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**Children and global change: Experiencing migration,
negotiating identities** Dr H Crawley, Swansea University

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International migration, perhaps more than any other issue, both reflects and contributes to processes of global change. Although migration has been a constant and influential feature of human history, its scale, scope and complexity has increased significantly over recent years as the pace of globalisation has accelerated (GCIM 2006). This migration has supported processes of global economic growth, contributed to the evolution of states and societies and enriched many cultures and civilizations. At the same time, it has contributed to global inequalities and has raised new challenges for countries, communities and individual migrants. This project will explore the implications of global changes in migration patterns and processes for the construction - and reconstruction - of the national, social, cultural and political identities of children and young people. Until recently, there was an 'absent presence' of children within population studies (McKendrick 2001) and within the field of migration research in particular. Currently, research on child migration is focused on several key themes such as the experiences of refugee and asylum seeking children (Crawley 2006; Rutter 2003; 2006), legal processes of child migration (Ackers 1999; Ackers & Stalford 2003); migration decision making (Orellana *et al.* 2001; Bushin 2005), and children's experiences of migration processes (Ansell & van Blerk 2005). Although these studies usually make explicit reference to processes of global change, they rarely interrogate the concept of global change, what it means for children in different migratory contexts and how migration affects children's reflexive negotiations of their identities.

The research group comprises Dr Heaven Crawley (Swansea University), Dr Naomi Bushin (University College Cork), and Dr March Maxey (Swansea University).