

**Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 14h30 – 15h50**

**Sharing Perspectives from the Field: Disclosure to Children**

Symposium satellite pré-conférence "Children and HIV/AIDS: Action Now, Action How" (1-2 août).

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**Résumé:**

Drawing on an ethnographic study carried-out in Burkina Faso, the presentation will explore children's experience of disclosure and how they deal with secrecy. If some of them are informed by parents or healthcare workers, others suspected or knew their own or parents' status, but did not dare to speak plainly and ask questions to their parents. HIV disclosure to children is missing from national and international AIDS policy agendas. Because healthcare workers are ill-trained and lack guidance on child-related issues, the burden of disclosure is placed on both parents and children. The consequence is that children poorly understand HIV/AIDS which they associated with death, shame and blame and cope difficulty with stigmatization.