

Children's Testimonies: Unlocking Historical and Art Historical Archives

Conference Program
28–30 October 2026

Concept by Birgit Münch & Claudia Jarzebowski

Keynotes:

Day 1. 18:30 by Rebecca Swartz

Day 2. 18:30 by Antonia Cox and Anja Tuckermann

Day 3. 17:00 by Sanaz Starcic

IMPULSE, Adenauerallee 131, 53113 Bonn

DAY 1	Wednesday – 28 th October
17:15-17:45	Welcome & Introduction to the Conference Opening Talk by Claudia Jarzebowski & Birgit Münch
17:45-18:30	Informal Get-Together
18:30-19:30	Keynote: Book talk with Rebecca Swartz on her book: <i>Children and Freedom in the Cape Colony: Age, Labour and Apprenticeship in the Post-Emancipation British Empire</i> (2026) - Moderated by Eva Lehner
19:30-21:45	Welcome Reception & Aperitif followed by Buffet at Impulse

DAY 2	Thursday – 29 th October
10:00-10:45	<i>Embodied Childhood: Bioarchaeological and Biomolecular Perspectives on Children's Historical Experience.</i> By Alice Toso (Bonn Center for ArchaeoSciences (BoCAS))
10:45-11:00	Coffee Break
11:00-11:45	<i>Growing Up in the Royal Household: Dependency and Intimacy in the Life of Aziz al-Sultan.</i> By Zeinab Akbari (Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies (BCDSS))
11:50-12:35	<i>Using Violent Sources of Knowledge about the Lives of Enslaved Children in British Archives to Write a History of Dependency in Slavery.</i> By Joseph Biggerstaff (Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies (BCDSS))
12:35-13:30	Lunch
13:30-14:15	<i>Wehe gethan – Child Victims and Child Perpetrators of Sexual Violence in Early Modern Courtrooms.</i> By Chiara-Marie Hauser (University of Vienna)
14:15-15:00	<i>Children's drawings and the UNESCO-Memory of the World project.</i> By Jutta Ströter-Bender (Paderborn University)
15:00-15:30	Coffee Break
15:30-16:15	<i>Beyond the "Train of the Privileged": Child and Adolescent Testimonies from the Kasztner Rescue Operation.</i> By Dóra Patáricza (University of Jewish Studies)

DAY 2	Thursday – 29 th October
16:15-17:00	<i>Children's Drawings as Sources for Studying War Violence: First Recollections of the Second World War by Polish Children.</i> By Maria Buko (University of Konstanz)
17:00-17:15	Short Break
17:15-18:00	<i>Voices of Displaced Childhoods: Testimonies from Border Contexts after 1945.</i> By Matteo Luin (University of Padua)
18:30-20:00	Keynote: <i>CHILDREN'S LETTERS AS TESTIMONIES OF DISRUPTION, HOPE, AND LIVED HISTORY? An interdisciplinary discussion on 'Children's letters from Exile' (1939) by Edgar Feuchtwanger (1924-2025) with his daughter Antonia Cox and publisher Anja Tuckermann moderated by Claudia Jarzebowski</i>
20:00-21:30	Dinner Reception
DAY 3	Friday – 30 th October
10:00-10:45	<i>Listening to the Lake: Children's Testimonies and Historical Experience on Lake Volta in Twentieth-Century Ghana.</i> By Anita Pobi (Independent Researcher)
10:45-11:30	<i>Knowing-with: Expanding Children's Testimony through Intergenerational Memory and Counter-Archival Practice.</i> By Abigail Salole (Toronto Metropolitan University)
11:30-12:15	<i>Testimonies of Children and Youth who Survived the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda.</i> By Musa Olaka (Ohio State University)
12:15-13:30	Lunch
13:30-14:15	<i>Child as Witness / Witnessing the Child – Trauma, Attachment, and the Self in Rwanda Genocide Memoirs.</i> By Katarzyna Macedulska (Adam Mickiewicz University)
14:15-15:00	<i>When Testimony Becomes Evidence: Ukrainian Children's War Drawings in Legal and Archival Contexts.</i> By Canaan Estes and Ulia Gosart (Brown University)
15:00-15:30	Coffee Break
15:30-16:15	<i>Between Witness and Victim: Children's Testimonies in Trials for Crimes against Humanity.</i> By Mariana Eva Perez (Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas / National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET))
16:15-16:45	Concluding Discussion
17:00-17:45	Keynote and Closure: <i>Into the deep deep blue – film narratives of childhood trauma, prostitution, and motherhood.</i> By Sanaz Starcic (Filmmaker & Independent Researcher – Kunststiftung NRW) moderated by Birgit Münch
18:30	Dinner