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UNIVERSITÉ DE
NEUCHÂTEL

18 – 19 May 2018
University of
Neuchâtel
Switzerland

Exploring the
Imagination-(Im)Mobility
Nexus:
From Imaginaries to
Imagining on the Move



Interdisciplinary Workshop
**Exploring the Imagination-
(Im)Mobility Nexus: From
Imaginaries to Imagining On
the Move**

18 – 19 May 2018
University of Neuchâtel

Workshop Venue

Faculté des lettres et sciences
humaines, Espace Louis-
Agassiz 1, room R.S.38,
2000 Neuchâtel, Switzerland

Conveners

Flavia Cangià and Tania
Zittoun
Institute of Psychology and
Education
University of Neuchâtel

The imagination of alternative possible lives has acquired a new role in contemporary world, and has become part of the daily mental life of many people, also as a result of the mass media and mass migration. (Im)mobility, as the dialectic between movement and stasis at the geographic, temporal and semantic level, in turn, is inextricably linked to the ability of people to imagine other places, possibilities, and explore the past or the future. There has been an increasing interest across the social sciences on imaginaries of various forms of mobility, including but not limited to tourism and migration, and on how these imaginaries provide the cultural material through which people experience (im)mobility.

While some studies already started to unpack the interaction between imaginaries and people's active imaginings in the context of tourism (Salazar, 2011), further research is needed to understand the relationship between these two dimensions, between global imaginaries of (im)mobility and the active process of imagination in the experience of (im)mobility: in other words between socially and culturally situated imaginaries and "the way in which we construct, wittingly or unwittingly, horizons that determine what we experience and how we interpret what we experience" (Crapanzano, 2003, p. 2).

This interdisciplinary workshop will explore possible future directions of research on the nexus of imagination-mobility and the relationship between imaginaries and imagining processes from an interdisciplinary perspective (anthropology, socio-cultural psychology, human geography).

The following questions will be explored:

1. Empirical and methodological questions on people's active engagement in the process of imagination, against a backdrop of constant circulation of global imaginaries on various forms of mobility:
How do people move between past, present and future to explore possible or impossible alternatives? How do people navigate between available imaginaries on (im)mobility while actively imagining movement/stasis in migration/mobility experiences?
2. Theoretical questions on how to discuss these concepts in tandem:
How can social sciences create a constructive dialogue about the relationship between imaginaries and imagination through new perspectives?

Friday, 18 May 2018

Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines, Espace Louis-Agassiz 1, room R.S.38

09:00–09:15

Welcome and Introduction

Flavia Cangia and Tania Zittoun, University of Neuchâtel, nccr – on the move

Session 1: Perspectives on Imaginaries, Imagination and (Im)mobility

09:15–10:00

Noel Salazar, Faculty of Social Sciences, KU Leuven

Imaginaries of “Elsewhere” vs. the Experiences of (Im)Mobility to “Get There”: An Anthropological Exploration

Discussant: Angela Veale

10:00–10:30 Coffee Break

10:30–11:15

Tania Zittoun, Institute of Psychology and Education, University of Neuchâtel, nccr – on the move

Imagination in People and Societies on the Move: A Sociocultural Psychological Perspective

Discussant: Laurie Parsons

11:15–12:00

Yvonne Riaño, Institute of Geography, University of Neuchâtel, nccr – on the move

Geographical Imaginations and Migration: How Do Imaginations of Other Places Shape Migratory Projects?

Discussant: Sandra Jovchelovitch

12:00–13:00 Lunch

Session 2: (Im)mobile Imaginative Transitions

13:00–13:45

Flavia Cangia, Institute of Psychology and Education, University of Neuchâtel, nccr – on the move

Suspended Imagination: On Trailing, Waiting and (Re)Making Work in Mobility

Discussant: Noel Salazar

13:45–14:30

Gail Womersley, Institute of Psychology and Education, University of Neuchâtel

“I Thought Athens Was a Shiny Country”: Exploring the Past and Constructing Possible Futures among Refugee Victims of Torture in Greece

Discussant: Damian Rosset

14:30–15:00 Coffee Break

15:00–17:00

Documentary “Space Metropoliz”

Directors: Giorgio De Finis & Fabrizio Boni

Followed by a Discussion with Giorgio De Finis, Anthropologist, Film-maker and Curator

Starting 19:00 Dinner at the Brasserie Le Cardinal, Rue du Seyon 9, 2000 Neuchâtel

Saturday, 19 May 2018

Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines, Espace Louis-Agassiz 1, room R.S.38

Session 3: (Creative) Imagination Across Temporal, Spatial and Symbolic Frontiers

09:15 – 10:00

Sandra Jovchelovitch, Department of Psychological and Behavioural Science, London School of Economics
Imagining the City: Development and Porosity of Borders in Divided Urban Environments

Discussant: Johannes Sjöberg

10:00 – 10:45

Laurie Parsons, Department of Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London
Imagined Mobilities of the Hopeless: Religion, Superstition and Fate Amongst Cambodia's Indentured Labourers

Discussant: Gail Womersley

10:45 – 11:15 Coffee Break

11:15 – 12:00

Johannes Sjöberg, School of Arts, Languages and Cultures, University of Manchester
Accessing Imaginary Worlds: Reflexive and Co-Creative Practice in Visual Anthropology and Mobility Studies

Discussant: Grégoire Mayor, Institute of Ethnology, University of Neuchâtel

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch

Session 4: Transnational Imaginaries and Imagination

13:00 – 13:45

Damian Rosset, Centre for Migration Law and Laboratory for the Study of Social Processes, University of Neuchâtel

Socio-Legal Imaginaries of Countries of Origin in the Swiss Refugee Determination Regime – the Case of Eritrea

Discussant: Flavia Cangia

13:45 – 14:30

Angela Veale, School of Applied Psychology, University College Cork, Ireland

"I Wish, I Wish..." Reflections on Mobility, Immobility and the Global "Imaginations" of Nigerian Transnational Children

Discussant: Tania Zittoun

14:30 – 15:00 Coffee Break

15:00 – 15:45

Wrap-Up and Outlook

Noel Salazar

Faculty of Social Sciences, KU
Leuven

Imaginarities of “Elsewhere” vs. the Experiences of (Im) Mobility to “Get There”: An Anthropological Exploration

Imaginarities are at the roots of many (if not all) human mobilities. They help people (with the necessary means) to decide which ‘elsewhere’ to travel to. Importantly, most of these imaginaries pertain to the (final) destination, not to the (im)mobilities required to get there. For migrants, the journey is merely a means to get to their milk-and-honey destination. Many, however, are structurally forced to travel slowly, having to rely on basic forms of locomotion and using the most precarious and insecure roads and routes. These trips, involving personal and social upheaval, can turn into powerful life-changing events that greatly influence whoever experiences them. As such, these journey conditions very much resemble those of wandering pilgrims, the archetypes of transformative traveling. Tourists, on the other hand, many of whom desire their holiday experience to be transformative, are structurally barred from travel-as-toil. For the sake of comfort, modern transport technologies and tourism service providers alike have taken the travail out of travel, thereby taking the journey out of the holiday experience. The movement of ‘slow travel’ is an attempt to reverse this. In this presentation, I reflect anthropologically on imaginaries of mobility (in the physical sense of ‘motion’). Why does the actual journey of migrants (not to mention refugees), and its transformative effects, hardly figure in imaginaries of migration? And what is the role of imaginaries in the tourism shift from ‘being moved’ around to a renewed desire for more active form of mobility, as an integral part of the tourist experience?

Noel B. Salazar is Research Professor in Anthropology at the University of Leuven, Belgium. He is editor of the *Worlds in Motion* (Berghahn) and *Anthropology of Tourism* (Lexington) book series, co-editor of various edited volumes and special issues, and author of *Envisioning Eden*, *Momentous Mobilities* and numerous peer-reviewed articles and book chapters on mobility and travel. He is vice-president of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, past president of the European Association of Social Anthropologists and founder of AnthroMob, the EASA Anthropology and Mobility Network. In 2013, Salazar was elected as member of the Young Academy of Belgium.

Tania Zittoun

Institute of Psychology and
Education, University of
Neuchâtel, nccr – on the move

Imagination in People and Societies on the Move: A Sociocultural Psychological Perspective

As developmental science, sociocultural psychology has recently approached imagination as a process unfolding in time, and participating to the change of people, situations and societies. Approaching human and social life on the move demands to consider these changes within spatial movement as well. Yet once we consider trajectories of imagining in time and space, then we enter the realm of symbolic transformations: movement is not only about people’s trajectories in the shared material and social realities of proximal spheres of experience, it is also about explorations within distal spheres of experiences – where imagination can move beyond the rules of time and space. In this paper, I will draw on a series of current and past studies to unfold these dynamics: by examining young adults moved by war, families in repeated mobility, and displaced older people, I will try to articulate the relationship between geographical moves and symbolic or semantic moves. More specifically I will highlight how imagination may render fluid and accompany mobility, or how it may slow it down or constrain it. Finally, I will try to identify social and cultural configurations which may support such intermeshed dynamics.

Tania Zittoun is professor of psychology and education at the University of Neuchâtel. A sociocultural psychologist, she has examined transitions in the lifecourse, with a special focus on institutional constraints, as well as on the role of symbolic resources and imagination in people's lives. She has worked interdisciplinarily on topics such as religion, trajectories of migration, as well as the problem of integration. She is Associated editor of *Culture & Psychology*, and her most recent books include *Imagination in human and cultural development* with Alex Gillespie (Routledge, 2016), and the forthcoming *Handbook of culture & imagination*, edited with Vlad Glaveanu (Oxford University Press).

Yvonne Riaño

Institute of Geography,
University of Neuchâtel,
nccr – on the move

**Geographical Imaginations
and Migration: How Do
Imaginations of Other Places
Shape Migratory Projects?**

Geographers use the term “geographical imaginations” (e.g. Gregory 1994) to refer to the diversity of perspectives, positions, and subjectivities embodied in human understandings of place, space and landscape. This presentation poses the question of how useful the concept of geographical imaginations may be to understand migratory projects, including the consideration of whether to move to a different place or not, where to move, and with whom to undertake a mobility or migratory project. Furthermore, it examines empirically how aspirations of gender equality, and imaginations of European men as ideal partners, shape the migratory projects of women from Latin America and the Middle East.

Yvonne Riaño is Professor of Urban Geography at the Institute of Geography, and Project Co-Leader at the Swiss National Centre of Competence in Migration Research (NCCR) "On the move", both located at the University of Neuchâtel. She also co-leads the European IMISCOE research cluster on International Student Migration and Mobility. Yvonne Riaño obtained her PhD in Geography in 1996 from the University of Ottawa (Canada) and has taught in Canadian, Austrian and Swiss universities since. Inspired by feminist and post-colonial approaches, she studies issues of gender inequalities, love migration, gender arrangements and women's labour market participation, transnational social spaces of migrants, migration policy, and participatory methodologies. Yvonne Riaño has published extensively in international books and peer-reviewed journals.

Flavia Cangià

Institute of Psychology and
Education, University of
Neuchâtel, nccr – on the move

**Suspended Imagination: On
Trailing, Waiting and (Re)
Making Work in Mobility**

Experiences of (im)mobility have been recently explored in the social sciences through a look at the role of time and temporality, in particular the condition of waiting, acceleration and deceleration in migrants and mobile people's movement. This paper explores how the subjective experience of temporal suspension in the context of mobile working life can trigger, affect and at times block a person's capacity to imagine alternatives and the future. I will focus on a “privilege” category of migrants, the so-called “trailing spouses”, and draw upon my ongoing research with mobile professionals' partners. “Trailing” has long been associated with the image of a non-working “wife” following her husband in international mobility. The increasingly mobile and changing conditions of some professional sectors, however, while creating a more fragmented and precarious working life for a wider range of professionals, have made the making of transnational career trajectories imaginable also for the spouses. But what happens when career trajectories are not easily reconstituted on the occasion of the move, and the timing for job-search extends over a longer period? I will discuss how the people I met, by transiting from a professional situation to another one that is not yet in place, experience a rupture in their work and everyday life, and a resulting liminal transition character-

alized by a condition of suspension between identities, times and destinations of migration. How do these experiences affect the imagination and (re)making of work under conditions of (repeated) mobility? How do imaginaries on international mobility with the family (e.g., ‘the incorporated wife’, ‘dual career couple’) emerge in these processes?

Flavia Cangià is Post Doc research fellow at the Institute of Psychology and Education of the University of Neuchâtel (Switzerland), and conducts research on mobile professionals’ spouses in Switzerland, as part of the National Center of Competence in Research NCCR - On the Move. She has conducted research on minority issues, migration and mobility, sociocultural diversity, emotions, and boundary dynamics with qualitative and ethnographic fieldwork in various contexts (Japan, Malaysia, Italy, Switzerland). She has contributed articles to the Journal of Ethnic and Racial Studies, Ethos and Childhood.

Gail Womersley

Institute of Psychology and Education, University of Neuchâtel

“I Thought Athens Was a Shiny Country”: Exploring the Past and Constructing Possible Futures Among Refugee Victims of Torture in Greece

Greece represents a unique context in which to explore the imagination-(im)mobility nexus of refugees entering Europe: perceived both as a transit country and a final destination. Here, ruptures associated with migration and the multiple traumas typically experienced by this population is followed by a period of transition – defined as the process of exploration of new modes of being in relation to others, and sense making. To explore this, I present the results of 12 months of research in a centre for refugee victims of torture in Athens. The theoretical inquiries guiding the analysis are the cultural-symbolic resources which refugees moving to Greece use to explore possible futures and actively imagine migration experiences. I draw on an expansive and developmental view on imagination from a sociocultural perspective. Such an approach emphasizes the importance of non-linear temporality in the context of individual’s changing subjective realities – as they weave together images of the past, present and future to repair traumatic ruptures, confer meaning to their current situation and redefine-reposition themselves toward the future. This includes tracking the processes of change in imagining alternative possible lives. Elaboration of future possibles are conceptualized as being hindered by trauma, a zone of experience where one cannot imagine. Paradoxically, however, imagination is seen to enable post-traumatic growth. The results similarly illustrate imagination as being significantly shaped by the collective imaginings of entire communities: from the shared imaginary expectations of communities in countries of origin, to the constantly developing situated imaginaries of refugee communities in Europe.

Gail Womersley is a doctoral assistant at the University of Neuchâtel. Her PhD thesis focuses on sociocultural manifestations of trauma among victims of torture seeking asylum. Before joining the university, she worked with Médecins Sans Frontières as a clinical psychologist in projects assisting refugee and internally displaced populations in South Sudan, the Central African Republic, Ukraine, Zimbabwe and the Democratic Republic of Congo. She is particularly interested in sociocultural manifestations of trauma among populations on the move and its implications for legal and social policy as well as clinical practice.

Documentary
"Space Metropoliz"
**Giorgio de Finis &
Fabrizio Boni** (Directors)

The occupants of Metropoliz - a squat in a huge former and abandoned slaughterhouse in the eastern part of Rome - decide to escape from the city where they live on the margins of society, without a secure home, work, health and legality. Their plan is simple: build a rocket to go live on the moon. This is the story imagined by two anthropologists, directors of this documentary, and the inhabitants of the small city who live illegally in Metropoliz for 4 years, including Italian, Tunisian, Peruvians, Ukrainians, Africans and Roma people. To trace the route to the moon, philosophers, astrophysicists, astronauts, ufologists, architects and artists were invited to participate for the creation of the rocket and the whole artistic project. Space Metropoliz is: a) a short film and documentary, b) an experiment of urban requalification, d) a set of creative and participated laboratories, e) an anthropological research, f) a temporary space dedicated to art, i) and much more.

Giorgio de Finis is an anthropologist, artist and curator. He is founder and curator of MAAM Museo dell'Altro e dell'Altrove di Metropoliz_città meticcias in the urban squat Metropoliz (Rome). He is also currently directing various artistic projects, including the "Macro Asylum" at the Macro Museum of Contemporary Art in Rome, where he was recently appointed as the new artistic director. Editor and director of various artistic journals, some of his publications include *Diari Urbani* (with an introduction of Marc Augé), and *Forza Tutt**. *La Barricata dell'arte*. He has been conducting research and teaching activities in various universities, and has carried out ethnographic fieldwork in Palawan among the Batak people. He has worked for the television and has directed numerous documentaries.

Sandra Jovchelovitch
Department of Psychological
and Behavioural Science,
London School of Economics
**Imagining the City:
Development and Porosity
of Borders in Divided Urban
Environments**

Poverty and social exclusion erect internal borders in urban environments, which compromise the right to the city and undermine both individual and community development. Yet, the contemporary city not only has sharp territorial boundaries; it is also a place of crossings and exchanges. In this paper, I draw on research in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro to explore how movement in space shapes thinking and self-understanding for individuals and communities. I do this in three steps. I start by introducing the 'porous city' as enabler of communication between people, experiences and ideas across neighbourhoods and geographical locations. Second, I ask what elements shape the porosity of city borders and present spatial, socio-institutional and symbolic dimensions as indicators underlying a diagnostic model of porosity. Finally, I illustrate these processes with research on Rio de Janeiro's favelas, where some communities present very rigid and closed borders and others multiple and challenging porosities. The findings show that spatial movement in the city and human development (individual and social) are mutually constituted: mobility has an impact on individual and social cognition, relational networks and life experience, which widen the imagination and feedback on spatial movement and porosity. I discuss these findings in relation to the potentials of bottom-up social development in opening up rigid urban frontiers and generating human development.

Sandra Jovchelovitch is Professor of Social Psychology at the London School of Economics where she directs the MSc in Social and Cultural Psychology. Her research focuses on the sociocultural psychology of representations, public spheres, and community development. Her research examines human development under poverty and urban segregation, focusing on trajectories of self and community in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro. Her book on the topic, *Underground Sociabilities: identity, culture and resistance in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro* was published by UNESCO in 2013.

Laurie Parsons

Department of Geography,
Royal Holloway, University of
London

**Imagined Mobilities of
the Hopeless: Religion,
Superstition and Fate amongst
Cambodia's Indentured
Labourers**

Work in Cambodia's brick kilns is a harsh, often brutal experience. Pain is a daily part of life and every kiln has stories of lost limbs and co-workers dropping dead in their 30s or 40s as their bodies give out under the strain. Yet for many of those who work there, escape is an impossibility. Labouring under thousands of dollars of debt, in a job that pays too poorly to repay it, means labouring not only for one lifetime, but several. Children frequently take on their parents' debts, either to allow them to leave as they age, or to obtain a much needed extension on a loan.

In this context, this paper explores what escape and mobility mean to those who hold no hope of it. It examines prayers, visits to fortune tellers and the limits of ambition, in order to explore the imagined dimension of this mobility, but it seeks also to ground these imaginaries in space. As argued here, the explicit fatalism of those thus immobilised is not a resignation, but an affirmation of being beyond the self. Physical mobility remains valued and aspired to, but is transposed either to the next generation, where possible, or the next life, wherever not. In this way, brick workers' current immobility is imbued with meaning through the lens of an imagined future mobility.

Laurie Parsons's research investigates the impact of mass labour migration and ecological change on the culture and social structures of Cambodia. It combines a variety of approaches - including visual and statistical analysis of social networks, and qualitative methods - to discern how traditional modes of association both reflect and mediate these new conditions. A researcher of Cambodian livelihoods since 2008, he has conducted large-scale projects examining inequalities in Cambodia's economic development for Transparency International, Plan International, Save the Children, CARE International, ActionAid, the IDRC and the Royal University of Phnom Penh, among others.

Johannes Sjöberg

School of Arts, Languages
and Cultures, University of
Manchester

**Accessing Imaginary Worlds:
Reflexive and Co-creative
Practice in Visual Anthropology
and Mobility Studies**

The workshop will propose new ethnographic methods providing access to the imaginary realm of fieldwork informants. Drawing on anthropological theory on imagination (Crapanzano 2004) and responding to calls for methods on imagination (Harris and Rapport 2015) the workshop will demonstrate how ethnographic film, applied theatre and participatory video can be combined to co-create reflexive practice with the participants as part of fieldwork situations where traditional ethnographic methods such as participant observation and interviews have been insufficient applied on their own. The workshop will show ethnofiction film (Rouch 2003, Sjöberg 2008), an epistemology of play (Sjöberg, Forthcoming) and ethno science fiction film (Sjöberg 2017) in previous work on Brazilian transgender (Transfiction, Sjöberg 2010), urban worldmaking (SuperMilanese, Sjöberg 2016) and on youth and environmental threat in the UK (Call Me Back, Sjöberg Forthcoming). These methods have revealed how imagination has given new meaning to past experience, how it impacts on present lived experience, and generates strategies for the future. Ultimately, the workshop will ask how these methods can be applied in mobility studies with regards to movement and transformation. Recent examples from the Anthropology, Media and Performance PhD programme at The University of Manchester will also show how co-creative drama practices have been combined with extended ethnographic fieldwork to explore migration over the Mediterranean through participatory animation, HIV survival in Chile through photographic mise-en-scènes and ritual healing and performance through participatory videos in the Amazon.

Johannes Sjöberg is a lecturer in Screen Studies at The University of Manchester convening a practice-based PhD in Anthropology, Media and Performance. He specialises in film practice as research and the boundaries between artistic and academic forms of research and representation. His approach is based on the combination of extended ethnographic fieldwork and improvisational art forms, mediating complex cultural understanding within a reflexive context. Sjöberg has conducted practice-based research on the ethnofictions of Jean Rouch, focusing on the use of projective improvisation in ethnographic filmmaking among transgendered Brazilians, on psychodrama and the epistemology play and research on climate change through ethno science fiction film methods.

Damian Rosset

Centre for Migration Law and
Laboratory for the Study of
Social Processes, University of
Neuchâtel

Socio-Legal Imaginaries of
Countries of Origin in the Swiss
Refugee Determination Regime
– the Case of Eritrea

Knowledge production is an essential characteristic of bureaucratic and judicial institutions. Governing the mobility of individuals requires that the states engage in producing knowledge, representations and imaginaries of the immobile spaces mobile individuals leave, cross and reach. Asylum law and refugee status determination require establishing facts on the countries of origin of asylum seekers to assess the well-foundedness of their claim for protection. By doing so, they foster and frame the construction of representations about these countries, creating authoritative accounts of reality or socio-legal imaginaries. This construction is not only undertaken by the administrative-legal system of asylum adjudication, but also involves a range of non-state actors (academics, civil society organisations, politicians, lobbyists) with competing truth claims.

Looking at the socio-legal imaginaries of Eritrea in Switzerland, this paper examines how asylum procedures produce representations of reality of countries of origin through an institutional process of knowledge production and negotiation. Analysing institutional communication, as well as the evolving decisions and jurisprudence of both instances of the Swiss asylum system, it traces back the way Eritrea is imagined and narrated by the Swiss state since 2005.

Damian Rosset is a PhD candidate and a teaching assistant at the University of Neuchâtel (Centre for Migration Law and Laboratory for the Study of Social Processes). He holds a BA in Political Science from the University of Geneva and an Mlitt in Middle East and Central Asian Security Studies from the University of St Andrews. Prior to joining the University of Neuchâtel, he worked as a country analyst at the Swiss Federal Administrative Court. His doctoral research focuses on the way asylum procedures generate knowledge on the countries of origin of asylum seekers, adopting an organisational and historical perspective.

Angela Veale

School of Applied Psychology,
University College Cork, Ireland

**“I Wish, I Wish...” Reflections
on Mobility, Immobility and the
Global “Imaginings” of Nigerian
Transnational Children**

This paper explores the psychological correlates of child mobility in a globalizing world through a multisite ethnographic study of Nigerian families, in particular siblings separated through migration. Fieldwork was conducted in two sites, Nigeria and Ireland. It explores the position of both the migrant child and the left-behind child (aged 11–18 years) in a transnational flow of decision-making, information-sharing and care in the transnational family system. A core emergent theme in the analysis is the opportunities and tensions that are created through the imaginings of caregivers and left-behind children of life in ‘the West’ as their awareness of the daily life of their migrant family members is mediated by the media and the pressures of global consumption. Simultaneously, the lives of many migrants are constrained by laws that restrict their rights and entitlements, thus excluding them from full economic participation. The pressures of global consumption in the country of origin and settlement create tensions that can lead to a breakdown of trust in the parent-child-caregiver relationship. The left-behind child feels the loss of the parent but also the loss of being separated from the opportunities afforded by the West. Imaginings of Europe (‘the West’) infuses communication and decision-making. The juxtaposition of reality and ideas about places far away complicates family life, and most likely the happiness of the children, as children both in Ireland and Nigeria struggle to manage the challenge of living with both local and global culture.

Angela Veale is a Lecturer in Applied Psychology, University College Cork. Her research and publications focus on post-conflict social reintegration of children & families; children, globalisation, and 'new migrations', intergenerational transmission of resilience and psychosocial interventions. Her writing takes a socio-cultural, politically situated understanding of the psychological wellbeing of children & families. She was partner to the NORFACE funded Transnational Child-Raising between Europe and Africa project, and co-director of the Provicimus/Oak Foundation funded project on the social reintegration of young mother's formerly associated with armed groups in Sierra Leone, Liberia and northern Uganda. She is a former Fulbright Scholar.
