

**(Self-)Positioning in transnational spaces – Children's narrations and narrations about children living transnationally**

Transnational families are a socially highly relevant phenomenon, also linking Poland and Germany. For social scientists, studying this phenomenon with regard to childhood provides new insights into socialization in transnational families and (trans)national positioning of children. For literary scholars, investigating literary representations of a child in migration and their perspective allows to gain new knowledge on changing position of children within contemporary Polish culture.

The project is divided into two parts: From a sociological perspective we investigate the experiences of children living in transnational families and their (trans)national self-positioning. We conduct biographical, mapping based interviews with children aged 12-14 years who (temporarily) grew up intransnational families in Poland. Rather than defining the children as "left-behinds", we empirically investigate the conditions under which they feel left behind, where their scope of action is limited or expanded in this arrangement and how they position themselves in (trans)national spaces – in the present and in the future. From a perspective anchored in literary studies we investigate how transmigration is represented and which narratives are unfolded in children's books about transnational families. We examine how transnational (family-) life is literarily portrayed, how places abroad as well as the transnational spaces are depicted, and what position child characters take in it. In our narratological analysis, we focus particularly on the literary techniques by which such narrations of transnationality are produced. The project allows us to trace the evolution of the image of a child (from an "Euro-orphan" to an active agent within the transnational family) in the sociocultural discourses of contemporary Poland.

The core of the planned project is the (trans)national positioning which connects both parts. An additional part of the project is an international conference on transnational childhood and the placement of children in transnational spaces, along with the transfer of results to schools through the development of theoretical and educational materials for teachers on the subject of transnational family life. These materials will cover analyses of selected literature on the subject, literary texts, and stories written by children as part of the project.