

**Title of paper:** Precarious Childhood: How Children Experience Poverty

**Author(s):** Sabine Andresen, Elena Bütow, Daniela Kloss, and Sarah Korenke

**Organisation:** DFG project "Precarious Childhood" Bielefeld University, Germany

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This paper focuses on the project "Precarious Childhood: How Children Experience Poverty" funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). It is studying 6- to 12-year old children growing up in poverty in a major German city. The focus is on the children's own perspectives—on their own experiences, what they can participate in, and what they can do. However, from the perspective of childhood studies, it is essential to view it as a distinct phenomenon, and study the particular needs and aspirations of the children themselves. The project aims to find out what is important to them, what they like to do, what they wish for, but also what they do not like. For us, this is always accompanied by the question regarding which opportunities are more available and less available to socially disadvantaged children in urban spaces and what makes their daily life particularly precarious.

Up to now, no studies in research on either children or poverty have examined how children themselves experience their own precarious childhood. Our analysis of the consequences and effects of poverty delivers information on well-being and anxieties in children's daily lives and the uncertainties they experience in relationships. Our approach enables us to gain fundamental insights into both fields of research.

We assume that it is necessary to approach children as the experts on their lifeworld. By linking together qualitative methods in the "mosaic approach", we are able to uncover their daily experiences, how they interpret them, the action scopes they experience, and the action scopes they subjectively perceive. The research design combines participant observation, narrative individual interviews (based on the photo method), and group discussions. The paper will pay particular attention to this qualitative triangulation because it represents a new approach in childhood studies. It will also present and discuss the research procedure and preliminary findings from the project.