

506:401:02: History Seminar:  
Children in Danger: Abduction, Abandonment, Adoption  
Professor Judith Surkis  
Monday, 9.50-12.50  
Location: AB-3450- CAC Campus

From Mary Rowlandson's captivity narrative to Madonna's transnational adoptions, by way of the Victorian orphanage, figures of uprooted children condense cultural and political anxieties of displacement, relocation, and recomposition. Mythologized and sensationalized stories of children's abandonment, abduction, and adoption illustrate how family lives are affected by global processes and politics. They simultaneously show how global emotions— from fondness to fear— are animated by the figure of the child. Based on select case studies and your own research project, this seminar allows students to explore global histories of humanitarianism and human rights, kinship and migration, violence and social justice, religion and race.