

New homes in Sweden – the evacuation of Finnish war children during WWII: *notions of child-parent separations and the public's willingness to help in light of Swedish politics of neutrality.*

Background and previous research

Approximately 70,000 children were transported from Finland to Sweden during WWII. This was one of the largest evacuations of war children undertaken during the twentieth century. Even so, this event in Swedish wartime history has only been explored to a limited extent. The evacuations involved and affected a large number of children, parents, and families in both Finland and Sweden. The majority of the children were placed in foster homes, some in institutions. That the transportation was a huge endeavor is demonstrated by the fact that the number of children in out-of-home care in Sweden was more than doubled when the Finnish war children are included. In the present proposed research project, we aim to analyze this enterprise on different levels. We will explore the individual efforts and sociopolitical and cultural circumstances that enabled this scheme to be realized. We will also examine what ideological notions of childhood made this solution thinkable. Furthermore, we will examine how it was possible to so rapidly gain such great support for this venture from the Swedish general public, and what motivated so many families to take war children into their homes. The child transports were most intense toward the end of WWII, but Finnish children were to be transported back and forth between the two countries for a long period, from 1939 to 1959, which is also the period under study in the proposed project.

This large-scale evacuation of children from one country to another raises questions about the role of children in wartime politics and prevailing notions of childhood. Whether or not the evacuation was a necessary action and what can be learned from it has been discussed particularly by the Finnish war children themselves. They have produced a plethora of non-academic investigations of their own experiences as well as accounts of how the transports were undertaken. Some also discuss the political aspects of the transports and how the placement of children was performed (see, e.g., Rossi 2008, Ortmark Almgren 2003, Kavén 1994, Edvardsen 1977). However, historical studies problematizing notions of children and childhood in relation to the evacuation of Finnish war children are lacking.

Scholars from other disciplines have been interested in mapping out the long-term consequences of the Finnish children's separation from their parents, language and culture in adult life. A range of contemporary studies have been undertaken, examining these separations from both a life-world subjective perspective (Langnebro 1995, Båsk-Ekholm 1976), from a psychiatric perspective (Räsänen 1990) and from a health economics perspective (Santavirta, forthcoming). Our research project looks at child-parent issues from a different angle. We are interested in whether child-parent separations were a concern at the time of the evacuation, and if not, how this can be explained.

Evacuation of children as politics of war. Swedish politics during WWII have been scrutinized by several scholars. These studies have focused on Sweden's relationship to Nazi Germany and how Swedish politics affected the actions and support of Finland; see for instance the so-called SUAV project and the Nazi Program (e.g., Johansson 1973, Carlquist 1971, Åmark 2011 as well as Sevón 1995). But the political issues surrounding the transports of children from Finland to Sweden have not been emphasized in these studies. The present project will illuminate an important aspect of Swedish politics during WWII by more closely examining the evacuation and transport of Finnish war children. This evacuation enterprise was controversial in Finland, and the suggestion forwarded by Swedish authorities to transport children to Sweden was met with apprehension. Previous research has suggested that this project had political connotations (Kavén 2010, Nehlin 2009). How Sweden, as a neutral nation, should support Finland was a debated issue at the time. In that respect, the evacuation of Finnish war children was a way for Sweden to contribute without calling into question its politics of neutrality. Richard Sandler, Swedish Minister of Foreign Affairs until the outbreak of the winter war, proposed that Sweden be militarily active in the defense of Finland, in accordance with the general public's great support for Nordic solidarity. However other influential government officials feared that

such an action would endanger the politics of neutrality and turn Sweden as well as other Nordic countries into a battlefield. As a consequence, the Swedish government was dissolved and Sandler had to resign. Only a few days after Sandler's resignation, Central Aid for Finland was established by Sandler's wife Maja Sandler and other prominent women. The network around Sandler thus seems to have focused its efforts on NGOs when the government failed to give Finland military support.

Swedish politics of neutrality led to international criticism of Sweden. Previous research has shown that child transports became a politically viable solution to support Finland. Even if the initial intention behind the transports was different in nature, they did create an opportunity to redeem Sweden's somewhat damaged international image (Carlqvist 1971, Johansson 1973, Kavén 1994, 2010, Nehlin 2000, 2009). In Finland, some research on how Finnish politicians dealt with the question of war children has been undertaken (Kavén 2010), but there is no similar research on how this was dealt with in Sweden. We still know very little about how the evacuation was motivated, discussed and justified by the key Swedish actors involved in the volunteer organizations and authorities that operationalized this venture.

Using children as tools to achieve political goals in wartime was in no way unique, nor was it a new method used in politics. Examples of such efforts can be found during and around WWI, when both Denmark and Sweden welcomed children from war-torn countries in ventures that had both political and humanitarian implications. According to Janfelt (1998), these small nations aspired to appear as great lovers of humanity by virtue of the child transports. During and after WWII, several examples of this can also be found, when children were subjected to and caught up in political tugs-of-war as well as removed to ensure their "correct" political upbringing (Ericsson & Simonsen 2005). For instance, children in both Germany and Greece were removed from their families and environments for these kinds of reasons (Lindner 1988, Vutira and Brouskou 2000, Ristovic 2004). In postwar Norway, children who had the "wrong" parents, mostly a Norwegian mother and German father, were also subjected to wartime politics. Some of these children were transported back and forth between Germany and Norway for political reasons (Olsen 2005). In Spain, children were evacuated from war zones during the Civil War for both political reasons and to be physically saved from the bombings of Madrid (Andres 2010). When Franco had won, children from the Republican side were transported back to Spain, adopted or placed in orphanages. They were expected to be converted from "communist children" to religious individuals loyal to the Franco regime (Richards 2005). Child evacuation in war is a growing field of research (see e.g. Parsons 2008). In some countries, it has attracted attention in the present political debate. For example, the so-called child migrants who were sent from Britain and Malta to Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Zimbabwe during the postwar period have recently received official apologies from the British, Maltese and Australian governments (SCARC 2001, Swain 2011). The evacuation of Finnish war children has not received the same attention, even though it involved about twenty times more children. This evacuation has not been examined in the official Swedish record, in policymaking or in the research.

Evacuation and expert understandings of parent-child separations. Research on historical evacuations of war children has highlighted the role of child psychology and psychoanalytical ideas of child-parent separations. There has been great variation in how this issue has been dealt with in different countries. During WWII, British psychoanalytical researchers such as John Bowlby and Anna Freud studied the effects of child evacuations from London. They stressed the detrimental effects of child-mother separations, ideas that later came to underpin the development of attachment theory. These findings also influenced postwar development of British social child welfare and health care services (Crosby 1986, Macnicol 1986, Riley 1979; Welshman 1998; see also Parsons 1998). Looking at France during the same period, we see that French evacuations of children from war-stricken cities were also extensive. Historian Laura Lee Downs points out how these evacuations were never highlighted by experts in psychology, compared to Great Britain, where the separation of working-class children from their mothers became a burning issue (Downs 2005). In contrast, the common French practice of sending working-class children to colonies de vacances and foster homes demonstrated another view of children and childhood. Downs also stresses how social class was an important aspect, and how the English case was equally a social class issue. It was the separations

between mother-child in the working classes that were discussed, while the upper-class tradition of sending children to boarding schools was not questioned. The French child experts and child psychology research tradition focused on issues of individual mastery and cognitive abilities rather than on early mother-child relations. The tradition of sending children away for the summer was based on the assumption that independence in children was an important part of socializing well-adjusted citizens, and this tradition, in turn, created a cultural context prepared for child evacuations. In a comparative perspective, the meanings of child-parent relations and separations vary with socio-political context and traditions. The interplay between social science, expertise, and welfare policies results in nation-specific conceptions of childhood and what is in children's best interest, which in turn impact on children's experiences (Ludvigsen 2010, Mayhew 2006, Riley 1979, Sealander, 2003). Studying child evacuations in wartime allows us to study nationstates' views on children, specific notions of childhood and child-parent separations, as well as to examine variations in childhood due to gender, class, and ethnicity. In Sweden, the need for scholarly research on the consequences of the evacuations was highlighted toward the end of WWII (Nehlin 2009). This call was not responded to at the time, perhaps owing to Swedish experts' hesitance to accept Bowlby's ideas about mother-child bonding. It took many decades before attachment theory was acknowledged in Sweden (Zetterqvist Nelson 2009). Swedish social experts and authorities during the first part of the 20th century stressed the power of the social environment. Physical health status and psychologically sound relations were assumed to be important aspects of a good childhood (see, e.g., Andresen et al. 2011, Hammarlund 1998, Runcis 2007, Munger 2000). In the proposed project, we wish to examine more closely the relationship, during the period of study, between social science expertise and the evacuation of Finnish war children and their placement in Swedish foster homes.

Evacuation as voluntary relief work and foster care. Another significant aspect of the history of the evacuation is the Swedish tradition of foster care and the process of channeling the will to support Finland that was expressed by the Swedish general public. Voluntary relief work during WWII has been given little attention by Swedish scholars (Åmark 2011). Consequently, little is known about the contribution made by the thousands of homes that received war children from Finland. During a few weeks in 1939, 10,000 Swedish homes applied for a Finnish war child. How people were motivated and mobilized to accept children from other war-torn countries has scarcely been studied (see, however, Janfelt 1998 on WWI, and literature on 'kindertransports,' such as Fast 2011). What motivated the Swedes has been discussed in some student essays (Epaily 2001; Virkamaki 2005), but the question requires further investigation.

Sweden has a long tradition of foster care and an organized structure for the recruitment and monitoring of foster homes. There has also been a steady demand of foster children (Skold 2006, Bergman 2011). This may have had some impact on the placement of Finnish war children, which was organized through volunteer efforts. The motives for taking in foster children reveal a complex interplay between the instrumental and emotional values of children and the value of female labor, where child age and gender are of great importance. Previous research has shown that foster parents have been motivated by different dynamics, such as the demand for child labor, the emotional longing for a child to love and cherish, the plight of assisting kin in need or altruistically helping families in the community as well as the demand for wage labor among married or widowed women. An interesting discussion concerns whether the female work of taking care of foster children should be characterized as paid or unpaid labor (Zelizer 1994, Nyberg 2001, Skold 2006, Andresen 2006, Holt 1992, Parr 1980). With reference to the Finnish war children, the families received no financial compensation from the Relief Committee for caring for the children, which indicates that the evacuation project relied on unpaid labor primarily performed by women. But were the foster homes altruistic through and through? Documents from the period (Socialstyrelsens byra for fattigvards- och barnvardsarenden mm, meddelande nr 86, 1942) suggest that companies paid their employees to encourage them to take in war children. The extent to which industry encouraged the relief work in Sweden in this way is unknown. This reveals the complexity of deciding how to value this kind of work.

The media have proven to be important for the recruitment of foster and adoptive parents (Skold 2006, Berebitsky 2000). In the case of refugee children, the press has had a significant

influence on the images of groups of children from different countries, and these images have affected the way in which the children were welcomed (Andresen et al. 2011). The role of propaganda during wartime is well known, as is the fact that journalism influences debates and how concepts and views of reality are constructed (Ekecrantz & Olsson 1994). An area of concern in the proposed project is how media images of Finland and needy children affected volunteer work in neutral Sweden. How illustrations were used is of special interest. Illustrations displaying children constitute an important part of how children are presented to readers and create views of children (Holland 2004).

Aims and questions

The aim of the proposed project is to study how the evacuation of Finnish war children to Sweden was made possible from a Swedish perspective. This will be examined by exploring how the evacuation of war children was influenced by the Swedish politics of neutrality, prevailing views on child-parent separations and notions of children's best interest among Swedish experts and authorities – and the Swedish public's willingness to contribute. The project will address two question areas:

What were the main arguments in favor of evacuating Finnish war children made by Swedish authorities, representatives of non-governmental organizations and child experts? How was the transportation rhetorically discussed and justified? How were the Finnish war children used in wartime politics? In what way were the arguments underpinned by prevailing notions of what was in the best interest of children? What psychological knowledge and research concerning child-parent relations and separation were brought to the fore during the period and if they were highlighted, what expertise was referred to and acknowledged?

Moreover, why was there such willingness among so many people from the Swedish public to open their homes to Finnish children? How was the Swedish public motivated and mobilized to invite Finnish children into their homes? What role did the media and official political rhetoric play and what consequences did this have for the Swedish understanding of the needs of the Finnish people?

Design of the study

Theoretical frameworks and conceptual tools. History of childhood, with its emphasis on both the role of children in social processes and the cultural and historical constructions of childhood, is a point of departure for the project. The changing notions of children and childhood in space and time have been shown in many studies (Andresen et al. 2011, Sandin & Halldén 2003, Cunningham 1995, James & Prout 1990, Hendrick 2003). In the proposed project, we are specifically interested in notions of childhood as they are created and re-created in the interplay between expertise, policy and practice (Sandin 2011, Sealander 2004, Söderlind & Engwall 2005). The impact of child psychology and child psychiatry in defining normality and deviancy in childhood, and indirectly in the formation of child welfare and child health policies, has been discussed and elaborated from various disciplinary perspectives (Foucault 1991, Jones 1999, Rose 1991, Turmel 2008). In this respect, the history of childhood is of strong interdisciplinary relevance (Cooter 1992, Halldén, 2007, Rigné 2002, Zetterqvist Nelson 2003). In her book *Samfunnets stebarn (Society's Stepchildren)*, Kjersti Ericsson focuses on moments in twentieth century history when the nationstate has assumed the role of parents and the consequences of this for both children and parents (Ericsson 2009). In our research project, the focus is on how Finnish war children became a concern for Swedish society – state and NGOs in collaboration – when they arrived to Sweden without parents by their side. Theoretically, the history of childhood provides important conceptual tools to approach such specific historical events from a child perspective in the sense of seeing children as a category, and childhood as a social and cultural construction (Halldén 2003, Kallio 2008). *In the proposed project, childhood studies also comprise a gender perspective, which will be of relevance in several of parts of the project. Beyond the issue of children's gender, in relation to other social categories such as social class, generation, and ethnicity, gender is significant in exploring key persons, authorities and NGOs as well as the politics of parenthood.*

Why evacuations became the means for Sweden to support Finland can be understood in relation to political positions and traditions. One theoretical foundation concerns how the notion of path

dependency has influenced political decisions and how it potentially discouraged alternative options. The concept of path dependency accounts for how decisions are affected by past choices (North 1993). In this context, the concept of “network” is important both theoretically and methodologically. In addition to the role of authorities and NGOs, the role of individual key persons will be explored with a focus on their relations and social networks. Previous research has demonstrated the power of networks in promoting specific issues (Lundquist 1997, Aronsson, Fagerlund & Samuelsson 1999). Overlapping memberships in volunteer organizations, political parties, or connections through family relations are important factors in an analysis of modes of discussion and decision-making processes. In the proposed project, we intend to study child evacuations on an organizational level, in combination with a focus on individuals in cooperation.

In the part of the project investigating Swedes’ willingness to care for a Finnish war child, concepts like solidarity, altruism and duty will be problematized. Research on individuals who rescued people, especially Jews, during WWII has drawn on altruism as an important concept in understanding human solidarity (Monroe 2004, Oliner 1988). In economics, altruism has been important in explaining transfers within households. One person can make unselfish sacrifices if it is expected to benefit the household as a whole (Becker 1991).

Duty is an alternative concept for explaining unselfish actions. Duties are culturally, politically and socially constructed. What many economists have understood as altruistic behavior is in fact the expression of duties assigned to women in relation to family members (Folbre 2001, England 2003). At the time of WWII, ideas about women's duties as biological mothers and social mothers had shaped national perceptions for half a century. During wartime the duty of women was expanded to the whole society (Tornbjer 2002, Overud 2005). The concept of duty can be used to explore the gigantic effort Swedish households made during the evacuations. However, this means that the sense of duty was extended beyond one’s own household and nation. To test the significance of duty, it is essential to examine channels through which duties may have been constructed in wartime, such as the media, authorities, national and local NGOs. However, it is also important to note that factors other than duty may have been relevant. The demand for child labor, the demand for young children to incorporate into the family as one’s own, the societal status that came with philanthropic commitments, etc., have been highlighted in previous research (Janfelt 1998, Sköld 2006, Andresen 2006). Furthermore, the fact that companies paid their employees for taking in Finnish war children complicates the picture of self-sacrificing Swedish foster mothers.

War has caused the most horrific crimes perpetrated by mankind, but our capacity for solidarity has also been great during wartime (Malešević 2010, Monroe 2004). Still, solidarity has its limits. As for Sweden during WWII, the Nordic prerogative meant that Sweden applied a generous refugee policy to its ethnic Nordic neighbors, but had a more restrictive attitude toward Jews, Germans and Balts (Byström 2006, Kvist Geverts 2008, Lomfors 1996). On a general level – in the public debate and national refugee policy – the great evacuation of Finnish war children could be understood through the concept of a Nordic prerogative.

Materials and methods. The proposed project will use different types of material and apply different methodological and analytical approaches. The main material is the archives of the Relief Committee for the Children of Finland (RCCF, established 1941) and the archives of Central Aid for Finland (CAF, established 1939). These archives contain official as well as unofficial documents such as minutes of board meetings, official communications between different departments as well as institutions and other establishments. The archive material will be studied with a focus on arguments related to the child transports and how they were constructed rhetorically. In the analysis of arguments, we will highlight underlying assumptions and motives with a specific focus on ideological dimensions concerning views on children and notions of childhood (Bergström & Boréus 2005). A starting point is to map out the official standpoints of representatives from involved authorities, child experts, and involved practitioners in the child health services. By identifying key persons, what authority or organization they represented, their professional and intellectual network and who had contact with whom in relation to what issue, it will also be possible to both make a network analysis and highlight what arguments supported the decisions and what strategies were used (Lundquist

1997; Aronsson, Fagerlund & Samuelsson 1999). By creating an index catalogue of key persons – containing their professional status, professional relations and in which contexts they made statements concerning these issues, e.g., reports, journals and newspapers, books as well as their personal contacts both nationally and internationally – it will be possible to draw attention to important social networks and ways of disseminating arguments and ideas. In this context, the collection of press clippings concerning Finnish war children available at the archives of the Sigtuna Foundation will be useful. By mapping out who had contact with whom, who quoted whom in what context, we can also visualize what professional and scientific knowledge was drawn on and what arguments and strategies were used and forwarded, and which were rejected. This study will be performed by Ann Nehlin. A second step in the analysis of arguments, ideological dimensions, and key persons and their social networks is to more closely analyze the scientific discourses in Sweden concerning evacuations of children and child-parent separations during the period 1939-1959. The findings and discussions amongst child experts and researchers in child psychology, child psychiatry, and social child care, in relevant scientific and professional journals, will be examined more closely. We will study journals with psychiatric and psychological perspectives as well as journals covering the field of social child care. Furthermore, materials from various authorities, e.g. the National Board of Health and Welfare, will be highlighted regarding policies and perspectives on the evacuation and the separation dilemma. An important question to explore is the notion of the best interest of children in relation to these issues. This study will be performed by Karin Zetterqvist Nelson in collaboration with Ann Nehlin.

The archives of RCCF and CAF also include correspondences to and from officials and potential foster families wishing to care for a Finnish child, agreements with foster parents and ledgers over the children's placements. These sources enable us to picture foster parents' articulated motives for caring for a child. A quantitative survey of foster parents who received Finnish children can potentially tell us something more about motives and patterns. By examining index cards from the RCCF archive, we can map out who the foster parents were and where they lived, also looking at class, marital status, age, number of biological children and whether there were particular areas within Sweden that had an exceptionally large number of families willing to receive children. To enable a more extensive picture it might be necessary to add material from the parish records (De Geer 1986). This material is extensive, and a strategic selection will be made. How the general public was mobilized will also be explored by examining local committees' activities. Among others, the local archives of Göteborgskommittén för Finlands barn, Uppsala läns hjälp till krigsdrabbade barn and Hjälpkommittén för Finlands barn i Kopparbergs län contain relevant material on how the foster homes were recruited. To what extent local employers were involved in the relief activities will be possible to examine in this material. This study will be carried out by Johanna Sköld.

Newspapers will be another important source. We intend to examine one newspaper with nationwide coverage and a few local papers to study how children and their needs were presented to the general public. This will enable a broader understanding of the evacuation project and the placement in Swedish families. A newspaper with nationwide coverage often influences local papers, in that way contributing to creating an official picture, a kind of common foundation; however a local paper may emphasize other aspects. Some pages will be paid special attention to: the front page and the editorial column. The front page is read by many and displays situations, problems, groups and individuals that are ascribed special news value (Ekecrantz & Olsson 1994). Compared to the front page, editorial columns have few readers but they are often written from a political perspective and editorial columns can be described as texts that express children's political value. Newspaper illustrations will be used as a special source for studying how Finnish war children were presented to the Swedish public. Children have a special value as illustrations, which can be used both to create interest in facts and to promote certain interests (Söderlind & Engwall 2005). An additional source of illustrations is Scapix bildarkiv, which contains photos that have been published in Dagens Nyheter and Expressen as well as material from Pressens bild. The rhetorical and visual analysis of newspapers will be performed Ingrid Söderlind.

The project plan: The project's residence ("hemvist") is Child Studies, Linköping University, and Ann Nehlin is principal investigator. The first year, three members of the research group will be

involved. Ann Nehlin (AN) will begin her study of the networks and relations between key persons and authorities, and their arguments, discussions, and justification of the evacuation project. Karin Zetterqvist Nelson (KZN) will begin to map out the experts and their research traditions and professional affiliations in the material, in relation to scientific discourses and journals. Ingrid Söderlind (IS) will begin her study of newspapers and images of children. The first year will mainly consist of mapping out and collecting relevant material. The second year will consist of analysis of collected material and outlining of articles. Johanna Sköld (JS) will begin her study of foster families by collecting material. By the third year, all relevant material will have been collected, and analysis and article writing will be underway.

During the whole period, regular research group meetings will be held. Because the material is extensive, and some of it will be analyzed from different perspectives, it will be important to keep track of our collected material, in relation to our specific research questions and overlapping interests. A special focus will be to maintain contact with our Finnish colleagues, in order to keep in mind the “Finnish” perspective when collecting and analyzing our material.

Relevance for society and FAS’s research area of responsibility

The project will provide new knowledge on how Sweden acted during WWII, and more specifically, on the role of children in this context. The project will also highlight an emblematic example of a situation in which society assumes responsibility for children’s care and wellbeing *in loci parenti*. An analysis of the evacuation of Finnish war children contributes to a broader understanding of how child expertise, social science, and child welfare policy were intertwined in various ways in relation to this enterprise. These processes of negotiation and re-negotiation of political endeavors and expert knowledge reflected the then dominant notions of children, childhood, and what was considered to be in the best interest of children. The historical knowledge gained in a research project such as this will contribute to more complex and nuanced views of comparable situations today. A related phenomenon is the reception and treatment of unaccompanied refugee children currently arriving to Sweden. In the short term, determining how notions of child-parent separations are marked by specific normative premises and cultural and historical context may improve how we receive migrant children, both with and without parents. In the long term, knowledge will be acquired concerning the complex interactions between psychological theory, social policy, child social welfare and public opinion about and willingness to welcome children in need, with or without parents. Such knowledge forms the backdrop against which critical reflection on contemporary issues regarding foster care, institutions for children, and notions of child-parent relations and separations will be possible.

Ethical issues

Most of the material is available for research. However, a smaller part of the material from the RCCF has limited access, as it contains sensitive information on individual children and their families. We will seek permission to examine the material. These data as such are of no interest for our research project, because our analysis primarily focuses on how expert knowledge is used in the motivations behind and rhetorical underpinnings of decisions about evacuating children. We are primarily interested in the correspondence between the authorities and experts, but such correspondence is sometimes organized in volumes with limited access. In order to avoid violations of personal integrity and human dignity, all material we analyze will be de-identified and treated with great confidentiality. No record will be kept that links the material to individual Finnish war children. If we are granted access to this material, an application of the research procedure will be submitted to the Regional Board of Vetting on the ethics of research involving humans, at Linköping University. All project participants have experience working with ethically sensitive material. We have examined case files from both child and youth psychiatry records and child welfare committees.

Relations to previous projects

The project relates to Ann Nehlin’s dissertation “Exporting visions and saving children: the Swedish Save the Children Fund”, from 2009. Her analysis of how international relief work targeting children

was carried out by the Swedish Save the Children Fund (Rädda Barnen) during and after WWII forms the background of the proposed project. She demonstrates that the organization conducted its relief activities in collaboration with the Swedish government. What kind of activity would be carried out with which children depended on the children's ethnicity and national belonging. This was mainly visible in the performance of child transports and is therefore of particular interest to explore further. AN has also demonstrated that, in the case of transports of children from Finland to Sweden, underlying political motives existed. Karin Zetterqvist Nelson has carried out a research project on treatment ideology and policy in Swedish child psychiatry 1945-1985 (FAS 2005-0643). Her previous research on child therapy and child psychiatric treatment ideologies in relation to views of children and notions of childhood is closely connected to the proposed project. Both Johanna Sköld and Ingrid Söderlind have worked with and written about issues concerning social child welfare in different contexts as well as in comparative perspectives. JS is currently working on a project comparing reports from national inquiries about abuse and neglect of children in out-of-home care (FAS 2011-0251). Another focus of her research concerns foster care, how people have been motivated to take in foster children and economic perspectives on reproduction (Sköld 2006, 2012). JS and IS have conducted research on how foster care has varied locally and regionally in Sweden during the twentieth century. Important questions concern how control and supervision have been organized and how distance and belonging have been valued in relation to foster care (FAS 2007-0331). The part of the project focusing on how Swedish foster homes were recruited has many connections to this previous research. IS has recently taken part in a Nordic project that resulted in the book *Barnen och välfärdspolitiken. Nordiska barndomar 1900-2000* (Andresen et al. 2011) (*Children and welfare policies. Nordic Childhoods 1900-2000*). Among the issues dealt with in the book are social child welfare and war and refugee children from a comparative perspective, specific knowledge that will benefit the proposed project. IS has also studied children and citizenship with the daily press as a point of departure (2005). This study shows to what extent and in which contexts children are found in the daily press, how pictures of children can be used to stress and promote different questions as well as to strengthen the status of adults. The project proposed here will employ a similar methodology.

Research contacts and collaborations

Ann Nehlin has since earlier an established contact with Professor Martin Parsons, Director of the Centre for Evacuee and War Child Studies, at the University of Reading, England. AN has visited the Centre and had several meetings with Professor Parsons. AN and the rest of the research group plan to establish a research network together with a group of Finnish researchers. Dr Pertti Kavén, who has written extensively on the Finnish war children is a key person in this effort, together with a group of childhood and WWII historians, Professor Pirjo Markkola, Professor Pirjo Korhonen, Professor Tiina Kinnunen and Docent Marianne Junila. The first step will be to meet at a workshop at Child Studies (Tema Barn), Linköping University, October 23 2012, for joint seminars on intercountry/overseas evacuation. Professor Martin Parsons is invited as a guest speaker. Professor Kjerstin Ericsson from Norway, who has carried out extensive work in Norway about war children and politics during WWII, is invited as a commentator. From this point of departure, we have further plans to also create a broader network in Europe, focusing on different experiences of wartime child evacuation.

Scientific publication and dissemination of results in society

Our plans are primarily to publish findings and results internationally, in scientific journals or edited volumes. We will also attend international conferences. In 2014 we will present preliminary results at the European Social Science History Conference, and in 2015 we intend to arrange a session on child evacuation in collaboration with colleagues from other countries at a conference arranged by the Society for the History of Children and Youth. The results are of public interest and efforts will be made to disseminate results in popularized scientific contexts, as well as in the media and through public lectures and talk. It is also of interest to spread the results through university courses.

Cost and financing plan

For the funding sought, three researchers (AN, JS and IS) will be employed for the equivalent of 1.5 fulltime positions for 3 years. KZN will be included in the research group at ca. 15 percent of fulltime employment per year, but not paid by the project. AN will be financed by the project at ca. 80 percent of fulltime employment for three years, and IS at 25 percent for three years. JS's engagement will begin the second year and then increase during the funding period, due to ongoing research projects (FAS 2011-0251). The most comprehensive cost is salaries. The first year, payment of salaries for Ann Nehlin and Ingrid Söderling are estimated at ca. SEK 788,000; the second year Johanna Sköld is included to a lesser extent (ca. 30 percent of fulltime employment this year) and the salary cost will increase to ca. SEK 1,057,000. The third year, Johanna Sköld will work fulltime on the project, and the salary cost will be ca. SEK 1,593,500. The estimated costs for travel are a total of SEK 110,000, divided over the funding period (SEK 30,000 + 40,000 + 40,000). The project necessitates travels to archives in Stockholm and other municipalities in Sweden, where material dealing with Finnish war children as foster children will be found, travels to Finland when needed, and finally to research group meetings (Linköping and Stockholm). We also seek funds for translation of Finnish material, altogether SEK 45,000, as we assume letters and documents in Finnish will appear in the archives. Studying previous research in Finnish will also be necessary to some extent. We also seek funds for proofreading and editing of manuscripts for publication: second year (SEK 10,000) and third year (SEK 15,000). Indirect costs ("indirekta kostnader") at Linköping University are calculated as 36% of the cost base, *with the exception of the cost of facilities and space* ("lokaler").

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