



**VII International Congress on Migration & Mental Health**  
***Youth & Families Wellbeing matters in the context of Migration***

20<sup>th</sup> October 2018 – Brussels

Familles du Monde, asbl & The Athena Network

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**RESILIENCE IN REFUGEE FAMILIES (II):**

**THE PECULIAR POSITION OF ACCOMPANIED MINORS**



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In a second contribution building on the same transdisciplinary research on asylum seeking and refugee family functioning, we focus on the peculiar position of accompanied minors as an understudied group. A combination of elements might pose challenges to the interrelational positions between asylum seeking and refugee family members, affecting the development and wellbeing of the children after the flight. Besides the risk of families being split up before, during or after the flight, families often lose status and face new acculturation tasks in the arrival country. Noticeable, children often take the lead in the acculturation process due to their subscription in the education system.

Combining both playing techniques and conversational methods, we developed a new way to interview the children, whose parents were included in the research. We selected families with children between 8 and 12, though their older and younger siblings weren't excluded. We explored several topics covering much of the children's experiences before, during and after the flight. Important to add, is that we departed from a culture sensitive approach, conceiving of childhood as a concept which lies at the intersection of multiple frames of reference and languages. Its conceptualization is based on culturally informed ideas of what it means to be a child and to live ones childhood in a functioning family. One aim was to better understand how these ideas survive, are adapted to or influenced by the new context of these families.

Using case material, we illustrate that 'children are active, creative social agents' (Seeberg en, G. odziak,2017, p5), who produce their own children's perspective on the course of things, in accordance with their mental development (an example is their unique perspective on unsafe flight experiences). We also illustrate how they are geared towards the wellbeing of the family.

**Keywords:**

family resilience, asylum seeking and refugee families, accompanied minors

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