



Child Workers in the North?

Legalization and Qualification of Child Models in France

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Abstract: In France, where the principle of child work is morally condemned and legally prohibited, derogations exist for employing children in the performing arts, modelling and advertising. This article proposes a socio-historical analysis of the process of acceptance and legalization of child work in modelling in France in the 1990s. We show how the principles of child protection and the evolutions of capitalism are relationally constructed in developed countries. On the one hand, child protection is shaped by economic imperatives, and, on the other hand, child protection can be a driving force for the regulation of work during a period of vast economic liberalization.

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