

Vulnerable children in Ukraine : impact of institutional care and HIV on the development of preschoolers

Dobrova-Krol, N.A.

Citation

Dobrova-Krol, N. A. (2009, December 9). *Vulnerable children in Ukraine : impact of institutional care and HIV on the development of preschoolers*. Retrieved from https://hdl.handle.net/1887/14511

Version: Not Applicable (or Unknown)

License: License agreement concerning inclusion of doctoral thesis in the

Institutional Repository of the University of Leiden

Downloaded from: https://hdl.handle.net/1887/14511

Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).





It is a great pleasure to thank all those people whose guidance, support, trust, patience and mere presence have brought me to the realization of this dissertation.

This dissertation would not have been possible without the Spinoza scholarship program. The support from the Embassy of Ukraine and from Mr. Golitsyn in particular has played a major role in the facilitation of this research.

To the children and their parents who took part in this study, I am deeply indebted for their interest and trust. I would like to convey my gratitude to the directors and staff of the child-care institutions, who opened their doors for us and provided us with all the necessary support. I am especially grateful to the director of the Baby Home in Odessa, Irina Vladimirovna Sergeyeva for her sincere interest, involvement, and inspiring ideas.

I owe special gratitude to the Odessa team of researchers, whose hard, creative and dedicated work made it possible to set up and conduct the field study in a very short period of time. I would like to thank my friends both in Ukraine and in the Netherlands who helped me to feel at home in both places. Aline, Eva, Natasha, Patsy, and Katja: thank you so much for your support, advice and help, which came just on time and allowed me to get going further. Of course, many thanks to my colleagues and *mede-AIOs* for the helpful encouraging chats.

My special thanks and appreciation is for my family, my parents, my dear friend and husband Charel and my daughter Anastasia for giving me true and most valuable inspiration and support in the most challenging of times.







Natasha Dobrova-Krol was born on 14 September 1973 in Odessa, Ukraine. She completed her secondary education in Odessa in 1990. Afterward she began a study of biology at Odessa Mechnikov State University which she completed (cum laude) in 1995. From 1995 through 1999 she followed a post-graduate programme in clinical psychology and psychodiagnostics at Kyiv Shevchenko University in Ukraine. During these years she also worked as a visiting scholar at the Department of Social Work and Human Justice at Regina University in Canada, and as a visiting research assistant at the Department of Clinical Psychology of the University of Ghent in Belgium, and with the Child Adoption and Fostering Team at the Maudsley Institute of Psychiatry in London. Subsequently, she was involved in various (international) projects in the field of child development and child welfare as a psychologist, a researcher, and a project manager in Ukraine. In 2005 she received a Spinoza scholarship at the Centre for Child and Family Studies, Institute of Education and Child Studies of Leiden University that also allowed her in 2006 to start a PhD study on the impact of HIV and institutional rearing on the development of children in Ukraine. The results of the study are presented in this dissertation. In 2009 she received the ISED International Article Award for the paper presented in chapter 3.





