The increased mobility of people across national borders, whether by choice or by force, has become an integral aspect of the modern world. Migration has affected both families and individuals of all ages, including children. Even though the precise number of migrant children is unknown, numerous studies estimate that millions of children have been on the move, both within and between countries, with or without their parents. Children therefore find themselves in a variety of circumstances: child refugees, asylum seekers, adoptees, unaccompanied minors, trafficking victims, displaced people, climate refugees, street children and economic migrants.

Migrant children are often at the crossroads of conflicting priorities related to local and global issues (conflict, displacement, poverty, (under)development). Throughout history, states, organisations, institutions, and communities have tried to manage and control migrants and migratory processes. While the latter topic has been the subject of extensive research, the study of child migration lags behind.

This workshop aims to address this gap by adopting Foucault’s theoretical framework of biopolitics – a control apparatus exerted over a population – to the case of children. Focusing on the international migration of children to and from Europe during the 20th and the 21st centuries it situates this research in a long-term perspective. This can lead to a better understanding of how social, political and economic changes impact child migration.

Admission is free.

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Facing the Adult: Holocaust child-survivors and their Individual Migration Strategies
Antoine Burgard (Université Lumière Lyon 2/ Université du Quebec à Montréal)

Imprisoned to “Zoé”: survival of unaccompanied and undocumented Afghan minors in Istanbul
Nihan Bozok - Mehmet Bozok (Beykent University, Istanbul)

Biopolitique des déplacements d’enfants dans les sorties de guerre et les fins d’empire (1945-1975)
Yves Denéchère (Université d’Angers)

Chiara Candaele (Universiteit Antwerpen)

“The never forgotten Romanian children”: Life stories of Romanian adoptees looking for birth family
Luciana-Marioara Jinga (Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile, Bucharest)

On the move: stolen and hidden children under allied occupation in postwar Germany (1945-1949)
Katherine Rossy (Queen Mary University of London)

Détenue des enfants migrants en Europe. Le rôle de l’approche juridique
Snejana Sulima (Centre interfacultaire en droits de l’enfant, Université de Genève)

Media representations of separated: from Doubs to doubt
Rachel Rosen - Sarah Crafter (University College London - The Open University in London)

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