

## Families, Children and Youth in Global Contexts



Maria das Dores Guerreiro, Justus Twesigye,  
Ingrid Höjer, Staffan Höjer and Elizabeth Enoksen (editors)

# FAMILIES, CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN GLOBAL CONTEXTS



LISBOA, 2021

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**Families, Children and Youth in Global Contexts**

First published 2021 by Editora Mundos Sociais

Issue: 200 copies

ISBN: 978-989-8536-79-2

Catalogue record:

Character composition: Palatino, 10

Graphic design and layout: Lina Cardoso

Cover: Lina Cardoso

Printed and bound in Portugal by Europress, Ld.<sup>a</sup>, Rua João Saraiva, 10 A 1700-249 Lisboa, Portugal

The content of this book has been peer reviewed

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## Preface

It all started in 2005 as a result of personal initiatives from researchers in family and child studies in several countries. With enthusiasm, hard work and patience but also with support from local universities promoting international collaboration, the Erasmus Mundus Master in Social Work with Families and Children (MFamily) was born in 2013. Iscte-University Institute of Lisbon has generously hosted the programme with a creative and welcoming atmosphere for students from all over the world along with the teachers.

MFamily started timely with the international concern over the growing number of immigrants and refugees seeking shelter, many of them in Europe. In a globalized world where migration caused by war or urge for a better life, families find themselves in new and challenging situations. Claims for applied knowledge arose with focus on parenting cross cultures and new claims on European welfare states. Poverty, patriarchy, women in exposed situation as lone or teenage mothers had been on the agenda for a long time but gained renewed interest.

The essays in this book are the result of the students in the first cohorts of their reviewed MFamily master theses. The knowledge accumulated throughout the students thorough efforts cuts deep into vulnerable people's everyday life and serves as an eye opener. Thereby the link between research and social work praxis is exposed as a tool to identify specific social problems and their possible solutions.

As one of the researchers who initially initiated what later became the Mfamily programme, I proudly leave to the reader to enrich their minds and contemporary ideas of what goes on among Families, Children and Youth in a Global Context.

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