Le projet « Socio-histoire des gens qui migrent » (soutenu par le FNS) et l'Institut d'Histoire ont le plaisir de vous inviter à la conférence publique / *Keynote Lecture* de

Lauren Stokes

Assistant Professor Northwestern University, Chicago

"Ticking Time Bombs" and Perfect Victims: The Duality of the Child Migrant

La conférence aura lieu
le mercredi 5 octobre, 18h00-19h30
dans le Bâtiment de la FLSH,
Espace Tilo Frey 1, Université de Neuchâtel
(Salle RS 38)

unine
Université de Neuchâtel

Swiss National Science Foundation

Abstract

"A woman protesting the impending deportation of her husband in the 1980s wrote a letter to the German state in the voice of her six-month-old son, for whom the anticipated family separation that "My entire baby existence no longer pleases me!" Her child was growing up in a context where politicians referred to children like themselves as "ticking time bombs" and "invaders" as they sought to devise ways to keep foreign children out. Historians seeking to understand the history of child migration often have to work with sources created by adults, creating unique challenges of interpretation.

This talk draws on examples from the Federal Republic of Germany to consider one challenge specific to the child migrant: specifically, the fact that the child is often represented both as vulnerable and as threatening. Many sources depict children exclusively as victims of the adults around them, while others depict them exclusively as threats to the demographic future of the nation. The talk argues that these two forms of depicting the child migrant are intimately related to each other, and considers ways that historians might use polarized sources to gain a more nuanced picture of the reality of child migration.

Lauren Stokes est spécialisée en histoire allemande et européenne du XXᵉ siècle avec un fort intérêt pour l'histoire des acteurs migrants et l'histoire de la famille. Plus généralement elle a travaillé sur les concepts de race, de gender et sur l'histoire des sexualités. Elle est notamment auteur de "Fear of the Family" (Oxford University Press 2022)

Fear of the Family

GUEST WORKERS AND FAMILY MIGRATION IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

LAUREN STOKES