



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



***Childhood in the Camps* - ESRC DTP Collaborative Studentship in the Midlands Graduate School**

University of Birmingham, the Flying Seagull Project, and University of Nottingham

The Midlands Graduate School is an accredited Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP), with the first intake of students to begin in October 2017.

One of 14 such partnerships in the UK, the Midlands Graduate School is a collaboration between the University of Warwick, Aston University, University of Birmingham, University of Leicester, Loughborough University and the University of Nottingham.

The University of Birmingham as part of the Midlands Graduate School is now inviting applications for an ESRC Doctoral Studentship in association with our collaborative partner the *Flying Seagull Project* <http://www.theflyingseagullproject.com> and academic partner the University of Nottingham to commence in October 2017. The supervisory team is led by Professor Deborah Youdell, University of Birmingham and includes Ash Perrin, Flying Seagull Project; Professor Patricia Thomson, University of Nottingham; and Dr Nando Sigona, University of Birmingham.

Childhood in the camps: investigating the provision and effects of play-based interventions for displaced children living in refugee camps explores the pressing question of how to understand and attend to the wellbeing of children living in refugee camps. It works in collaboration with specialist children's circus charity, the Flying Seagull Project, which undertakes sustained circus and play-work with children living in refugee camps in Europe. The student will undertake participant ethnography of interventions for children living in refugee camps offered by the Flying Seagull Project, generating nuanced accounts of how play, laughter and care relations within arts education can contribute to children's current and future wellbeing. The student will be based primarily at the University of Birmingham during years 1 and 4, with some time spent with the Flying Seagull Project. A substantial amount of years 2 and 3 will be spent in Europe working with the Flying Seagull Project in refugee camps and other settings. The research has the potential to provide much-needed insight into play-based work in trauma contexts and show how the effects of such interventions might go beyond individuals to create new forms of the social through the production of empathy, understanding, reciprocity, joy, and laughter.

The successful applicant will need:

Essential:

1. a good first degree (2.1 or above) in sociology, anthropology, education or related area
2. an understanding of the needs/experiences of displaced people, particularly children living in refugee camps
3. an understanding of arts/play-based education

Desirable:

1. experience of delivering play/arts/circus for children
2. experience of working with child refugees/children who have experienced trauma
3. a higher degree in sociology, migration and refugee studies or similar.

Additional information [regarding the project can be found here](#).

Application Process

To be considered for this PhD studentship, please complete the Collaborative Studentship application form [available online here](#) and along with two references email this to d.youdell@bham.ac.uk.

Application deadline: Monday 13th February 2017

Midlands Graduate School ESRC DTP

Our ESRC studentships cover fees and maintenance stipend and extensive support for research training, as well as research activity support grants. Support is available only to successful applicants who fulfil eligibility criteria. To check your eligibility, visit:

http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross_fac/mgsdtp/studentships/eligibility/

Informal enquiries about the research or the School of Education, University of Birmingham prior to application can be directed to Professor Deborah Youdell at d.youdell@bham.ac.uk.