

## **VIII Communication in and about violence and aggression at school - Gender Aware Approach to Exclusive Practices**

Saturday 10.30 – 12.00

### Description

The school context constitutes remarkable part of children's and youth's daily lives but also an important social arena. The 2006 UN world report on Violence against Children identified the multiple dimensions of violence in schools. Too often violence is, instead of communication, silenced. It is important to pay attention to those practices that occur on the interfaces of mutual equal play, teasing, irritation, occasional subtle and visible violence and bullying. These everyday mundane, normalized forms of violence in schools may be devastating on the personal level for a person her/himself, sometimes with severe consequences in the forms of e.g. stress, depression, distortion of identity, suicides and even school shootings. Despite of network society, vast amount of violence is still without public pronouncement in media. Furthermore, the possibilities of new media should be more closely elaborated in connection to creating new forms of violence prevention approaches. Generally research and school interventions have focused on systematic school violence (bullying), and separately violence occurring in families or leisure time with no emphasis on gender, and subtle or non-systematic violence. Feminist research on gender and schooling and also critical men's studies have increased our understanding about how accepted images of masculinities and femininities are produced and maintained, and how unequal hierarchies are established in social relationships in school. Gender relations are an important aspect of bullying and other forms of violence in schools, and impact the learning environment (and vice versa) and social development of school girls and boys.

Special interest areas of the workshop are: 1) Silenced and subtle violence at school; 2) Vulnerable groups, such as children with social, emotional or learning difficulties, disabilities, and ethnic minorities; 3) Increasing awareness concerning preventive measures concerning subtle, normalized, non-systematic violence.