

Young people citizenship activity as developmental task and opportunity - how to keep it alive

Civic participation has significant meaning for building internal resources of the individuals and is an important development task for them. The classic research provided by developmental psychologists (Hess i Torney-Purta, 1967) shows that becoming citizen is more than obtaining formal rights. Early developmental years seem to be critical time for mobilizing internal resources conducive to civic activity. Childhood and youth are important periods for understanding social system and structures like power, government, parliament and also gain experience that is fundamental in shaping attitudes to citizenship as adults. It is hard to believe that passive and withdrawn young people will become active and committed citizens in the future. In the symposium academics from Asian and European countries will present their research and discuss recent developmental processes and trends on young people citizenship activity: (1) does the activity still matters and what are current challenges for development and education, (2) what is the role of personality traits and social influence (e.g. social isolation, competition) and political trends (authoritarianism and radicalization) on young people citizenship action, (3) how new technologies transforming citizenship nature from real to virtual world.

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Professor Anna Zalewska, professor of Psychology at SWPS University in Warsaw, former Dean of Faculty of Social Sciences and Design in Poznan, Poland. She is an author and co-author over 80 articles and 10 books in the field of personality, well-being and social psychology. She is especially interested in personality and environment factors as predictors of well-being and desirable positive behavior (e.g. citizenship). She was a leader of Interdisciplinary Team for science dissemination at Ministry of Science and Higher Education (2011-2016) and has been a member of the ESF College of Expert Reviewers (2016-2019).