

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### **"DISPLACED CHILDHOODS: Oral history and traumatic experience"**

Oral History Society Annual Conference: 2012 held in association with the Research Centre for Evacuee and War Child Studies, University of Reading

Venue: University of Reading

Date: July 13–14, 2012

## CALL FOR PAPERS

Deadline for submission of proposals: 31 December 2011 (Details for submission below)

The next Oral History Society annual conference, "Displaced Childhoods: Oral history and traumatic experience", will take place in the United Kingdom in Reading, Berkshire, on 13–14 July 2012. The conference aims to bring together oral history practitioners with others who explore the topic of disturbed, disrupted and traumatic childhoods within academic, community and therapeutic settings.

Oral history has been increasingly utilised as a way of exploring and understanding the effects of war, evacuation and conflict on children, as well as former children; the treatment and welfare of children living in war zones and the wider disruption to family life. This conference aims to address both internal migration and the global movement of children from countries such as Spain, Germany, the former Yugoslavia and Iraq throughout the course of the Twentieth Century, and in particular the long-term psychological and emotional impact. Other themes the conference aims to address include the 'Forgotten Children', forcibly migrated to Australia/USA/Canada; childhood experience of natural and civil disasters; disrupted childhoods; long-term separation and segregation, including children's homes, hospitalisation, and the development of therapeutic environments for children and young people with emotional, social and behavioural difficulties. We would like to hear from people who have used oral history in working with fostering, crime and juvenile delinquency, children of alcoholic or mentally disturbed parents, young people in mental institutions, or those who have grown up in violent households.

Papers are invited which draw on current projects or recently completed work using oral history and related methods which address these topics.

We would particularly welcome papers on the methodological and ethical issues surrounding working with traumatic or potentially traumatic narratives of childhood - how to deal with sensitive issues, the question of interviewing adults recalling their childhood selves, reflection on the interview process and the experience of recording with children, and the use of oral history within therapeutic contexts.

The conference will be of interest to all those working in the field of oral history, as well as a wide range of child care and other professionals.

Please send an abstract of no more than 400 words by 31 December 2011 to Belinda Waterman: Department of History, University of Essex Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, CO4 3SQ [Belinda@essex.ac.uk](mailto:Belinda@essex.ac.uk) +44 (0)1206 872313