

*International Workshop*

**Impact of Poverty and Social Exclusion on Children's Lives  
and their Well-being**

8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2008 (til noon), Bratislava, Slovakia

Hosted by the Institute for Labour and Family Research, Bratislava

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**Abstract**

**Children and well-being: The perspectives of the children.  
Results from the Word-Vision-Survey 'Children in Germany 2007' and from a new  
qualitative study with poor children in Berlin and Hamburg."**

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In 2007 the World-Vision Children Study "Children in Germany 2007" was published by Prof. Dr. Sabine Andresen and Prof. Dr. Klaus Hurrelmann. It gives detailed information about the perspectives of children on their lives and on their experiences in different areas of life (family, school, friends, etc.). The study is based on a representative random sample of 1592 children aged 8-11 from the old and the new federal states. One of the main results of this survey is the strong influence of social differences even in childhood. The study shows clearly how risks arising from poverty and a lack of resources are felt to be a burden for the children. To give one example: Regular participation in clubs or taking advantage of other possibilities depends clearly on the class background. Children from the lower classes as well as migrant children – especially girls – tend not to join a sports club. The question is how children from deprived families spend their leisure time.

According to these results we are going to explore this question in further detail in a qualitative study this summer: the focus is on the situation on children of poorer backgrounds in Berlin and Hamburg who will spend their holiday in youth-camps of Arche e.V., a social institution situated in Berlin, Hamburg and other cities in Germany. The aim of Arche e.V. is to support and to empower children from deprived families.

The central issue our research project addresses the scope of decision-making and behaviour in the perspectives of these children, their space to roam and their concrete possibilities with regard to time and space. Our research methods are a mix of Observation, Photographing and Mapping, inspired by the Mosaik Approach by Alison Clark and Peter Moss (1999). We are going to let the children take pictures of their daily life to gain insight into their perspectives, perceptions and values. The theoretical frame of this research is the capabilities approach as developed by Amartya Sen and Martha Nussbaum. According to this approach our concept of well-being handles both with subjective perspectives and social resources.

At the workshop in Bratislava we may offer to present the results of both studies, the World Vision Children study from 2007 and the new and fresh results from the qualitative study in Hamburg and Berlin in summer 2008. We would like to discuss methodological questions concerning child-centred research methods, especially with children of poorer backgrounds. Additionally we may contribute our impressions of the work of Arche e.V., which is one response to the social situation of children whose well-being is seriously at risk.

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