

VALUES LIFE COURSES IDENTITIES AND SOCIAL CAPITAL



UP2YOUTH - Youth- actor and social change
Brussels 5-6. March 2009

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Youth researchers spend their lives researching and writing about inequality, exclusion, non-participation, disadvantage and disengagement, in other words treating youth research as research on youth related problems. But as the basis of an orientation to youth, it is rather one-sided. We should also highlight young people as a positive force in society, as a resource that is changing the culture as well as societal structures. (Gudmundsson 2000.)

ISA RC 34, Sociology of Youth

- <http://www.rc34youth.org/>



*"I look at the Northern
lights.
I am thinking,
do they really exist
or do they just appear.
Everything is insecure,
and just that makes me
calm."*

**(Tove Janson:
Moomin valley in November)**





EUROPE

15° W

0°

ARCTIC CIRCLE

Norwegian Sea

White Sea

Iceland

Faroe Islands (Denmark)

Norway

Finland

Estonia

Scotland

Atlantic Ocean

North Sea

Baltic Sea

Sweden

Latvia

Lithuania

60° N

Netherlands

Belgium

Denmark

Belarus

Ireland

UK

England

Wales

50° N

Luxembourg

Liechtenstein

Germany

Poland

Czech Rep

Slovakia

Ukraine

Bay of Biscay

Switzerland

France

Slovenia

Austria

Hungary

Romania

Bosnia and Herzegovina

40° N

Andorra

France

Monaco

Slovenia

Austria

Hungary

Serbia

Bulgaria

San Marino

Corsica (France)

Vatican

Sardinia (Italy)

Italy

Montenegro

Serbia

Spain

Portugal

Gibraltar (UK)

Algeria

Sicily (Italy)

Malta

Albania

Macedonia

Greece

Crete (Greece)

30° N

AFRICA

PRIME MERIDIAN

15° E

THE CHANGING LIFE-STYLES AND VALUES OF THE YOUNG PERSISTING TEMPORARY UNEMPLOYED IN THE DIFFERENT LABOUR MARKETS OF FINLAND

WORK-Preca

WORK AND WELL-BEING 2008-2011
Academy of Finland

- **Director: Helena Helve**
- **Researchers: Jaana Lähteenmaa (post doc)**
- **Marjaana Kojo and Anna Sell (doc. Students)**

www.nuorisotutkimusseura.fi/workpreca



New aspects for young people's careers - *precariat (la précarisation)*

- **After 1990 's the unemployment rates high**
- **Permanently short-term employment/project contracts**
- **Changing meaning of employment/ unemployment**
- **Difficulties in future planning**
- **Differences among the lifestyles, values and future orientations**
- **Migration alacrity of the YP in the remote areas**



Young people in threat of exclusion

- *Difficulties in transition from education to work*
- *Rural - urban problems*
- *Conflicts in labour policy*
- Training places and jobs
- Migration
 - rural young people
 - immigrants
- Irregular employment, part-time work and temporary jobs



Polarization of young people

(Nuoret ja polariasatio2008,
Nuorisotutkimusseura /
Nuorisotutkimusverkosto, julkaisuja 84)

Risks of exclusion:

Loneliness – gender biased

School-bullying

Problems with peers and bonding with peer groups

Sexual harassment – the sexualisation of the culture

Mental health problems

School drop-out, migration background, disablement and early independence

Juvenile delinquency, unemployment, homelessness, poverty

Unhealthy youth cultures and life-styles

Participation prevent marginalisation



Need of new intervention tactics

- Cooperation: i.e. youth work and youth psychiatry,
- School and youth work and social work
- Multi-professionalism
- Need of new professional education
- Master's Programme of Youth Work and Youth Research – University of Tampere



New questions for the politicians

- What are minimum 'social guarantees' for a young person at risk with respect to education, and training, employment, housing, social support and income?
- How relate citizenship rights to responsibilities: What should they comprise, and in what contexts and at what age?
- Sub questions: What does mean participation, globalization and environmental and social harmony and cohesiveness within a fully participative democracy?

Global Youth Survey (Habbo 2008)

58,486 teens from 11 to 18,

31 countries



- *Achievers*: ambitious, strong-minded and materialistic
- *Rebels*: experiences in life, fast-paced lifestyle, "rich and famous"
- *Traditionals*: an ordinary life - honest, polite and obedient, help others
- *Creatives*: a good education, being influential, active and social in life
- *Loners*: introvert and passive

Virtual life: communal life and mental state of young people





Agency and action competence

- Demands of personal choices, responsible decision-making and action
- Need of ethical action competence
- Need of broad identity horizon - Horizon of hope
- Vulnerability - narrow identity horizon – Identity anxiety

Social and identity capital of YP

(SoCa BeSS: Helve, Honkasalo, Kokkonen, Kuusisto, Louhivuori, 2004 – 2007, Academy of Finland)

- **Family - intergenerational solidarity**
- **SC of YP develop the society as whole**
- **Formal and non-formal learning - identity formation**
- **YP as resource**
- **Trust-based relationships - new social capital**
- **New technology – new trust and SC**
- **Youth and Social Capital (eds. H. Helve & J. Bynner, Tufnel Press 2007)**

Conclusion - Remedials

Coherent national, European and international youth policies (UN initiative)

Democracy and human rights

- **Self-determination**
- **Independent functioning**
- **Self-actualization**

Annual assessments

Share best practices internationally



THANK YOU!

- **YP should not be forced to pay the costs of globalization**
- **Unification or marginalisation in the changing and uncertain circumstances of today is not youth's own business**

