

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### **Children as “target groups” and as actors Belonging, border crossing and social structures**

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Guest editors: Véronique Pache Huber and Laurence Ossipow

After having long been stigmatized as a marginal topic, the anthropology of childhood has generated ever increasing interest since the 1990s. This shift is expressed through the organization of international symposia and the growing number of publications related to the subject presented by renowned publishers.

The current thematic issue seeks to delve into this particularly lively and innovative current of social and cultural anthropology. Also, it takes for granted that children and youth have to be taken into consideration in the various fields of anthropology (economical, political, religious). As such, it builds on the assumption that children and adolescents are integrated within constraining social structures and are submitted to various institutional dynamics, which mould their perspectives and scope of action.

Simultaneously, children are full-fledged social actors who generate specific representations and practices. Their integration within different social spaces, related both to the domestic sphere and the public domain, offers them the possibility of developing specific perspectives regarding their social environment and themselves.

Taking an anti-essentialist stance, we intend to investigate both the rigid and flexible aspects of their various levels of belonging and to analyze how children and adolescents:

- perceive, perform and combine their various belongings within shifting contexts;
- are accepted, stigmatized or instrumentalized by different social groups and institutions, and for what purpose;
- are conditioned by the process of ethnicization and the construction of sheltered identities, or how they on the contrary free themselves from prescribed bonds that have become weakened in certain specific contexts;
- transcend the boundaries of social categories ("religious communities", "ethnic groups", gender groups, social classes, etc) by drawing upon relationships based on friendship, kinship, gender, neighbourhood or peer groups;
- get involved, actively or passively, in “participative citizenship”

The articles refer to different socio-political contexts and critically analyze spaces and situations, where children and young people are on their own or are involved in intergenerational relations: sports clubs, leisure centres, church-related organizations, places of social gatherings, scout movements, school-related, non-formal contexts (school yard, canteen, camp)<sup>1</sup>, preschool environment, children's birthday parties, playgrounds, public spaces, children's parliaments and other places conducive to the promotion of civic identity, the internet and social networks, migrant associations, educational courses on their "original" culture and civilization, associations of adopted children, specialized educational institutions, children's hotlines, their care in the domestic sphere (by family day care providers, nannies, babysitters), hospitals, voluntary and paid work (where children produce or consume goods and services).

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<sup>1</sup> Due to the large number of existing publications on the anthropology of education, we particularly aim to focus on non-formal school relations.

The articles should be based on empirical research and include theoretical considerations. Where appropriate, they should also mention the methodological approach and ethical issues implied by the specific study.

Papers may be written in French, English, German or Italian. Please send your proposals via email to both editors, Véronique Pache Huber ([jeanne-veronique.pache@unifr.ch](mailto:jeanne-veronique.pache@unifr.ch)) and Laurence Ossipow ([laurence.ossipow-wuest@hesge.ch](mailto:laurence.ossipow-wuest@hesge.ch)).

### **Deadlines**

- **1 February 2011:**  
Receipt of the proposals for articles, consisting of a short summary (250-300 words), the objective and the thematic thrust of the text.
- **15 July 2011:**  
Receipt of the fully elaborated articles (max. 40 000 characters, incl. spaces), which will be reviewed twice (externally and internally).
- **1 November 2011:**  
Submission to the authors for possible changes and copy editing.
- **1 January 2012:**  
Submission of the articles in their final version.
- **May 2012:**  
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