

British child migration programmes and coercive placements in Switzerland: Redressing their legacy

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Starting in the 1990s, governments and churches of several countries - like Australia, Canada, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Ireland – started to **acknowledge their responsibility** in the historical exploitation of children in « care ».

Official acknowledgments of mistreatment were often accompanied by **reparative and reconciliatory actions**.

These contemporary but backdated reparation processes have produced a new field of study and practice.

Aim of the study

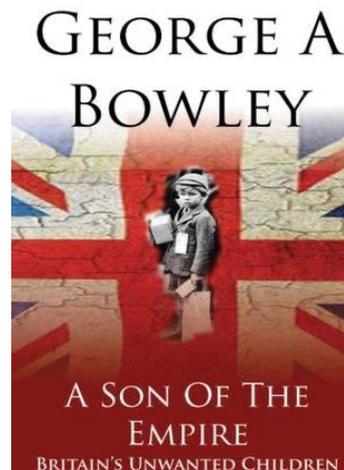
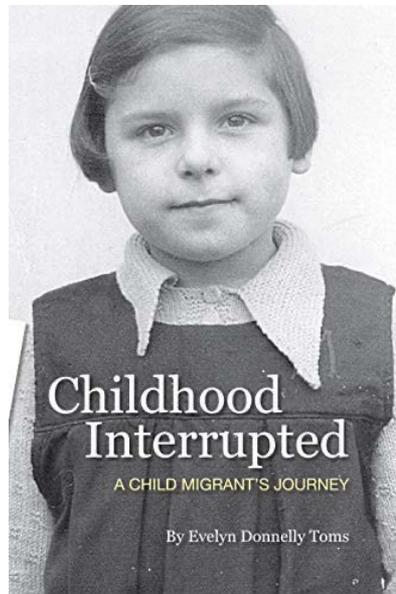
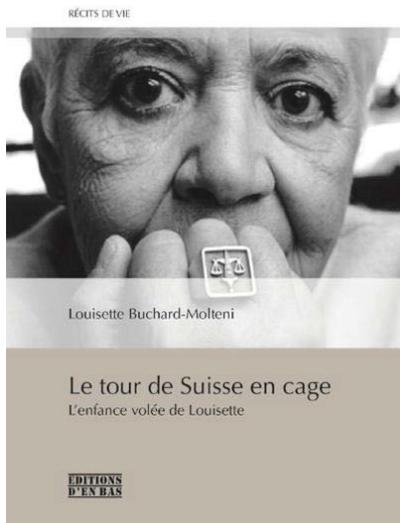
Central to my socio-legal study is to understand to what extent the various instruments used by England and Switzerland to address a past of neglect of children are **an expression of transitional justice discourse**. The present research investigates if these tools share the same goals of transitional justice (truth, reparation, justice, guarantee of non-recurrence).

Switzerland has not explicitly invoked or referred to the transitional justice theoretical framework to address the issues.

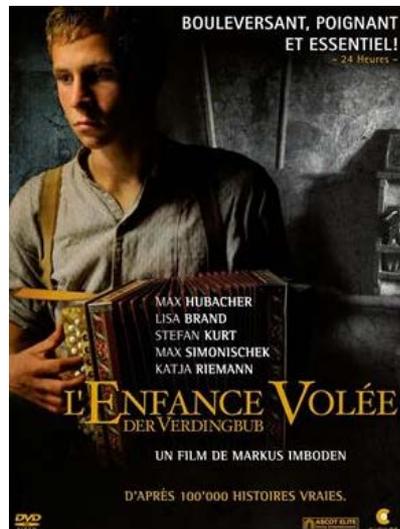
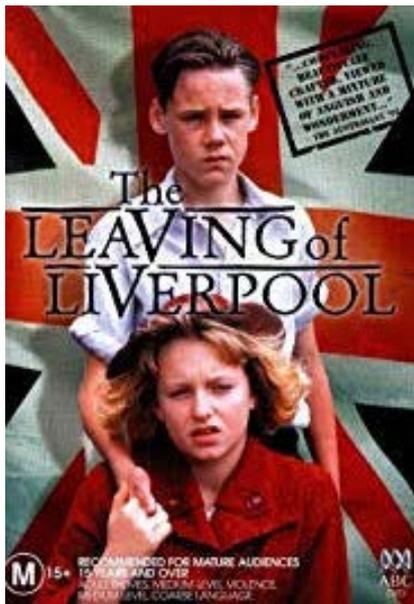
Since the 1990s in England and Switzerland: emergence of a demand for memory on the history of children in care



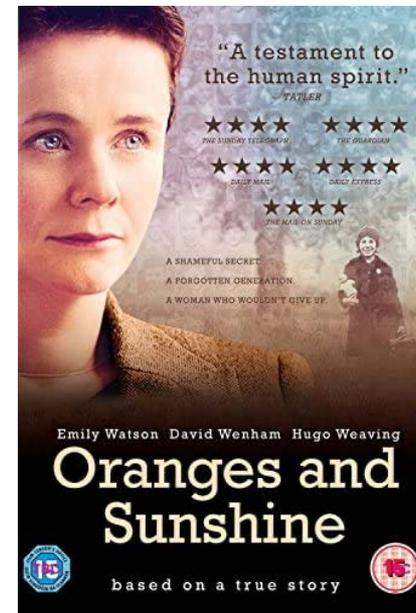
Mediatisation of testimonies - Biographies



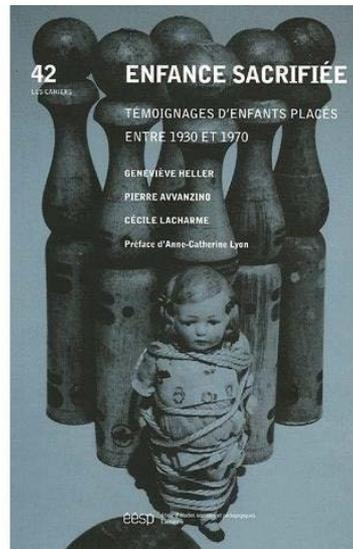
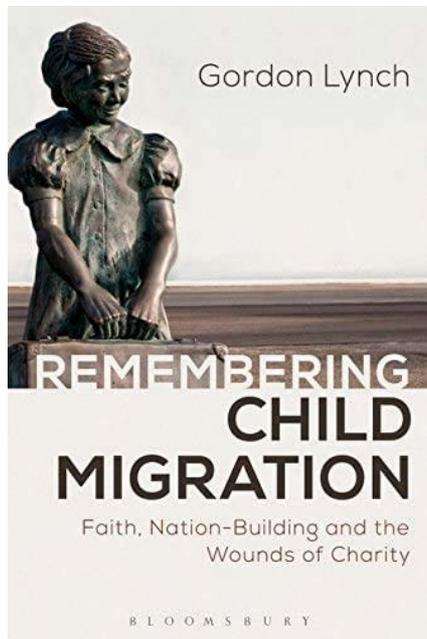
Mediatization of testimonies – Movies and TV emissions



– Enfants placés, les dossiers de la honte



Since the 2000s, there has been a proliferation of historical studies on the history of child protection and placements



Reparation process in Switzerland:

- Official apology (2013)
- Round Table (2013)
- Federal Act on Compulsory Social Measures and Placements prior to 1981 (2016)
- Consultation of personal files
- Reparation payments
- Scientific study (CIE and SNSF Projects)



Reparation process in England :

- Public apology (2010)
- Support to connect them with their families (Family Restoration Fund)
- Monetary compensation (Financial Redress Scheme)
- Memorisation
- Inquiry Commission (for cases of Sexual Abuses)



Transitional justice framework might represent a response to redress victims' harms suffered in childhood, **abusive practices of removals of children** from their parents, as well as **child migrations and illegal child adoptions**.

This study aims to contribute to the literature on childhood and children's rights studies by **extending the transitional justice discourse** to reparations following forced child removals. So far, the scholarship has mainly focused on the analysis of responses to practices of institutional child abuse, whereas studies that explicitly focus on illicit practices of child removals have remained scarce.

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Thank you for your attention!

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