

CALL FOR PAPERS:

Seeking contributions for an edited volume on **“Migrant Children at the Crossroads: Challenges and Progress in a Changing World”**.

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Migrant children often find themselves standing at the crossroads of conflicting priorities regarding local and global issues of poverty, (under)development, environmental degradation, conflict, and displacement. International advocacy has focused much needed attention on exploited and abused child migrants, with child asylum seekers, unaccompanied minors, child soldiers, young disaster IDPs, and trafficked children constituting some of the most frequently targeted groups. Most protection work undertaken on behalf of these children, however, has tended to emphasize their dependency and vulnerability, seen as inevitably resulting from their young age and assumed immaturity.

Childhood scholars remind us that conceptualizations of childhood and acceptable roles for children at different ages vary over class and space, and caution us against treating all migrant children as one universally vulnerable category. Furthermore, empirical research suggests that child migrants often play an active role in assessing their own situation, making decisions about their life trajectories, and negotiating the challenges and opportunities posed by displacement. Human rights approaches, while still focusing on the need of protection, have also underscored the importance of respecting the participatory rights of children—a model that remains controversial in certain circles. Inclusive, participatory approaches that seek to involve migrant children in research and policy decisions, although widely praised in theory, are often limited by budget and time constraints.

The chapters included in this volume will examine the progress and challenges facing worldwide efforts to protect migrant children in a variety of contexts, attending especially to the relationships between local and global forces. How do global processes of industrialization, urbanization, militarization, and climate change impact child migration? How can the needs of migrant children be included in national and international programs when law enforcement and security concerns are seen as higher priorities? Are efforts to protect various categories of child migrants constrained by universalistic and paternalistic definitions of childhood and, if so, what are the implications? What are the contributions of human rights approaches to the protection of child migrants? How can these contributions be strengthened? Are participatory models of research *with* migrant children more effective than traditional models of work *on* child migrants? What lessons have been learned so far?

Process and Schedule

Please email me (marisaensor@yahoo.com) and/or Elzbieta Gozdziaik (emg27@georgetown.edu) to indicate your willingness to contribute a chapter to our volume by submitting a provisional title and abstract by **April 30, 2008**.

Manuscripts by select authors will be invited by **May 15, 2008**.

Full manuscripts will be expected by **August 1, 2008**.