

Abstract to the Conference Call **Borders In Flux and Border Temporalities In and Beyond Europe**, organised by the Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History and the Transfrontier Euro-Institut Network, Luxembourg, December 2022

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(De)bordered Childhood Projects in flux.

Borders, time and the childcare arrangements of cross-border commuting parents

Against the backdrop of the increasing share of cross-border commuting women as well as certain cross-border childcare arrangements, more and more young children in the Saar-Lor-Lux region are commuting across the border on a daily basis to access early childhood education and care services in neighbouring countries. The diverse forms of such cross-border childcare arrangements (CBCAs) reflect the specific mobility and work patterns of heterogeneous commuting parents as well as the problems, opportunities and pathways they face in the Saar-Lor-Lux border region and its respective (trans-)national and regional welfare systems (Bollig et al 2022). However, the dynamics of these CBCAs seem to emerge especially from the intertwining of childhood-related aspirations and imaginaries and everyday border experiences (Wille & Nienaber 2020) related to early childhood education and care. In this respect, CBCAs are not only to be seen as particular sites of cross-border welfare production and the everyday shaping of inherently heterogeneous borderlands. They are also the arenas in which borders and parental childhood projects intersect and a particular processual subjectification of 'borderland parents' takes place. In our presentation, we will elaborate on how these childhood-related border experiences and practices change over time in certain types of CBCAs and analyze this as a de-/rebordering of familial childhood projects that oscillate between nation and region. For this, we draw on a practice-analytical and multi-perspective understanding of borders (Rumford 2012), that not only temporalizes them as socio-material events, but also emphasizes their complex transformation in time. The empirical contribution is based on qualitative interviews we conducted with border-commuting parents, mainly mothers, in 2019-2021, which we analyzed using the grounded theory method.

Bollig, S., Behnke, S., Jutz, J. & Mootz, A. (2022): Diverse Mobilitäten, multiple Grenzen. Zu den Bildungs- und Betreuungsarrangements grenzpendelnder Familien in der Großregion SaarLorLux. *Zeitschrift für Soziologie der Erziehung und Sozialisation*, 42 (2), S. 149-165.

Rumford, C. (2012): Towards a Multiperspectival Study of Borders. *Geopolitics*, 17 (4), S. 887-902.

Wille, C. & Nienaber, B. (2020): Borders and border experiences. *Everyday Life – Working Life – Communication – Languages*. Baden Baden: Nomos.

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Main research topics: Childhood Studies, Child and Youth Services, Welfare Production, Qualitative Research, Ethnography, Practice Theory, Materiality, // Related Publications: Bollig /Schmitt (2022).

Mobilitäten in Kindheit und Jugend. Special Issue *Zeitschrift für Soziologie der Erziehung und Sozialisation*. 42(2). / Bollig/Alberth/Schindler (Eds.)(2021). *Materialitäten der Kindheit. Körper, Dinge, Räume*. VS Verlag / Bollig/Millei (Eds.)(2018). *Spaces of Early Childhood*. Special Issue *Journal of Pedagogy*, 5(1), DOI 10.2478/jped-2018-0001

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