



GIRLHOOD STUDIES

An Interdisciplinary Journal

Call for Papers

Girls on the Move: Girlhood and Forced Displacement, Migration and (Re)settlement

Forced displacement, migration, and (re)settlement, both within nations and across borders, is an ever-escalating crisis affecting tens of millions of people worldwide. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reports that at the start of 2022, over 100 million people had been forcibly displaced from their homes because of persecution, conflict, violence, or human rights violations (2022a). Added to these numbers are the millions displaced each year because of disaster and the devastating, unabating effects of climate change (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre 2022; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees 2022b). While exact numbers remain elusive, it is estimated that women and girls account for just over half of all those displaced by conflict and violence (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees 2022a) and account for an even greater proportion of those displaced by disaster and climate change (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre 2022; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees 2022b). Research consistently identifies women and girls as vulnerable and, in comparison with their male counterparts, disproportionately at risk of physical and sexual violence, domestic abuse, kidnapping, trafficking and sexual exploitation, and early and forced marriage (Noble et al. 2017).

This portrait of vulnerability and disadvantage, while unquestionably concerning and essential to providing grounds for international and local responses to the plight of displaced women and girls, provides but a partial view. Grouping women and girls into a single category contributes to a homogenizing discourse that glosses over the particular experiences of girls facing forced displacement, migration, and (re)settlement. Further, such a portrait leaves unexamined the diverse and uneven experiences and expressions of girls' intersectional identifications. And finally, a concentration on vulnerability, victimization, and disadvantage risks obscuring the potential, capacities, resilience, strengths, autonomy, and voices of girls on the move.

For this special issue of *Girlhood Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, we invite articles that use a range of methodological approaches or that arise from various disciplinary perspectives to explore the experiences and representations of forcibly displaced girls on the move. Without denying or ignoring the obvious risks, dangers, and disadvantages facing forcibly displaced girls, we are especially interested in articles that consider girls' active participation in their journeys of displacement, migration, and (re)settlement. With a recognition that context—geographical, temporal, cultural, legal, and sociopolitical—influences these particular experiences of girls, we are also interested in articles that draw attention to and explore the intersectional complexity shaping the journeys of these girls.

Contributors are invited to explore questions such as:

- What are the varied experiences, actions, and movements of forcibly displaced girls?
- How do diverse and intersecting aspects of identity shape girls' experiences and navigation of forced displacement, migration, and (re)settlement?
- How are forcibly displaced girls portrayed, imagined, or represented in public, popular, and/or professional discourses?
- How do girls talk about or express in other ways their journeys of forced displacement, migration, and (re)settlement?

- How has the global response to Russia's invasion of the Ukraine and the resultant wave of forcible displacement influenced understandings of, and responses to, displaced girls?
- How can research attend to and include girls affected by forced displacement, migration, and (re)settlement? What are some of the ethical and methodological questions that need to be addressed?
- How has the recent and ongoing global Covid-19 pandemic influenced the experiences and needs of (and responses to) girls affected by forced displacement, migration, and (re)settlement?

Articles may include empirical research, case studies, autoethnographic experiences, may include or focus on artistic representations, or may address theoretical or methodological frameworks related to girls and forced displacement, migration, and (re)settlement. Along with conventional articles, we will also consider visual essays, alternative contributions such as a very short screenplay or piece of fiction, poetry, or lyrics, as well as material produced by girls and young women.

This special issue will be guest edited by Rosemary R. Carlton and Nesa Bandarchian Rashti.

Rosemary R. Carlton (she/her/hers) (ORCID: 0000-0003-0550-0381) is an assistant professor at the School of Social Work, Université de Montréal. She is an active member of Global Child McGill, an interdisciplinary group involved with research on, and with, children and families affected by war and migration in Canada and abroad. Rosemary's extensive years of experience as a social worker influence her scholarly interests in the intersecting areas of girlhood, child protection, child sexual abuse and exploitation, gender-based violence, social work practice, and transformative pedagogies. With a particular focus on qualitative and participatory methods, Rosemary integrates feminist, intersectional, and decolonial perspectives into her research with girls and youth.

Nesa Bandarchian Rashti (she/her/hers) is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Integrated Studies in Education at McGill University. She is also a Research Assistant at the Participatory Cultures Lab where she has worked on various projects related to children, youth, and families affected by war, conflicts, and displacement. In her interdisciplinary PhD research, she uses Participatory Visual and Arts-based methodology to investigate the issues and challenges of adolescent refugee girls and young women after their resettlement in Quebec, Canada.

Article Submission

Abstracts are due by 13 February 2023 and should be sent to: girlsonthemove22@gmail.com

Full manuscripts are due by 17 July 2023. Authors should provide a cover page giving brief biographical details (up to 100 words), institutional affiliation(s), and full contact information, including an email address.

Articles may be no shorter than 6000 and no longer than 6,500 words including the abstract (up to 125 words), keywords (6 to 8 in alphabetical order), notes, captions and tables, acknowledgments, biographical details, and references. Images in a text count for 200 words each. Authors are responsible for securing copyright for any images used.

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