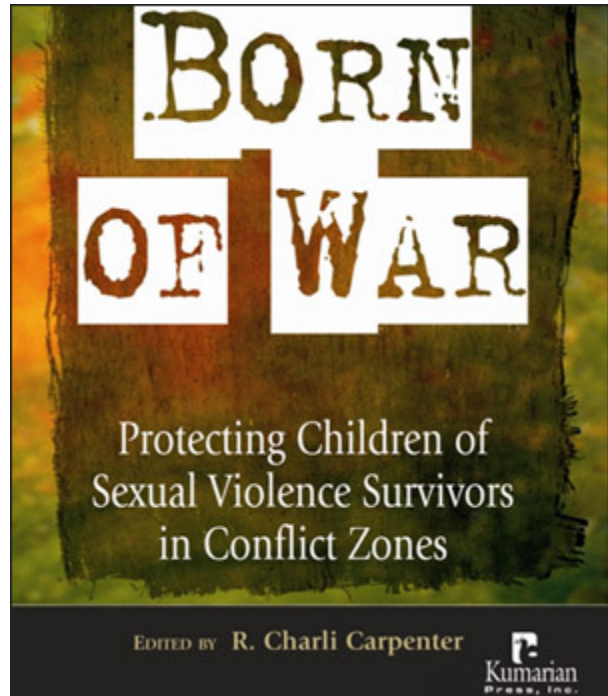


Dr. R. Charli Carpenter, Assistant Professor at GSPIA and faculty affiliate of the Ford Institute for Human Security, traveled to Canada to launch her newest book, an edited volume published by Kumarian Press Inc. called *Born of War: Protecting Children of Sexual Violence Survivors in Conflict Zones*. The launch, organized by the University of Alberta's Children and War Research Initiative, included a presentation by Dr. Carpenter about the human rights of a vulnerable, yet overlooked, class of children and recommendations for responding to their specific needs.

*Born of War* is a collection of case studies examining children born of wartime rape and sexual exploitation in various country contexts and from different theoretical perspectives by both academics and humanitarian practitioners. The project was the result of two interdisciplinary workshops, one hosted by GSPIA with the assistance of the Ford Institute and the Women's Studies Department in 2004, and includes contributors from seven countries. The volume is one component of a broader research initiative on children born of war, for which Carpenter has received funding from the National Science Foundation and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundations. Pitt students and staff contributing to the project included Betsy Jose-Thota, Robyn Wheeler, Robert Filar, Sandy Monteverde, Angela Gasparetti and Emily Huisman.



Contributors to the book, which includes case studies on Rwanda, Bosnia, Uganda, Sierra Leone and East Timor, outline a variety of risks faced by these children, including stigma, discrimination and even infanticide. But despite the fact that tens of thousands of babies were the result of mass war-time rape and sexual exploitation in the last decade alone, little attention has been paid by scholars or humanitarian actors to ensuring their protection in conflict zones. "When we think of children and armed conflict the image is often of a child soldier," Carpenter says. "But war impacts children in many other ways as well." The book aims to call attention to the particular vulnerabilities of these war-affected children with the hope of enhancing the global response to this problem.

*Born of War* is one of several outputs from Dr. Carpenter's larger research initiative on children born of wartime rape and exploitation. In 2005, Dr. Carpenter submitted a report to the Child Protection Unit of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) detailing her findings from focus group discussions with humanitarian practitioners on the protection of these children. She is currently completing a sole authored book on the global community's response to Bosnia's children of war. Her next project will expand on the dynamics identified through this case study, to examine why human rights organizations focus so selectively on vulnerable populations.