

2008S00043

Andrews, Kehinde N. (Dept Sociology, U Birmingham [e-mail: kna683@bham.ac.uk]), **A Question of Should: Bringing Values and Action to the Centre of Sociological Research**, *International Sociological Association, Barcelona, Spain*, (ENG)

¶ Sociology's central importance as a discipline lies not simply in describing the problems within society but providing solutions to these issues. Therefore, values & action need to come to the centre of sociological research & knowledge claims. The overriding question is always what should be done about a particular social issue or problem. This paper will argue that this question of should is avoided because it is a normative claim that necessitates action. Values & action have largely been ignored in social research, but are essential to a relevant sociology. The positivist tradition has been undermined by interpretivist approaches to social research, effectively challenging notions of objective truth & value freedom. However, in emphasising subjectivity, postmodernism provides a normatively relativist position. In solving social issues we must emphasise our normative assumptions as what should be done is always an evaluative appeal. Action research bridges the gap between theory & practice and engages the researcher in praxis based knowledge. Combining the approaches of critical theory & action research, values can be placed at the centre of sociological inquiry. Knowledge produced in praxis would come from social researchers actively engaged not only in asking the questions of should but answering them.

2008S00059

Asano, Tomohiko, Iwata, Koh & Tsuji, Izumi (Tokyo Gakugei University, Nukui Kitamachi 4-1-1, Koganei City, Tokyo Japan [tel: +81-42-329-7423; fax: +81-42-329-7429; e-mail: tasano@ugakugei.ac.jp]), **Civic Engagement Developed in Leisure Activity Groups and Close Friend Networks in Japan**, *International Sociological Association, Barcelona, Spain*, (ENG)

¶ In this presentation, we will examine what impact social capital has on the development of civic engagement among Japanese youth. Our focus is primarily on three different kinds of social capital. They are leisure activity groups, leisure activity friend networks and close friends. First of all, they are three of the most important aspects in youth life in Japan today & secondly they work differently in developing civic engagement. In this presentation we argue: 1) Japanese youth are less satisfied with their life nowadays than in the 1980s. They seem to be dissatisfied with their socioeconomic conditions in particular such as those related to education & job hunting. Results of several surveys show that this change began at around 1995, which can be thought as an important turning point for post-war Japan. 2) Japanese youth are much less "joiners" than it has been thought. They seem to prefer enjoying leisure activity friend network to being a member of groups. But this friend network does not function to make them socially & politically active. So even when they are dissatisfied with their life conditions, they do not think of organizing themselves to improve the situation. 3) This explains well why currently increasing young part-time

workers, whose life conditions are sometimes quite miserable, nevertheless do not organize themselves into social movement. Their dissatisfaction contrasts sharply with their political passivity. We also suggest that close friendship might help them improve this situation. This presentation is based on the quantitative data which was collected in Tokyo in September 2007. Respondents were randomly sampled. Their age ranges from 16 to 29. There have been many studies which focus on leisure activities, but most of them are qualitative ones. This data allows us to examine leisure groups & other informal networks statistically.

2008S00179

Busso, Mariana & Bisio, Raul (Ceil-Piette Del Conicet, Buenos Aires, Argentina, CP1083 [tel: 0054 11 49527440; fax: 0054 11 49527440; e-mail: mariana.busso@univmed.fr]), **La intersección entre espacios domésticos laborales en jóvenes precarizados de sectores populares. Morfología y dinámicas de negociaciones, consensos y conflictos a partir de un caso en la Argentina de hoy**

(The Intersection between Domestic and Work Spaces among Vulnerable Youth of the Popular Sectors. Morphology and Dynamics of Negotiations, Agreements and Conflicts Based on a Case in Argentina Today), *International Sociological Association, Barcelona, Spain*, (SPA)

¶ Work spaces are not isolated spheres with their own dynamics, but rather are permeated by other spheres such as the domestic or family spheres. The work activity of subjects thus seems to be mediated by & to respond to a “form of being, of doing, & of thinking about the ties” between the subjects & their families. In this framework, this paper proposes to analyze the characteristics of the intersection of the domestic & work spaces in the case of young workers of the popular sectors. In particular, it studies what happens those vulnerable youth found working in urban commercial street markets (of fruits & vegetables or of clothing & various products), based on a case study in the city of La Plata, Argentina. Examining the intersection of the domestic & work spheres in a group of such youth involves primarily taking into account the dynamics of negotiation, agreements, &/or conflicts between both spaces. The paper seeks to identify in these intersections the dominant processes (autonomy, competence, or tension); mandates & values (homogeneous & in deconstruction); practices & behaviors (refuge, resilience); & representation & identity (of oneself & those around one). Observation & analysis of what happens in the two different types of street markets allows us, through a comparative analysis, to identify empirical similarities & differences in the dynamics of the intersection between the domestic sphere & the two different work

2008S00197

Cardenal de la Nuez, Maria Eugenia (Departamento de Psicología y Sociología, Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain, 35017 [tel: 0034690611854; fax: 0034928458244; e-mail: ecardenal@dps.ulpgc.es]), **Individualization and Risk Theories**

Examined: The Importance of Family Bonds as Supports in the Transition to Adulthood, *International Sociological Association, Barcelona, Spain, (ENG)*

¶ The paper is a critical reflection on the individualization, risk, or “liquid modernity” applied to the study of youth. These perspectives stress the decline of the traditional social determinants such as class or family on shaping youth transitions and, therefore, the importance of “biographical subjectivization.” The evidence from our research, based on a biographical reconstruction of the process of moving into adulthood, invites to question the excess of generalization of these premises. Our analysis is focused on the strategies developed by young Spanish adults with credentials which are still dealing with the transition into the labour market. The interviewees express an intense dependency on their family of origin during the whole process of insertion into the labour market. Following Martuccelli’s definition of “supports” as the main stays available to the individual in order to manage social life, the paper analyzes the key aspects of this dependency at the different stages of the transition & the characteristics of intergenerational relationships at the present moment of life, relating these questions to the social origin. It concludes emphasizing the decisive role of the social bond & the social background despite the pressures to build up a “choice biography.”

2008S00208

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Flying Circus. (Applied Social Research in Mexico City: 1987-2007), *International Sociological Association, Barcelona, Spain, (ENG)*

¶ In 1987, Mexico City was bombarded by the media on the subject of youth violence & gangs. In Mexico there are currently almost 25 million youngsters between 12 & 24 years of age, almost half of which are in a state of poverty or extreme poverty & there is no clear social policy to care for them. How can Action-Research contribute to a situation of this nature? This was the situation in which Action-Research began working in 1987 to assess the situation of working-class youth identified as “gangs” to curb the growing violence & find mechanisms that would enable them to be reincorporated into a society that regarded them as “adversaries.” This gave rise to the Flying Circus, whose name comes from the meetings we held in the streets when we used to wonder what we should call ourselves. Most of them had animal nicknames (The Cat, The Flea, The Dark Animal, etc.) & they said, “We are a bunch of animals, as though we were a circus... but with nowhere to land, we are a Flying Circus (Circo Volador).” Hence, we started to look for a place where the proposal could “settle down,” which we achieved a few years later (1994), after 7 years of radiophonic work & the promotion of youth culture, a “Commodatum” Agreement with the City Government, a Revocable Temporary Administrative

Permit (PATR by its abbreviation in Spanish), by which we received, free of charge, the loan of a spacious, old movie theatre abandoned for more than 10 years, in exchange of their rehabilitation & maintenance with the collective work of the youngsters, to be used for their attention. After 20 years, this project it's working so hard & it becomes in a good example of replicability for Civil Society Organizations (CSO), to design Social Policies, in different cities and societies. In 2004, this project won the recognition from UN-HABITAT as one of the twelve best Social Practices in the world, because of its capacity of replication.

2008S00226

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+91 9415189200; fax: +091 522 2635563; e-mail: ccyrci@rediffmail.com]), **Representation of Indian Youth in Print**

Media: Indian Youth in Public Debates, *International Sociological Association, Barcelona, Spain*, (ENG)

¶ In twenty first century media plays a powerful role in constructing and reconstructing the images of women, children & youth. The new boundaries of childhood & youth-hood have been portrayed in the media which influence the mind set of common people of the community. The new notions have been developed & old beliefs are destroyed by the media. The media has been a powerful agent not only for mapping the social images of youth but also for construction of their 'new' images. The present study is planned in the light of the existing argument that Indian media in the age of knowledge revolution through information technology is changing the images of Indian youth considerably. This is an exploratory study to find out the nature of youth representation in the Indian Media. This study would explore various aspects of the media representation of the Indian Youth & how this influences in forming their identities. It has been observed that the identity of the youth is often a creation of the way the media represent the youth. For the purpose of exploration the present study has undertaken only the print media in India & the allied publications. Four leading Indian newspaper (the Hindustan Times, The Times of India, The Indian Express & Dainik Jagran) have been taken to identify news stories which refer to youth for content analysis. An analysis has been done to understand the terms used to qualify the Indian Youth; its nature & the various meanings attached to youth. The major findings of the study is that print media is not only reporting the events related to youth but at the same time is redefining the new contours of personality of Indian Youth which is in consonance of 'Images of Global Youth'. Here the thesis is that Indian Youth is passing through a phase in which he or she experience a conflict between the local image of youth and the global image of youth. The local image means that the conventional image or identity of Indian youth, while the global image of youth means the internationally promoted styles and fashion of youth.

2008S00236

Chaves, Mariana & Bergñ, Elena (Núcleo de Estudios Socioculturales, Universidad Nacional de La Plata-CONICET, Universidad Nacional de Tres de Febrero, calle 9 esq. 63, La Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina (1900) [tel: 54 221 4513705 int 129; e-mail: mchaves@fcnym.unlp.edu.ar]), **Revisiting Twenty Five Years in Argentina: Youth Theories, Youth Questions and Public Debates between 1983-2008**, *International Sociological Association, Barcelona, Spain*, (SPA)

¶ In December 1983, a democratic government took office in Argentina after seven years of military dictatorship. This date serves as a historic inflexion point to situate the time from which to accomplish the objective of this work: to make a critical revision of the research field in social sciences about youth in the country. A quarter century of transformations in the world with particularities in the local & regional level, give an interpretative context to the description & analysis we offer about the trajectory in youth studies in Argentina. The paper presents a systematization of the themes, the questions, the answers, the theories & the public debates aroused to the present. It examines the influences of the different schools and theories in youth considered as classics, the bonds with Latin-American developments & mostly the particular form the local focus has acquired in different periods, in diverse areas of the country, from different origin disciplines & according to the theoretical - methodological tradition that framed them. At the same time, we make reference to the impact & interlocution that those investigations had or have in the national public sphere, contributing in this way to the comprehension, from local contexts, of the increase of the youth question in the world & how young males & females grow in it.

2008S01251

Vidal, Sergi (U Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain 08005 [tel: 0034935422735; e-mail: sergi.vidal@upf.edu]), **Social Ties and Internal Migration of Young Adults in West-Germany**, *International Sociological Association, Barcelona, Spain*, (ENG)

¶ Using data from the German Socio-Economic Panel (GSOEP) since the fall of the Berlin Wall, the research tries to unravel different postulates on the association between geographical dispersion of social ties of relatives & close friends (i.e. strong ties) and internal migration behaviour, which is assumed to be endogenous. The analyses have been restricted to young West-Germans, aged 16-35, & then, interdependencies with transitions to adulthood have been assessed. Results of multilevel event history analysis show that there is a direct measurable effect of the size and geographical dispersion of social ties on mobility behaviour of young adults, net of endogenous processes. Other results show that strong social ties exert higher influence on the weakest individuals of the labour market (i.e. low educated & unemployed) under instrumental purposes mechanisms (i.e. information and economic aid). The duration analysis also shows how strong social ties exerted a stronger tying effect when the economic situation turned to be bad. The main speculation under the latter results is that

the German family mainly influences individual mobility behaviour because it works as a safety net when things go bad, above all for individuals with limited opportunities in the labour market.

2008S00422

Góbor, Kólmón & Szemerszki, Marianna (Hungarian Institute for Educational Research and Development, Budapest, 1051 [tel: (+36)-1-235-7299; fax: (+36)-1-235-7202; e-mail: gkalman@ella.hu]), **The Sziget Festival in Budapest. The New Young Middle Class and Leisure Activity in Hungary**, *International Sociological Association, Barcelona, Spain*, (ENG)

¶ The Sziget's History: Sziget Festival began in 1993. The number of visitors was 143000 in 1994 on the Student Island-Eurowoodstock event's 25th anniversary. The number of visitors in 2007 was about 400000. In 2007 half of the Sziget visitors came from abroad, the majority of foreigners from Europe. The description of the sample: the sample was chosen on a random basis. We have asked 1000 young people in every year since 2000. The interviewers were told to ask a specific number of people scattered in time & space. They were told to ask every fourth person whom they met on the site in the given time span. These methods altogether ensured the randomness of the sample. The data obtained shows □4.5 percent diversion compared to asking every single participant in the festival. The Sziget Festival has been researched since 1997. In our research we have looked at such fundamental questions as the middle class transformation of the Sziget & the young generation. In the last few years we have therefore included in our questionnaire questions which aimed to clarify a former statement of ours, namely that the Sziget Festival was the festival of the middle class—that is why we included a question concerning class consciousness; while we further deepened the research by looking at the attitudes of young people with regard to the market. We placed the following features describing the new young middle class in focus: housing, dress style, hair styles, etc., which features also serve to describe youth culture. In the nineties, the new school youth stage appeared in Hungary, too. The school youth stage corresponds to the increase of time spent at school, & to the expansion of secondary and tertiary education. Because of economical & technical developments, the school youth stage has been accompanied by the expansion in consumption (the permeation of consumer goods, major extensions of the consumer & service industries), which is making society more & more middle class. Our researches in Sziget confirms for us that, now, the change of the youth stage has finished, & a new young middle class has been created. Key trends in the Sziget include: As a consequence of the social changes, the young people appear as consumers. An increasing proportion of young people possess their own consumer goods, especially goods produced by the entertainment & the vehicle industry. Early independence and parallel study & work equals increasing consumption for the participants of the festival. It is also noticeable in the life plans & biographies of the participants of the festival that young people today gain independence earlier while they finish their studies later, & marriage

follows the serious relationships also later. As a result of the changes in the 1990s, the leisure activities of young people have been transmitted to the entertainment industry that evolved along market-oriented principles in the nineties. The lack of diversification in the entertainment industry & the Sziget Festival. The independence of young people, which is accompanied by their independence in choosing the patterns they accept, leads to an increasingly varied independent youth culture.

2008S00362

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gur@gsu.edu.tr]), **Le rôle des TIC dans la construction des stratégies identitaires des jeunes des quartiers populaires d'Istanbul** (The Role of TIC in the Construction of Identity Strategies of Youth in the Popular Districts of Istanbul), *International Sociological Association, Barcelona, Spain, (FRE)*

¶ The rapid proliferation & dizzying refinement of new technologies seem to initiate a double process that, on one hand, increases as much as possible the extent of usages, all in varying the profile of the users, but on the other hand, guarantees the highly supervised integration of actors & devices on a matrix of configurations of innumerable social actions. It is thus that, through the bias of the individualized appropriation of usages by a variety of users, multiple functions deriving from state-of-the-art technologies are formed, above all those designed for individual usage. This phenomenon is equally a source of possibilities for new socialities, through the creation by the actors of technology of identity strategies, of which the interactive function fashions new modes of social articulation. This paper, based on a field study, attempts to prove this fundamental hypothesis in the case of the youth of three peripheral districts of different types in the metropolitan zone of the city of Istanbul. It discusses the preconceived & reconfigured aspects of new technologies, & the individual methods developed from them in the popular districts. The choice of youth as principal actors places their double characteristics precisely side by side: on the one hand, they are the ones most subjected to socioeconomic imprisonment; but on the other hand, they are also the ones most able to turn around their unfavorable circumstances through their high motivation for engagement in new technologies.

2008S00373

Fabiansson, Charlotte (Macquarie University, Australia [e-mail: fabiansson@optusnet.com.au]), **To be Young in a Risk Society: Young Peoples Voice and Perception of Status in the Public** 2008S00367 Sociological Abstracts *International Sociological Association* 66

Realm, *International Sociological Association, Barcelona, Spain, (ENG)*

¶ Young people's endeavours to be recognised are present in every generation,

cultural & social identities are significant modes of being young. Globalisation of information in the twenty-first century has made new knowledge & trends instantaneously accessible for today's generation more so than for any previous generation. Local events, traditions, culture, & ethnicity can be assessed against gained global knowledge. While national borders, collective consensus, & morality are questioned, the quest for acceptance & self-identity are promoted. Responsibility for well being, prosperity, success & accomplishments has become individualised responsibilities. The risk society, risk taking behaviour & activities become everyday negotiating attributes and unavoidable features of modern society. The paper analyses Habermas' public sphere discourse in relation to young people's voices, it explores Beck's analysis of the modern risk society and young people's community affiliation, & Giddens' discourse about fear, young people feeling valued, & trusted by people in the local community. A survey of 751 high school students in 2003 showed that young people's confidence in voicing their opinions in the public sphere were influenced by how they perceived their value in society. Young people who did not feel valued by society were more inclined to voice their opinions in public than young people who felt valued. While being valued by society enhanced engagement in community activities & trust in people, there was also a group of young people who would never voice a diverging opinion independent of being valued or not.