



**TRANSNATIONAL  
FAMILY DYNAMICS  
IN EUROPE**



## Transnational childhoods in Europe

summer school 2024 – CA21143: TraFaDy

**24 June – 3 July, Brussels**

*All the activities take place at Odisee Campus  
Schaarbeek, Huart Hamoiriaan 136,  
unless mentioned differently.*

<b>MON 24.06</b>	09:00 – 09:30	<b>Reception of the participants</b> with tea and coffee.
	09:30 – 10:00	<b>General introduction and welcoming words</b>
	10:00 – 12:00	<b>LECTURE:</b> Transnational families: reasons and effects of physical separation of migrant parents and their children in the countries of origin, by <b>Karlijn Haagsman</b> (University of Maastricht, the Netherlands)
	12:00 – 12:30	<b>Questions from the audience (Q&amp;A)</b>
	12:30 – 13:30	<b>Lunch</b>
	13:30 – 15:00	<b>Documentary 'Mother'</b>
	15:00 – 16:00	<b>Review of the documentary</b> by <b>Birsen Taspinar</b> (Odisee, Centre of Family Studies - Belgium) and <b>Kristof Bilsen</b> , director of the movie (Limerick Films, Belgium)
	16:00 – 17:00	<b>Getting to know the student project</b> and sharing information about expectations <i>(only for those participating in the student project)</i>
	17:00 – 19:00	<b>Informal opening evening; with Belgian beer, fries and waffles</b> <i>(no obligation)</i>

<b>TUE 25.06</b>	09:00 – 09:30	<b>Reception of the participants</b> with tea and coffee.
	09:30 – 10:45	<b>LECTURE:</b> Bringing the children’s perspective into (transnational) family research), by <b>Anne Carolina Ramos</b>
	10:45 – 11:00	<b>Break</b>
	11:00 – 12:30	<b>LECTURE:</b> Co-researching with children in migration research, by <b>Viorela Teledgi Csetri</b>
	12:30 – 13:30	<b>Lunch</b>
	13:30 – 14:30	<b>DISCUSSION:</b> Ethics in researching with children, by <b>Anne Carolina Ramos and Federica Moretti</b>
	14:30 – 17:00	<b>CREATIVE WORKSHOP:</b> Homesickness and the impact on a family or the relationships, by <b>Nadia Babazia</b> (Red Starline)

<b>WED 26.06</b>	09:00 – 09:30	<b>Reception of the participants</b> with tea and coffee.
	09:30 – 10:45	<b>LECTURE:</b> Family Group Conference and the participation of children, by <b>Aleksandar Bozic</b>
	10:45 – 11:00	<b>Break</b>
	11:00 – 12:30	<b>LECTURE</b>
	12:30 – 13:30	<b>Lunch</b>
	13:30 – 16:00	<b>VISIT TO KEY ORGANIZATION</b> (in Brussels) (1) Fedasil Schaerbeek (2) Klein Kasteeltje / Little Castle (Fedasil) (3) MigratieMuseumMigration
	16:00 – 17:00	<b>DEBRIEFING in small groups</b> (only if needed)

<b>THU 27.06</b>	09:00 – 09:30	<b>Reception of the participants</b> with tea and coffee.
	09:30 – 10:45	<b>LECTURE:</b> School Bullying and Migration: Trends, Interventions and Evidence, by <b>Aleksandar Bozic</b>
	10:45 – 11:00	<b>Break</b>
	11:00 – 12:30	<b>LECTURE:</b> Integration of children from migrant backgrounds into schools in selected European countries: policy challenges, by <b>Mirza Emirhafizović</b>
	12:30 – 13:30	<b>Lunch</b>
	13:30 – 15:00	<b>WORKSHOPS</b> (1) Cultural diversity in the classroom with an analysis of selected movies, by <b>Mirza Emirhafizović</b> (2) Wortelen in nieuwe aarde / Roots in new soil, by <b>Claire Wiewauters and Kaat Van Acker</b> (Odisee, Centre of Family Studies - Belgium) (3) Working with diverse families, by <b>Kim Lecoyer</b> (Odisee, Centre of Family Studies - Belgium)
15:00 – 17:00	<b>STUDENT PROJECT</b>	

<b>FRI 28.06</b>	09:00 – 09:30	<b>Reception of the participants</b> with tea and coffee.
	09:30 – 10.45u	<b>LECTURE:</b> How does migration change the frame work of social work? The impact on social professionals, by <b>Pascal Debruyne</b> (Odisee, Centre of Family Studies - Belgium)
	10:45 – 11:00	<b>Break</b>
	11:00 – 12:30	<b>LECTURE:</b> From policy gaps to policy innovations: strengthening the well-being and inclusion pathways of refugee families, by <b>Mieke Groeninck</b> (Odisee, Centre of Family Studies - Belgium)
	12:30 – 13:30	<b>Lunch</b>
	13:30 – 15:30	<b>LECTURE:</b> The impact of the new EU-pact on migration and Asylum on children of transnational families
	15:30 – 15:45	<b>Break</b>
	16:00 – 17:00	<b>WORKSHOP:</b> Practical implications of the EU-policy on migration and how it affects children, by <b>Laetitia Van der Vennet</b> (Platform for international cooperation on undocumented migrants – PICUM)

<b>MON 01.07</b>	09:00 – 09:30	<b>Reception of the participants</b> with tea and coffee.
	09:30 – 11:15	<b>LECTURE &amp; PANEL:</b> Family reunification, by <b>Pascal Debruyne</b> (Odisee, Centre of Family Studies - Belgium)
	11:15 – 11:30	<b>Break</b>
	11:30 – 12:30	<b>LECTURE:</b> Child development and attachment in transnational families, by <b>Oriola Hamzallari</b>
	12:30 – 13:30	<b>Lunch</b>
	13:30 – 15:30	<b>INTERACTIVE LECTURE:</b> Fractured multilingualism in Transnational Contexts, by <b>Hari Prasad Sacré</b> (Odisee University of Applied Sciences, Belgium)
	15:30 – 15:45	<b>Break</b>
	15:45 – 17:00	<b>FOCUS GROUPS</b> , each with a specific focus: impact of living in a transnational family on (1) the relation between children and their siblings, led by <b>Katja Fournier</b> (Odisee, Centre of Family Studies - Belgium) (2) the relation between children and their parents, led by <b>Kim Lecoyer</b> (Odisee, Centre of Family Studies - Belgium) (3) the relation between children and their grandparents, led by <b>Oriola Hamzallari</b> <b>AND STUDENT PROJECT</b>

<b>TUE 02.07</b>  <i>Visit to Antwerp</i>	09:30	Everyone may track directly to Antwerp Central (train station) We will <b>meet at the ticket office hall at 09:30</b>
	10:00 – 12:30	<b>VISIT</b> (1) Red Star Line Museum (2) De Loodsen vzw (3) Filet Divers
	12:30 – 14:30	<b>Lunch</b> ( <i>on own account</i> )
	14:30 – 16:30	<b>VISIT</b> (1) Red Star Line Museum (2) Joba

<b>WED 03.07</b>	09:00 – 09:30	<b>Reception of the participants</b> with tea and coffee.
	09:30 – 11:15	<b>WORKSHOPS:</b> (1) Psychosocial support of unaccompanied minors, by <b>Maria Koushiou</b> (2) Experiences of racism and discrimination, by <b>Birsen Taspinar</b> (Odisee, Centre of Family Studies - Belgium) (3) Family pictures, by <b>Lieve Willekens</b>
	11:15 – 11:30	<b>Break</b>
	11:30 – 12:30	<b>LECTURE:</b> Psychosocial support of unaccompanied minors, by <b>Maria Koushiou</b>
	12:30 – 13:30	<b>Lunch</b>
	13:30 – 14:30	<b>Evaluation and ending</b>

## Content of the lectures

### **Transnational families: reasons and effects of physical separation of migrant parents and their children in the countries of origin**

by Karlijn Haagsman (University of Maastricht, the Netherlands)

This lecture will give you an introduction to transnational families and discuss the main findings within this field. First, we need to discuss what transnationalism is before we can understand what transnational families are. Second, it will discuss the different forms of transnational families you can look at and reasons for these different forms of transnational family life. Finally, it provides an overview of the main findings within this field, e.g. what are the effects of separation between migrant parents and their children in the country of origin on the well-being of parents and children; and how are elderly impacted whose children have migrated.

In discussing these effects and causes we are paying specific attention to demographic and structural factors that shape these, such as gender and socioeconomic status.

### **Co-researching with children in migration research**

by Viorela Teledgi Csetri

We will highlight the main elements to keep in mind when involving children and adolescents as co-researchers in research by exemplifying a role that adolescents played as co-researchers in a research project.

## **Family Group Conference: Children participation and intercultural perspective**

by Aleksandar Bozic

Supporting children and families from minority or migrant backgrounds demands culturally sensitive and competent child welfare practitioners, capable of implementing interventions that enhance users' participations in decision-making processes.

The lecture will delve into the Family Group Conference (FGC), a preventive model widely implemented across Europe in work with children, young people and families. We will discuss how FGC facilitates intercultural perspectives and empowers the inclusion and participation of children, families and extended social network in decision-making processes tailored to their specific needs. We will also explore transnational aspects of FGC, highlighting its core principles, practical applications and research findings on its effectiveness.

## **School Bullying and Migration: Trends, Interventions and Evidence**

by Aleksandar Bozic

Schools play a crucial role in integration and social stability. However, bullying is a pervasive problem in schools worldwide, and it can be particularly challenging for migrant children who are adjusting to new cultures and languages. The relationship between migration and school bullying is complex and multifaceted.

The lecture will present main trends in school bullying research, and the findings of the comparative research project Transnational Collaboration on Bullying, Migration, and Integration at School Level. The focus will be on anti-bullying interventions and educational policies targeting bullying and migrant children across several European countries.

## **Integration of children from migrant backgrounds into schools in selected European countries: policy challenges**

by Mirza Emirhafizović (University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina)

The integration of children from migration backgrounds into the educational system of the host country is accompanied by a plethora of challenges across all levels (from individual characteristics of students over their living conditions to structural possibilities/constraints). Although there is a high degree of agreement among stakeholders that education is of crucial importance for the successful integration of individuals into society, the political response in European countries is not uniform and thus in some cases below optimal. The approach to addressing the issue of integration of students from migrant families usually depends on their number and status related to the migration process, a broader socio-economic context, local schools' capacities in terms of teaching staff and resources/funds, and the existence of a tradition in dealing with the decades-long immigration. Available policy documents suggest that all these factors to a certain extent may have an impact on shaping policy measures targeting migrant children and their pathways in the education system.

The lecture aims to present existing approaches to the integration of students into the school system of the selected receiving European countries highlighting the identified challenges and promising practices in the following areas: access to education; language learning, and psycho-social support; and teachers and school management.

Research findings from Austria (Vienna Region) will reveal an empirical side of the process since interviewed teachers have shared their experiences concerning cultural diversity in classrooms and the level of community support for schools with a high number of pupils from migrant backgrounds.

### **Child development and attachment in transnational families**

by Dr. Oriola Hamzallari (Aleksandër Moisiu University, Albania)

This lecture examines the complex interplay between attachment and child development within the context of transnational families. It begins with an overview of attachment theory and proceeds to examine attachment styles, with a particular focus on left-behind children. Drawing from the current literature, the lecture examines the effects of cycles of separations and reunions on child development, shedding light on both short-term and long-term impacts.

Furthermore, the lecture examines resilience approaches for children in transnational families, addressing key risk and protective factors that influence their well-being. Attendees will gain insights into practical recommendations for policymakers and practitioners aimed at supporting transnational children. By the end of the lecture, participants will have a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by transnational families and the strategies for promoting positive outcomes for left-behind children.

### **Fractured Multilingualism in Transnational Contexts: A Postcolonial Reading**

by Dr. Hari Prasad Sacré (Odisee University of Applied Sciences, Belgium)

Globalisation processes increasingly disrupt the vital connection between people's language and their geographical place. Individuals displaced by such processes are often forced to migrate across national and linguistic borders in pursuit of a new home. Their transnational reality is shaped by a challenging effort to bridge the linguistic divide between their mother tongue and a second national language. A common struggle among transnational families is balancing the preservation of their mother tongue, which connects them to their communities and places of origin in the Global South, and the acquisition of a new language, which provides access to institutional opportunities in the Global North. As the global asymmetry between Global North and Global South shapes their linguistic reality, their multilingualism is inherently fractured.

This lecture, grounded in the postcolonial language theory of Gayatri Chakrabarty Spivak, will discuss how Spivak's notion of *enabling violation* helps us understand the contradictory forces shaping transnational families' fractured multilingualism. This approach encourages us to move beyond a binary reading of language loss and language gain, and enables us to read the contradictory scripts of multilingualism. Following a theoretical lecture, participants will practice identifying and interpreting *enabling violation* within texts authored by transnational writers, including refugees, adoptees, immigrants, and bi-cultural individuals.

## Content of the workshops

### **The Use of Family Photography in Social Research**

by Lieve Willekens

What can family pictures tell us? What do they represent? How can they deliver interesting data in research? In this workshop, we will look at family photography as a source of information about people's lives. How do people use their snapshots to construct and reconstruct their memories and their identity?

*If you subscribe, please bring a precious family photograph yourself!*

### **Representation of cultural diversity in the classroom in selected movies**

by Mirza Emirhafizović (University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Marginalized students and cultural diversity in classrooms were the sources of inspiration for some filmmakers to portray the phenomenon from a different angle. When it comes to the education of students from migrant low-income families, very often they experience a lack of support from their parents, who have trouble making ends meet. Prevailing stereotypes towards certain immigrant/ethnic groups make their position in society even harder. Parallel realities in the education system are often constructed by institutional segregation through establishing clusters (separated classrooms) within schools. The teacher's role might be pivotal in overcoming all sorts of obstacles affecting the performance of socially vulnerable students.

For the workshop, scenes depicting often discouraging socioeconomic settings for disadvantaged students and the role of teachers will be analysed in the following movies:

- Stand and Deliver (1988)
- La Mia Classe (2013)
- Freedom Writers (2007)
- Dangerous Minds (1995)