

Title: **Children and Youth Shaping Identity, Inequality and Belonging**

Organizer(s): Anne Sigfrid Grønseth, Lillehammer University College, Norway
Christian Slaaen, Lillehammer University College, Norway
Mari Rysst, Lillehammer University College, Norway

Email: anne.gronseth@hil.no, christian.slaaen@hil.no and mari.rysst@hil.no

Children and Youth Shaping Identity, Inequality and Belonging

This panel will explore how children and youth with migrant background (first, second or even third) generation migrants deal with issues of everyday life in ways that confirm, change or transgress various dimensions of integration and social inequality. Several scholars have emphasized the contradictions, paradoxes, ambivalences and ambiguities migrant children and youth may experience due to the multiplicity of the integration process. Migrant youth are for instance often compelled to engage in reflexive choices in order to balance partly competing sets of rules and expectations, which can produce senses of both belonging and alienation in relation to places and dominant identities. There are reasons to assume that recent developments of *polarization* - where attention increasingly is paid to the perceived negative consequences of migration within public discourses, and where integration issues have tended to shift from matters of pluralism and social equality to cultural and religious differences - contribute to reinforced experiences of some of these conflicting demands and expectations. On this backdrop we are concerned with how children and youth perceive, experience and take action within social fields of family life and upbringing, school and education, peer groups and friendship, sports and leisure, or religious and political engagements, all in light of how class, ethnicity, transnational relations, gender, race or religious identity interplay in processes of shaping inequality, identity and belonging. The panel calls for documentation and analysis of children and youths' participation, stories, memories and emotions of migrant background - both those of the marginalised migrants (e.g. asylum seekers) and those of the financially privileged migrants (e.g. highly paid professionals). Against this background the panel seeks insight in 1) the ways in which children and youth of migrant background deal with and reflect upon integration and social inequality, and 2) how they negotiate experiences of contradictions, dilemmas, ambiguities and paradoxes that may arise out of the several interrelated dimension of social integration.