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**Dr. Xiaorong Gu, University of Suffolk; College for Social
Sciences and Humanities, University Alliance Ruhr**

***The Temporal Politics of Mobile Childhoods:
Governance, Care and Education***

Across the world, children are increasingly implicated, voluntarily or involuntarily, in diverse forms of migration and mobility, as families split households or relocate to pursue economic opportunities and reconfigure care arrangements, plan for children's educational futures, or escape poverty, instability and sometimes even violence. While migration and mobilities have been widely examined as a spatial process shaping children's experiences and perspectives, whether at the receiving end of parental migration or taking up migration on their own, this lecture shifts the conversation to the temporal politics of mobile childhoods, drawing on new theorizations of time and temporalities in migration studies and family sociology. By temporal politics, I refer to the complex entanglement of temporal orders operating across multiple levels: migration governance regimes; parents' workplace and labour regimes; children's school schedules and future-oriented educational trajectories; and everyday domestic negotiations of care, intergenerational relationships and intimacy. These entanglements generate both possibilities for intergenerational solidarity and sites of tension within migrant families. In this sense, mobile childhoods should be understood not only through spatial separation or material (dis)advantage, but also through unequal access to secure, synchronised and family-centred time. I illustrate the explanatory power of this framework through my longitudinal qualitative study of migrant parenting and children's lives in the context of internal migration in China. I close by exploring the theoretical, methodological, and policy implications of this framework for the study and support of mobile childhoods and families.