

## **Child on the Wing**

On 15th November 2003, the Department of Anthropology at Johns Hopkins University hosted the opening workshop of **Child on the Wing: Children Negotiating the Everyday in the Geography of Violence**. This is four-year interdisciplinary research project hosted by the Anthropology department at Johns Hopkins and funded by the Humanities and Study of Culture Program at the Rockefeller Foundation. The project seeks to engage with an international network of scholars, policy makers, and advocates who share conceptual and methodological approaches to the study of children under conditions of political violence and economic uncertainty, hoping to reconfigure research methodologies to mirror children as active makers of their worlds.

Graduate students and faculty from Johns Hopkins met with invited guests, including Jill Korbin (Case Western Reserve University), Lauren Berlant (University of Chicago), Daniel Hoffman (Duke University), Patti Henderson (HIVAN Center, University of Natal) and Lori Leonard (Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health), for a full day of lively discussion on theoretical questions that arise from a commitment to a child-centered view of the everyday in contexts of social, economic and political vulnerability. In particular, the workshop took as its central theme the ability of poor people, including children and youth, to weld together disparate spheres of opportunity within the economy and the polity - including both children's labour (all forms of labour including the work of war) and political survival (including notions of childhood, rights, violence and inequality). Presentations were delivered from the project's conveners, Veena Das and Pamela Reynolds, from invited guests and from graduate students, and included some enriching case-studies from India, South Africa, Sierra Leone, and the US.

Child on the Wing will host a series of workshops in Baltimore, Delhi and Cape Town in future years, recruiting four Rockefeller Research Fellows for the second and third years. Further materials about the project and details of the research fellowships can be found at [www.jhu.edu/~anthro](http://www.jhu.edu/~anthro).

**James Williams, Department of Anthropology, Johns Hopkins University.**  
[[james.williams@jhu.edu](mailto:james.williams@jhu.edu)]