Arlington Advocate

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Effects of war on children

M. Brinton Lykes of Boston College plans to discuss the psychological and social impact of war on children in Central America in a talk entitled: "Children in the Storm: Psychosocial Trauma in War Zones of Central America" at the next monthly meeting of the Arlington Central America Committee/ Teosinte Sister City Project on Nov. 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the Pleasant Street Congregational Church. All are welcome.

Professor Lykes has done extensive work with rural Indian promoters in Guatemala who work with child survivors of war. Civil war has been ongoing in Guatemala for decades, and in the past 15 years, rural areas have been hardest hit by the fighting. She will also discuss her recent participation in a colloquium on the mental health consequences of war in El Salvador.

Lykes is a community social psychologist who has been working with Guatemalans since 1984 and has collaborated with Guatemalan health promoters since 1986. She is a Visiting Scholar of the Jesuit Institute at Boston College and a member of the faculty of the School of Education at Boston College.

As part of her presentation, Lykes will show a video which describes her work and demonstrates some of the effects of war and state-sponsored violence on children. The video was produced by Patricia Goudvis who is currently working on a film on children and war in Central America. The work shown in the video demonstrates the use of drama, body movement, art, and sound in providing psychologic support for the children.