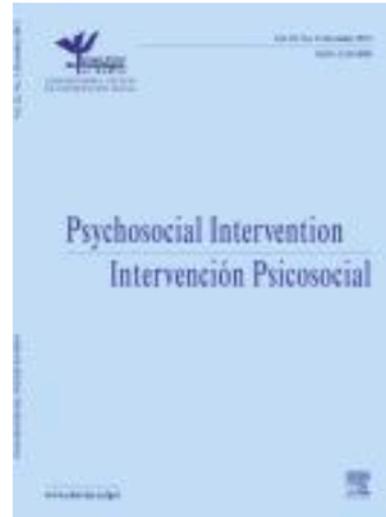


## *Out-of-home care in Europe: an overview*

Jorge Fernández del Valle

# An international review

- Special issue in the Journal **Psychosocial Intervention**
- 16 countries
- Available on the Internet:



December 2013  
Vol. 22, No. 03.  
Pages 161-257



# Child Protection vs. Family support

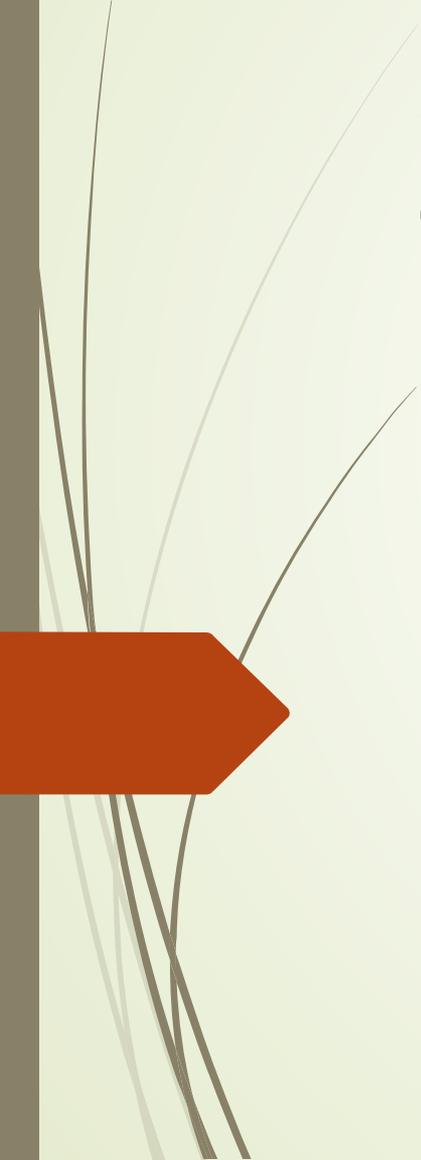
- Gilbert (2012): two historical trends
- **Child Protection:** focus on abuse detection, investigation, facilities to separate children from families and further adoption. Parents as perpetrators. (USA, UK)
- **Family support:** giving a chance to families, training parental skills and other supports, cooperation with parents (Nordic Countries, The Netherlands...)



# A new model: child development and welfare

- ▶ About the 90's decade both models converge taking the best of both
- ▶ The Spanish case as an example (1987 child protection Law):
  - ▶ The Law allows fast separation of children from families without court order (just local authority order)
  - ▶ Family intervention programs defined as a basic resource (compulsory) in municipalities
- ▶ A synthesis model:
  - ▶ Promotion of development and social inclusion of children at risk
  - ▶ Health, education and transitions to adulthood as key questions
  - ▶ Influenced by Children Rights Convention

# Main topics from the overview



# The changing profile of children under protection

- Residential child care as a short term solution and family environment design
- Changing profiles:
  - Severe behavioural and emotional disorders
  - Unaccompanied young people asylum seekers
  - Young people in transition to adulthood
- Serious limitations to use family foster care or short term residential care
- New goals of intervention: therapeutic interventions, cultural integration, job integration, etc.
- Continuity in the use of residential care for adolescents (increasing use in countries such as Spain or Sweeden)
- Need for specialization and increasing costs



CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES

FOREWORD BY ROBBIE GILLIGAN



# Therapeutic Residential Care for Children and Youth

DEVELOPING EVIDENCE-BASED INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE

Edited by James K. Whittaker,  
Jorge F. del Valle and Lisa Holmes



## The double vulnerability of children from ethnic minorities

- ▶ Overrepresentation of ethnic minorities in child care:
  - ▶ Indigenous in Australia, New Zealand and Canada
  - ▶ Roma children in Romania, Hungary (Spain...)
  - ▶ Afro-American in USA
  - ▶ Immigrant families in Germany and Central-Europe
- ▶ Connection between equality of opportunities for minorities and child care policies
- ▶ Need for participative and community strategies (for example experiences with Maori communities in New Zealand)



## Geographical movement in a global world: Unaccompanied asylum seekers

- Countries with borders with underdeveloped countries or areas (Spain, Italy...)
- Countries with asylum policies as Sweden
- New residential care facilities as the unique first solution. In Spain new referrals to residential care changed from 5,800 cases in 2000 to 10,800 in 2008 (most of them asylum seekers)
- Transition to adulthood with special difficulties (particularly in Spain due to the huge unemployment for youth)
- Demands depend on unpredictable migratory flows related to border policies, international relations and political negotiations

# Family foster care vs. residential care

**Table 1**

Percentage of use of family foster care and residential care in different countries  
(data from 2010-2012)

	Family Foster care	Residential care
Australia	91.0	5.0 <sup>1</sup>
Ireland	90.5	7.1
Norway	86.0	14.0
UK	80.4	10.8
New Zealand	79.3	16.7
USA	75.3	14.8
Sweden	71.7	28.3
Romania	62.8	37.2
Spain	60.4	39.6
Hungary	60.0	40.0
The Netherlands	56.7	43.3
France	53.3	38.6
Italy	49.6	50.4
Germany	44.0	56.0



# Foster care versus residential care

- Unanimous consensus about priority for family foster care and reduction of residential care
- Major reduction in English-speaking countries (Australia, Ireland, UK, USA...) and Nordic countries (Norway and Sweden)
- Residential care still important in Centre-Europe (The Netherlands, Germany) and Mediterranean countries (Spain, Italy)
- Fast transitions to foster care in Ireland and Eastern-Europe (Romania and Hungary)
- Influence of unaccompanied asylum seekers in different countries such as Sweden or Spain
- Influence of the age: Germany uses residential care till age of 21
- Influence of social pedagogy and social education models maintaining residential care as a positive choice
- Influence of residential care definitions as in The Netherlands where young offenders are in the same system as child protection
- Growing relevance of therapeutic residential care
- The case of France: professional family foster care

## Kinship care vs. non-relative foster care

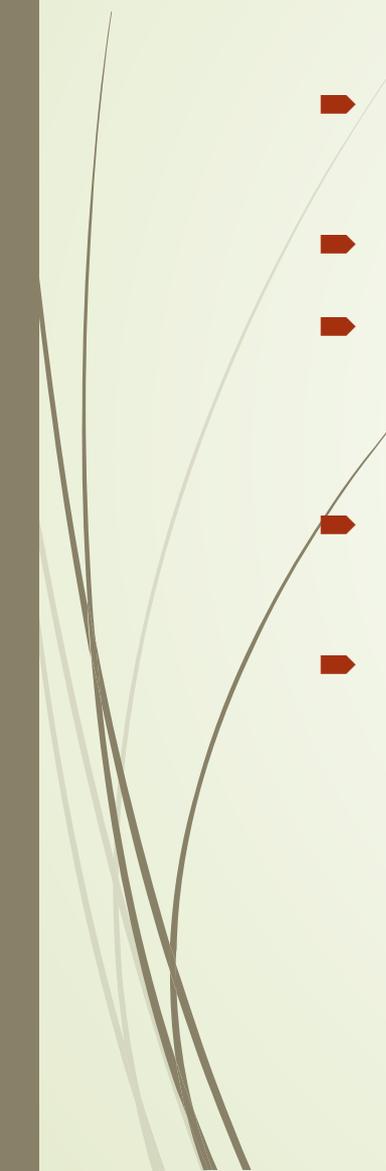
**Table 2**

Proportion of kinship foster care and non-relative foster care in different countries  
(data from 2010-2012)

	Non-relatives	Kinship
UK	80.3	19.7
Germany	78.0	22.0
Norway	77.4	22.6
Sweden	70.0	30.0
Ireland	67.9	32.1
The Netherlands	64.0	36.0
USA	63.5	36.5
Romania	59.6	40.4
Italy	56.0	44.0
Australia	47.3	52.7
New Zealand	44.0	56.0
Spain	25.0	75.0



## Kinship care vs. non-relative foster care

- Influence of Mediterranean culture based on family support (Spain, Italy, Romania)
  - Influence of aborigine culture (Australia, New Zealand)
  - Very limited kinship care in UK and Ireland but now under revision (Scotland 25% kinship care). Also limited in Nordic Countries and Central Europe.
  - Danger of using kinship care as a “low cost” intervention. Kinship carers (mostly grandparents need a lot of support)
  - Balance of vantages and disadvantages in kinship care
- 

# Use of adoption as a definitive solution

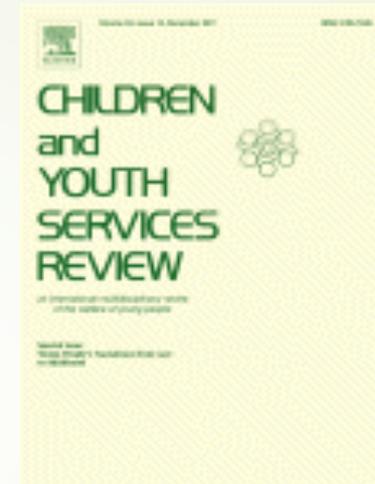
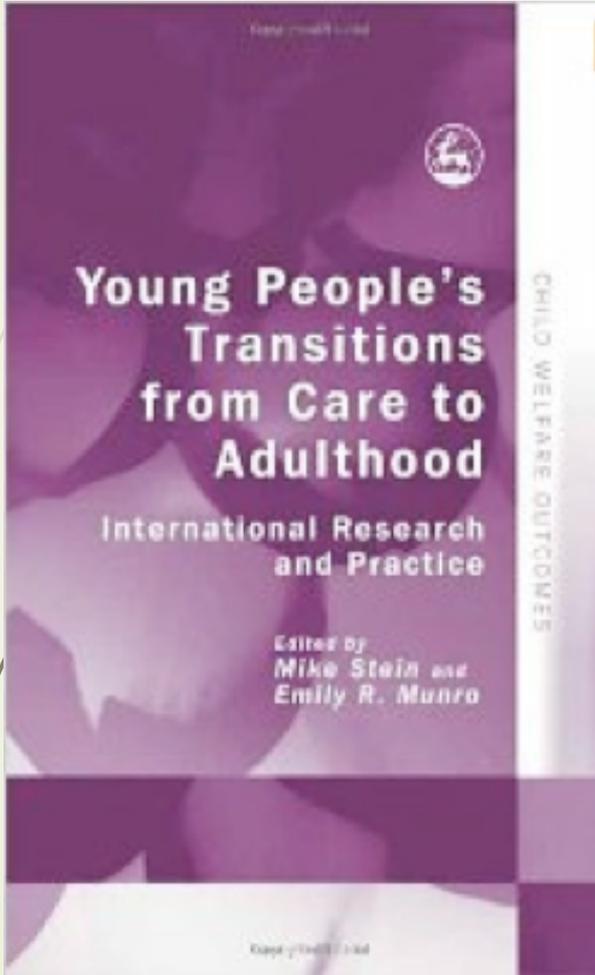
- ▶ One of the major difference among countries
- ▶ Related to de child protection model embracing the right of children to have a stable family (*permanency planning...USA, UK*)
- ▶ On the contrary Sweden or The Netherlands do not allow adoption against parents wishes and in Norway, Germany or Ireland it is allowed but not promoted
- ▶ In Spain the use of adoption was reinforced with new Law in 2007 establishing 2 years as a maximum for family reunification
- ▶ Special changes in Romania where many children were adopted by other countries and now they have to promote national adoption with lots of problems



# Transitions to adult life

- Compressed and accelerated transitions (Stein, 2006)
- One of the most important topics to avoid social exclusion of care leavers
- Significant differences among countries in terms of after care services and inclusion in legislation (now in Spain is going to be included)
- Germany until 21 years old or 27 in some cases

# INTRAC NETWORK



Volume 33, Issue 12,  
December 2011)

## **Young People's Transitions from Care to Adulthood**

Edited by Mike Stein, Harriet  
Ward and Mark Courtney

# Social pedagogy model

- Social pedagogy and Orthopedagogy en Central-Europe and Nordic Countries
- Social Education in Spain, Italy and France
- English-speaking countries based on social work tradition
- Particularly relevant for residential care (qualification of staff)
- The problem of research on residential care dominated by UK and USA
- The relevance of multidisciplinary teams (social work, social education, psychologist...)



# Planning and needs evaluation without data?

- Serious lack of data in some decentralized countries (Switzerland, Canada, Spain)
- But others federal countries have excellent data basis (USA or Germany)
- Confidentiality and data: the case of hidden Roma children in Romania and Hungary

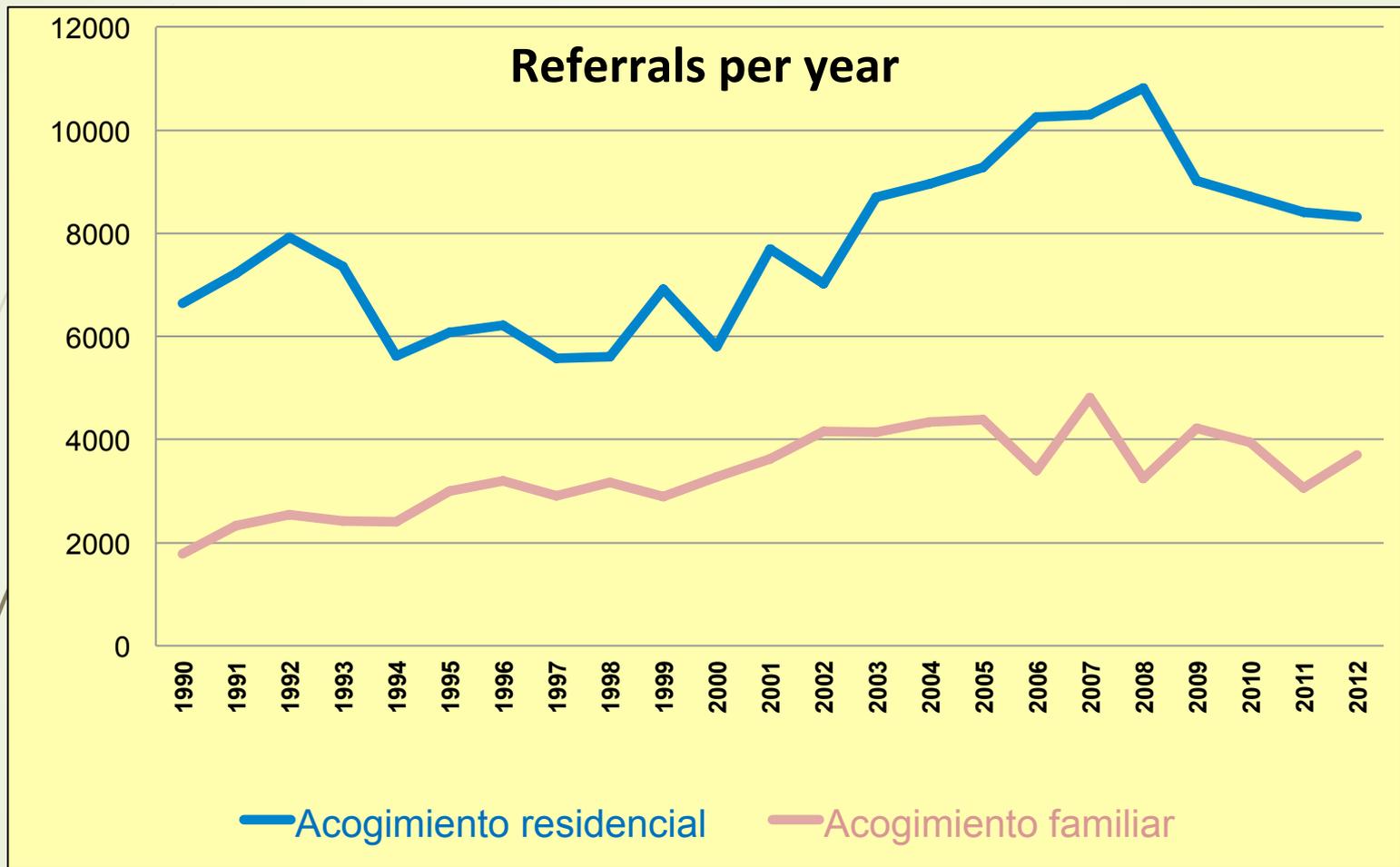


# Financial crisis and its effects on child care

- ▶ Particularly dangerous for Romania and Hungary being in transition to a modern model of child care
- ▶ Also important for countries such as Ireland, Spain or Italy particularly affected by the crisis
- ▶ Temptation of reducing costs without evaluating efficiency
- ▶ The use of calculating costs in child care (Ward and Holmes, 2006)
- ▶ Relevance of outcomes and quality evaluation

# Unaccompanied foreign minors in Spain (MENA)

- Lack of specific data for this group
- Arrivals from Morocco and Magreb to Canary Islands and Andalusia
- They enter child care system as “abandoned” children and receive the same services. No need of asking for asylum
- In many regions of Spain more than 50% of people in residential care are MENA
- New big residential care facilities for them
- Cultural mediators from their countries working in those facilities
- Few experiences of family foster care in South Spain and Catalonia with Morocco families
- Since the crisis figures were clearly reduced
- Relevance of treating them as children and not as foreigners





GOBIERNO DEL PRINCIPADO DE ASTURIAS

CONSEJERÍA DE BIENESTAR SOCIAL Y VIVIENDA

Unidad Autónoma de Atención Social a la Infancia, Familia y Adolescencia



BRAVO ARTEAGA, Amaia  
SANTOS GONZÁLEZ, Iriana  
DEL VALLE, Jorge F.

## Revisión de actuaciones llevadas a cabo con menores extranjeros no acompañados en el Estado Español

Thanks!!!

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