

1-28-2000

## Trends. Political Psychologies and the Welfare of Elian Gonzalez

IBPP Editor  
bloomr@erau.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://commons.erau.edu/ibpp>



Part of the [Child Psychology Commons](#), [Family, Life Course, and Society Commons](#), [Latin American Studies Commons](#), [Other Political Science Commons](#), and the [Other Psychology Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Editor, IBPP (2000) "Trends. Political Psychologies and the Welfare of Elian Gonzalez," *International Bulletin of Political Psychology*. Vol. 8 : Iss. 4 , Article 5.

Available at: <https://commons.erau.edu/ibpp/vol8/iss4/5>

This Trends is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in International Bulletin of Political Psychology by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact [commons@erau.edu](mailto:commons@erau.edu).

International Bulletin of Political Psychology

Title: Trends. Political Psychologies and the Welfare of Elian Gonzalez

Author: Editor

Volume: 8

Issue: 4

Date: 2000-01-28

Keywords: Cuba, Elian Gonzalez, Political Psychology

The controversy rages on over a 6-year-old Cuban boy who was rescued at sea after the fatal attempt of his mother and stepfather to reach the United States (US). Should he be returned to Cuba or remain in the US?

All rationales for the various opinions on this controversy are based on combinations of empiricism, experimentalism, reason, and belief--all generously imbued with conscious and unconscious motives and emotions. These rationales differ, however, on the weight afforded to putative decision-making criteria.

The largest set of rationales focuses on the child's welfare and comprise criteria such as the potential for greater material well-being in the US, the alleged political superiority of US political values and systems, the amount of love and caring provided by various groupings of US or Cuban relatives and friends, and even the child's own wishes.

A smaller set--but one greatly underemphasized--focuses on the political needs of others beyond the child and comprise making political points against the US or Cuba or securing political advantage through the vehicle of controversy.

The smallest set--the most underemphasized--focuses on the psychological needs of others beyond the child and comprises reliving familial dilemmas, resolving familial conflicts, engaging in narcissistic restitution, and compulsively experiencing and acting out the most primitive of phenomena involving sadomasochistic expression and the setting of self-other boundaries.

That a controversy over a child can attract so many political psychologies virtually assures that the final decision will be to the child's benefit only by accident or default. (See DeMause, L. (1990). It's time to sacrifice . . .our children. *Journal of Psychohistory*, 18, 135-144; Elian Gonzalez and Congress. (January 26, 2000). *The New York Times*, p. A28; Langley, W.E. (1997). Children and world peace: A modest proposal. *Journal of Psychohistory*, 24, 234-241; Lawton, H. (1982). The myth of altruism: A psychohistory of public agency social work. *Journal of Psychohistory*, 9, 265-308; Snider, J.G., Snider, J.A., Jr., & Nichols, K.E. (1968). Active-passive social attitudes toward self and ideal-self in children in Canada and the United States. *Journal of Social Psychology*, 76, 135-136; Tylim, I. (1997). Images of children in films: Idealization and filicide. *Psychoanalytic Review*, 84, 717-725.) (Keywords: Cuba, Elian Gonzalez, Political Psychology.)