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***Remittances, Education, and Family Reunification:
Transnational Strategies of Haitian Immigrant
Families in South Florida***

Tekla Nicholas

Transnational Parenthood and Children-Left-Behind

International Peace Research Institute (PRIO)

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Family reunification policies through which the majority of new immigrants to the United States are admitted provide preferential entry to close family members of citizens and permanent legal residents.

However, there are long backlogs for these visas, and family members may wait years or even decades to be reunited.

While these separations may be painful, they also provide transnational spaces in which some families are able to benefit by accessing the particular resources available in each country of residence.



In this study adult immigrants recount their experiences growing up in Haiti while their parents worked in the U.S.

Separated from their parents for years, they were raised by relatives, paid caregivers, or left in the care of the oldest sibling.

Remittances sent by parents in the U.S. funded the education of children left behind as they prepared for the futures they anticipated in the U.S.

Parent-child separation was part of the transnational and intergenerational strategy used to enhance the prospects of the extended family.



These practices challenge perspectives of immigrant incorporation as a process bounded by national borders and draw attention to the immigration policies that provide the structural context that shapes them.