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Dr. Dan Brewster
Dr Valentin Kozhuharov

Dear Sirs,

Please find below the 250 word abstract for the paper I would like to develop for the upcoming AIMS conference in South Korea for the Children, Youth and Mission study group.

Sincerely,

Dr. Greg Burch

Abstract - 263 words

Largely based upon a qualitative research approach, the paper develops a missiological framework that seeks a balance in practice between the often polarized ideas of child participation and child protection. Frequently the two approaches are noted as contrasting ideas, leaving little room for a convergence of concepts that result in a balanced approach to caring for at-risk youth and children. The developed framework in this paper leads to what is understood as a convergence theory that contributes to the field of caring for at-risk youth and children. This theory encourages not only the recognition of children as social actors able to engage in the development and transformation of society, community and their own lives, but also recognizes children as individuals who must be protected and cared for within Christian engagement. Borrowing from the field of child development, a continuum of care is developed that indicates how participation and protection must work hand in hand for children and adolescents according to a proper understanding of their own development. Children as both protagonist and vulnerable are viewed as both/and in this work. The context of the paper is largely built around the Latin American experience as I draw from field research and extensive personal encounters. As a thoroughly multi-disciplinary approach, contemporary childhood perspectives in sociology, urban studies, international development and missiology are looked to for insight in understanding the issues. Concepts such as the emergent paradigm for a new sociology of childhood, human agency and *protagonismo infantil* are developed as key theoretical themes that move forward how we understand transformation in children and youth in our world today.