

Children's Testimonies: Unlocking Historical and Art Historical Archives

Conference Program
28-30 October 2026

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
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17:00–18:00	Welcome & Introduction to the Conference Opening Talk by Claudia Jarzebowski & Birgit Münch
18:00–18:30	Introduction to the Conference Themes & Program, practical information
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
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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>Young People’s Testimonies about Violence at Work in England, c. 1600–1800.</i> By Hillary Taylor (University of Cambridge)
12:35–13:30	Lunch
13:30–14:15	<i>Wehe gethan</i> – Child Victims and Child Perpetrators of Sexual Violence in Early Modern Courtrooms. By Chiara-Marie Hauser (University of Vienna)
14:15–15:00	<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))
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 Patarcza (University of Jewish Studies)

DAY 2	Thursday – 29 th October
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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
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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))
16:15–17:00	<i>Children’s drawings and the UNESCO–Memory of the World project.</i> By Jutta Ströter-Bender (Paderborn University)
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