

Child and Youth Research in the 21st Century: A Critical Appraisal

First international conference organized by the *International Childhood and Youth Research Network*.

The Network's mission is to promote, internationally, the inter-disciplinary study of children and young people in order to further raise awareness and understanding of issues that affect their well-being.

Support for the conference is provided by the United Nations Development Programme - Action for Cooperation and Trust.

Dates: 28 - 29 May, 2008

European University Cyprus

Nicosia, Cyprus

Description

Though child and youth research which is squarely centered on children and youth is fairly new and much more work is needed to assess its impact, a critical look back and into the future can help us appraise its role in the contemporary world.

One of the main aims of the conference is to critically explore the intersection between research, policy, and practice by facilitating a dialogue between the different perspectives. In that sense, the conference envisions a productive, inter-disciplinary dialogue among the various stakeholders who are, in different ways, implicated in the lives and welfare of children and youth.

Some of the questions conference participants may wish to reflect on are:

- What are the methodological and ethical challenges of child and youth research and what can we learn from an interdisciplinary dialogue on methodology?
- What is the role of child and youth studies programs in the development of the next generation of researchers?
- How does the politics of research with children and youth shape the research agenda and policy priorities?
- How can research inform and/or change popular understandings of children and youth and how can research knowledge be made more accessible to the public?
- How does child and youth policy at the national level intersect with policy at other levels (e.g., the European or international levels) and what is the role of NGOs and other institutions in policy-making?
- What can policy makers learn from child and youth researchers and their focus on children's and young people's voices? What can researchers learn from practitioners? What can practitioners learn from policy makers?

The conference organizers welcome proposals from academics/researchers, policy makers, practitioners, as well as others who work on childhood and youth from all parts of the world and from all disciplines.

Proposals which focus on any topical issue that relates to child and youth research are welcome. The following are some suggestions but the organizers welcome other topic areas as well:

- Globalization, migration, consumption
- Poverty, inequalities and social exclusion
- Children's rights and children's participation
- Children in divided societies
- Education, citizenship, identity
- Methodological issues
- Theory in child and youth studies
- Gender, ethnicity, race, and disability
- Child labor, child work
- The ethics of child and youth research
- Daily life of children and youth
- Practitioner research

The conference organizers welcome proposals in any of the following formats:

1. Individual Paper Presentations: Authors are requested to provide up to three keywords to help organizers to assign accepted papers to thematic groups.

2. Panel Organization: Individuals may propose the organization of a panel around a common theme. Organizers must submit both a panel abstract as well as the abstracts of the papers to be included in the panel (max. of 4 papers per panel).

3. Poster Presentations: Authors must submit an abstract clearly indicating that they are interested in a poster presentation.

4. Post-graduate Student Feedback Sessions: Post graduate students who are at any stage of their post-graduate careers and are working on a research project may submit an abstract of their work clearly indicating their interest to be included in a feedback session. In feedback sessions the audience provides feedback and constructive criticism to students to help them with their work. Post graduate students should focus on presenting the work in progress as well as the challenges and areas where help is needed.

5. Meet the Author Sessions: Authors who have published books related to children and youth during the last two years and wish to present and discuss their work should submit an abstract clearly indicating their wish to participate in such a session. Abstracts should briefly outline the main contents and arguments of the book together with its larger significance.

6. Networking Sessions: Any individual who participates in the conference may in addition to another type of proposal submit a proposal for organizing a networking session. These sessions aim to provide an opportunity for participants and their organizations to present to other conference participants ideas for collaboration. Abstracts need to outline the main idea/project proposed and clearly indicate what kind of collaboration is sought.

Deadlines: Abstracts and panel proposals should be submitted to Christos Chrysanthou at christos@cycollege.ac.cy by January 31st, 2008. Authors of accepted abstracts will be notified by February 28th, 2008. All abstracts should include the following: Name; institutional affiliation; full contact details including email, phone and fax (if available); and title of the proposed presentation. Abstracts should not exceed 250 words.

Venue: European University Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus.

Language: The language of the conference will be English.

Conference Fees: The conference fee is 160 Euro and it includes: registration fee, folder and book of abstracts, two lunches and two dinners, coffee/snacks for the duration of the conference. Registration after March 31, 2008 and on site registration will be 190 Euro. Attendance only at the conference is 100 Euro.

Financial Assistance: Small grants covering accommodation can be provided to scholars coming from developing countries and graduate students who are unable to attend the conference otherwise. Grants will be provided in the form of free accommodation. Individuals who wish to be considered for grants need to specify this when submitting their abstracts. Please note that funding is limited so it is unlikely that all requests will be met.

Further information about the conference is available at the website of the International Childhood and Youth Research Network: www.icyrnet.net

For any questions, please contact Christos Chrysanthou at christos@cycollege.ac.cy