



Children and Youth in Emerging and Transforming Societies
International Conference, University of Oslo, Norway

June 29 – July 3, 2005

Call for papers from the network on
Children in the Middle-East and North Africa
(MENA -region)

The title of the conference refers to a world where new ethno-cultural encounters, new markets, technology and globalization shape the structure of social change, of new childhoods and the lives of children and young people. Plenary sessions will relate to this theme of change. The conference will be made up of parallel sets of sessions hosted by different thematic networks.

The sessions on *Children in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA-region)* will constitute a focus on special challenges faced by children in the Middle-East and North Africa.

This work group has a specific focus tied to the challenges of a young network of child researchers in the region. The network will also be in collaboration with international sessions, in particular with the network on Children growing up in the context of poverty and marginalization, and the session focusing on Bridging the Gap between Research, Policy and Practices. The MENA-network shares the goal of these international networks to establish dialogue between researchers, policy advocates, and front-line NGO practitioners working to achieve the Human Rights of socially marginalized children and adolescents. They aim to conceptualize the issue of child vulnerability and educational exclusion in a comparative perspective, through identification of shared methodologies and elements of effective policy, advocacy and implementation

The purpose of this event is to situate modern childhood and youth in a global perspective and it is crucial to understand the impact of changes in global culture and politics on children's and young people's lives in their local setting. The session thus aims to gather empirically based knowledge of how children and youth are affected by social change, how they deal with the situation in which they find themselves and how social and cultural changes influence children and youth's position within families and in communities. Social and economic

change also affect how children and youth are viewed, their “value” as individuals, as family members and as members of society.

We invite paper submissions for the session on Children in the Middle East and North Africa. The organizers will give priority to papers combining empirical studies with the theme of political and social change. Presentations contributing to bridging the gap between research, policy and practices are particularly welcome. The session is also open for theoretical approaches which can contribute to the understanding of children and young people in the specific context of the MENA-region.

Areas of specific interest to the network are:

- Children and educational systems
- Children under difficult circumstances
- Violence against children in schools, at home and on public areas
- Street children
- Children’s participation in the work force
- Health and health behavior of adolescence and youth

We welcome individual or co-authored papers as well as posters. Abstracts and papers have to be presented in English. Abstracts should include the following: A statement of the purpose (preferably one sentence), summary of methods and results (presented in sufficient detail to support the conclusion) and statement of conclusions reached. Abstracts are limited to 200 words. Papers will be presented in work-shops and panels or as posters.

The abstract can be registered through the conference web-site <http://childhoods2005.uio.no> . Under special circumstances, abstracts can also be submitted by mail to the conference secretariat childhoods@uv.uio.no no later than December 1, 2004.

Mail address:

“Childhoods 2005”

University of Oslo

Faculty of Education

Childhoods 2005 Oslo

P.O.Box 1161, Blindern

NO-0318 Oslo, Norway

Final registration for the conference will close on March 15, 2005.

For information regarding program, registration, conference fees and other practical issues see the conference website <http://childhoods2005.uio.no> and add your name to the mailing list to receive updated news about the conference.

Sincerely,

Mohammad Shaheen

Mona Sandbæk