Monthly Seminar

Anthropology of Children and Youth Network

Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, VU University Amsterdam

Monday 14 October 2013 10.30-12.00
VU University Amsterdam, Metropolitan Building, room Z-113

Life in a Syrian refugee camp in Kurdistan Northern Iraq: Developing education for children out of school

Cilel Smith, Senior lecturer University of Northampton
Andy Somers, Executive head teacher of Hartsdown Academy

The majority of the approximately 2 million Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries are children. This presentation offers a ‘snapshot’ of the Syrian refugee children’s experiences, their journey, life and education in the camp in Kurdistan Northern Iraq. It discusses the importance of structure and a form of ‘normality’ in a world of chaos. Smith and Somers will offer insights into their experiences and the complexities of setting up a Kurdistan registered school in the Domiz camp. They recruited and trained 95 Syrian refugee teachers while using the My New School board game as a tool for closing the gap in learning for children out of school. The presentation will include video footage of the camp, interviews with teachers, families and children and a presentation of the photographs that children took of their life in a refugee camp.

The Anthropology of Children and Youth Network (based at VU University, Amsterdam) brings together academics and practitioners engaged in research and work with children. Through monthly seminars, the Network 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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