

# CHILD MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION TRENDS & CHALLENGES

JUNE 2 - 4, 2022, LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA

## CALL FOR PAPERS



International scientific conference



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## CHILD MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION TRENDS & CHALLENGES

In migration studies, children used to be understood as 'baggage', something that adults carry around with them, that they are burdened with and take care of, but that has no agency of their own. Academic debates have long since abandoned this stance and moved towards understanding migrant children as actors who help shape their own migration process. The active role of children in migration is the subject of several research studies, not only because children make up a considerable part of contemporary migration, but also because migrant children experience migration processes differently from adults and therefore require special academic attention.

Migrant children and youth do not form a homogeneous social group. They differ in terms of their past experiences, their present situation and their aspirations for the future. They also have different cultural and linguistic backgrounds, belong to different ethnic groups and differ in terms of their legal status, gender, age, socio-economic status, cultural and social capital and the like. This diversity is consequently reflected in contemporary academic debates on migrant children, which touch on a wide range of issues and approaches in research, pedagogy, law and policy.

The conference aims to address a wide range of issues that arise around the migration experience of children and young people. We invite professionals, academics, researchers and students from different disciplines with an interest in children and young people's migration to participate.

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We welcome theoretical and epistemological reflections, methodological contributions, empirical studies, examples of good practice, policy considerations and the like. These could include (but are not limited to) the following:

### **Theoretical and epistemological reflections on children migration research.**

The conference welcomes current theoretical debates on the social and family life of migrant children, identity, agency, integration, and participation in areas of concern to migrant children (in policy, law, education and research). Contributions that address the limitations, contradictions, and inadequacies of the epistemological approach to child migration research will receive special recognition. Contributions addressing the ethical aspects of research with migrant children and their role as co-constructors and consultants in all phases of research, from planning to development and implementation, also fall within the scope of the conference programme.

### **Methodologies in research with migrant children.**

Special attention will be given to methodologies in research on migrant children as part of the conference programme. We are accepting papers that address longitudinal data collection, arts- based approaches, narrative interviews, digital methods, and others. The conference programme aims to discuss the reflexive methodology and communicative dilemmas that researchers experience when working with and around migrant children in minimising the influence of the researcher on their interpretation and reducing the common-sense of adult-centred explanations.

### **Empirical studies, legal and policy considerations on issues relevant to migrant children.**

The conference is open to contributions from empirical studies that provide insight into the experiences of migrant children, including undocumented and irregular migrants, asylum seekers and economic migrants, with experience in migration processes. In this regard, the conference programme aims to address a variety of topics, e.g. belonging and identity construction, integration, asylum, displacement, children's agency, survival strategies and the use of the law, smuggling and organised crime networks, COVID -19 impacts, etc. Policy and law-oriented papers addressing specific aspects of integration and asylum - e.g. right to be heard, best interests of the child, child friendly information, representation of children, age assessment and regularisation procedures - are also very welcome.

# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

## Prof. Dr. Claudio Baraldi



**Claudio Baraldi** is Professor of Sociology of cultural and communicative processes (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia). His research concerns communication systems and social interactions, related to facilitation of children and young people's participation, interlinguistic and intercultural mediation, conflict management. Claudio is past president of the Research Committee Sociology of Childhood (International Sociological Association) and a member of the Board of Research Network Sociology of children and childhood (European Sociological Association). Currently, he is principal investigator of a European (HORIZON 2020) CHILD-UP project and a national research programme in Italy.

## Dr. Aleksandra Grzymała-Kazłowska



**Aleksandra Grzymała-Kazłowska** (PhD Hab.) is a Professor at the University of Warsaw in the Faculty of Sociology and at the Centre of Migration Research. She is also a Research Associate at the Institute for Research into Superdiversity at the University of Birmingham, which hosted her Individual Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship "Social Anchoring in Transnational Social Spaces". She is also the Editor-in-Chief of the Central and Eastern European Migration Review. Her interests focus on different dimensions and implications of migration and diversity related to adaptation, identity, social relations, attitudes and discourses, inequality, and inclusion.

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Abstract submission**

December 10, 2021

**Acceptance of papers**

January 15, 2022

Authors should send their abstracts (max. 250 words) with authors details and reference to one of the three areas by 10th of December 2021 following this [link](#). The notification of acceptance will be communicated by the 15th of January 2022

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Participation is free of charge and includes coffee breaks and a social dinner for all participants.

## Location



University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Law

Poljanski nasip 2  
1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia



# ORGANISERS

Science and Research Centre Koper,  
Institute for Social Studies  
in collaboration with MiCREATE consortium



The international scientific conference is organised as a final event of the **Migrant Children and Communities in a Transforming Europe** project, funded under Horizon 2020.

For inquiries email us: [izds@zrs-kp.si](mailto:izds@zrs-kp.si)

## Scientific conference committee

prof. dr. Mateja SEDMAK, Science and Research Centre Koper, Slovenia  
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