

Call for Papers

Youth & City: Experience based Potentials and Inequalities

for the section session of the ÖGS section *Youth Sociology*
at the Sociology Congress 2023 "Critical Times".

Crises (COVID-19 pandemic, war in Ukraine as well as the resulting global shortages) now shape the everyday lives of many people regardless of age group. Against the backdrop of growing poverty, rising unemployment, and increasing social polarization in Europe, basic concerns about the conditions for a more socially fair, climate-friendly life come to the fore. How do the effects of "post-political" conditions¹ interact with the individual process of growing up of a young person? With this call, we are primarily interested in the subjective perspective of the young individual and corresponding forms that attempt to capture currently given complex socialization processes.

Unfortunately, crises often reinforce already existing social tendencies towards social exclusion and disadvantage. As aspects such as poverty, exclusion, and social pressure to conform and to perform become increasingly prominent, the everyday urban lives of young people end up being shaped by varying conflicting conditions.² Radicalized behaviors of teenagers in public spaces, such as those recently observed on New Year's Eve 2022/23 in Berlin, pose further questions: Should radicalized behavior by young people be understood primarily as an expression of powerlessness? To what extent does urban space appear suitable for young people to deal with current core problems outside institutionalized spaces such as school or family? To what extent does urban space offer opportunities to experience difficult emotions without having to harm others?³

At the same time, circumstances of crisis hold the opportunity to integrate change and conflict into one's personal life and to pursue individual paths to possible solutions. In view of the

¹ Cf.: Knierbein, S., Viderman, T.: *Public Space Unbound. Urban emancipation and the post-political condition*. New York/London: Routledge, 2018

² Cf.: Youths seeking community in Vienna's Stadtpark, struggling with drug addiction, in: Falter.at of 29.11.2022: "Azra, warum machst Du so einen Scheiß?"; Cf.: Youths counteracting Halloween celebrations in Linz with assaultive behavior, in: OÖ Nachrichten of 02. 11.2022: "Die bösen Geister der Halloween-Nacht" (e: The evil spirits of Halloween night); cf. youths attacking both police and aid workers in Berlin on New Year's Eve 2022/23, in: Süddeutsche Zeitung of 01.01.2023: „Polizei Berlin: Deutlich mehr Angriffe auf Einsatzkräfte an Silvester“. (e: Berlin Police: Significantly more attacks on emergency forces on New Year's Eve)

³ Cf.: When inner-city areas in Vienna are redesigned, spaces for action and movement for young people are often left out (cf. Dlabaja, Cornelia: *Soziale Ungerechtigkeit im Stadtraum. Über harte Kanten der Möblierung, (Un-)Sichtbarkeiten und Zugänglichkeiten im Stadtraum*. (e: Social injustice in urban space. On hard edges of furnishing, (in)visibility and accessibility in urban space), in: zoll+. Publications - Institute for European Ethnology. 2017, S.29-32)

increasingly different social living conditions of young people, it appears to be crucial to also question guiding concepts for promoting the development and participation of young people: in comparison to one decade ago, "participation", "self-determination" and "development of individual resources" seem to have lost much of its original potential.

The section of *Youth Sociology* of ÖGS aims to expand methodological youth research by also focusing on approaches of experience-based research⁴. The panel will present and discuss research approaches to questions of self-perception and self-organization of young people in current crisis situations: unspecified leisure time, self-experimentation, sensual-physical experience, creative expression or interaction. The common goal is to explore expanded "action space-oriented potentials" of young people in extra-institutional, public spaces of the city. Related research approaches as well as theoretical contributions beyond those mentioned above are equally considered.

Please send your proposal including title, abstract (max. 2500 characters) and brief information about yourself (including contact details) by 26.03.2023 to the following contact address: alexandra.klot@univie.ac.at. The selection of the contributions is expected to take place by mid-April 2023, subsequently, further submission steps of the selected contributions will take place via the *conftool* until 30.4.2023.

⁴ The extension of Bourdieu's incorporation theorem by the idea of "body-corpse entanglement", as argued in: Müller, Henry: *Habitus und Resonanz. Eine weltbeziehungstheoretische Perspektive auf die Inkorporierung sozialweltlicher Strukturen*. (e: Habitus und Resonanz. A world-relations theoretical perspective on the incorporation of social-worldly structures). Friedrich Schiller University Jena, 2018, p.53; Cf. „*Körper-Leib-Verschrankung*“ (e: body-corpse entanglement) as presented in: Jäger, U.: *Der Körper, der Leib und die Soziologie. Entwurf einer Theorie der Inkorporierung*, Königstein/Taunus. 2004) and „*Erlebnisbezogenes Denken*“ (e: experiential thinking) as presented in: Jäger, U.: *Erlebnisbezogenes Denken*. eLibrary Verlag Österreich, 68/02/2022) based on the concept of „*Focusing*“ according to Eugene T. Gendlin.