

CENTRE FOR INNOVATION AND RESEARCH IN CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH

ESW Open Seminar Series

Wednesday 18 October, 4.30-6pm
Room 212, Fulton

Professor Ann Nilsen
University of Bergen

Young people's thoughts about the future: Methods and data from three different studies

In this seminar, Professor Nilsen will give an overview of three different studies of young people and their thoughts about the future. Time and temporality were central in all three projects.

In the first of these studies, questions relating to the wider society and environmental concerns were important in interviews with young people about their thoughts about the future. In the second study, the topic was cross-national comparisons on young people's thoughts about their future relations to work and family. The third was a three-generation study about intergenerational transmission in the transition to adulthood. The two older generations were asked retrospectively about how they had thought about their future lives when they were young, whilst the youngest generation were asked about the future from their present situation.

All three studies involve temporal dimensions in the form of biographical interviews and a contextualist life course approach.

Professor Nilsen asks if - and to what extent - the three studies can indicate period-specific changes in how young people think about the future in three different decades, and invites discussion about methodological issues that relate to various aspects of time and temporality - as research topics as well as to ways of approaching these.

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