Place, life histories and the politics of relief: episodes in the life of Francesca Wilson, humanitarian educator activist

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Abstract
This study adopts an auto/biographical approach to explore episodes in the life of the teacher, author and humanitarian activist Francesca Wilson (1888-1981). It is concerned with the process of researching and telling aspects of her life history as a means of contributing to the emerging historiography of women educator activists and Quaker women in international humanitarian relief in the first half of the twentieth century. It is structured around the concept of place as an interpretative device, and explores how three particular cities - Vienna (1919-22), Birmingham (1925-39), and Murcia (1937-39) - influenced her sense of identity and self and the trajectory of her subsequent life and activism on behalf of displaced people. Among the methodological aspects considered are issues of ‘truth’ and authorial voice, archival ambiguities and silences, and the role of networks and their representation in the archive. The study analyses her use of life histories for political and educational purposes, a theme that in itself raises other issues. Consequently, the use and exhibition of children’s art as a vehicle for giving ‘voice’ to displaced children is also considered, alongside an examination of the visual and textual representation of children by humanitarian activists and non-governmental aid agencies.

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Start studying Unit 2 History. Learn vocabulary, terms and more with flashcards, games and other study tools. The Triangle fire also turned out to be the defining moment in the life of Frances Perkins, one of those thousands of people out enjoying the day on March 25th in Washington Square and saw with her own eyes as the Triangle workers burned or fell to their deaths. It was a profoundly moving experience to her. She went to work with Smith and Wagner on the factory investigating commission. What significant progressive reforms took place during the Woodrow Wilson administrations regarding tariffs, banking, and business regulation? What was important about the 16th and 17th Amendments? (video segment 4).