



Children and Youth in Emerging and Transforming Societies

International Conference, University of Oslo, Norway

June 29 – July 3, 2005

Call for papers for sessions on “Growing up in an Era of AIDS”

The title of the conference refers to a world where new encounters, social change and globalization create 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.

In certain parts of the world children’s and young people’s lives are increasingly affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Caring for sick parents, almost certainly watch them pass away, may change the personal life of a young person as well as impact on the family’s living conditions. While children and young people may experience the consequences of AIDS in the familial rather than public spheres, radical demographic alterations reveal human tragedies on the broader societal level. In high-prevalence societies how do children and young people grow up?

Young people’s concerns about how to obtain education, marriage, land, and other stepping-stones on their paths to adulthood – or to short-term access to modern accessories such as clothes and shoes - may lead to actions such as labour, active membership in local organisations or getting involved with ‘sugar-daddies’/‘mummies’. Hence their attempts to ensure own progress and livelihood may entail infection.

These sessions will deal with issues related to growing up in an era of HIV/AIDS. However, at the same time as HIV/AIDS causes notable changes it is crucial to contextualise the epidemic with concurrent social processes transforming societies such as economic decline, social uncertainty, urbanization, and political turbulence.

Four sub-themes are:

- 1) *The everydayness of HIV/AIDS: Coping strategies, social networks and marginalisation*
- 2) *Youthful Sexuality: emotions, negotiations, and economics*
- 3) *Being HIV+: Children’s and young people’s access to VCT, care, and ARV-medicine*
- 4) *Who are the ‘Orphans and other Vulnerable Children’?: Conceptual and practical implications*

The organizer of these sessions has invited Tony Barnett, LSE/UK, to present a Key Note Session and to perform as discussant in another session. Bawa Yamba, Diakonhjemmet /NO, will present findings from his research in Southern Africa and also take the responsibility of a discussant. Lise Rosendahl Östergaard, Aidsnet/DK, will as well make a presentation based on applied work and in order to ensure a firm connection with practitioner's perspective; Lise will also perform as discussant.

The organizer invites individual paper submissions for presentation in workshops and panels or 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.

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 "Growing up in an Era of AIDS" and author's name to the conference secretariat childhoods@uv.uio.no or by mail (diskette) to the address below by January 15, 2005. Remember to include all contact information with non online submissions.

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 must be submitted at the latest on 15 January 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,

Catrine Christiansen

Researcher
Nordic Africa Institute, Sweden
Board member in Aidsnet – the Danish NGO Network on AIDS and Development

Confirmed attendance:

Tony Barnett

Professor
Development Studies Institute
London School of Economics, UK

Bawa Yamba

Associate Professor
Department of Research and Development
Diakonhjemmet University College, Norway

Lise Rosendahl Östergaard

Co-ordinator
Aidsnet – the Danish NGO Network on AIDS and Development