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Department of Political Science, Law and International Studies
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Call for Proposals

Children on the Move from the 20th to the 21st Century A Biopolitics Perspective

An international workshop to be held at the University of Padua, Italy, on **9-10 June 2017**
Department of Political Science, Law and International Relations (SPGI)

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 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.

This workshop will address the following issues from two different perspectives:

- 1) What is the logic that underlies children's mobility throughout the entire migration processes?
 - Who chooses the children that are to move? Why?
 - What are the connections between the countries, institutions and communities responsible for sending and receiving migrants?
 - Child migration can take many forms: displacement, international adoption, and family reunion represent only a few of the possibilities. How are these decided upon? By whom? According to what criteria?
 - Once children have moved, what are the policy and educational choices they face?
 - In what way do the binary categories used to describe and classify migrants – documented versus undocumented, labour migrant versus asylum seeker, victim versus offender – influence the treatment they receive?



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- 2) What are the perspectives, views, problems, priorities and expectations of the children themselves? Child migrants are often presented as passive victims, lacking agency. We will challenge that perspective by exploring their experiences and their role as active agents.

Proposals in either English or French should be submitted to beatrice.scutaru@unipd.it and simone.paoli@unipd.it by **April 9, 2017**. The selection will be finalized by mid-April. Abstracts should be 250 words long with the key argument, research methods and findings of each contribution. Proposals must also include name and surname, position and affiliation.

Participants' accommodation costs will be covered by the organisers. Travel costs will be reimbursed on the basis and upon receipt of the original invoices, up to the amount of 200 euros. There will be no participation fee.