

DEP: Deportate Esuli Profughe

Call for Papers

Monograph Issue: “Guerra all’infanzia” (War on Childhood)

The lives of millions of children are scarred by wars and armed conflicts every day. More than thirty years after the approval of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted on 20 November 1989, the situation at a global level is not only alarming, especially with regard to minors involved in armed combat, but is also recording new peaks as a consequence of the extension of war on a global scale and the arms race. As early as 2019, Save the Children calculated the disproportion between child deaths and military deaths in ten wars between 2013 and 2017: 870,000 children died before their fifth birthday compared to 170,000 combatants. Today, in the Russian-Ukrainian and Israeli-Palestinian conflicts (but many others could be cited), children are among the first victims of abuse and violence, with dramatic situations such as that in the Gaza Strip, reduced to a “children's cemetery” due to the war unleashed by Israel. In recent years, the areas of risk have increased for an even greater number of children, and childhood vulnerability has worsened: forced recruitment, kidnappings, subtraction of resources, and impediments to humanitarian aid, violations of the right to care and education. And then the deep wounds that are deposited in memories and that mark entire generations: “lost generation” is the expression used by UNICEF to describe the situation in Ukraine.

The victimization of childhood in war has roots far back in time, but it is only in modern wars, in which the civilian population has become the privileged target of military strategy – from naval blockades, to bombings of cities and all civilian infrastructures – that childhood, or the weakest part of the civilian population, has been hit by increasingly lethal weapons designed for this purpose.

At the same time, the militarization of minors has increased exponentially. The importance of the phenomenon is reflected in the very broad historiographical production on the subject, with studies and research that have explored the involvement of children in wars not only from a historical perspective, but also through other forms of expression, from songs, to art, to literature.

From its first issue, the journal “DEP Deportate Esuli Profughe” has dedicated special attention to the theme of childhood in wars, dealing with the deportation of children and in the first half of the twentieth century (n. 3/2005), torture and childhood (n. 34/2017). Finally, we have dedicated a special issue (n. 49/2022) and a Dossier (09/2024) to the Ukrainian and Israeli-Palestinian conflicts, respectively. In this direction, due to the urgency and topicality of the theme, the journal intends to publish a monograph issue addressing some aspects that have been less investigated from an interdisciplinary perspective, foregrounding feminist reflection and activism. We will therefore welcome with interest contributions that explore the following themes in particular both from a historical perspective and with reference to the most recent current events. Some possible topics of interest might be:

- Children and adolescents who are victims of wars and genocides (morbidity, mortality, forced expulsions, deportations, exploitation of labor and bodies, traumas).
- Forms of rebellion, self-defense, mutual assistance of children and adolescents in the face of war.

- Processes of militarization of childhood in times of war and peace (messages, shows, games, polarizations of messages; the creation of the enemy): activism and feminist reflection.
- Female assistance to childhood and feminist reflection on aid as an action of peace.
- Educators, writers, sociologists, feminists for peace and nonviolence: theories and practices.
- Childhood and law: the legal protection of children during armed conflicts from 1919 to the present day; the protection of child soldiers; gender-based violence against children during conflicts; the gender and power hierarchies that determine the specificity of violence in war and militarized contexts.

Abstracts (max 450 words) should be sent to: [bbianchi@unive.it](mailto:bbianchi@unive.it) and [ludbrook@unive.it](mailto:ludbrook@unive.it) by April 15, 2025.

Proposals must include name, surname, affiliation and institutional contacts.

Acceptance of proposals will be communicated directly by May 5, 2025.

Final submissions should be approximately 50,000 characters long, including spaces and notes.