

Panel 1: Non-discrimination

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1. *In your work, what different conceptualizations and categorizations do you see regarding children who have been displaced across borders?*

- I will speak to historical examples today
- My current work focuses on displaced child Holocaust survivors who ended up in Britain after the war → a very specific historical example of 'unaccompanied war orphans', but one with broad implications
- There was little enthusiasm, then as now, for taking orphaned and displaced children in the postwar period; however, 732 child survivors (aged 3 - 16) arrived in Britain after the war
- 'discrimination' as set out by the Convention might not be the best way to understand how some negative categorizations and conceptualizations of these children affected their experiences and trajectories
- likely the most harmful and problematic categorization: 'wolf children'
- concept of 'abnormal' or 'de-normalized' children affected how even the most dedicated carers treated these children (historically contingent concepts)

- documents from the time suggest that for many adults (carers and observers), the predominant emotion with regards to these children was **fear**, even for those who wanted to help
2. *In what ways do current policies or practices treat children more or less favorably according to those categories and conceptualizations?*
- Again, I will speak to this historical example, rather than to contemporary practice
 - Assumption of ‘abnormality’ was challenging for children → ‘guilty until proven innocent’ approach to displaced children’s mental (and moral) health
 - Adult’s fears dictated children’s trajectories
3. *If you could identify two key aspects of policy or practice that need to be changed to ensure displaced children are not discriminated against, what would you recommend, and why?*
- Adults need to confront their own fear of children
 - Understanding that concepts such as ‘normal’ and ‘abnormal’ are historically (and culturally) contextual, we should guard against assumptions that displaced children fleeing war have been fundamentally psychically damaged by their experiences
4. *If you could identify one critical question that future research should investigate to address challenges with “nondiscrimination”, what would that be, and why?*
- Do we (adult observers, adult carers, adult policy makers) *fear* displaced children – and if so, what is it that we are afraid of? How can we ensure that our fears do not overly shape their treatment, choices, and trajectories?