

## How do families and children cope with transnational migration in the European Union?

Academic conference based on case studies of social science research taking place  
in various countries and transnational localities of the EU.

**Oct 14, 2019, 9:00-16:30**

Venue: ELKH, Centre for Social Sciences (Társadalomtudományi Kutatóközpont). Room K01.11-12  
Budapest, Tóth Kálmán u. 4, 1097

Program:

9:00- 9:15      **Registration**

9:15 -9:30      **Welcome note by Zsolt Boda**, Director General, Centre for Social Sciences

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*9:30-11:00 Session 1: Transnational migration and families*

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9:30- 9:50      **Annabel Tremlett - Nora Siklódi** (University of Portsmouth, UK): *“Circular migration, wellbeing and citizenship: Central & Eastern European (CEE) family experiences in the UK”*

9:50-10:10      **Daniela Sime** (University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, UK): *“Identity, citizenship and belonging among Central and Eastern European youth in Brexit Britain”*

10:10- 10:30      **Zsuzsanna Árendás, Noémi Katona and Vera Messing** (Centre for Social Sciences, HAS, Budapest, HU): *“The effects of transnational migration on families, with a special focus on transnational migrant children and their schooling. Results of a pilot-study from Hungary”*

10.30-11:00      **Discussion**

**11:00-11:30 Break**

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*11:30 – 13:00 Session2: Parenting, childcare*

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11:30-11:50 **Petra Ezzedine** (Charles University, Prague, CZ): *“Sentimental money: the commodification of transnational motherhood”*

11:50-12:10 **Viorela Ducu** (Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Ro): *“Displaying grandparenting within Romanian transnational families”*

12:10 – 12:30 **Karolina Barglowski** (Technical University, Dortmund, DE) *“Migrant capital and parental involvement in their children’s transnational socialization”*.

12:30-13:00 **Discussion**

13:00-14:30 **Lunch break**

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*14:30-16:00 Session 3: Children and youth*

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14:30-14:50 **Áron Telegdi-Csetri, Viorela Ducu** (Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Ro) *“The Stranger at Home - “Hybrid” Children Returning to Romania”*

14:50 – 15:10 **Kovács Nóra** (Institute for Minority Studies, Centre for Social Sciences, HAS, Budapest, HU): *“Transnational migrant children in fostering arrangements: Chinese children’s perspectives from Hungary”*

15:10-15.30 **Stefano Piemontese** (Institute for Research into Superdiversity of the University of Birmingham, UK) *“The geographical and social mobility of underprivileged Roma youth in Europe”*

15:30-16:00 **Alexey Pamporov** (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, BG): *“The family trap of commercial sex trafficking”*

16:00- 16:30 **Discussion**

The event is co-organized by the ELKH Centre for Social Sciences and CEU Center for Policy Studies.

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ABSTRACTS

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Árendás, Zsuzsanna; Noémi Katona and Vera Messing (Centre for Social Sciences, HAS, Budapest, HU),

***The effects of transnational migration on families, with a special focus on transmigrant children and their schooling. Results of a pilot-study from Hungary***

In the last decade, Hungary experiences a sharp increase in labour mobility directed towards Western Europe, some of it resulting in *return migration* (roughly half of the total outbound migration). New types of mobilities produce changes in the family structures, and effects children in different ways. Some of the children become mobile with their parents, while others remain left behind with one of the parents or other family members. Care for such children, including their schooling poses various challenges. Learning difficulties of *left behind children*, the emotional and psychological challenges they face, gradually emerge as 'a problem' in education system, and so does the schooling and reintegration of *return children*- asking for new pedagogical approaches and innovative methods.

The proposed paper is based a case study of a few schools and their pupils, located in different geographical locations in Hungary, including a middle-class bilingual school in Budapest and a segregated „Roma school” in a poor region of Eastern Hungary. It focuses on the early experiences and difficulties of social and educational re/integration of *return children*, also on discourses and professional practices related to 'children left behind'. It devotes special attention to the 'voice of the child', investigating specific child perspectives and narratives of transnational migrant experience, its 'gains' and 'losses'.

Barglowski, Karolina (Technical University, Dortmund, DE)

***Migrant capital and parental involvement in their children's transnational socialization.***

The literature on migrants' parenting emphasizes the specific challenges that people face when they migrate with their children or settle families after migration and raise their children in transnational spaces. In particular in the initial stage of migration, mobile people are challenged with renegotiating their social status and with reorganizing their personal life and social relations. The broad literature on class and parenting recurrently finds strong evidence that parents with advantageous class positions are more likely to master the challenges of organizing their and their children's lives in a successful way. However, migration scholarship often focuses on ethnic or assimilation orientated parental strategies and less on how they are shaped by class. This presentation will suggest a conceptual framework for analyzing parents' conceptions of their children's transnational socialization as a matter of their class-based resources and experiences.

Empirically, it draws on interviews conducted with migrant families from Poland in Germany, which illustrate the various cultural, social and economic barriers people face when raising their children in transnational spaces. As such, this presentation will discuss important topics around the transnationalization of class and the contemporary challenges of raising children in mobile contexts.

**Ducu, Viorela (Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Ro)**

***Displaying grandparenting within Romanian transnational families***

In this article, I use the analytical framework of “displaying family relationship” to explore the transnational grandparenting practices of Romanian families. I discuss the theoretical aspects of the concept of displaying with regard to its scope, specificity and manifestation. I emphasize the uniqueness of each instance of displaying, while also revealing the various patterns through which family-related motivations trigger individual behaviour. Highlighting the intersections between such internal motivations and displaying behaviour, the research underlines the various challenges that transnational grandparents encounter, and the ways in which they react to them.

**Ezzedine, Petra (Charles University, Prague, CZ)**

***Sentimental money: the commodification of transnational motherhood***

The paper seeks to analyse the material and social practices of Ukrainian transnational mothers who are living and working in the Czech Republic. I will focus on the social and sentimental significance of material objects (gifts) and remittances for the experience and practice of transnational motherhood. I will explain how the consumption of remittances for their children works as an important strategy for transnational mothers to effectively identify and maintain their maternal role in the transnational social environment. I argue that this specific commodification of motherhood not only reflects the transformation of maternal practices (both of female employers and migrant women) in late capitalism, but also reflects gender, social, and other inequalities in the context of two transforming post-socialist societies. Keywords: transnational motherhood, Ukraine, migrant domestic workers, remittances

**Kovács, Nóra (Institute for Minority Studies, Centre for Social Sciences, HAS, Budapest)**

***Transnational migrant children in fostering arrangements: Chinese children’s perspectives from Hungary***

The proposed presentation discusses childcare practices of Chinese entrepreneurs in Hungary from a social anthropological viewpoint. This fostering arrangement is a rather unique childcare form in the global work of care as Hungarian women raise migrant children in their own homes giving them an introduction to Hungarian language and ways of life. Based on a small scale

qualitative research project carried out between 2014 and 2017 the presentation scrutinizes Chinese children's experiences related with living in Hungarian homes for extended periods of time.

**Pamporov, Alexey (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, BG)**

***The family trap of commercial sex trafficking***

The paper discuss the outcomes of mapping and preidentification of vulnerable segregated population at risk of trafficking in human beings. A series of case studies done in seven settlements shows that the poverty could be a trigger of forced commercial sex practices organized and controlled within the extended family but in the common case the prerequisite is an arranged child marriage or teenage motherhood. The study was using a mixed methods approach based on small randomized quantitative surveys (N=60-120), focused groups and in-depth interviews.

**Piemontese, Stefano (Institute for Research into Superdiversity of the University of Birmingham, UK)**

***The geographical and social mobility of underprivileged Roma youth in Europe***

The presentation addresses the youth transitions of a group of Romanian Roma adolescents with different im/mobility experiences but originating from the same resources-poor rural village. Their post-compulsory education orientations as well as the emerging of autonomous im/mobility projects are anything but homogeneous; nevertheless, they all develop halfway between the reproduction of socio-economic inequalities and the challenge of social mobility. While in Spain young migrants are confronted with severe residential and school mobility but have access to wider vocational training opportunities, their peers in Romania rely on more consistent educational trajectories, but face the prospect of poorly valued work in the local rural economy. As for young returnees, they struggle to mobilize their richer transnational social and cultural capital as a way of overcoming the negative experience and result of (re)migration. Based on a multi-sited and collaborative ethnography, this contribution investigates how the interplay between spatial and social im/mobility shape the way young people "on the move" strive to navigate towards their desirable futures in a changing and unstable environment.

**Sime, Daniela, (School of Social Work & Social Policy, University of Strathclyde)**

**Identity, citizenship and belonging among Central and Eastern European youth in Brexit Britain**

This presentation draws on data from a recently completed UK-wide study called Here to Stay?

(<http://www.migrantyouth.org><<http://www.migrantyouth.org>>[www.migrantyouth.org](http://www.migrantyouth.org)<<http://www.migrantyouth.org>>) which involved over 1,000 young people aged 12-18 born in Central and Eastern Europe who had migrated to the UK as children, the so-called 1.5 generation. The study examined young people's feelings of belonging, views and experiences of citizenship in the UK and their plans for future in the context of ongoing debates about Britain's place in the European Union. The findings reveal young people's identity struggles and experiences of rupture to their sense of belonging to the UK and examine the factors which may influence their decisions to stay on, move on or return to their country of origin. Drawing on concepts of identity, citizenship and belonging, and transnational studies, the research progresses existing knowledge by focusing on young people's sense of transnational non/belonging, identity struggles and their future imaginaries and motivations.

**Telegdi, Áron - Csetri, Viorela Ducu (Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Ro)**

***The Stranger at Home - "Hybrid" Children Returning to Romania***

This article aims to analyse the way Romanian transnational families manage children born and - partly or entirely - raised abroad who end up living in Romania. Therein, the status of transnational children, of transnational childhood - and implicitly, transnational families - is questioned. First, the double embedding of these children is analysed, as something their families need to tackle, indeed recognize as such as a double-rootedness irreducible to one or the other of their identities. Second, the temporality of these migrant families is interpreted as a potential exit from a temporary transnational suspension, into a better articulated, and perhaps explicitly assumed transnational dynamic. Along the argument, new connections are addressed between childhood, transnationalism and family practices.

**Tremlett, Annabel - Nora Siklodi (University of Portsmouth, UK)**

***Circular migration, wellbeing and citizenship: Central & Eastern European (CEE) family experiences in the UK***

Recent elite, public and media discourses on European Union (EU) migration to the United Kingdom (UK) have been characterized by obscure policies, hostile discourses, and a divisive social and political milieu. EU free movement has received much attention especially since the start of Brexit, the UK's unruly process of leaving the EU. Yet, we still know very little about the actual experiences of people undertaking circular migration – the act of going back and forth between a host state and country of origin within the EU. It is clear however that Brexit developments – as well as the increasing restrictive social rights regimes of host countries – particularly affect circular migrants, especially those from Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries. Our project thus engages with their perceptions and experiences of citizenship, welfare and family lives at these tumultuous times. Our research project aims overall to address four distinct gaps: (i) the particular

case of circular migration between CEE and the UK, (ii) circular migration and wellbeing, (iii) circular migration and family life, and (iv) circular migration, integration and citizenship. In the light of these findings our empirical research employs a qualitative approach that attends to the voices of migrants, along with the inclusion of visual methods that aims to be a creative method to counter the inferred and normalizing effects of definitions current understandings of ‘circular migration’ employ. We explore what CEE movers think about circular migration (including how they define it themselves and their reasons for doing it) and how it affects their wellbeing, family life, integration and citizenship (also taking into account their own personal understandings of these concepts). We argue that an in-depth, ethnographic approach is important to make sense of their experiences and consider effective ways to address the problems they are confronted with –by movers, practitioners such as members of UK/CEE civil societies focused on migration and interested policy-makers.