



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION TEMPLATE

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Title (max. 150 characters)

Implementing mentorship and foster families for "Unaccompanied Minor Asylum-seekers" in Austria: Insights from research into a pilot project

Abstract (max. 1500 characters)

In Austria, independent young migrants between 14 and 18 who are still applying for asylum (UMA) are generally not in care of the Children and Youth Service. Their accommodation and reception arrangements are only covered by basic welfare support. Hence, as against professional standards in out-of-home care, care and supervision of the minors are poorly equipped and organized. Often, when turning eighteen while still waiting for a final decision on their asylum applications, many are virtually put out on the streets, thus leaving them without any sustainable social support structures or aftercare. As a consequence of such a violation of conventions, UAMs in Austria find themselves in a highly precarious situation, which is significantly produced by their host country. Thus, aiming for a structural improvement for the living conditions, various initiatives across the country have pushed forward mentorship programs and foster home care for independent young migrants. Nevertheless, the international scientific knowledge base on mentorships and foster families for UMA is still very thin, which is even more true for Austria. The paper presents first insights into an accompanying research on a pilot program in the federal state of Salzburg (Start: 08/2015) . It focusses both on the (biographical) sense making of actors as well as on situational aspects, e.g. in the context of the training program for volunteers, "matching" situations, and everyday life of "doing mentorship".



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1. Unaccompanied Minors and Migration
2. Results from empirical Research in the Field of Youth-Care
3. Social Pedagogy and Child and Youth Care in the Austrian context
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Language in which contribution will be held

German

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Spanish (please select Spanish only for contributions in 'child and youth care in the Latin American context')

Please describe your professional activities and research/practice interests (max. 500 characters)

Dr. Eberhard Raithelhuber, is Assistant Professor at the Department of Education with an emphasis on Social Pedagogy/Social Work. He is doing accompanying research on the pilot program "open.heart" for UAMs. His interests are migration and mobilities, social protection and social policy, transnational social support, transitions in the lifecourse, social agency, youth and young adults, amongst others. To his knowledge, the ongoing research project is exceptional in the Austrian context.

I am interested in publishing my contribution in the form of a full article (English), to be published in the congress volume and/or in another professional journal. This will require extra-editing work under the guidance of FICE Editorial Board.

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