Young people, values and political participation

Values play a crucial role in young people's electoral and non-electoral forms of political participation. Values influence political attitudes, identification, orientation, engagement, repertoires of actions and goals. Since the 1990s, there has been a growing body of work based on Inglehart's argument that in post-modern societies, there has been a value change, a shift from materialist to post-materialist values, e.g. freedom of expression. This is said to be primarily due to more economic stability, physical security and cultural change in post-industrial societies. However, neoliberalism, the global financial crises, the Great Recession and subsequent austerity measures enacted by governments have especially affected young people; they have been a disruptive force leading to precarity rather than stability. In parallel, levels of educational attainment, connectivity, globalisation and environmental awareness have increased, as well as populist political discourse.

Proposals for this PSA Young People’s Politics SG panel could address a variety of issues specifically about values and young people’s political participation:

- How we can define, conceptualise and measure values?
- What is the usefulness of surveys that enquire into values (European Social Survey, and the World Values Survey)?
- How does political socialisation affect young people's values and political actions?
- What is the role of the mainstream media and social media in forming values?
- What is the impact of values on young people's membership of collective political structures, such as political parties, trade unions and student unions?
- What shifts in values can be observed in current cohorts of young people?
- What makes certain values dominant and others minority among young people?
- Why do some young people adopt far-right, extremist or radical values and actions?
- Why have environmentalism and ecological values become more prominent in recent years?
- What impact do values have on electoral and nonelectoral political participation?
- How do values affect youth-led Do-It-Ourselves (DIO) political participation?
- How can political sociology bring new conceptualisations beyond materialist/post-materialist values, especially in relation to young people?

Please send proposals of 250 words maximum (including a title) and short biography (including your current position and affiliation) by the end of Friday 11 October 2019 to all the following addresses: Sarah Pickard: sarah.pickard@sorbonne-nouvelle.fr
PSA Young People’s Politics SG: youngpeoplespolitics@outlook.com

The convenors encourage submissions from PhD candidates, Early Career Academics and underrepresented groups.

We follow the PSA guidance on not accepting any panels with only male speakers.

Applicants will be contacted to confirm whether their papers will be accepted for this panel ahead of the PSA’s general deadline of 19 October 2019. This will give applicants the time necessary to resubmit their paper to the general pool if need be.

For more information about the PSA Young People’s Politics specialist group (YPPSG) go to: https://www.psa.ac.uk/specialist-groups/young-peoples-politics

Follow the PSA YPP SG on Twitter: @PSAYoungpol (https://twitter.com/psayoungpol)