

## **Children, adults and nuclear fear, 1945-1985**

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Dick van Lente

[vanlente@eshcc.eur.nl](mailto:vanlente@eshcc.eur.nl)

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How have parents and other adults dealt with fears of nuclear war of their children and youngsters? How did they talk about a threat which they found hard to face themselves? Although conversations between adults and children have hardly left any traces in the sources, plenty of material is available in publications by psychiatrists, doctors, and educators: the experts parents and teachers turned to for guidance. Another good source is fiction for children and adolescents. My own research focuses on the early sixties and the early eighties, when the nuclear threat was especially acute, in the Netherlands. As the expression of emotions is shaped to a large extent by social conventions, comparing how people dealt with this problem in different times and parts of the world can help us understand late twentieth century ways to deal with this perennial problem – one that is still with us today.