

Year Report 2016: EASA Anthropology of Children & Youth Network

Organization:

Chair: Dr Sandra J.T.M. Evers, Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, VU University Amsterdam

Staff: Anne Schouten, Moos Pozzo, Nathalie Pijnaker, Quinta Schutte.

Members: The Network currently has 418 Members.

Monthly meetings academic year 2015/16 (for details see www.anthropologyofchildren.net)

Tuesday 14 June 2016 11.30-13.00 (W&N C-659) at the *Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam*.
Network meeting to celebrate the **7 year anniversary** of the EASA Anthropology of Children and Youth Network, the Network convenes in monthly seminars.

The seminar is on Friday 15 April 10.30-12.00 (W&N Building, 6th floor, room WN-P656 *Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam*):

Observing early childhood parenting across the globe

By Judi Mesman, Professor of Diversity in parenting and development, Scientific Director of the Institute of Education and Child Studies, Centre for Child and Family Studies, Leiden University

Abstract: Many theoretical frameworks about parent-child interactions are based almost entirely on research in Western urban populations. One of the goals of the research program '[Diversity in parenting](http://www.diversityinparenting.nl)' is to examine the universality versus culture-specificity of assumptions from the Western scientific parenting literature with regard to non-Western populations, using standardized video observations. This work has recently become part of a network of researchers using video data on child development across the globe, who have joined forces to facilitate the multidisciplinary analyses of video materials. In this presentation Judi Mesman will discuss studies from the Diversity in Parenting program, as well as the collaboration arising from this new network (see also: www.diversityinparenting.nl)

The seminar is on Tuesday 15 March 10.30-12.00
(Initium, 6th floor, room IN-2B59, *Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam*):

Hearing and Seeing: Xikrin (Brazil) ways of knowing and the schooling system.

Clarice Cohn, a Professor at Universidade Federal de São Carlos, Brazil, has been researching among the Xikrin since 1992, and is currently a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Nanterre, Paris.

Departing from extensive ethnographic work among the Xikrin of Bacaja, Clarice Cohn shows how this Indigenous group from the Brazilian Amazonia values the abilities of hearing and seeing as ways of knowing and acquiring knowledge. She explores how these senses are developed by children and problematizes the process of formal schooling which these children are also attending. She details how and why formal education can be at odds with indigenous conceptions and practices of teaching and learning. Accordingly Clarice Cohn will elaborate on how indigenous and formal education requirements can be reconciled and where the challenges can be pinpointed.

The seminar is on Friday 19 February 10.30-12.00 (W&N building, 6th floor, room WN-P656, *Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam*)

Cartographies of Child Poverty in Policies and Programmes in Kenya: Locating Children's Voice at the Interstices of Competing Representations

Elizabeth Ngutuku (Eliza)
PhD Researcher
International Institute of Social Studies

Abstract: Policies and programmes for child poverty and vulnerability harbour specific constructions on child poverty as well as poor children. These constructions may affect children's subjective experiences and elide the voices of children. Despite this possibility, these interventions have often been perceived as natural and the norms they harbour are often invisible. The proposed one year research in Kenya intends to problematize and denaturalize these dominant constructions as embedded in policies and programmes. Elizabeth Ngutuku will map these competing representations against the perspectives and lived experience of children. In so doing, she intends to locate children's voices, while aware that these perspectives might go beyond the articulated as they might be contained in the *unsaid* as well as hidden in the processes of silencing.

Friday 15 January 10.30-12.00 in room BV-0H54 (*Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam*)

The Value of Transcultural Family/System Therapy in Child and Youth Care

Dirck van Bekkum & Judith Limahelu (see below for professional bio)

Abstract: Rarely anthropology and family therapy met but when they do research, educational and clinical innovation can be achieved. In their interactive presentation, Van Bekkum and Limahelu will discuss three of these innovations in co-educating transcultural family therapists. They concern: (1) Transgenerational Cultural Diversity and Intersectionality; (2) A transitional model in multicultural settings; (3) Systemic reflexivity in research, activism and clinical practices. Children and youth (including their generational networks) are at the core of these approaches. After short 'vignette' presentations of these three innovations, the presenters will answer questions and exchange views with the audience.

Friday 18 December 10.30-12.00 (1G13, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam):

Does the harmonious society in 'Paradise Island' Mauritius exist?

Nathalie Pijnaker, BA student in Social and Cultural Anthropology (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)

Nathalie Pijnaker spent three months among Mauritian students from different backgrounds and different religious beliefs. Mauritius is an immigrant island without a native population. Ancestors of the Mauritians come from Africa, Madagascar, India, Europe and Asia. According to the travel guides, the population of Mauritius lives together in peace and harmony. But in what way do they live and interact with each other in everyday life and what about their sense of Mauritianness? During the seminar, Nathalie will give an insight into her fieldwork results and

Thursday 19 November 13.30-15.00 (W&N Building: M-648, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam).

Time to Look at Girls: Migrants in Bangladesh and Ethiopia

Marina de Regt, Assistant Professor, Vrije Universiteit - Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology

As part of the research project 'Time to Look at Girls: Adolescent girls migration and development' a documentary film was made. The film explores the circumstances, decision-making, experiences and consequences of migration for adolescent girls in Bangladesh and Ethiopia. The film is based on four parallel stories about the migration trajectories of adolescent girls. Breaking away from the dominant focus on girls as victims of trafficking, this film gives evidence of the resilience, creativity and agency of young migrant girls who face difficult choices. As one of the lead researchers of the research project, Marina de Regt was closely involved in the making of the documentary in Ethiopia. She will introduce the film and share her experiences of the production process and talk about the reception of the film in Ethiopia, where it had its premiere in October 2015.

Tuesday 13 October 10.00-11.30, room HG-01G13 (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)

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.

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.

18 September 2015 10.30 - 12.00 in room HG-02A32, Main Building, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)

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.