Summer 2017 / Compilation of Children Born of War (CBOW) Scholarly Research

Research databases: Google Scholar; Google Scholar French; Google; JSTOR; Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals; Journal of Adolescent Research; Childhood Studies; HeinOnline, International Journal of Human Rights, Human Rights Quarterly, Journal of Child Psychology; Osgoode Law Journal; Social Change Review; Sociology; Third World Quarterly; Development in Practice; Global Studies of Childhood; Journal of Interpersonal Violence; Historical Social Research.

Bibliography Citation Style: The following bibliography has been compiled using the American Psychological Association (APA) citation style published on York University Libraries in reverse chronological order. In addition, the list of works is alphabetized where more than reference is published in the same year.

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August 2017
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Overview/historical perspectives on CBOW


[Bangladesh celebrates its birth on 16 December 1971 – now celebrated as Victory Day, a day of reminiscence for citizens of the new nation. But many memories are troubling, especially those of the ‘war babies’ – children born during or after the War of Liberation, as a result of the often-planned and systematic rape of Bangladeshi women.]


[This article conceptualizes Second World War children of German soldiers and native women in Norway as ‘border children’, who became symbolic bearers of deep societal conflicts. The authors demonstrate that this position had painful consequences in the personal experiences of the children, experiences that were shared with war children in other occupied countries in Europe. Being a ‘border child’ is discussed in relation to three topics: (1) the construction of a national narrative expressing the collective memory of war and occupation; (2) the cultural pattern making the sexuality of women national property; and (3) the transformation of social and political conflicts into biological and medical terms and categories.]


[Between 12,000 and 15,000 children are estimated to have been born as a result of liaisons between German soldiers and Dutch women during the German wartime occupation of the Netherlands after 1940. This article investigates the historical context of the relationships, between local women and German soldiers and examines the fate of the children born of these relationships in post-war Netherlands.]


[This article summarizes the achievements obtained so far focusing on the following questions: How was the conceptual framework developed to analyze CBOW]
interdisciplinary and internationally? How was the empirical evidence base on CBOW expanded and consolidated? What are the results obtained so far? The article concludes that developing new research programs is a cumbersome and challenging process as basic components of the research field do not exist a priori.


[This paper will give an overview of one facet of the large research field of children born of war, namely children fathered by foreign soldiers and local mothers in different European countries during and after the Second World War.]


[As in every other war, during and after WWII children were born whose parents belonged to opposite sides of the conflict. Being the child of the “enemy” or of occupation forces, be they friendly or adversarial, has influenced the lives of the children born of war and occupation up until now. Many have been exposed to stigmatisation and discrimination]


[In this paper experiences of Danish children born of war will be analyzed. The question is to what extent the biological background as a child fathered by a German soldier has been of importance for the child’s life course. Firstly, the military context of the occupation will be summarized. Thereafter, information on the Danish women who had relationships with German soldiers will be presented as well as their position within Danish society during and after World War II. This is important in order to understand which options the fraternizing women had, in particular when pregnant or mother of a child born of war. Finally, the situation and experiences of the children of German soldiers and local Danish women during the occupation of Denmark will be discussed. In summary, the results indicate a differentiated picture of this group, both in relation to experiences and life situation as well as with regard to attitudes towards their own biological origin and the impact this has had on their life course.]


[In their home countries, they were frowned upon as Germans and were expelled from society together with their mothers. In Germany hardly anyone heard of them - of the hundreds of thousands of children who were born by German soldiers in the areas
occupied by Nazi Germany during World War II. Today these children are between 60 and 65 years old and look with mixed feelings at the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. On the one hand, many of them feel closely linked to their home country; on the other hand, many have been communicated from their birth in their community and society that they are undesirable.


[Interview with Jonathan Torgovnik about his work around sexual violence during the Rwandan genocide and children born of rape.]


Belonging and identity


[This study explores the circumstances under which these CBOW in Uganda were conceived and what happened to them when they left the LRA and joined their mothers’ natal families and communities. Moreover, it explores related fields – such as ideas and practices of kinship and gender - influencing the treatment of children conceived in the LRA.]


[This case study is an investigation into how accommodative the integration processes are for children born in the enclaves of the LRA fighters upon return to the local communities of the Acholi people in Gulu Municipality. It attempts to identify the experiences both physically and psychologically, which affects the integration of such children by responding to the following hypotheses: The Length of confinement in conflict situation has no implication on the psychosocial status of children. The unconditional acceptance of children born of the LRA will foster their integration into families and communities.]

[This chapter explores the stigma associated with being a CBOW in Sierra Leone. Interviews with mothers of CBOW shine light on the needs of these children. The chapter also looks at factors that exacerbate and alleviate pressures for CBOW in their peacetime lives.]


[The chapter deals with the stigma, discrimination and infanticide common to children born of war in various countries. It explores the distinct vulnerabilities of CBOW in the context of conflict, and looks at how understandings of gender and ethnicity factor into these vulnerabilities.]

http://people.umass.edu/charli/childrenbornofwar/Daniel-WP.pdf

[This chapter examines the societal response to children born of war rape in Bosnia-Herzegovina, during and after the mass rape campaigns of the early 1990s. After the disintegration of Yugoslavia in the early 1990s, many children, conceived in mass rape campaigns, were born to mothers who did not want them (Williams, 1993; Horvath, 1993). Like thousands of other children of forced pregnancy worldwide, orphans of war rape in the Balkans are often viewed as children ‘of the enemy.’ Local and international actors contest their ethnic identities and citizenship rights: consequently, their rights to education, family, identity and in some cases physical security have been severely curtailed.]

https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260517708407

[This study sought to explore the realities and perspectives of children born of genocidal rape, and the existing opportunities and challenges they experienced in post-genocide Rwanda. Interviews and focus groups were conducted with 60 participants born of genocidal rape in Rwanda. Findings highlight the key challenges that these youth face in the post-genocide context, including struggles with identity and belonging, ambivalence in the mother–child relationship, and a desire to learn of their biological origins and heritage.]

[Children born of war rapes continue to be a marginalized political, media and academic topic in Bosnian and other post-war societies. The goal of this article is to contribute to the research that deals with the life situations of children born of war rape, and to show the usefulness of an analysis of metaphors when a specific topic is emotionally difficult to talk about. The metaphor analysis of life stories of 19 adolescents — all Bosniak girls — born of war rapes in Bosnia and Herzegovina shows that metaphorical language provides abused girls with the only way to express their painful situations. The authors identify three main uses of metaphors as discursive strategies]


[The intention of this report is to bring attention to those children who have each of their parents on different sides of the frontlines or who’s parents give them a stigma when they grow up. These children’s suffering often starts after the war has formally ended. Every war sees children born as a result of contact between local women and soldiers. The soldier might be seen as an enemy – or an allied. The post world war history of Europe has shown that the problems of these children are often similar. Two groups of “children” (they are not longer kids) have been vocal in raising the issue. The first is the group of children born of American and Canadian soldiers in England and the Netherlands. The other group is the Norwegian children of German soldiers. The two groups are similar. Both groups met discrimination and were stigmatised.]


[Sexual violence has been used as a weapon of war in ethnic conflicts, and forced impregnations have been central to this strategy. Scholars however disagree on whether the cultural assimilation to the maternal group influences these children's identities, or whether they are perceived as belonging to the enemy group (Carpenter; Nikolic-Ristanovic). Drawing on preliminary qualitative findings collected in 2013 in Rwanda and Bosnia-Herzegovina, this paper analyses the ethnic identification imposed by the enemy group, the mothers and their community on the children born out of rape.]

[Donna Seto investigates why children born of wartime sexual violence are rarely included in post-conflict processes of reconciliation and recovery. The focus on children born of wartime sexual violence questions the framework of understanding war and recognizes that certain individuals are often forgotten or neglected. This book considers how children are neglected sites for the reproduction of global norms.]


Social, psychological and physical wellbeing of CBOW


[This paper examines the realities and perspectives of a sample of 60 children born of wartime rape within the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), and currently living in northern Uganda. These children were born to mothers who were abducted by the LRA, held captive for extended periods of time, repeatedly raped and impregnated. The paper explores the multiple challenges that these children face in the post-war period including, rejection, stigma, violence, socio-economic marginalization, and issues of identity and belonging. Participants underscored the profound violence and deprivation that they experienced while in LRA captivity. However, because of post-war marginalization, participants individually and collectively articulated that wartime was better than peacetime. Multiple systems of support are needed to ensure the rights and protection of these children and importantly, to address and reverse young people's perceptions that "war is better than peace"]


[Images of German soldiers raping Frenchwomen became an important element in French nationalism and propaganda during the 1914-15 period of World War I. These images were useful for evoking the idea that Germany was in effect attempting to rape an innocent, peace-loving France. Moreover, fears that the rapes would produce a new invasion of German-sired bastards compounded French anxieties. In a complex way, the emphasis on how these women had suffered served to allay these anxieties. However, the rape stories were too closely linked with the war's early years to have a lasting impact.]


[Sexual violence and exploitation are endemic in war-affected regions, and children are often produced as a result. It has been estimated that tens of thousands of children have resulted from mass rape campaigns or sexual exploitation during times of war in the last decade alone. Born of war, these children are deeply affected by the social upheavals that brought about their conception, as well as their treatment by society on the basis of their biological origins.]


[The Dust of Life is a collection of vivid and devastating oral histories of Vietnamese Americans. Abandoned during the war by their American fathers, discriminated against by the victorious Communists, and ignored for many years by the American government, they endured life in impoverished Vietnam. Their stories are sad, sometimes tragic, but they are also testimonials to the strength of human resiliency.]


Ethical and methodological challenges around doing research with CBOW


[In this memo, Mochmann asks who is responsible for documentation and registration of children and their biological parents. And how does the collection of this data affect the stigmatization of children born of war?]


[During and after wars children are born where the father is a member of an occupation or peacekeeping force and the mother a local citizen. Securing the human rights of children born of war is often highly complex and involves researchers and practitioners from different disciplines. The Compram methodology on handling complex societal problems will be applied to analyse whether the methodology is suitable on this group of war-affected children. The Compram methodology is a multi disciplined, multi level, multi actor methodology based on the theory of societal complexity. The methodology gives guidelines to handle real life complex societal problems.]


Simonsen, E. (2006). Into the open - or hidden away? The construction of war

[After World War II two groups of children fathered by foreign soldiers were assigned special political functions in the building of a future peaceful Europe. In Norway, the children of German soldiers and Norwegian women and in West Germany, the children of African-American soldiers and German women were constructed as specific categories to be handled in certain ways by state authorities. The Norwegian government, after heated debates, decided that the children were allowed to stay and to be silently and discreetly assimilated into society. In West Germany however, the children begotten to African-Americans came to serve as objects in a national public campaign for international recognition as a democratic state. The two cases demonstrate how social politics for children may serve political purposes, rather than being in the interest of the child.]


[Children born of wartime rape are particularly vulnerable and their case is complex as their needs intertwine with the needs of their mothers or their cultural community. To analyse the status of children born of rape and identify both risk factors and key issues, a systematic search among medical and psychological research articles was performed. In addition, historical, sociological and human rights literature was explored. Risk factors for the wellbeing of children born of rape are: pregnancy and delivery; poor parent-child relationships; discrimination and stigmatization; and identity issues. Three key issues which should direct research and clinical practice are formulated: perceiving children born of rape as secondary rape victims; the existence of multiple perpetrators; and competing rights and interests. To assist children born of rape, clinicians, as well as researchers, are confronted with the challenge to develop a comprehensive perspective that considers the needs and rights of both children and mothers.]

Responsibility, accountability and human rights for CBOW


[This study was undertaken to unearth the experiences of children born in conflict situation in Northern Uganda between 1990 and 2003, with a special focus on children born of the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA). The research aimed to assess the impact of captivity on these children and to evaluate whether programming to reintegrate children from the LRA into Ugandan society is effectively addressing the particular needs of these children.]

Baldi, G. (March 2004). Sierra Leone war babies: International invisibility, country-

[Children born as a result of war are entitled to the same rights as other children, outlined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Therefore, this paper argues that key actors at country level and within the international community must monitor and address the specific social and institutional barriers to such rights faced by these children.]


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*[Born of War reveals the multiple impacts of armed conflict on children born of wartime rape and sexual exploitation—and calls for greater consideration of this group in international human rights discourse and practice, where their experiences have been largely ignored.]*


[R. Charli Carpenter, an affiliated faculty member of the Ford Institute for Human Security, makes several recommendations to the international organizations engaged in the protection of war-affected children. She suggests undertaking a multi-country study to report on victims of wartime rape and their children born as a result, providing assistance to survivors of gender-based violence and new mothers in conflict zones, as well as ensuring that children in this category are not falling through the cracks of existing programs. Dr. Carpenter also proposes that awareness of the issue should be raised within]
the context of advocacy of children’s human rights without exposing specific children through the programming initiatives designed to reach them.]


[Carpenter asks: First, why did the vulnerabilities of children born of wartime rape come relatively late to the radar screen of organizations concerned with child protection in conflict zones? Second, why do child rights advocates concerned for child protection in conflict zones balk at more aggressively advocating for the human rights of children born of rape, considering their unique vulnerabilities? Third, why has this concern taken the particular form that it has when it has been raised? That is, why has it tended to be situated under the umbrella issue of sexual violence rather than the umbrella issue of child protection, and why are these viewed as competing rather than complementary frames?]


[Generally, we found that humanitarian practitioners agreed that children born of wartime rape and exploitation are appropriately understood as particularly vulnerable in conflict-affected areas. The conversations echoed much of what is known anecdotally about the risks faced by children born of war. In particular, participants in the consultations discussed these children’s vulnerability to social exclusion and stigma from the societies into which they are born. This underlying risk factor is described as being connected to other sets of vulnerabilities: physical and psycho-social health, access to resources, risk of separation, abuse or neglect by caretakers, and early childhood mortality, including as a result of infanticide.]


Goodhart, M. (2007). Sins of the fathers. War rape, wrongful procreation, and

[This essay considers the contentious and practically important question of whether children born of war rape and forced impregnation can and should be conceived as having their human rights violated by their rapist-fathers. It takes up both conceptual issues and pragmatic considerations related to this important question. I argue that the conceptual obstacles to talking about rapist-fathers violating the human rights of their children can be overcome and that we can usefully conceive the wrong done by them as wrongful procreation, a violation of a child's right to enjoy rights. Moreover, I argue that recognizing these rights and wrongs is urgently necessary and can have a positive practical effect on the lives of war-rape children.]


[In this paper, Harris Rimmer argues that status of the mothers socially and legally, as it impacts on the well-being and ability of the children to claim their rights, needs to be more fully addressed in transitional justice debates. Within Timor, there is a definite ambivalence about the idea of these women as contributors to independence during the occupation, and discomfiture regarding their status as so-called “wives” of Indonesian military.]


[This paper addresses the human rights of 'children born of war' as measured against the standards formulated in the Convention of the Right of the Child. Taking five 20th century cases studies, which cover different conflict and post-conflict situations in diverse geographical regions, the paper concludes despite greater awareness of children's...]

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rights as evident in their codification throughout the 20th century, there has been no noticeable improvement in the application of these rights to children born of war.]


[This article places the focus upon ‘war babies’ by considering the reasons for their current marginalization as a category in international discourse. In addition to examining such marginalization within existing theoretical analyses, this article also analyses the potential for their incorporation within the wider rights framework: first, in terms of international legal practice and; second, in terms of the actions of civil society.]