

**Playing on the Move:
Understanding Play, Care and Migration through Inter-Relationality**

(Play – Humanitarian Practices – Migration – Children – Youth)

Convenors

Estella Carpi Postdoctoral Research Associate at University College London and Humanitarian Affairs Adviser at Save the Children UK, and **Dr Chiara Diana**, Research Associate at IREMAM-CNRS, Aix-Marseille Université.

Summary

In the wake of the latest migration flows from the Middle Eastern region, mostly the result of economic hardships and protracted political failures, humanitarian and development organisations have increasingly been relying on play and sports as a back-route to integration and social stability. The values that societies assign to play and sports activities for children and youth are well encapsulated by protection, discipline, and education.

In this framework, play and sports, which do not necessarily complement each other, are deployed as vehicles to address broad societal issues, such as marginalisation, war recruitment and economic or political vulnerabilities.

Drawing on the experiences of (un)forced migrations and development or humanitarian practices, this panel seeks to contribute to those debates that maintain play activities and sport are an end *per se* or to frame them as catalysts for political, cultural or religious formation processes.

The panel is particularly interested in contributions tackling the intersection between development/humanitarian action, migration flows and play/sports activities in Middle Eastern and other societies that have become home to Arab background diasporas.

Lastly, it seeks to provide a terrain of discussion regarding what ludic and physical activities do to the agency of children and youth, particularly in light of the economic and existential uncertainties and opportunities that human mobility entails. In an attempt to move beyond the definition of development and humanitarian agendas, how do children and youth on the move make sense of ludic and sports activities?

The convenors are planning to edit an anthology of articles focusing on play and sports that are meant as development and humanitarian tools in migration, to be published in 2019.

Submission guidelines

Proposals must include a title, an abstract and five keywords. Abstracts should be between 300 and 400 words.

Accepted languages are English and French (WOCMES working languages). Proposals must be sent in both Word and PDF formats to **Estella Carpi** (estella.carpi@gmail.com), Postdoctoral Research Associate at University College London and Humanitarian Affairs Adviser at Save the Children UK, and **Dr Chiara Diana** (dianachiara3@gmail.com), Research Associate at IREMAM-CNRS, Aix-Marseille Université.

The deadline for proposals submission is **September 30, 2017**. Authors will be notified of acceptance on or before **October 20, 2017**. Further information about WOCMES-5 is available at <http://www.tresculturas.org/wocmes18/>.