

Contents

1. News

2. Upcoming Conferences

3. Media News

4. Recent Publications

1. News

Research project: “Psychosocial consequences of being a “child born of occupation” during and after WWII – an empirical German study”

(Dipl-Psych. Marie Kaiser and PD Dr. Heide Glaesmer, University of Leipzig, PD Dr. Philipp Kuwert, University of Greifswald)

A German group of researchers from the universities of Leipzig and Greifswald is starting the first study of psychosocial consequences of growing up as a “child born of occupation” after WWII in Germany. “Occupation children” (“Besatzungskinder” in German) are a subgroup of the “children born of war”. They share the background of procreation – being born of a more or less voluntary sexual relationship (including rape) of a local woman and a foreign soldier. At the end of WWII and during the post war period it is approximated that more than 200,000 of these children were born in Germany. During the last years there have been historical and sociological studies that described aversive conditions for growing up which many of these children report. It is commonly agreed on, that “occupation children” were confronted with aversive experiences such as social exclusion and discrimination during their childhood. It is expected, that these conditions may have adverse long-term effects on identity development and psychological well-being. However, research on psychosocial aspects is missing to date in Germany, and internationally. Our study aims at closing this gap of knowledge to raise attention for this population, to increase transparency of their situation and thus of the situation of “children born of war” worldwide. In our study, we survey about 100 German “Besatzungskinder” with a questionnaire on psychosocial consequences, stigma experience and identity development. The extensive mixed-method assessment includes standardised instruments (e.g. PHQ-15) and an elaborated part concerning diverse constructs, such as knowledge about the biological background and internalised stigma aspects. The latter section was self-developed and derived from existing topic-related questionnaires. Furthermore, some of the subjects completing the questionnaire will be asked to participate in a narrative biographic interview. If you want to participate in the study, please contact: marie.kaiser@medizin.uni-leipzig.de.

Project: Life developments of Children Born of WWII

The Workshop “Lebensverläufe von Kindern des 2. Weltkrieges - Partizipation und partizipative Methoden in der Entwicklung einer international vergleichenden Studie“ took place at the GESIS-Leibniz Institut für Sozialwissenschaften, Cologne, January, 23-25 2013. The workshop was organised by Ingvill C. Mochmann, Cologne, and Sabine Lee, Birmingham, within the project “Their crime is being born – Children Born of war in the 20th century” funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, UK, 2011-2013. A report of

the workshop (in German) can be found here (report on p. 5).
http://www.gesis.org/fileadmin/upload/institut/presse/gesis_report/gesis_report_13_01.pdf

2. Upcoming Conferences

- Workshop on psychosocial research concerning children born of war will take place 31st May-1st June 2013. The workshop is organised by Philipp Kuwert, University Medicine Greifswald, within the project “Their crime is being born – Children Born of war in the 20th century” funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, UK, 2011-2013. Participation by invitation only.
- The Panel “Children in War – Children Born of War: Research Methods and Ethical Considerations” will take place at the conference on Children and War. Past and Present to be held at the University of Salzburg, Austria, on 10-12 July 2013.

PANEL 16: Children in war – Children born of war: Research methods and ethical considerations Chair: Sabine Lee, University of Birmingham

The session intends to explore some key methodological and ethical issues relating to research with children and adolescence in conflict and post-conflict situations. Starting from an analysis of the current ethical practices and shortcomings in guidelines and training of researchers, the papers will analyse practical approaches to equipping researchers with the necessary tools to comply with principles of ethical and safe research with children. Furthermore, two case studies will discuss ongoing research with and about children born of war, looking in particular at a study of long-term consequences of being born as the child of a foreign soldier in post-World War II Germany on the one hand, and investigating the current challenges of integrating children fathered by rebels of the Lord Resistance Army in Northern Uganda on the other hand. In these latter two presentations, the key focal points will be both the methodology of ethical research and the differences of the impact of being a research subject on children and adults respectively.

Presentations:

- Marie Kaiser (Universitätsklinikum Leipzig, Germany): *Psychosocial consequences of being a child of war: An empirical German study.*
 - Apio Eunice Otuko and Allen Kiconco (University of Birmingham, UK): *Psychosocial consequences of being a child of a child soldier: Issues of (re)integration in Northern Uganda post conflict society.*
 - Ingvill C. Mochmann (GESIS-Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, Cologne Business School and Harvard Humanitarian Initiative): *Ethical considerations in doing research on hidden populations: The case of children born of war.*
-

3. Media News

- US civil war <http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/04/25/rape-and-justice-in-the-civil-war/?src=recg>
- Brown Babies Germany's Forgotten Children - Henriette Cain by Bernice Bennett Featured Host in History, Fri, January 18, 2013 03:00 am.
- Gefährliche Helfer Sexuelle Gewalt durch UN-Soldaten, Film von Pagonis Pagonakis und Marcel Kolvenbach, ARD, 14.1. 2013, 23.30.

4. Publications

“Children of the Occupation: Japan's Untold Story” by Walter Hamilton. The book examines the lives and stigmatization of children fathered by men from the American, Australian, and other Allied forces that occupied postwar Japan. See also: <http://www.childrenoftheoccupation.com/Welcome.html>

For continuous updates, please see network pages. The next INIRC Newsletter is scheduled for end August 2013. Please send information to be included in the next issue to ingvill.mochmann@gesis.org by August 20th 2013.