



TRANSNATIONAL PARENTHOOD AND CHILDREN-LEFT-BEHIND

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PRIO International Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO)



UNIVERSITY OF OSLO

Department of Social Anthropology, University of Oslo

Many international migrants are parents who have left without their children. In some countries of emigration, there is an established tradition of fostering and a view that temporary separation of children from their biological parents is not a bad thing. In other countries, there is widespread concern that current emigration of parents is a serious threat to the well-being of a generation of children.

Research on transnational parenthood and children-left-behind has developed rapidly in recent years. The International Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO) and the Department of Social Anthropology at the University of Oslo are hosting a workshop that seeks to bring together international expertise in the field in order to identify commonalities and differences

in research findings, explore implications for policy, and identify areas of priority for future research. Questions that could be addressed include the following: How do international migrants practice parenting from a distance? How are care arrangements for children organized? How do children of migrants experience the separation from their mother or father? How are relations between biological parents and those who care for the children negotiated? How are perspectives of children-left-behind integrated in debates on migration and development?

The workshop is convened by Jørgen Carling, Senior Researcher at PRIO, and Cecilie Øien, Researcher at the University of Oslo, in connection with the project *Informal Child Migration in Europe*, funded by the Research Council of Norway.

Proposals for presentations (based on new papers or recent publications) are invited from social-science researchers who are doing research on transnational parenthood and children-left-behind. In order to facilitate discussion, the workshop will have a board-room format with a restricted number of participants. The organizers will cover board and lodging in Oslo for all participants, and can cover airfare for participants who do not have alternative funding. Abstracts of 150-250 words should be submitted by **Monday 1 September 2008**. Selection of participants will be based on the relevance and quality of abstracts, within the limits of the workshop budget. Participants will be notified by 15 September. Papers from selected participants are due by 13 November and will be circulated before the workshop. See www.prio.no/migration for details on the registration of proposals.