



Network Open Day



At the 3rd International Conference *Children and War: Past and Present*
13 July – 15 July 2016



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 642571

Present

Academic Leads

Sabine Lee – University of Birmingham, UK
Heide Glaesmer, University of Leipzig, Germany
Barbara Stelzl-Marx, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Research on
Consequences of War, Austria
Maren Röger, University of Augsburg, Germany

Early Stage Researchers

Lukas Schretter, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Research on
Consequences of War, Austria
Jakub Gałęziowski, University of Augsburg, Germany
Oskars Gruzīņš, University of Latvia, Latvia
Amra Delic, University of Greifswald, Germany
Saskia Mitreuter, University of Leipzig, Germany
Kanao Kuramitsu, University of Birmingham, UK
Eva Käufer, University of Rouen, France
Sophie Roupetz, University of Leipzig, Germany
Kimberley Anderson, Psychotrauma Centre South Netherlands
Eleanor Seymour, University of Birmingham, UK
Boniface Ojok, University of Birmingham, UK
Christian Pipal, University of Klaipeda, Lithuania
Michal Korhel, University Usti Nad Labem, Czech Republic
Lisa Haberkern, University of Slaski Katowice, Poland
Nastassia Sersté, University of Rouen, France

Visiting expert Panelists

Marie Kaiser, University of Leipzig, Germany
Allen Kiconco, Kampala, Uganda
Eithne Dowds, Queen's University Belfast, UK
Philipp Rohrbach, Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies,
Austria

CHIBOW events

Thursday 14th July

CHIBOW panel 1:

Children born of war - an international research and training initiative (I): History and Law

Poster session of ITN Early Stage Researchers

CHIBOW panel 2:

Children born of war - an international research and training initiative (II): Psychology

Friday 15th July:

CHIBOW panel 3:

Children born of war – an international research and training initiative (III): History and Memory

CHIBOW panel 1:

Children born of war - an international research and training initiative (I): History and Law

Chair: Sabine Lee (University of Birmingham, UK)

Eithne Dowds (Queen's University Belfast, UK)

Redress for Mothers and Children Born of Sexual Violence: Possibilities at the International Criminal Court



Over the past two decades, feminist scholars have made significant inroads into the normative content of the international criminal law related to sexual violence in situations of conflict or mass violence. While there is a wealth of literature on sexual violence perpetrated in such contexts, it is only very recently that children born as a result of this violence have become a topic

on the international human rights and international criminal law agenda.

*This article considers whether the International Criminal Court has the capacity to provide accountability and redress for both mothers and children born of sexual violence in situations of conflict and mass violence. In exploring the crimes codified in the Rome Statute, it is argued that accountability for mother and child would have to be pursued through the mother and the original crime perpetrated against her. However, the International Criminal Courts reparations mandate provides the avenue through which both mother and child may be recognised as victims and allows for a more expansive and inclusive form of accountability. As such, it is argued that the International Criminal Court must specifically recognise and address the needs of mothers and children born as a result of the sexual violence in its forthcoming judgment on reparations in the case of *The Prosecutor v. Jean- Pierre Bemba Gombo*.*

Allen Kiconco (Kampala, Uganda)

Reintegration and livelihoods: Experiences of former girl abductees in postconflict Acholi region

Livelihood is another great reintegration priority and challenge for former child soldiers. Save for a few studies, exploring the impact of life in captivity on livelihoods following reinsertion into the communities is still scant. With livelihood strategies undergoing a significant change in post conflict northern Uganda, this presentation will analyse their long term effect(s) on former girl abductees. It will be based on the qualitative research conducted on 57 formerly abducted young women in Acholi. As adolescents, they were abducted by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) to

fight in northern Uganda and Sudan. Many returned to their villages with children fathered by the LRA fighters. The war and life in captivity reduced their human capital in form of education and health. Back in their villages, as young adults, this deficit affects their livelihood options and



subsequent economic reintegration. The discussion will show that although most youth in rural areas of Acholi face a livelihood dilemma, it is more challenging for formerly abducted girls and their children born in captivity.

Kanako Kuramitsu (University of Birmingham, UK – CHIBOW ESR)
 Forgotten Voices of Children Born of War during the Sino-Japanese War (1937-1945) and in the Immediate Post-War Period



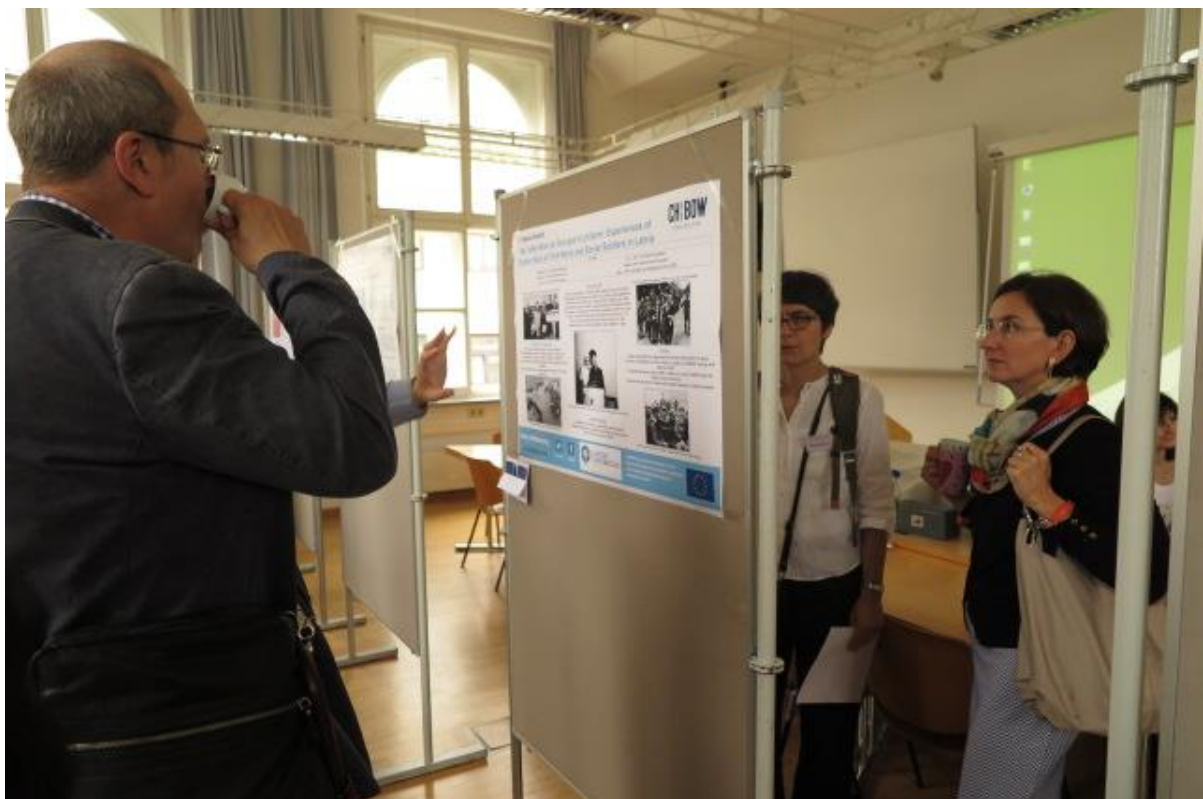
It is a largely undocumented fact that, while millions of lives were lost during the Second Sino-Japanese War (hereinafter Sino-Japanese War), some children were born of Chinese mothers and Japanese fathers. These children are referred to as Sino-Japanese children born of war (hereinafter Sino-Japanese CBOW). Some of them were born as a result of sexual violence

committed by the Imperial Japanese Army, while others were born following consensual intimate relationships. The Sino-Japanese CBOW have received little scholarly attention so far. Their existence has been overshadowed by studies on more numerous war affected children and youth born to Japanese parents – “stranded war orphans” (chūgoku zanryū koji) and “stranded war women” (chūgoku zanryū fujin) – who fled Manchuria as refugees when the Soviet Union declared war on Japan on 9 August 1945 and who remained in post-war China for various involuntary reasons. The life course of many stranded war orphans and women, as well as the Sino-Japanese CBOW intersected when they could finally visit or migrate to Japan after the normalization of Sino-

Japanese relations in 1972. This was because the necessary procedures for them to go to Japan and to acquire Japanese nationality were handled by the same individuals and groups. I therefore embarked on this research by identifying potential informants through these groups that have been offering support to repatriated stranded war orphans and women. So far, I have conducted in-depth interviews with three Sino-Japanese CBOW who were born between 1942 and 1953. This presentation will discuss how Sino-Japanese CBOW are defined in this research project, the sources and methodology as well as the initial findings of these interviews. It will also explore why the existence and voices of Sino-Japanese CBOW have been largely neglected by researchers for more than seventy years after the end of the war.

Sabine Lee (University of Birmingham, UK)

Children born of war: Past, present and future – a Horizon 2020 Innovative Training Network. An introduction of the poster session



Poster session of ITN Early Stage Researchers

Poster titles and authors

Questions of Identity in German Occupation Children **by Saskia Mitreuter, UL**

Six Cows and a Goat: The complications of Bridewealth in Northern Uganda **by Eleanor Seymour, UoB**

Forgotten Voices of Children Born of War during and after the Sino-Japanese War (1937 – 1945) **by Kanako Kuramitsu**

Long-term effects of children born of rape in occupied Germany and Austria **by Sophie Roupetz**

Borderland Children: Children born of mixed Czech-German relationships in Czech society after the Second World War **by Michal Korhel**

Education and (re) integration of Children Born of War: The case of the Lord's Resistance Army in Northern Uganda **by Boniface Ojok**

My Father Wore an Occupier's Uniform: Experiences of Children Born of Third Reich and Soviet Soldiers in Latvia **by Oskars Gruziņš**

Children of the Occupation in Lithuania: A Historical Analysis of Citizenship Development **by Christian Pipal**

Children fathered by British Soldiers in Austria and Germany after World War II **by Lukas Schretter**

Children Born of the Indochina War (1946 – 1954) **by Eva Käuper**

Developing a treatment for Refugee Mothers and their children born of sexual violence **by Kimberley Anderson**

Children born of war in Poland **by Jakub Gałęziowski**

Children born of the Vietnam War in Europe **by Nastassia Sersté**

Being Volksdeutsch in Poland: Volksdeutsch children in Upper Silesia after WWII – an archive based Oral History study on family and memory in Upper Silesia **by Lisa Haberkern**

Poster presentation gallery



ESRs Eleanor Seymour and Boniface Ojok discuss their posters



ESR Eleanor Seymour with her poster (top)



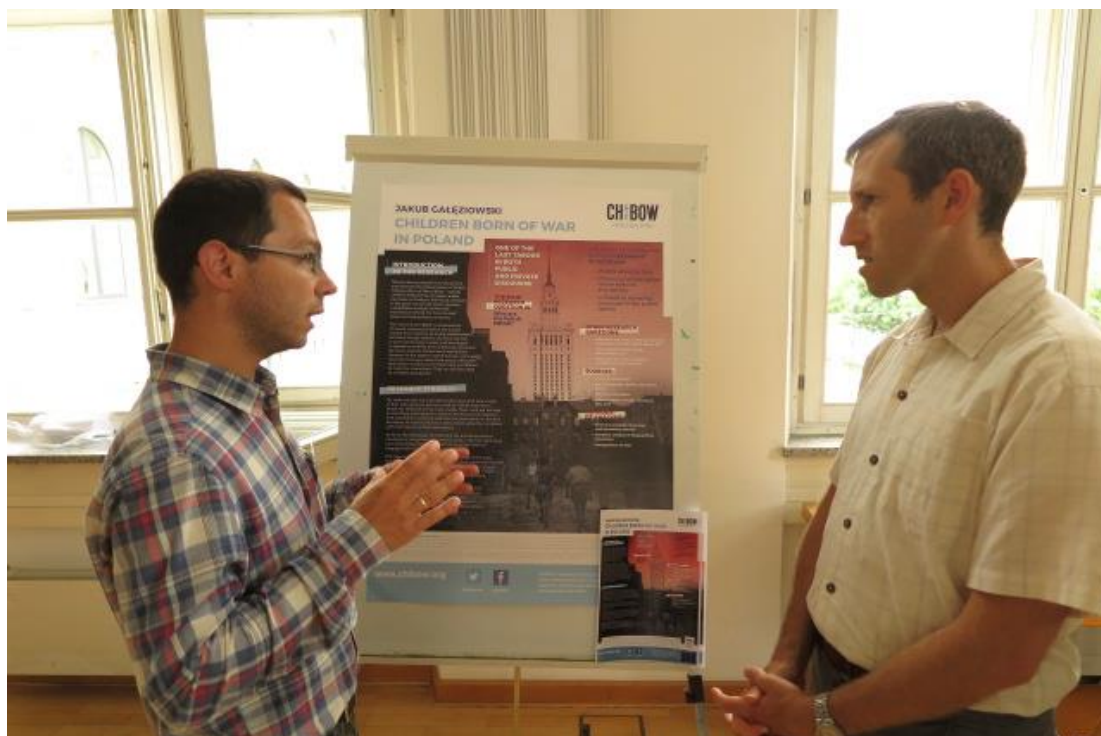
ESR Saskia Mitreuter discusses her topic with other researchers



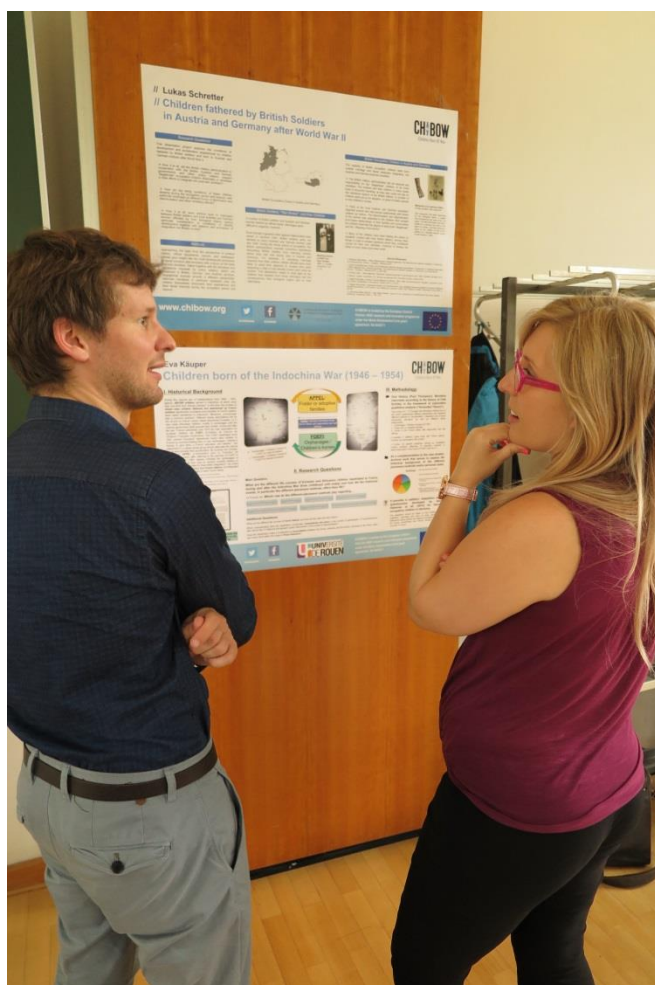
ESR Oskars Gruziņš and Philipp Rohrbach



Michał Korhel with his poster on Borderland Children



ESR Jakub Gałęziowski discusses his research with a conference delegate



ESRs Lukas Schretter and Eleanor Seymour (above)

ESR Christian Pipal discusses his research topic with a conference delegate (below)





ESRs Christian Pipal and Lisa Haberkern (above)

ESR Eleanor Seymour reads Kimberley Anderson's poster on Children Born of Sexual Violence (below)





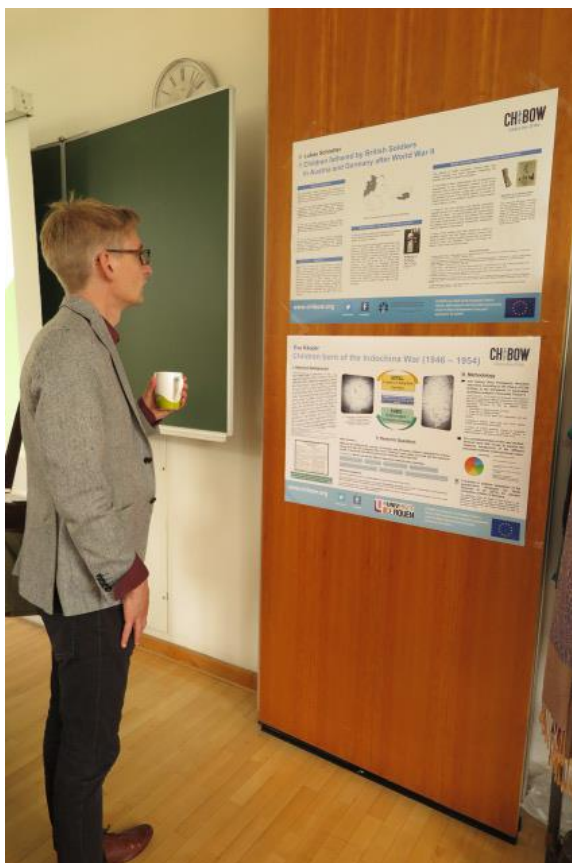
Delegates read Nastassia Sersté's poster on Children born of the Vietnam War in Europe (above) and Boniface Ojok's poster on Children Born of War in the Lord's Resistance Army in Uganda (below)





ESR Kanako Kuramitsu talks to conference keynote speaker, Gloria Atiba-Davies, International Criminal Court, The Hague, while she attended CHIBOW's Panels and poster presentation (above)

Conference delegate reads posters by Lukas Schretter and Eva Käufer





Poster exhibition in full flow with many delegates visiting the event (above)

CHIBOW network Director of Training, Heide Glaesmer talks with Gloria Atiba-Davies, International Criminal Court, The Hague



CHIBOW panel 2:

Children born of war – an international research and training initiative (II): Psychology

Chair: Sabine Lee (University of Birmingham, UK)

Heide Glaesmer (University of Leipzig, Germany)

Germany: Growing up as a Child Born of War from a psychosocial perspective



Whenever there have been wars and armed conflicts with lengthy periods of foreign soldiers in close proximity to local civilian populations, there has been contact between troops and civilians, from the superficial to the intimate; and whenever there have been these contacts, children have been born, fathered by foreign (enemy) soldiers and local women. Few human rights and

children's rights topics have been met with a similarly extensive silence as the fate of children born of war (CBOW). Their existence, in their hundreds of thousands, is a widely ignored reality – to the detriment of the individuals and the local societies within which they grow up. Among the children are those conceived in conflict-related sexual violence, but also in intimate relations of more or less consensual nature. Research has shown that children born of war have often been subjected to discrimination and have often experienced difficult developmental or even traumatising experiences. A double stigma of being a 'child of the enemy' and being born out of wedlock adversely affected their childhoods, and the questions over the identity of their fathers have often affected their identity formation. The talk gives an insight into the psychological perspectives on children born of war and conceptualizes a framework to investigate and understand the specific experiences and problems of CBOW in World War II and in recent conflict and post-conflict regions. An insight in the findings of studies in Children Born of WWII in Germany and Austria will be given.

Marie Kaiser (University of Leipzig, Germany)

Experiences of public stigma and self-stigma in German and Austrian Children Born of Occupation

Background: So far there has been historical research on „occupation children“ of World War II in Germany (GOC) and Austria (AOC). Nevertheless, studies investigating individual and specific experiences when growing up as child born of occupation from a psychosocial perspective were missing. Experiences of stigmatization and discrimination have been a fundamental and formative part of these children's childhood and adolescence. They carried a double stigma as a “child born out of wedlock” and a “child of the enemy”. This fact showed in curses like „Russian brat“ or „Ami bastard“, and in experiences of segregation and discrimination within their social environment. Methods: In 2013, both the GOC (N=146) and AOC (N=101) sample were recruited. They completed a comprehensive questionnaire with open and closed questions about living

conditions in childhood and adolescence as well as their current mental health. One part of the questionnaire specifically aimed at investigating experiences of stigmatization in occupation children. For this aim, two established instruments were adapted to the target group, assessing



stigmatizing experiences (ISE) and degree of stigma internalization (ISMI). Results: More than half (54.6%) of GOC reported stigma experiences in childhood and adolescence based on the fact of being an occupation child. Reasons stated were „mother having a relationship with a foreign soldier“ (57.1%), „biological background or inherited characteristics in appearance“ (24.7%), „being born out of wedlock“ (11.7%). Further psychometric and qualitative

analyses of the GOC study will be introduced, then be compared to results of the AOC study, and put into current conflict context.

Amra Delic (University of Greifswald, Germany)

Individual and societal misconceptions related to war rape: From the perspective of the war rape victims in Bosnia and Herzegovina



Studies among victims of sexual violence, including rape, indicate that psychopathology in the aftermath of the assault is often worsened by feelings of humiliation, guilt, shame, self-related and societal blame, resulting in protracted silence, poor adjustment and underreporting of the crime. The aim of this study was to explore psychodynamics, and individual and societal misconceptions related to war rape, and their relationship

with a long-lasting psychological sequel in women survivors of war rape in Bosnia and Herzegovina (B&H). Subject and methods: The sample included 105 women with experience of wartime rape in B&H. The study was carried out from 2011 to 2014. The Harvard Trauma Questionnaire (HTQ), the Beck Depression Inventory (BDI), the Meyer and Taylor scale, and a general questionnaire for women constructed for this study were used for data collection. Results: The greatest number of women victims reported on severe symptoms of posttraumatic stress-disorder (PTSD) and depression 22 years after victimizing event. Also, a great number of victimized women reported on their lived experiences unique to women survivors of sexual

violence, including the sense of humiliation, shame, broken trust, victimblaming attitudes, self-blame, stigma, non-acceptance and non-understanding by others. A significantly positive relationship was found between PTSD symptoms and self-blame ($p = 0.001$), and between depression and self-blame ($p < 0.001$). Conclusion: Women with experience of wartime rape showed a prolonged high-intensity symptoms of PTSD and depression, which are likely worsened by individual and societal misconceptions related to war rape. Culturally rooted stereotypes about female sexuality and victim-blaming attitudes reflecting a belief that the victims are personally responsible for the victimizing event are making the victims doubt their own self-worth, and leading to heightened self-blame. These misconceptions inhibit the process of disclosure of rape experience and prevent the victims to ask for help even decades later.

CHIBOW panel 3:

Children born of war – an international research and training initiative (III): History and Memory

Chair: Barbara Stelzl-Marx (Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Research into Consequences of War, Austria)

Lukas Schretter (Ludwig Boltzmann-Institute for Research into Consequences Of War in Graz, Austria)

Remembering children of occupation: Collective and individual memories of children fathered by British soldiers during the post-war occupation of Austria and Germany



Children of Occupation – “Besatzungskinder” – have not played an important role in collective memory of the Allied occupation period, in both Germany and Austria respectively. Regarded as an offspring of the “enemy”, these children, whose fathers were members of the Allied forces and whose mothers were locals, faced discrimination and social exclusion for

decades. Only in recent years, the topic “Children of Occupation” has evolved from a taboo topic to one being more openly discussed in society. The proposed presentation focuses, first, on collective memory of children fathered by British soldiers during the post-war occupation of Austria and Germany. Based on official documents, reports, and newspaper articles, it explores society’s perceptions of British Children of Occupation and the multi-dimensional processes of discrimination which these children and their mothers had to endure. The exclusion of these children from the public’s interest and memory was also reflected in the neglect of German and Austrian academia to conduct research on this important issue. Second, the proposed presentation focuses on individual memories of Children of Occupation. Letters, diaries, memoirs, and interviews with children of British soldiers allow to gain insight into how the children themselves interpreted their experiences and their family histories during the occupation period. Furthermore, they

represent how such self-reflection changed over the years following the immediate post-war and occupation years. Finally, the increasing attention which is bestowed upon Children of Occupation today is being discussed. Rising interest has encouraged many of them to share their personal memories in public. In return, their narratives have had an impact on how collective memory of Children of Occupation has been constructed, shared, and passed on.

Philipp Rohrbach (Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies, Austria)

Coming to terms with social stigmatisation and racist discrimination in narratives of children of African American GIs and Austrian women



The children of African American GIs and Austrian women or Displaced Persons born between the years 1945 and 1956 were subjected to repeated discrimination for decades in post-war Austria. Regarded by large parts of the Austrian population as children of the enemy, they were stigmatised and defamed not only because of their fathers' service in the US military, but also

because they were often born out of wedlock. Moreover, they were often discriminated against racially because of the colour of their skin. Their experiences and their life stories were for a long time repressed and tabooed in Austrian society. Even in their own families, their fate was not spoken about. Only in recent years has a framework been established in Austria, through initiatives of those affected and through scholarly research projects, in which the fate and the life stories of the children of the occupation in general and of the black children of the occupation in particular found resonance. On the basis of the interviews conducted in recent years in the project "Lost in Administration", this paper will examine how the children of African American GIs and Austrian women describe their experiences of discrimination in their narratives, and to what they ascribe these experiences.

Do they draw a distinction in their narratives between social and racist forms of ostracism and discrimination? If so: were social and racist experiences of discrimination limited to specific periods in life or do both constitute a constant in their life stories? Finally, this paper will explore the strategies that were employed in these narratives to come to terms with social and racist discrimination.

Barbara Stelzl-Marx (Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Research into Consequences of War (BIK), Graz – Vienna – Raabs, Austria)

"My father – the enemy": Interviewing Soviet children of occupation in Austria

Soviet children of occupation were born between late 1945 and mid-1956 in Austria; some following voluntary sexual relations between local women and Red Army soldiers, others as a result of rape. They were considered by many to be "children of the enemy", and encountered various forms of discrimination and stigmatisation. The "Russians" had always been the bogeyman in the Nazi era and their conduct during the last stage of the War was still fresh in the memory.

This negative attitude was further reinforced by the Cold War and the growing East-West divide. Soviet occupation children were largely a "fatherless" generation. By the time of their birth even fathers who wanted to stay in touch had generally been either sent home or transferred to another barracks in line with the Kremlin's view that intimate relations between Soviet soldiers and Austrians were politically and ideologically reprehensible. Military personnel were not allowed to marry or to remain in the West; nor could their foreign partners follow them to the Soviet Union.

Even after the signing of the Austrian State Treaty and the end of the occupation in 1955, the political situation largely ruled out further contact.



This situation was exacerbated by the onset of the Cold War. In many cases, the children involved were hemmed in by a wall of silence that in some cases persists to this day. This has led to widespread questions about personal identity and searches for their "roots". Against this background, the proposed paper analyses how Soviet children of occupation describe their biographies and experiences in oral

history interviews. Were they confronted with discrimination and stigmatisation in the different periods of their lives? If yes, how is this depicted and what strategies of resilience – if any – are mentioned in the interviews? Finally, this paper will discuss methodological questions concerning interviewing this particular group of children of war.

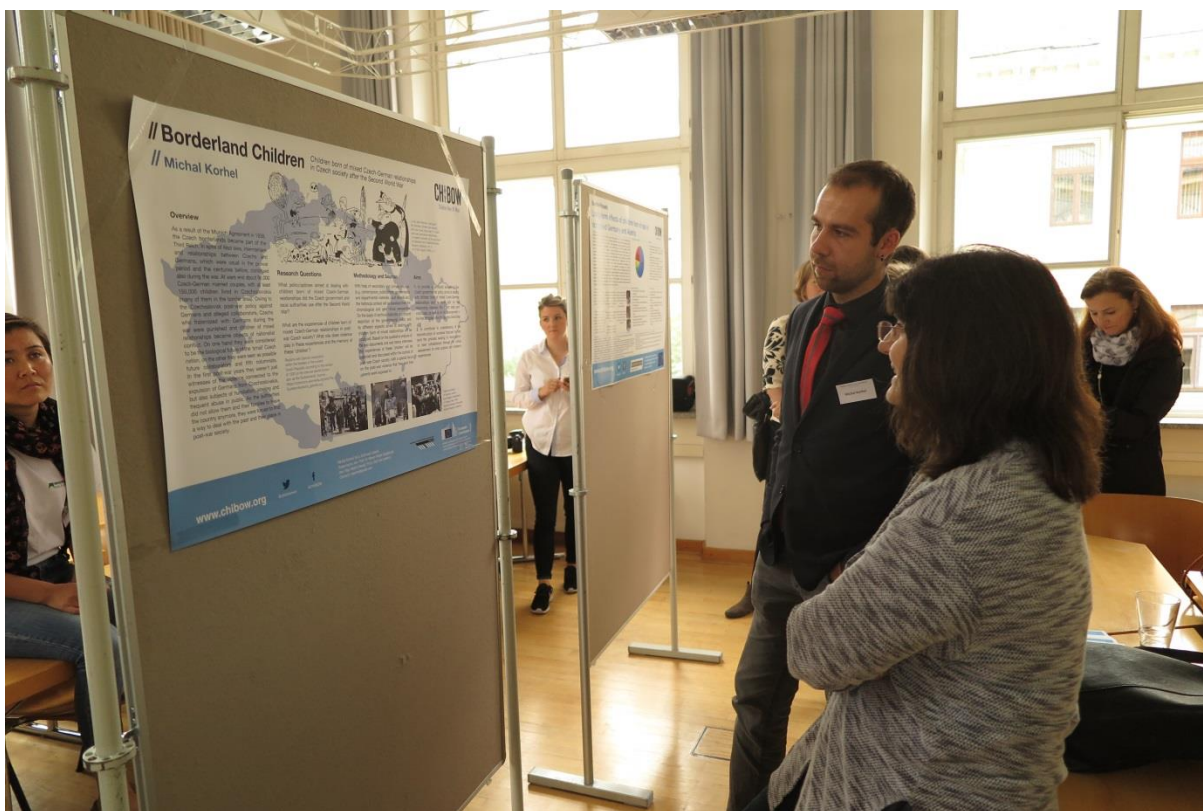
General gallery

The CHIBOW network take dinner together after a successful network open day(below)





ESR Michal Korhel discusses his topic with CHIBOW network coordinator Sabine Lee (below)



ESR Kimberley Anderson discusses her topic with a conference delegate (below)



ESR Lisa Haberkern (front) talks to other early stage researchers attending the conference (below)



ESRs Eva Käuper and Lukas Schretter prepare for the network's first open day (below)



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