

Visual methods with expatriate youth in Finland: What is actually made visible?

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**Career
expatriates**

**Temporary
migrants**

**Transnational
corporate elites**

**Highly skilled
experts**



- Highly skilled professionals move abroad for career reasons
 - Voluntary mobility
 - Relatively well-off
 - Often temporary stays
 - North-north or south-north

Expatriate childhood: Children's experiences of temporary migration (2019-2024, Academy of Finland)

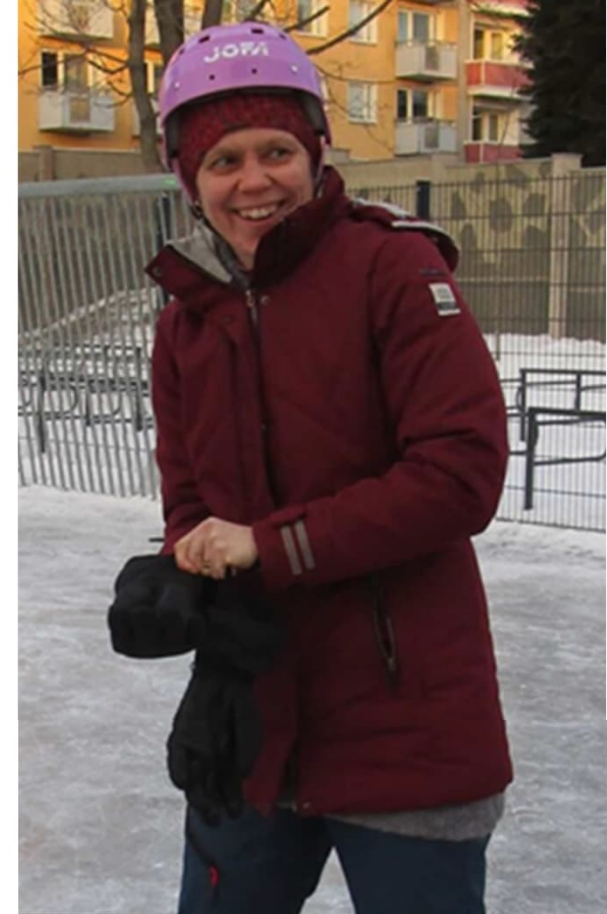


8-15-year-old expatriate children in Finland

- position in Finland and on the global arena
- everyday lives in Finland
- belonging & identities & distinctions

International schools in Finland

- Fieldwork with 9-year-olds 2019-2020 (9 months)
- Fieldwork with 14-year-olds 2021-2022 (8 months)
 - participant observation
 - children's interviews
 - drawings, photos & film
- Gaining the “natives” point of view
Giving them voice,
making them visible



Drawing projects

- difficult to conduct in a school setting where teachers follow strict curriculums
- would require long-term planning
- Not everyone likes to draw
- Challenging to chat with everyone in the classroom
- Random themes

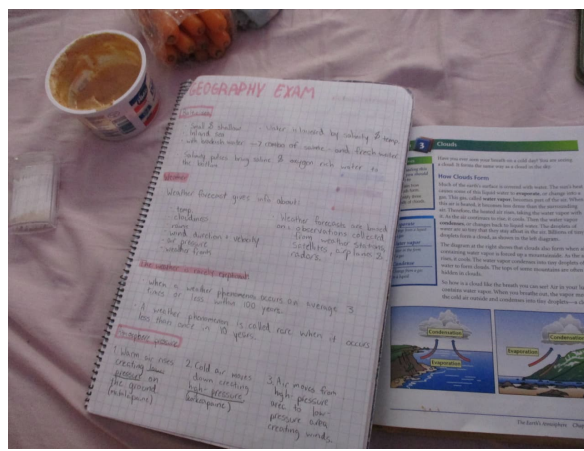


Photo projects

life beyond school

"important things in your life"

- 9-year-olds excited but not many photos
- 14-year-olds not very interested
- I got visual material but not new knowledge
 - Material realities & locations & hobbies



Film: Hanging Out 19.47

- Who volunteers and why?
- Ethics with the film:
 - the participants had the right to forbid me to show the film to anyone
- The film turned out to be very different from what I had planned
 - Lack of after-school gatherings
 - Themes: friendships, researcher role
- Giving voice and making visible
 - But need a narrative too
 - A reflexive story



What was made visible? What remained invisible?

- Who participates in research activities and who does not?
 - Success stories visible
 - Considering **research ethics** (invisibility)
- Everyday realities and relationships visible
- Transnational backgrounds less visible
 - Perhaps not so significant?
- Is the film my story?
- Celebrating long-term fieldwork

