

Conference Entry Form

Conference entry form for participants of the 3rd international conference "Interdisciplinary Cultural Group Research: Youth Subcultures, Worldviews and Lifestyles".

Name *

Kari Paakkunainen

Job Title *

University teacher

Company or Organization *

University of Helsinki

Contry *

Finland

Short bio

Researcher and Teacher in political science and youth research:

[https://tuhat.helsinki.fi/portal/en/persons/kari-paakkunainen\(815e5187-04ca-4a37-a936-f95ad38090cd\).html](https://tuhat.helsinki.fi/portal/en/persons/kari-paakkunainen(815e5187-04ca-4a37-a936-f95ad38090cd).html)

Email *

kari.paakkunainen@helsinki.fi

Proposal Title *

Facing contingent and suggestive life paths, but sub-cultural rhetoric and knowledge politics is alive nevertheless: Student groups in Open University in Helsinki

Abstract (500 words). Abstracts will be published on the website before the conference. *

Precarious, late-modern and disintegrated contexts are specific cultural conditions for youth's subcultures. How are young subcultures composing and developing in the midst of contingent, individually and virtually reflective Zeitgeist and light communities and institutions? Well-subsided, often digital and flexible institution of Finnish Open University is one of the most intensive educational bodies to face young citizens and students interests and intentions in reflective and competitive society. And youth groups have their own virtual and social networks, un-institutional competences and groups for opening the paths and unofficial circles into the student training, education and intellectual exercises. This research paper is grounded on hermeneutic interpretation of eighteen thematic interviews of young and middle aged students in Open University of Helsinki University (social sciences). The analytical design of research is based on hermeneutic and quantitative (classification) means where the argumentative structures and metaphors are most relevant units (Ricoeur and Perelman&Olbrechts-Tyteca). The thematic structuring the analyzing of text corpuses are highly interesting for academic debate on conditions of youth's subcultures; focus-differences are around gender, generation, digitally warm or cold attitudes, citizen-, work- and student training intentions, pragmatic and theoretical premises, interests and contingency of knowledge, first and second chances at life paths.

The text corpuses articulate four cultural sub-groups and rhetorical styles. There are real, intellectual and virtual spaces and sub-styles ethos, pathos and logos in entering discourse into the university culture. Subcultures express themselves in group-coherent and some unique manners and they communicate and critically debate with each other via "real" educational spaces at (open)university, but also in "virtual", professional and social arenas and socially problematic spaces between real and open university, between intellectual and working life networks conceptually and critically empowering of working life ratio and means. Un-official conventions, frames and reflections constitutes a kind of secure identity for sub-cultures where also difference-making-issues are relevant.

The first sub-culture is named as a group of precarious and unsure candidates of academy with their hectic and hunting 'prepare'-intention of training into the official university institution and its student sub-cultures. The second sub-identity is reflective, senior-academic interpreters. It has experienced academic exercises in various fields and blur the borderlines between strict intellectuals in and out of university branches – between research world enthusiasm and formal scholarships in academy. In the same time networking researchers in civil and working society constitutes a third, more ethical, into the citizen-conclusions and -judgements oriented group. Ethical and theoretical principles are part of citizen and profession politics in risk- and reflective society: individually and at sub-group level students need hot-way analytical and framing university tools for responsibilities in practical professions. The vision of winning consult – the fourth sub-language holds up the life-managing manners which are primarily assertive and self-disciplined part of the competitive and hierarchically instrumental life-management and

leadership. Altogether; risk-societal, precarious and society of individual compulsory-choice has its own sub-cultures.

Session type

Presentation

Panel

Workshop

Panel Title

Short Panel Description

Planned Presenters (3-4 people)

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