

Little Lights in a Big World: Missionary Children and Transnational Religious Migration

2. Research Questions



1. What can we learn about the lived experience of these children: physical, mental, emotional and spiritual? What can this tell us about how children experience migration today?



2. To what extent can we attribute a sense of agency, or active influence, to these children? What roles did they play as cultural mediators with their own aspirations and actions?



3. What can the case of missionary children teach us about wider concerns? As historical subjects, how can they reshape our knowledge of the missionary enterprise and migration processes?

4. Potential Outcomes

- This project moves the experience of children centre-stage to recover their marginalised voices.
- Will help fill an important gap in missions history, childhood studies and other related fields.
- Will inform how children are viewed, heard and cared for by missionary and other organisations.

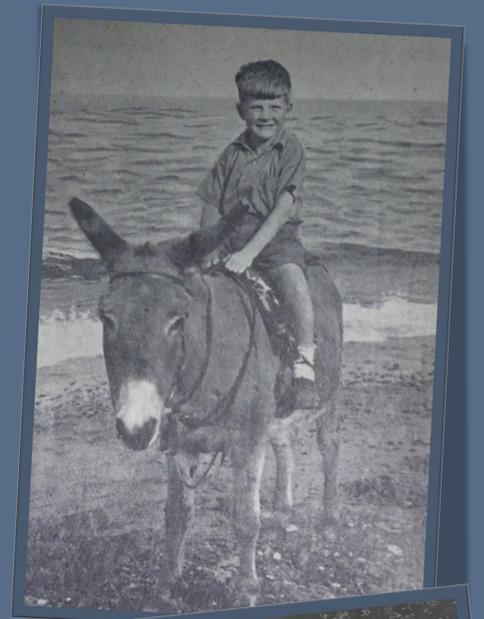


1. Abstract

They crossed continents and seas; navigated social, racial and cultural barriers; endured family separations and fashioned complex personal identities—children of missionaries offer intriguing insights into the historical subjects of migration, colonialism, religion, race, social mobility and cultural exchange.

This project explores transnational childhoods and religious migration by looking at the children of British Protestant missionaries to Africa and Asia throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

It will focus on the Church Mission Society, an evangelical Anglican organisation still in operation today. This will allow for in-depth case studies that can be compared across the historical transitions from Victorian to modern and contemporary missions.



3. Sources and Methods

Primary sources from missionary archives: letters, journals, reports, artwork and photographs

Oral History: Will conduct interviews with past and present children of missionaries

Interdisciplinary Approach: Combines History, Human Geography and Anthropology for analysis

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