

Monthly Seminar

Anthropology of Children

Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, VU University Amsterdam

Friday 15 April 2011 10.30-12.00

VU University Amsterdam, Metropolitan Building, room Z-113

'She treats me like I'm her own child':

A sociocultural conceptualization of Ghanaian left behind children's emotional experiences of living in a transnational family

Presentation by Miranda Poeze, PhD candidate, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, University of Maastricht

Over the past decades researchers have raised concerns over the negative impacts that parental migration has on the emotional well-being of children left behind in the home country. Most of these studies depart from a Western middle class idea of the family, which emphasizes the nuclear family and physical proximity between the parent and the child. This study moves beyond the universal and ethnocentric conceptualization of caregiving and shows that emotional experiences of Ghanaian left behind children need to be socioculturally contextualized in order to understand the dynamics leading to both negative as well as positive emotions.

Miranda Poeze is a PhD Candidate at the University of Maastricht, the Netherlands, researching Ghanaian transnational parent-child relationships and the impact of host country migration policies. She is part of the Transnational Child Raising Arrangement (TRCA) project in which Ghanaian transnational families are studied by applying mixed-methods in transnational field sites.



Photo: Sandra Evers

The Anthropology of Children Working Group (based at VU University, Amsterdam) brings together academics and practitioners engaged in research and work with children. Through monthly seminars, the Working Group promotes child-oriented theory, methodology, and research ethics. Besides, it serves as a platform for (interdisciplinary) academic research and it enhances dialogue with practitioners through joint research projects, publications and conferences.

Convenor / Dr Sandra J.T.M. Evers, Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, VU University Amsterdam.

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