



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
“Boys in trouble, and the trouble with boys”***

The title of the conference refers to a world where new ethnic encounters, social change and globalization creates new childhoods and new lives for young people. The purpose of the conference is to see modern childhood and youth in a global perspective and provide an opportunity to present and learn from child research in various countries and regions. Plenary sessions will relate to the theme of changing societies and childhoods. The conference will be made up of parallel sets of sessions hosted by different thematic networks. Each set of sessions will feature individual keynote speakers, thematic paper presentations and workshops.

One of the thematic networks associated with the conference focuses on boys and masculinities. This network is called **“Boys in trouble, and the trouble with boys.”** The group aims at exploring the kinds of trouble that are associated with boys within various cultural contexts. Our vantage point is that ‘trouble’ should not be conceived of in predefined terms, but rather is a topic to be explored. We hope to organize sessions that will include multiple ways of understanding trouble as it affects and defines some young boys, including ways in which boys are depicted and situated within conflicting notions of masculinity. We also invite explorations of different pathways open for boys to follow - pathways that are easily accessible, pathways that may be rejected, and/or pathways that may be deemed troublesome.

We hereby invite abstracts submissions for sessions on **‘Boys in trouble, and the trouble with boys’**. We are particularly interested in papers with theoretical approaches to the understanding of troubling conditions and consequences and papers dealing with empirical studies which relate to how boys participate in social settings and how they grow up within and outside social institutions.

We will focus primarily on gender and age as transformative for the tasks of growing up. We would also like to examine the ways in which perceptions and processes of growing up are shaped by notions of power regimes related to racialization, classification and ethnification. How do particular discourses of masculinity shape group identities and sustain personal subjectivities? Explorations of 'boys in trouble, and the trouble with boys' may centre not just on boys, but also on how girls relate to boys and mould their own identities in relation to boys. Do girls experience or construct boys as troublesome, do they want or not want boys to be troublesome, do they distinguish between boys in relation to trouble, and how do they see themselves in relation to boys and trouble?

The organizers of the network invite ideas and proposals for Key Note Sessions with one Individual speaker, Spotlight Sessions that provide opportunity for focused attention on important topics or sub-themes, and more interactive formats like Panel Sessions or Conversational Forums. Also individual paper submissions are welcomed for presentation in work-shops and panels or as posters. The steering committee of this network looks forward to receiving a variety of fresh approaches, hopefully from many different parts of the world.

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.

The abstract can be registered through the conference web-site <http://childhoods2005.uio.no>. If this is a problem, abstracts can also be submitted by e-mail, marked "Boys in trouble" and author's last name to the conference secretariat childhoods@uv.uio.no or by mail (diskette) to the address below by January 15, 2005.

Mail address:

"Childhoods 2005"
University of Oslo
Faculty of Education
Childhoods 2005 Oslo
P.O.Box 1161, Blindern
NO-0318 Oslo, Norway

The abstracts and other proposals will be reviewed in two rounds: one for submission before December 1st, and one for submissions before January 15th, 2005.

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>

Sincerely,

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