



The 39th World
Congress of the
International Institute
of Sociology
Yerevan, Armenia

JUNE 11-14, 2009

www.iisoc.org/iis2009

REGULAR SESSION INFORMATION

Title of Session: Youth, Culture and Identity in the 21st Century

Name of Session Convener(s): Lauren Langman, Vessela Misheva

University/Organization incl. City: Loyola University of Chicago, Department of Sociology/International Sociological Association; Uppsala University, Department of Sociology

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Comments: -

Session Abstract (up to 250 words):

The focus of the session is on the period in life between childhood and adulthood, socially constructed as "adolescence," in which young people strive to establish their autonomy, come to terms with sexuality, and formulate their own identity. Although this has often been characterized as a period of *sturm und drang*, developmental crisis, and discontinuities, the various rites of passage that mark life-cycle transitions are today faced with unique challenges in the age of globalization, the characteristics of which include growing societal complexity, insecurity, age-differentiation, and occupational specialization. These social factors, which generate dramatic changes in filial relations, family structure, and conditions of socialization and are coupled with economic stagnation, social stratification, and cultural diversification, have converged in ways that constitute new obstacles to the acquisition of coherent identity by young people. Such factors have rendered successful integration into society and occupational attainment increasingly problematic, thereby fostering alienation among youth. A hedonistic popular culture of instant gratification has proliferated and taken a variety of forms as one way of overcoming such alienation, which is reinforced by late capitalism. The fact that certain elements of this popular culture embrace counter-cultural identities and transgressive behavior has once again placed youth and the problems of

adolescence at the center of societal concern and scholarly attention. The session will accommodate a variety of discussions on modern socialization problems, strategies of coping with identity problems, and the new forms of alienation among adolescent youth. It also welcomes investigation of the forms that youth counter-culture has taken, including such music genres as heavy metal and satanic rock.

General information

During each afternoon of the congress, there will be room for a large number of parallel regular sessions. Each session is 90 minutes long and consists of an oral presentation of 4 to 6 papers. Session conveners are expected to administer and chair their session at the 2009 IIS World Congress.

Starting in mid-December, calls for papers to participate in approved sessions will be posted on the website. Interested participants will contact the session convener (you) directly with an abstract no later than February 28, 2009. The session convener should take in all submissions and select the best 4 to 6 papers to be presented and forward this information, including e-mail addresses of accepted authors, to the IIS Secretariat no later than March 15, 2009.