' land. Thus, in recent years a new wave of large-scale land acquisitions by states, companies, investment and pension funds, is reshaping rural territories globally. Impacts on peasant and indigenous populations are yet to be fully measured. In this talk I present an overview of my research on territorial transformations induced by a foreign company's private lease of a natural reserve in Senegal. I focus on current and future impacts on children and youth. Indeed, young people are crucial agents in social reproduction and I argue that they need specific attention, particularly since their futures are at stake

The seminar takes place from 10:30-12:00 in room Z-009, Metropolitan Building, VU.

Download the [poster](#) of this seminar.

On 17 February 2015 members of the Network participated in an interdisciplinary workshop on the ethics of research with children. This workshop replaced the monthly seminar.

16 January 2015

Infant male circumcision: Should the practice be regulated?

Barbora Palesova, King's College London

The current review of the medical- and rights-based implications of infant male circumcision provides a partial justification for the decision of the Cologne district court and other recent European initiatives to ban or regulate the practice. It is argued that the procedure is only justifiable in the presence of a medical indication. It is further argued that the parental preferences and their rights alone should not be legally sufficient to provide a consent to remove a healthy tissue from a newborn's body. Instead, the potential harm and medically unnecessary nature of the procedure make the right to bodily integrity, and other rights enshrined in core human rights documents central arguments in favour of regulating MC, making it safer, painless, and a matter of the concerned child's (or becoming adult's) fully informed consent. Barbora Palesova will present her work and the audience will be invited to participate in a group discussion.

The seminar takes place from 10:30-12:00 in room Z-113, Metropolitan Building, VU.

Download the [poster](#) of this seminar.

Recent publications:

Roerig Simone, van Wesel Floryt, Evers Sandra J.T.M. and Krabbendam Lydia (2015)

Researching children's individual empathic abilities in the context of their daily lives: the importance of mixed methods. *Frontiers in Neuroscience* 9:261. doi: 10.3389/fnins.2015.00261

SPECIAL ISSUE *European Journal of Development Research* (issue 26.2 April 2014) - Guest editors: Sandra J.T.M. Evers, Shanti George, Roy Gigengack, Roy Huijsmans, "Generationing" development: situating children and youth in development processes. <http://www.palgrave-journals.com/ejdr/journal/v26/n2/index.html>

Co-editor of: *Not Just a Victim: The Child as Catalyst and Witness of Contemporary Africa*, Sandra J.T.M. Evers, Catrien Notermans, Erik van Ommering (eds). Leiden: Brill Academic Publishers. <http://www.brill.com/not-just-victim-child-catalyst-and-witness-contemporary-africa>