



**UNIVERSITÄT
BIELEFELD**

Faculty of Sociology

**Colloquium Series
Sociology of Transnationalization
“The transnational lens”**

**Transnational teens:
the double transit(ion) of unaccompanied minors**

Manuela Orjuela-Grimm*
Columbia University, USA

Adolescents who migrate as unaccompanied minors (UAMs) face a unique double transition: taking on adulthood while migrating and resettling. This transition during transit may have lasting influences on their later health and wellbeing. Since October 2017, the US southwestern land border control processed 305,155 UAMs, including 130,710 who entered the US in 10/20 to 8/21. Of these, 65% were from Central America and Mexico; and 70% were ages 15-17 years. With a large and growing number of migrant teens—worldwide—there is an urgent need to understand how migration experiences during adolescence affect later health patterns and outcomes. Nearly all research on understanding the impact of migration on the health of unaccompanied minor adolescents has focused on life just after resettlement, but few US studies have examined migrant teens outside of a school setting. CAMINANDO (Children & Adolescents Migrating Independently, Neighborhood, Acculturation, Neurocognition, Diet, & Opportunities) (PI M Orjuela-Grimm) is an ongoing Community Based Participatory Research project that examines multiple aspects of adolescent health, stressors, and adaptive processes. The project examines the double transition, including their transnational existence and their food access and diet during their double transition in NYC.

**Wednesday, 20th October, 2021
16:15 – 17:45**

**Zoom event, to register:
kerstin.schmidt1@uni-bielefeld.de**

* **Manuela Orjuela-Grimm** is a molecular epidemiologist and pediatric oncologist and Assistant Professor of Epidemiology at the Mailman School of Public Health and of Pediatrics. Her research focuses on developmental windows of susceptibility to environmental (nutritional) exposures. Her research team, the Migration and Nutrition Epidemiology group conducts several nutrition related and community based participatory research studies with Mexican and

Central American immigrants in NYC, particularly with unaccompanied minors or with young mothers who arrived in NYC as adolescents. Part of their work examines the impact of food insecurity before, during and after migration. She is a founding member of MeTIAB, a multidisciplinary Academic Community and NGO based working group that focuses on measurement of food security in migrants in transit.