



## Youth and Conflict

SIS-619-008 Fall 2006

Meets: Tuesdays 8:10 – 10:40 PM, Ward 6

School of International Service

International Peace and Conflict Resolution Program

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### Course Summary:

This course will examine the relationship between youth and conflict. We will start with an exploration of varying definitions of youth as a biological, cultural, and political category. We will discuss youth and children both as victims of conflict and as perpetrators of violence. Other topics include youth and nation, the effect of conflict on educational systems, the special concerns of girls, the efforts of international child protection agencies and NGOs, children's testimonies of violence, and youth-sponsored peace-building activities internationally.

This is an interdisciplinary endeavor. We will move around the world, and back and forth across levels of analysis. Our task is to simultaneously try to understand the experiences of young people caught up in war, the literature on youth and conflict, and to carry out a multi-disciplinary critique of that literature. Throughout, our task will be to uncover the taken-for granted assumptions and subsequent political effects within this field. I reserve the right to add readings as the course progresses.

### Grading:

Your course grade will be based on the following elements:

*Classroom Participation*, including class attendance, participation in class discussions and activities, including in-class written assignments and oral presentations, evidence that you have completed the readings.

*Term Paper* on a topic of your choice related to course readings and discussions. (You must discuss with me your topic choice *at least once at least* a month before the final due date.)

*Final Exam* consisting of several short essays on the main concepts of the course.

**Readings:**

*Books to purchase:*

Boyden, J. and J. de Berry, Eds. (2004). Children and Youth on the Front Line: Ethnography, Armed Conflict and Displacement. Studies in Forced Migration. New York, Oxford, Berghahn Books.

Rosen, David. (2005). Armies of the Young: Child Soldiers in War and Terrorism. Rutgers University Press.

Other readings are available on Blackboard or as library reserves.

**Week 1 (29 August): Introduction.**

An introduction to the course framework and themes, and an introduction of course participants.

Handouts of recent press releases involving youth and conflict in Nepal and in West Africa. What are the assumptions regarding 1) youth/childhood and 2) war/conflict?

**Week 2 (5 September): International humanitarian discourse on youth and conflict.**

*Readings:*

Convention on the Rights of the Child

Machel, G. (1996). Impact of Armed Conflict on Children. New York, United Nations.

Olara Otunno (2003). Report to the Security Council on Children and Armed Conflict

Kuper, J. (2000). "Children in Armed Conflicts: The law and its uses." Development 43(1): 32-39.

**Week 3 (12 September): Critical Youth Theory**

What is a child? A youth? This section addresses the literature on childhood studies.

*Readings:*

Selected Chapters from James, A. and A. Prout, Eds. (1997). Constructing and Reconstructing Childhood: Contemporary Issues in the Sociological Study of Childhood. London, Washington D.C., Falmer Press. Read

Chapter One ("A New Paradigm for the Sociology of Childhood? Provenance, Promise and Problems" by Alan Prout and Allison James),

Chapter Two ("Constructions and Reconstructions of British Childhood: An Interpretive Survey, 1800 to the Present" by Harry Hendrick) and

Chapter Nine ("Childhood and the Policy Makers: A Comparative Perspective on the Globalization of Childhood" by Jo Boyden).

Durham, D. (2000). "Youth and the Social Imagination in Africa: Introduction to Parts 1 and 2." Anthropological Quarterly 73(3): 113-120.

#### **Week 4 (19 September): Youth and Politics**

Sometimes youth participation in violence sees them as dupes of their elders, other times their participation is lauded. Can children have political views?

*Readings:*

Rosen, David. Armies of the Young, Chapters 1 and 2

Twum-Danso, A. (2005). "The Political Child." Invisible Stakeholders: Children and War in Africa. A. McIntyre. Pretoria, Institute for Security Studies.

Liddell, C., J. Kemp, et al. (1993). "The Young Lions: African Children and Youth in Political Struggle." The Psychological Effects of War and Violence on Children. L. A. Leavitt and N. A. Fox. Hillsdale, New Jersey, Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Children and Youth on the Front Lines, Chapter Nine ("Beyond Struggle and Aid: Children's Identities in a Palestinian Refugee Camp" by Jason Hart).

#### **Week 5 (26 September): Youth and Conflict, Causal Connections?**

Youth Bulge, Youth and Unemployment, Youth and education, Youth and HIV/AIDS.

*Readings:*

UNDP (2006). Youth and Violent Conflict: Society and Development in Crisis? (I've put the whole thing on Blackboard, but you only need to read Chapter 2 – "Review of the Literature")

Urdal, H. (2004). The Devil in the Demographics: The Effect of Youth Bulges on Domestic Armed Conflict, 1950-2000, The World Bank.

O'Brien, D. C. (1996). A Lost Generation? Youth Identity and state decay in West Africa. Postcolonial Identities in Africa. R. Werbner and T. Ranger. London, Zed Books Ltd.: 55-74.

El-Kenz, A. (1996). Youth and Violence. Africa Now: people, policies, & institutions. S. Ellis. The Hague, Ministry of Foreign Affairs in association with James Currey.

#### **Week 6 (3 October): Child Soldiers**

What are child soldiers? How do they move in to and out of participation in armed conflict? What about children and DDR?

*Readings:*

Some popular media coverage (will be posted on Blackboard)

Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers reports (will be posted on Blackboard).

Delap, E. (2004). No Place Like Home? Children's experiences of reintegration in the Kailahun District of Sierra Leone. London, Save the Children.

Dickson-Gomez, J. (2003). "Growing Up in Guerrilla Camps: The Long-Term Impact of Being a Child Soldier in El Salvador's Civil War." Ethos 30(4): 327-356.

Utas, M. (2005). *Building a Future? The Reintegration and Remarginalization of Youth in Liberia. No Peace, No War: An Anthropology of Contemporary Armed Conflicts*. P. Richards. Oxford, James Currey.

**Week 7 (10 October): Youth, Trauma, and Healing.**

How do we understand the effects (especially psychological effects) of armed conflict on children and youth?

*Readings:*

- Jensen, P. S. and J. Shaw (1993). "Children as Victims of War: Current Knowledge and Future Research Needs." Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry 32(4): 697-708.
- Richman, N. (1993). "Annotation: Children in Situations of Political Violence." Child Psychology and Psychiatry 34(8): 1286-1302.
- Gibbs, S. (1994). "Post-War Social Reconstruction in Mozambique: Re-framing Children's Experience of Trauma and Healing." Disasters 18(3): 268-276.
- Wessells, M. and C. Monteiro (2000). *Healing Wounds of War in Angola: A community-based approach. Addressing Childhood Adversity*. D. Donald, A. Dawes and J. Louw. Cape Town, David Philip Publishers: 176-201.
- Kline, P. M. and E. Mone (2003). "Coping with War: Three Strategies Employed by Adolescent Citizens of Sierra Leone." Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal 20(5): 321-333.
- Dyregrov, A., L. Gupta, et al. (2002). "Is the Culture Always Right?" Traumatology 8(3): 135-145.

**Week 8 (17 October): A Gender Analysis**

Why are girls and young women so frequently left out of discussion of "youth and conflict"? What can we say about their specific experiences?

*Readings:*

- McKay, S. and D. Mazurana (2004). Where are the Girls? Girls in Fighting Forces in Northern Uganda, Sierra Leone and Mozambique: Their Lives During and After War. Montreal, Rights and Democracy. (Chapters 1 and 2 only).
- Children and Youth on the Front Line,  
Chapter Three ("The Sexual Vulnerability of Adolescent Girls during Civil War in Teso, Uganda" by Joanna de Berry),  
Chapter Four ("A Neglected Perspective: Adolescent Girls' Experiences of the Kosovo Conflict of 1999" by Aisling Swaine with Thomas Feeny) and  
Chapter Six ("Girls with Guns: Narrating the Experience of War of FRELIMO's 'Female Detachment'" by Harry West).
- Naik, A. (2002). "Protecting children from the protectors: lessons from West Africa." Forced Migration Review 15: 16-19.

**Week 9 (24 October): Other effects of war on children: war orphans, separated children, etc.**

What about children and young people who are not direct participants in armed conflict, but who are nonetheless affected by it?

*Readings:*

Chapter One, "Separated Children: Care and Support in Context" by Gillian Mann from Children and Youth on the Front Lines.

Chapter 13, "Peace" from Nordstrom, C. (2004). Shadows of War: Violence, Power, and International Profiteering in the Twenty-First Century. Berkeley, University of California Press.

Leinaweaver, J. (2005). Peru's War Orphans: 1983-2003. Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis Spring Conference, Children and War, Rutgers, NJ.

**Week 10 (31 October): Children in the symbolic mode.**

What are the political uses of the rhetoric(s) of childhood?

*Readings:*

Malkki, Liisa. (Forthcoming.) "Children, Humanity, and the Infantilization of Peace." Ethnos.

Moeller, S. (2002). "A Hierarchy of Innocence: The Media's Use of Children in the Telling of International News." Press/Politics 7(1): 36-56.

Zahedi, Ashraf. (2005). Ideology of Martyrdom and Martyr's Children of the Iran-Iraq War. Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis Spring Conference, Children and War, Rutgers, NJ.

**Week 11 (7 November): Critiques of child rights**

YOU MUST HAVE MET WITH ME AT LEAST ONCE BY THE END OF THIS WEEK TO DISCUSS YOUR TERM PAPER TOPIC.

*Readings:*

Rosen, Chapter Five, "The Politics of Age"

Pupavac, V. (2001). "Misanthropy without Borders: The International Children's Rights Regime." Disasters 25(2): 95-112.

Shepler, S. (2005). "The Rites of the Child: Global Discourses of Youth and Reintegrating Child Soldiers in Sierra Leone." The Journal of Human Rights 4(2).

**Week 12 (14 November): Research Methods and Ethics in Youth and Conflict, Children's Voices**

*Readings:*

Children and Youth on the Front Lines, Chapter Twelve ("Anthropology Under Fire: Ethics, Researchers and Children in War" by Jo Boyden)

Lowicki, J. (2002). "Beyond Consultation: in support of more meaningful adolescent participation." Forced Migration Review 15: 33-35.

Mann, G. and D. Tolfree (2003). Children's Participation in Research: Reflections from the Care and Protection of Separated Children in Emergencies Project. Stockholm, Save the Children, Sweden.

**Week 13 (28 November): Current Trends in Programming for Children Affected by War**

Guest presentation from Search for Common Ground Youth Program (either Jaime Alvis or Randolph Carter, or both.)

*Readings:*

Hart, J. (2004). Children's Participation in Humanitarian Action: Learning from zones of armed conflict. Oxford, University of Oxford, Refugee Studies Centre.

USAID (2004) Youth and Conflict: A Toolkit for Intervention

**Week 14 (5 December): Summing Up**

TERM PAPERS DUE.

Each student will have five minutes to present their paper topic and conclusions to the class.

Review of course themes, debates. Conclusions?

**FINAL EXAM** – 12 December